

Home sweet

GJHS twins find happiness in new adoptive home

by izzy cornelison

photos provided by the scott family

GJHS sophomores Elli and Sophia Scott became official members of the Scott family just days before Christmas.

The process was long, starting on Sept. 20, 2020, when the twins were removed from their biological parents and placed in foster care. Their first stop was into a Kinship home, which is a temporary residence with someone who had an existing relationship with the children.

We knew them before so it wasn't as scary going into the home. However, we soon realized it wasn't the picture-perfect family we had thought it was. It wasn't the best house for sure, but it wasn't awful either," said Elli Scott.

From there they were moved to the Scotts, where they quickly found their permanent home.

"We negotiated [with the Department of Human Services] for basically all of last year.

And when it finally went through my mom told us at dinner, and I just started sobbing, we were all sobbing," said Elli Scott. "But as it got closer to the day, it started to feel less real, and I was having a lot of mixed emotions because I was changing my last name and I felt like that old me was dying."

Sophia Scott felt differently about her name change.

"My old last name just made me really in my past, and having this new name really allowed me to



GJHS sophomores Sophia and Elli Scott smile with their siblings.

have a change in my life and to be in control," said Sophia Scott.

On Dec. 13, 2022, at the Mesa County Courthouse, the twins were officially Scotts.

"When the day came, the morning was really hard but I just talked to my family and they all supported me. And then we went to the courthouse and the whole yearbook was there and a lot of people showed up," said Elli Scott, who transferred to GJHS midway through her freshman year after starting at Palisade.

"I got to the courthouse and it was funny because we were like the only ones there at first, but then a bunch of people from our school showed up and a bunch of supporters, my whole crew

home

showed up, and it was just really great to have everyone there,” said Sophia Scott.

The twins have been together throughout their journey, but they haven’t always been as close as they are today.

“[Our relationship] was really bad when we first went into foster care, because I blamed her for having that happen to us because she’s the one that [spoke out], and obviously it’s a good thing that it happened but back then I felt like it was the worst thing that could ever happen to me, and that I would’ve rather just stayed in that abusive household,” said Elli Scott. “But when we moved into the home we’re in now our mom helped bring us closer together.”

According to U.S. Adoption statistics, around 135,000 kids are adopted every year. And of

those around 59% are from foster care. According to sources at DHS, as of February 4th, 2022, the total number of out of home care kids in Mesa County is 195. This number includes kids who are currently in foster care, group homes, or other out of home placements but does not account for kids who have been officially adopted

The Scotts are not the only kids who have gone through this, and they share what they wish people knew about foster care and adoption.

“The labels and stereotypes around how you grow up in the system aren’t true,” said Sophia Scott.

“I wish they knew that I was going through a hard time. Like teachers are so hard on you when you don’t get something in on time or you’re late to school, but they just don’t know the situation you are in. And like friends when you don’t hang out with them, I wish they understood more that I was moving houses and I was going through a lot with my birth parents,” said Elli Scott.

Sophia (left) and Elli Scott (right) sit on either side of their sister, GJHS junior Savannah Scott, in the courtroom.

