

I have a grandson who was diagnosed with Autism and ADHD and now living in a home supported by AMAS Incorporated. This is my story.

As the years passed with many different therapies, a fabulous school system, good doctors and with the use of medications my grandson began to improve. He is now diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, which has resulted in him being much more social, having good eye contact and the ability to better verbalize his wants and needs. As my grandson reached puberty he became much more anxious, sometimes aggressive and very argumentative. His behavior became increasingly difficult for us to handle at home. It was becoming very evident that out-of-home placement was necessary. With the help of his social worker, AMAS Inc. was chosen for a group home setting for him. I cannot describe how incredibly painful it was for us to leave him with strangers and the transition was very hard on my grandson.

He entered AMAS in June of 2009 in Brooklyn Park. The house was a beautiful home and had this wonderful staff who worked there. We felt she was like the "Den Mother" of the house she treated like he was part of her family. Also there was a male staff that worked there who became a good role model my grandson.

My grandson moved into a young adult household after he turned eighteen. The transition into that house was extremely difficult for him and presented quite a challenge for the staff. After a few adjustments were made in the staff and some time passed, he settled in to his new house. My grandson has daily goals at the house. The staff works with him on his organizational skills, personal hygiene, doing his own laundry and taking more responsibility for his own behavior. The staff gives reasonable consequences when necessary and much positive reinforcement whenever possible. My grandson has many challenging behaviors, but no one at AMAS has ever given up on him. For me personally that is such a relief knowing that we can "trust" that he is being cared for in a caring fashion and above all, being kept safe.

I am also very thankful that there is very open-ended communication between AMAS, my grandson and myself. I speak my mind very freely and have always felt that I have been listened to. I feel that the staff at AMAS has been very caring and supportive of me also. Thank you.

In closing, I have to first thank God for answering my prayers a few years ago when I prayed for Him to find me the "perfect and divine" group home for my grandson. He found it.

My thanks to Joanne Simon who is like the loving heart of AMAS. Special thanks to a previous employee who wiped away my tears with her support of me. Thank you to LaMar Hodges for always being there for my grandson during many difficult times. My special thanks to Giordano Madison for all of his incredible work and his understanding of my grandson. No one gets him like Giordano does with his sense of humor, patience and kindness toward my grandson.

Thanks to all of the staff at the house. They are all kind, caring and compassionate. God bless all of you for all that you do.

Sincerely and Respectfully Submitted