



JOINING  
FORCES  
FOR CHILDREN

# Five Participant Stories



**Josie**  
Age 6

Both of Josie's parents have a history of substance misuse which has led to violence witnessed by Josie. Her parents are trying to figure out custody now but, Josie has her special person - the Family Advocate - to support her at every step along the way.

Jade's dad has suffered from addiction her entire life. Jade, who loves her dad, is also quite angry with him. The Family Advocate is able to help her understand her dad's illness and work on strategies to cope with her big feelings - something everyone in the family is practicing.



**Jade**  
Age 9



**Sam**  
Age 11

Sam, who has moved among caregivers several times, now lives with his grandmother. Sam misses his parents and is angry that they cannot take care of him. Sam is learning about addiction, what his mom is learning in treatment, and what to expect when she comes home again.

Karlita is learning how her family history makes her more vulnerable to addiction. Karlita is learning to talk about how she has been impacted by addiction, share feelings with safe people, and how to cope with stress in healthy ways. Karlita is glad that she can speak in Spanish and talk about her Latinx culture with the Family Advocate.



**Karlita**  
Age 14



**Lamar**  
Age 8

Lamar's Mom has been in recovery for a year. He struggles to believe that his mom's recovery will last. The Family Advocate is able to listen to Lamar, provide information about the recovery process, and help Lamar share his feelings and fears in a healthy way. Lamar is learning to live with hope, one day at a time.

## Thinking of a Child impacted by Addiction?

Visit [LancasterJoiningForces.org/Families](https://LancasterJoiningForces.org/Families) or call  
**717-327-9451** to connect with the Family Advocate