THE NEXT STOP

STOP NO. 03

ROSALEE'S STORY



03

FAMILY MEMBER

ROSALEE'S STORY

"TWO HOURS TO SAY YES"

Rosalee Perez was born in Fort Collins 87 years ago, and she's spent most of her life surrounded by grandchildren. But nothing quite prepared her for the phone call that came when GiGi (Rosalee's great granddaughter) was just 13 months old and Rosalee was in her 70s. Rosalee was at work when they called to ask if she knew who GiGi was. She knew *of* her, but she barely knew her, and GiGi didn't know Rosalee at all. The message was simple: take her, or she goes into foster care.

STOPS ON THE JOURNEY

- The call: GiGi arrives at 13 months old
- Searching for help, alone with a baby
- Foothills Gateway leads her to The Matthews House
- She receives daily support: daycare, doctors, therapy, and more

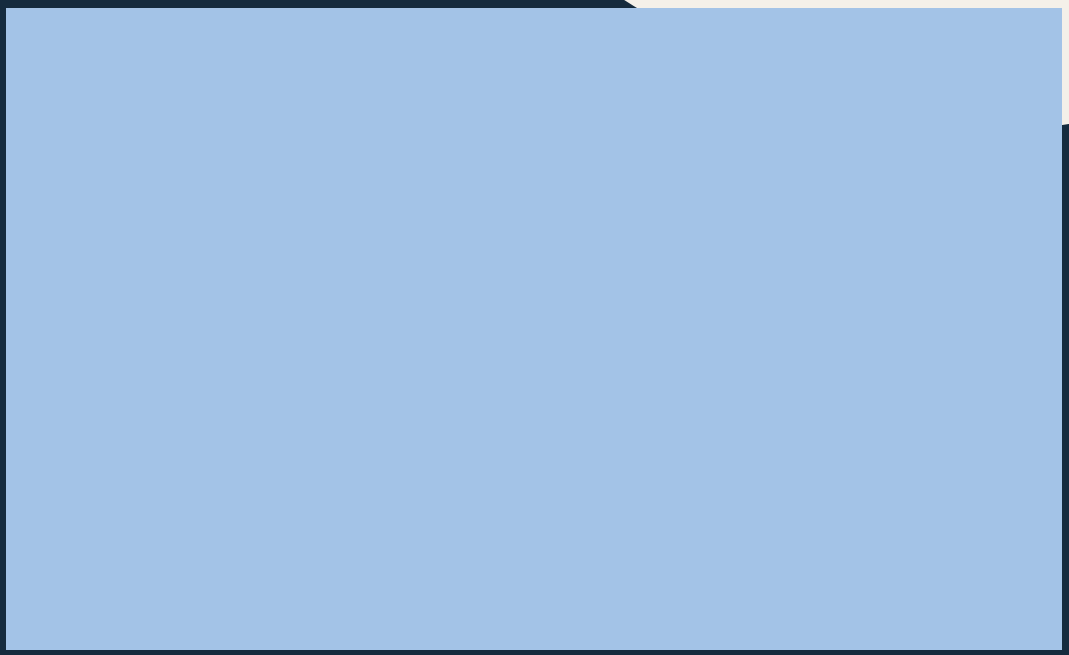
Rosalee said yes. She had two hours to pick her up.

On the drive home, panic set in. She hadn't changed a diaper in decades.

She still had to work full time. And she was certain GiGi was just as scared as she was. Rosalee needed help, and she needed it fast, so she called everyone she could think of. Eventually, Foothills Gateway pointed her toward The Matthews House.

What followed was a partnership Rosalee still describes as a lifeline. The Matthews House connected her with daycare, brought over diapers and supplies, and helped navigate doctor's appointments that were never easy since GiGi wouldn't let anyone touch her. It was through this relationship that Rosalee first learned what autism was, something she'd never encountered before GiGi came into her life.

"I really depend on The Matthews House. You know you're going to get help. You know they're going to be there for you.



WATCH ROSALEE'S STORY

GiGi thrives, still supported today

The road hasn't been simple. GiGi has an eating disorder, needs everything just so, and has required a steady team of therapists over the years. The Matthews House has been there for all of it, connecting her with the right specialists, speech therapy, piano lessons, and even therapeutic horseback riding, a program GiGi has come to love.

Looking back, Rosalee doesn't know what would have happened without that support. She believes their life would have fallen apart without it. Instead, she's watched GiGi grow with steady, consistent help behind her every step of the way.



ROSALEE SAID "YES" WHEN A CHILD NEEDED IT MOST. WILL YOU?

YOUR "YES" ALLOWS US TO HELP MORE FAMILIES, JUST LIKE ROSALEE.

DONATE TO OUR YEAR-END CAMPAIGN