



ALLISON'S SUCCESS STORY

Allison was placed in foster care at the age of 18 months. A Lake County foster family picked her up at Children's Hospital in Oakland on Christmas Eve. She was covered from head to toe with bruises and lacerations and was suffering from a concussion and a lacerated liver. She had been exposed to both drugs and alcohol in utero and at 18 months old her ACE score would have easily been 6 or 7. The Scotts adopted Allison when she was five years old. Allison is now 18 years old. If statistics ruled her outcome, Allison would have dropped out of high school, been using drugs and alcohol, and experiencing a teen pregnancy. But Allison is now a strong young woman that has overcome many obstacles. School has never come easy for her but she worked hard and will be studying at San Jose State this fall pursuing a career as a pediatrician.

In Allison's Own Words:

What would you tell other children and young adults in Lake County about what is most important to your success? How would you encourage them? I would tell other children and young adults in Lake County that having perseverance with anything and everything will lead to success, so see it through to the end and don't give up. I would encourage them by showing them that they can be who they want to be. Your past does not define you, it will always be a part of you, but you do not have to let it define you. Be you.

What kept you from giving up when things were hard? Wanting to be a success story kept me from giving up when things were hard. I want to be a part of a narrative that inspires other people to overcome what they have gone through and not let their past define them.

What are you most looking forward to as you leave for college and what makes you feel most equipped to take this next big life step? I am looking forward to finding out how I can become involved in bettering the foster care system and being able to help or inspire other children who have gone through something similar. I feel most equipped to take this next big life step because of my

mother's involvement with the community here in Lake County. I hope one day to make a difference as she has.