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Danielle crockett story

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - At the far end of the room, under a wide window, the girl swirled into the corner of the couch. Her bare feet were tucked under baggy sweat pants. Her honey hair hung in front of her eyes. The girl, a girl who had just turned 19, spun a strand of Mardi Gras beads around her wrist. There she I, - a bearded man who came carrying cupcakes. Happy birthday, honey! Bernie Lirov, 58, put dessert on a wide wooden table and walked up to it with his arms outstretched. For a second, she didn't seem to notice. But when he leaned in to hug her, she let him go. In the 10 years since Bernie adopted Dani, this was the first time he hadn't been with her on her actual birthday. He filmed this Saturday to surprise her by driving 90 minutes to her new home. How are you doing?, he asked. Do you want to leave? Slowly, Dani stood. She's 5-foot-10 now, four inches taller than him. And she surpasses it. At one point, she gained more than 200 pounds through medication, and because she still grabs for every bit of food. That's how it should be, Bernie kept telling himself. Your children are growing up and you have to let go. He hopes she's happy. It's so hard to tell. The police received a tipPolice received a call a dozen years ago — someone looked into the young girl's face in a broken window. At the back of a house in Plant City outside Tampa, officers found a skeletal child huddy on a moldy mattress covered in maggot and flies. She had nothing but a swollen diaper. What your name is, honey?,- Detective Mark Holste asked, leaning over the girl. She didn't react. It was the worst case of neglect Holste had ever seen. He carried her out and rushed her to the hospital. Detectives determined that Daniel Crocett was nearly 7. For years, she kept behind closed doors, in a space the size of a walk-in closet, one in the dark. The state's child protection team diagnosed in Dani psychological deprivation, inability to thrive, medical and physical neglect and developmental delays. Police arrested her mother, Michelle Crocett. She told them she was a single mom, doing her best. She later spoke about a series of bad breaks that left her widowed, disadvantaged and raising two teenage boys alone. Then, she says, she had a one-night stand and became pregnant. She thinks his name is Bob. In court, about three years later, Crockett waived his parental rights as part of a plea deal. She was sentenced to two years of house arrest, plus probation, but no jail time. She had to get at least 20 years,' Holste said. Dani spent six weeks in the hospital. At first she couldn't eat solid food and would only take a bottle. She weighed 46 pounds. She could neither walk nor talk. We did genetic tests, Scan. There was nothing wrong with her. But it did not stimulate everything,' said Kathleen Armstrong of the University of South Florida. I've been a school psychologist for 20 years, but I've never seen a child like Dani. Armstrong said Dani suffered from environmental autism. Neurological pathways in her brain did not develop because she was so malnourished because she lived in silence and darkness, never talked or held. Foster care workers called Dani a ferroalloy child - the first they encountered. She was never either a doctor or a school. Never felt the sun on her skin. She spent all these years in solitary confinement. In 1970, in California, a girl, which scientists named Jeanie, was found tied to a pot chair at age 13. Doctors examined her as others had a Wolf Boy wandering naked from a forest near Paris in 1800 when he was about 12. Neither has ever learned to communicate or take care of themselves. These early years are crucial. During the first five years of life, 80 percent of brain development occurs, Armstrong said. With Dani, no one had any expectations, but there was hope: It may have been found early enough. It was hard to imagine that Dani would be accepted. By the time she was almost 9 years old, she was still tying. She couldn't talk or sleep at night. She had terrible tantrums. Then she closed and rolled into herself. To self-soothe, she sucked her fists and twirled Mardi Gras beads. She never cried. Or laughed. But Bernie fell in love with Dani's pale face before he even met her. He and his wife, Diana, had five boys among themselves and wanted a daughter. They saw a photo of Dani at a Tampa adoption event sponsored by the Heart Gallery and were touched by her dark, empty eyes. She just looked like we needed to,' Bernie said. After the Dani story, I followed Dani's journey - from salvation through her first year of adoption - to a story in the Tampa Bay Times. The girl in the window was read by more than 1.5 million people, translated into a dozen languages and won the Pulitzer Prize for writing functions in 2009. In September, I went to Tennessee to visit Bernie and celebrate Dani's 19th birthday. Dani now lives in a group house, in a town 40 minutes southeast of Nashville. She's been there since the beginning of the year. Her bedroom is at the back, overlooking a field filled with bales of hay. Dani shares it with a woman about her age, who also doesn't speak. Six other residents live in the house with at least two employees. Aide Shannon Wilson is the only person Dani has ever been allowed to brush her hair. Wilson also shampooed her in the shower and persuaded Dani to sit still long enough for a beautician to trim her thick hair into a bob-length chin. It's becoming much more tolerant,' Wilson said. And she lets other residents down more. Mostly, however, Dani still ignores everything Her. Instead of sucking her fists, she scratches her hands. She still snugs sideways when someone talks to her. Workers at the group's home taught her to throw laundry at the hammer. Make your own bed and put Snoopy on the pillow. And what does she like to do most, the girl who spent her first seven years chained to a dark, miserable space? Just being outside, Wilson said. Sitting on the front porch, or swinging on a swing back. A decade later, trying for 10 years, Bernie tried. He and his wife adopted Dani in October 2007 and moved her into their home in Fort Myers. There, Dani lived with her youngest son, Willie, who was just a few months older, who taught her to swim and eat ham. Lyrey took Dani to the beach. They taught her how to use the toilet. They recorded her in public school, for special education classes, where she received private speech therapy five days a week. They took her to therapy, the church and countless doctors. Dani learned to fill a glass with water, sit still for a whole episode of Blue Prompts, keep a dog leash. She stopped having tantrums and started sleeping at night. The following summer, Lyrouz moved to a farm in Tennessee, where Bernie rehabilitated homes and raised goats. With the recession, and all Dani's needs, the money was tight. Bernie and Diana also took in foster children - 15 teenagers in five years. They thought they could help those girls - and get help from Dani, who could never be left alone. In addition, the money they received for being foster parents helped pay the bills. Dani grew up with horses, chickens, alpaca and packs of Great Pyrenees puppies. She learned to slide on sneakers, climb into a treehouse, fill a bath. But she regularly plaqueed on the fridge, breaking eggs and chute ketchup. She would have ate a toothbrush. Eat her hair brush. They wanted me to teach her sign language, but I gave it up,' Bernie said. She will never sign back. It worked so she wouldn't tear up the house or offend herself. I told myself, it is. We adopted her. I will never give up my child,' Bernie said. But about three years later, Diana was done. She wondered what Dani had gone about as far as she was going to get. Diana wanted to put Dani in a nursing home, Bernie said. But he refused. According to his accounts, over the next few years he cared about Dani mostly himself. When she got into puberty, Bernie said, Dani began to regress. She'd pee on the couch or in the car. He had to put it back in diapers and a hinged refrigerator lock. In 2015, after 18 years of marriage, they and Diana divorced. He doesn't blame it on Dani. But there was always so much stress, never at any time they could be alone. Diana, 53, antique shops in Carthage are now, about an hour from Dani. She said her lawyer would not allow her to speak up for the story, citing ongoing litigation and Disputes. When Dani turned 18, she became. Someone from the state called Bernie last December: a small group of the house had an open bed for the girl. Bernie agonized. Then he moved her just after Christmas. Dad can't take care of you anymore,' he told her through tears. You'll have to stay here. But I'll come to visit. He said she looked at him but did not react. No regrets if someone told Bernie that his daughter could never write her name, drive or dress herself? I would still do it, he said. It makes me so excited that we could give her house and family to grow up in the inch Bernie said he was trying to see Dani every month. He was her only visitor. He misses Dani pulling him while he feeds the goats and rests on his shoulder while they watch Alvin and the chipmunks. I took care of her for as long as I could because it was my job. The Lord gave it to me,' Bernie said. But just as I wanted him to come down here and help me a little bit, he found this place for her. For us. Published at 04:18 GMT, 25 December 2017 | Updated: 09:52 GMT, 25 December 2017 A young girl who was locked inside a room by her abusive mother and had never seen the sun or ate solid food for the first seven years of her life miraculously endured horrific abuse and recently turned 19. A girl named Daniel Crocett, or Dani briefly, was found by Plant City Police Detective Mark Holste, who responded to reports of child abuse on July 13, 2005 after someone noticed her young face in a broken window, the Tampa Bay Times reported. Holste, along with other officers, found the scene unthinkable when they arrived at the run-up home - rooms filled with urine, faeces, cockroaches. Danielle, who was then aged six, was found inside a dark room the size of a cupboard, dressed in a swollen irticon and had faeces dribbling her legs. The skeletal child was howl on a moldy mattress and had maggot, lice and flies covering her. Holste told the Tampa Bay Times that this is the worst neglected situation I've ever seen. She was immediately removed from her home and taken to Tampa General Hospital, where she was found to be in very bad shape. DaniLee Crocett, a young girl who was locked inside the room by her abusive mother and had never seen the sun or ate solid food for the first seven years of her life, miraculously endured horrific abuse and recently turned 19. In the photo above in 2008, Dani was found by Plant City Police Detective Mark Holste, who responded to reports of child abuse on July 13, 2005 after someone noticed her young face in a broken window. Authorities took photos of her while in hospital in 2005 (above) to illustrate how small she was although she was almost seven years old, she could not walk, talk or even eat food and at 46 pounds, doctors said at the time. She was developing a similar baby to doctors. The director of pediatric psychology at the University of South Florida School of Medical School, Dr. Kathleen Armstrong, told the Tampa Bay Times that 85 percent of a child's brain develops within the first five years of life. Armstrong described the young girl as environmentally autistic given the large lack of human interaction she experienced. Her mother, Michelle Crocett, was arrested. She told authorities she was a single mother who tried her best after being left widowed. Dani, who was born a healthy baby weighing seven pounds and six ounces, was aired in the hospital for about six weeks. Before it was discovered by police in 2005, people called to report seeing a little girl naked and starving twice in 2002. Social workers at the time offered Michelle help, but she refused and they left Dani in custody. Michelle waived parental rights as part of a plea deal in 2005 and was sentenced to two years of house arrest and probation. She never served behind bars. Holste, along with other officers, found an unthinkable scene when they arrived at the house (above)- rooms filled with urine, faeces, cockroaches. The skeletal child was crammed on a mold mattress and had maggot, lice and flies covering her In October 2007, Dani was adopted by Bernie and Diane Lirov. The couple told the Tampa Bay Times that they always wanted a daughter and believed god had placed her in their lives for a little as well. She is pictured above with Bernie in 2008 She should have been getting at least 20 years, Holste said. She should be burning in hell, said Guardian Data ad Item, Tracy Sheehan. Foster care staff named the young girl as a ferroalloy child due to the fact that she never went to school, ate solid food, felt the sun on her skin after essentially living in solitary confinement. In October 2007, Dani was adopted by Bernie and Diane Lirov. The couple told the Tampa Bay Times that they always wanted a daughter and believed God put her in their lives for whatever reason. She just looked like we needed her,' Bernie said. The couple moved her to their home in Fort Myers, where they are already raising their youngest son Willie, who was only a few months older than Dani. After spending years taking her to a doctor's appointment and therapy visits, Bernie and his wife eventually divorced. Dani now lives in a group house in Tennessee, where Bernie often visits her (above in 2017) On his 19th birthday in September, Bernie brought her to a nearby state park in Murfreesboro, where they celebrated her special day (above)The couple had success and were able to pull Danielle. The family took her to the beach, equestrian therapy, occupational therapy, church, doctors and taught her to swim. They also taught her in public school, in special education lessons, as she also attended private speech the speech the waycer sessions five days a week. In a 2011 interview with DailyMail.com,' they said: She can go to the closet, get a glass and have some water. And it is much more open; she'll look at people now, and sometimes she'll go to people she doesn't know that well.'The Lierows moved to Tennessee shortly after where they started living on the farm where Bernie rehabilitated horses and raised goats. In the next five years, the couple adopted more foster children - 15 to be exact, including Dani. She would have ate a toothbrush. Eat her hair brush. They wanted me to teach her sign language, but I gave it up,' Bernie said. She will never sign back. Bernie worked hard so as not to harm Dani or destroy the house. Bernie later observed that Dani, who still can't speak or write, is now more compic. But he still wonders how much she understands and how to get to her exactly I told myself, it is. We adopted her. I will never give up my child,' Bernie said. But about three years later, Diana was done. She's smart that Dani has gone about as far as she's going to get.'In 2015, Bernie and Diana go divorced after getting married for 18 years. He didn't blame it on Dani, but said there was always a lot of stress and there was never a time for them to be alone as a couple.When I got Dani just with me, she really relaxed, Bernie said. But I couldn't work at all in the summer. And then there were those times with the cops. He noted two incidents where police were called by strangers for the way Dani behaved in public. It became harder just to take her out, he said. I finally had to admit: God, it's too much for me. When she turned 18 last year, Dani became eligible for Social Security and Medicaid. Bernie received a call about a year ago from a state employee who said the bed opened for the girl in the group's small home, located just 40 minutes from Nashville. Just after Christmas, he moved her with bags full of clothes and toys. He added that if he needed to do it again, he would still take Dani and raise it. He said: The biggest things I gave her were love and respect. Dad can't take care of you anymore,' he told her, becoming emotional. You're going to have to stay here. But I'll come to visit.'Since her drop-off Bernie has visited her several times, including when she turned 19 in September. For a special occasion, Bernie took her from the group home to the nearby National Stones Battleground.While there he presented her with a cupcake before taking her for a walk through the visitor center and across the battlefield. Bernie later observed that Dani, who still cannot speak or write, more condescious. But he still wonders how much understands and how to reach it. Walking out of the park, Bernie took her to a nearby Goodwill store, where he let her choose a birthday present. He added that if he needed to do it again, he would still take Dani and raise it. I would still do it,' he said. It makes me so excited that we could give her home and family to grow up in. the biggest things I gave her were love and respect.