

Kim Elgie

This Katy super mom shares her story of surviving breast cancer while raising an adopted child with special needs and homeschooling her other children



Kim Elgie with her children Jack, Helen, Henry, and Isabella

"I can't parent in my own strength. I have to rely on God, every step of the way, every day, hour, and minute."

– Kim Elgie

Road to Adoption

My husband and I always planned on having four kids. Our last pregnancy was difficult and ended with me being on bed rest for the last month, so we began investigating adoption. Initially, we wanted to adopt internationally from India, because we wanted a girl and to adopt in a country where an orphan girl would have a hard time. However, the movie *Slumdog Millionaire* caused India to tighten down its adoptions, and we were in limbo.

Finding Isabella

A friend's sister emailed us and told us Isabella's story. She lived in Tyler, TX and went through the local crisis-pregnancy/adoption center, which has a close relationship with Child Protective Services (CPS). We contacted the center and after a few emails, received the information, and one thing led to another. When I saw the email with pictures of her two days later, I knew she would be ours.

Caring for Special Needs

Isabella has been diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, which is caused by the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy. This has caused permanent brain damage affecting her development. She has an amazing story and is a fighter. She was born with torticollis, microcephalus, and two small holes in her heart. She wears glasses, has a hearing aid in her left ear, and requires

physical, occupational, and speech therapy. We still do not know the full impact of Isabella's diagnosis or what her capabilities will be once she is an adult, but her value and worth does not come from what she does but from who she is and who made her.

Homeschool Blessings

I really enjoy learning and being with my kids. Homeschooling near a major city offers such wonderful opportunities, and they don't have to be taken advantage of after school hours or holidays. We have done group and private art lessons, robotics, swimming, NASA, even field trips to San Antonio to study the Alamo. Having the option to homeschool is a huge blessing and privilege.

Breast Cancer Diagnosis

It was a Monday night when my doctor called; I could tell it was bad news by the tone in his voice. I had had a bad day, so my sweet husband had gone out to get me some chocolate ice cream and wasn't even home. 2011 was supposed to be a "normal" year for us and for Isabella. The hardest thing about cancer was the impact it would have on her. The doctor gave us some great advice: "You need to let other people help you. Ask for and receive all the help you can." We took that to heart, and I cannot imagine going through the chemotherapy and double mastectomy without my incredible support system.

Katy Connections

I grew up in Katy and am a graduate of Taylor High School. We attend Grace Fellowship United Methodist Church, and my husband and I have both enjoyed being business owners in this wonderful community.

Being a Real Mom

A good friend of ours, who is a decorator, came by and was helping us with our first home. I had a yogurt maker out, and he asked me how often I used it, to which I replied, "All the time." He then asked, "In your ideal mom life or your real mom life?" In my ideal mom life I still made homemade yogurt and baby food for all of my kids just as I had the first. Ask yourself, are you making decisions for yourself, family, and kids based on your "real mom life" or your "ideal mom life?" **KM**