

# adoption.

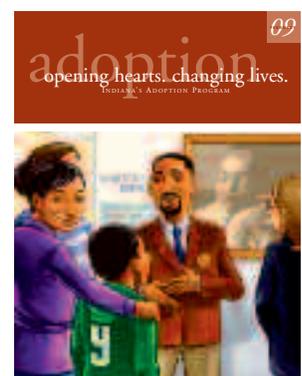
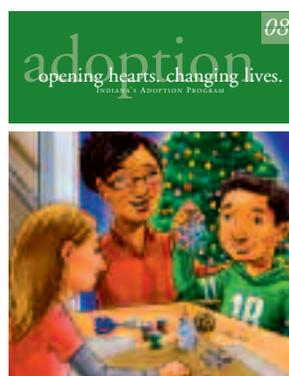
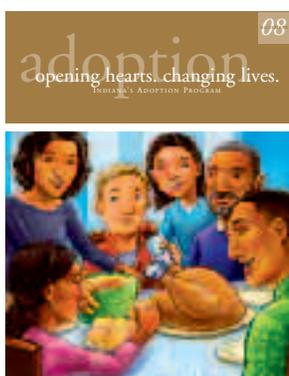
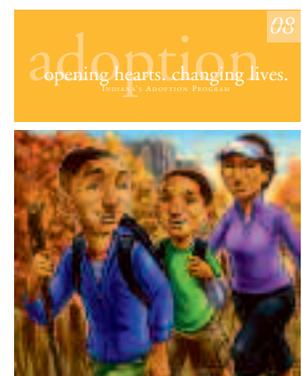
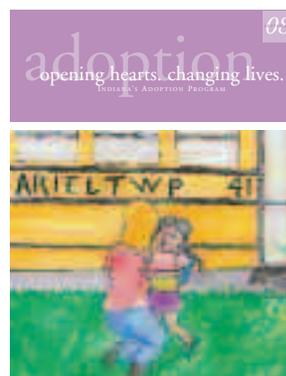
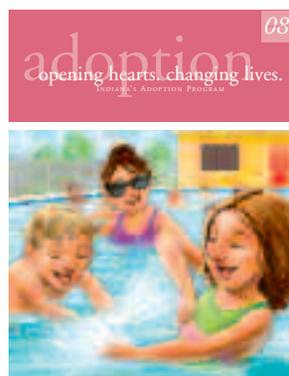
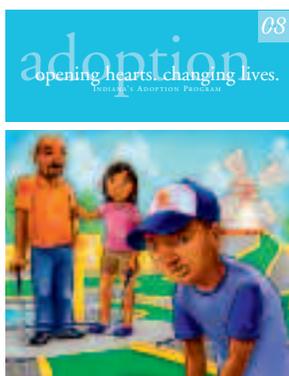
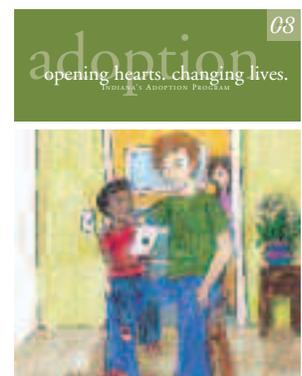
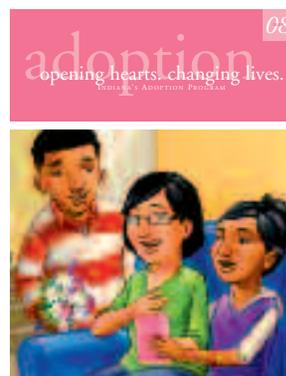
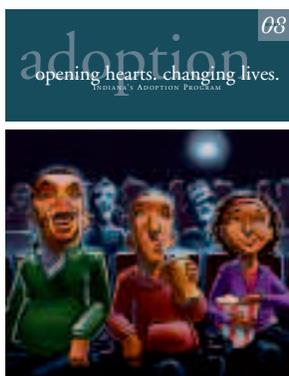
opening hearts. changing lives.  
INDIANA'S ADOPTION PROGRAM



Opening hearts. Changing lives. enjoys playing with trains personable teen known to be shy going

## Indiana's future is in your hands.

We commemorate this past year of covers for the adoption booklets. The illustrations depicting a year of activities, holidays and events in Indiana families were created by children under the age of 18 and professional illustrators. We thank these artists for their contribution to Foster Care in Indiana. The covers celebrate the diversity of the children in foster care, and the activities and rewards of being a foster parent and family. There are children of all ages and diverse backgrounds in the adoption system and through the artistry of these covers we hope to bring awareness to their needs in our communities.



The Indiana Adoption Program would like to thank professional illustrator Ryan Alvis, for the February cover illustration.

to movies gets along well with others going to school responsible

## **Welcome to the Indiana Adoption Program**

The Indiana Adoption Program is a statewide effort to create permanence for children who are wards of the State of Indiana. It is a program of the Indiana Department of Child Services in collaboration with the Indiana Foster Care & Adoption Association.

There are many aspects of adoption and the Indiana Adoption Program is just one of those aspects. We will help you consider some aspects of adoption in this book.

The Picture book is also available on the internet. You can download the book or specific pages at **[www.adoptachild.in.gov](http://www.adoptachild.in.gov)**.

To learn more about Indiana Foster Care and Adoption Association, see us on the web at: [www.ifcaa.org](http://www.ifcaa.org) or call for a brochure: 1-800-468-4228.

To mail correspondence to the Indiana Adoption program send to: The Indiana Adoption program, c/o IFCAA, 509 E. National Ave., Ste. A, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN,  
FAMILIES & FUTURE.

JAMES W. PAYNE, DIRECTOR



## Table of Contents

Meet Our Children.....	3
How Do I Start The Adoption Process? .....	4
Common Challenges of Children With Special Needs .....	5
Individual Child Index .....	6
How to Adopt .....	34
Step 1: Educate Yourself about Adoption .....	34
Step 2: Decide What Type of Adoption You Want to Pursue .....	36
Step 3: Investigate Ways to Cover Adoption Expenses .....	36
Step 4: Select an Adoption Agency.....	37
Step 5: Let Your Agency Know You Are Serious about Adopting .....	38
Step 6: Adoption Application.....	38
Step 7: Attend Adoption and Parenting Classes .....	38
Step 8: Begin the Family Preparation Process .....	38
Step 9: Begin Searching for a Child .....	39
Step 10: Considering a Child.....	39
Step 11: Prepare for Your Child’s Arrival .....	40
Step 12: The Child is Placed in Your Home .....	41
Step 13: File a Petition to Adopt .....	41
Step 14: Finalize the Adoption.....	41
The Legal Aspects of Adoption.....	42
Adoption Chart .....	43
What is adoption? .....	44
Youth Connections Program.....	48

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## Meet Our Children

In this book you will see many different faces of youth. The words next to their faces only tell a partial story. Their biography is not complete. Any young person's story is worthy of telling you, yet what you read here about them is just a few short sentences.

The paragraphs next to each child are an introduction.

Beyond the paragraphs, we want you to know the whole biography of a child when you are considering making a commitment as a parent; however here in this book we balance your need to know with a child's need for privacy and sense of well-being.

Children who have experienced foster care all have one thing in common: they have had to leave their home. And by that very fact alone, their need for healing, stability and nurturing requires attention. Children who have had to endure neglect, abuse, or trauma can face many challenges. Those challenges can range from mild to severe and can also be temporary or permanent.

The challenges our children face will not be detailed in the introductions. Listing a short medical or mental health diagnosis can sometimes be misleading and can breach confidentiality. You can read about some of the challenges that are common to many children in the adoption program in a separate section of this book.

In the adoption program, many of the children are older and may have physical, mental or emotional impairments. Some have brothers and sisters in the program with them and they may need to live together or they may need to keep their essential connection to each other through different living arrangements.

The youth featured in this book are in foster care and they may live with a foster family or they may be living in a group home or other child-caring facility such as a treatment center. Every child needs the love and support of a family. We invite you to learn more about adopting children in the Indiana Adoption Program.

You will see a number next to each child's introduction. Please refer to this number when making an inquiry about them.

**If I inquire about a child, does this mean I will get to adopt this child?**

A prospective adoptive parent must have completed the Family Preparation process and be approved to adopt a child introduced in this book. If you are just beginning that process or have not yet begun, a child you see here may be living with a new family before you complete the Family Preparation process.

If you become their adoptive parent, a child's future development, well being, and sense of family and community will rest with you.

Therefore, adoption requires serious considerations.

The child's social worker or adoption team will help determine if you and your family are compatible with the child and there may also be several families that are considering the same child.

**Subscription Information**

You can receive a six month subscription to this magazine by mailing a \$15 check along with your name and address to:

**IFCAA**  
**509 E. National Ave., Suite A**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46227**

If you have any questions please call  
**1-888-25-ADOPT.**

# 1-888-25-ADOPT

## How Do I Start The Adoption Process?

The Adoption Process for a child who is a ward requires the supervision of a county Office of Family and Children and that is usually the county where the prospective adoptive parent resides. The process begins with Family Preparation and parents are required to attend educational workshops and complete a Family Preparation Assessment, sometimes called a Home Study. You can learn more about the process in another section of this book. Prospective Adoptive parents must be recommended to the Indiana Adoption Program after their Family Preparation is complete and approved.

To begin to inquire about Family Preparation contact the Indiana Adoption Program:

**Call 1-888-25-ADOPT**

**or e-mail at [adoption@iquest.net](mailto:adoption@iquest.net)**

You will be given the contact information of those in your community responsible for helping you with Family Preparation and your contact information will be submitted to your local Training Coordinator and to your local county Department of Child Services. The Training Coordinator will send you a schedule and they may contact you about registering for the educational workshops. You can also choose to contact your community agencies.

If you have an approved Family Preparation Assessment or Home Study from the Indiana Department of Child Services and want more information on a child introduced in the Picture Book, contact the Indiana Adoption Program. You will be given the contact information for the child and your contact information will be submitted to the child's social worker and Special Needs Adoption Specialist.

We encourage you to contact the IAP first in order to ensure that you communicate to the proper individuals responsible for any child featured in this book.



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## Common Challenges of Children With Special Needs

Children in the Indiana Adoption Program are often considered to have "special needs." Special Needs can mean different things to people. The Adoption Program has been referred to as a Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) and the regional representative coordinating the adoption process for a child is called a SNAP Specialist.

Special Needs are the unique challenges each child faces and will require parents to assist them in their childhood development and schooling in a knowledgeable way. Special Needs can describe physical disabilities, medical conditions, emotional difficulties and developmental issues.

### Abuse

Many of the children, regardless of their age, in the Indiana Adoption Program have experienced abuse. This can mean physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or any combination of these types of trauma. Abuse generally leaves its mark with behavioral problems, physical impairments and therapeutic needs that require the attention of parents and professionals working together to benefit the child's future development.

### Attachment

This term describes a child's ability to form relationships. Children who have been abused, neglected, or have experienced disruptions in significant relationships may face challenges in creating new relationships.

### Attachment Disorder

An attachment disorder is a condition in which children have difficulty forming loving, lasting close relationships. Attachment disorders vary in severity, but the term is usually reserved for those who show a nearly complete lack of ability to be genuinely affectionate with others. They may seem distant, insincere or uncaring and have difficulty trusting others.

### Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD)

ADD/ADHD is a diagnosable, treatable, biologically based disorder. The primary symptoms include some combination of being inattentive and being distracted, being impulsive, and in some children, physical restlessness or hyperactive behavior.

### Developmental Disabilities (DD)

This term describes many conditions that may be mild or severe and generally includes any physical, mental or emotional condition, which will continue to inhibit the normal developmental progress of a child. Many children have educational requirements that must be met through the Special Education process of their school.

A child's challenges can range from mild to severe, and be temporary or permanent. The environment provided in a child's future development, that may include you as their parent, will to a great degree affect the measure of their challenges.

### Drug-Exposed

A child born to a mother who used drugs such as cocaine or certain pharmaceuticals while she was pregnant may have damage to their nervous system. A newborn will appear stiff and rigid and have prolonged crying episodes and be at an increased risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Some children will develop behavior and learning difficulties.

### Emotional Disability (ED)

Abuse, trauma and sometimes genetics can result in various degrees of multiple emotional challenges. This term is also used as eligibility criteria for services at school through Special Education under state and federal law.

### Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAS/FAE)

### Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND)

FAS/FAE is a set of physical, mental and neurobehavioral birth defects associated with alcohol consumption by a child's birth mother during pregnancy. Prenatal alcohol exposure does not always result in FAS—although there is no known safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Some children affected by alcohol exposure before birth do not have the characteristic facial abnormalities and growth retardation identified with FAS, yet they have brain and other impairments that are just as significant. Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND) describes the functional or mental impairments linked to prenatal alcohol exposure.

### Learning Disability

Children with learning disabilities may be of average or above average intelligence but have difficulties remembering or understanding information. This term is also used as eligibility criteria for services at school through Special Education under state and federal law.

### Mental Disability

Mental disabilities is a term that is used to describe a wide variety of different challenges and can affect children in ways that are unique to each child, especially in regards to levels of severity. This is also a term used as eligibility criteria for Special Education services.

### Neglect

Neglect is the absence of essential and healthy nurturing of a child for their physical, intellectual, and emotional development. Neglect includes physical neglect, child abandonment and expulsion, medical neglect, inadequate supervision, emotional neglect and educational neglect by parents, parent substitutes, and other adult caretakers of children. Children who have experienced neglect may be challenged with emotional problems.

## Individual Child Index

The children are listed in the Picture Book by their first name, followed by an identification number. The last two letters of the identification number are the initials for the SNAP specialist for the child. The SNAPS and their contact information can be found on the back inside cover of the Picture Book.

Randy (16) 3360IA .....	7	Tiffany (14) 4009BD.....	21
Daniel (12) 3462MO .....	7	Kristian (9) 4016KY .....	22
Carla (13) 3470KY .....	7	Chris (15) and Sarah (13) 4017ABKY.....	21
Lukas (13) 3531AKY.....	8	Katie (15) 4018IA .....	22
Vincent (14) 3531BKW .....	8	Christian (13) 4023MO .....	22
Michael (17) 3480BD .....	8	Michael (16) 4025BD .....	23
Dana (14) 3534KY .....	9	TJ (13) 4030BD .....	23
James (13) 3542BS .....	9	Nick (17) 4033BS .....	23
Cynthia (16) 3553KY .....	9	McKenna (5) 4036BD.....	24
Alisha (13) 3554KY.....	10	LJ (15) 4037BD .....	24
Joshua (16) 3556IA .....	10	Jemmel (11), Felbert (9), Desiree (8) 4038ABCKY .....	25
Joseph (14) 3587KW.....	10	Brandon (15) 4040MO .....	24
Nick (11) 3596KY.....	11	Anthony (12) 4042MO.....	25
Katie (16) 3611BS.....	11	Ya'rya (10), Jarod (9), Kamarie (5)	
Mary (13) 3621KY .....	11	and Kamura (3) 4048ABCDBD.....	26
David (17) 3624BD .....	12	William (14) 4050IA.....	26
David (8), Christal (13)		Nathan (9) 4052BD .....	27
and Brittany (14) 3651ABCKY .....	12	Shanika (11) 4055KY .....	27
Cedric (13) 3658KY .....	13	Devonte (13) 4056KY .....	27
Jacques (12) 3659KY.....	13	Logan (13) 4057IA .....	28
Davonald (16) 3626KY .....	13	Dennis (7) 4059KY .....	28
Steven (13) 3667KY .....	14	Donetta (12) 4060KY .....	28
Nichole (17) 3688KY .....	14	Cara (13) 4061IA .....	29
Larry (16) 3695BS.....	14	Rosemarie (11) 4062KY .....	29
Devon (11) 3699DH.....	15	Sylvester (7) 4063IA .....	29
Erik (12) 3703KY .....	15	Jacob (15) 4064BD .....	30
Jerry (12) 3704DH .....	15	Ricky (9) and Mickey (7) 4065ABBD.....	30
Darias (8) and Dyrus (5) 3707ABKY .....	16	Hannah (16) and Jorge (14) 4066ABKY .....	31
Malique (11) 3713BS .....	16	Raymond (2) 4067KY.....	30
David (14) 3735KY.....	16	Crystal (14), Anthony (14), Arthur (13)	
Tatianna (14) 3746KY.....	17	and Shoshanah (11) 4068ABCDMO .....	32
Donelle (16) 3750IA .....	17	Christopher (14) 4069KY .....	31
Keontaye (14) 3753IA.....	17	Ashley(12) 4070BD.....	32
Dylan (13) 3755KY.....	18	Destiny (6), Kae'Ron (5), Darius (4)	
Chris (16) 3761BS .....	18	and Zaccheaus (2) 4071ABC DKY .....	33
David (14) 3766MO.....	18	Jessica (14), Devin (12), Terriashia (10)	
Pat (17) 3775KY .....	19	and De'Stevon (7) 4072ABCDBS .....	33
Zachery (17) 3779DH .....	19		
Ritchie (15) 3794KY .....	19		
Ana (12) 3795BD .....	20		
Justin (12) 4000IA.....	20		
Brandon (12) 4004IA .....	20		

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**Randy (16)**

Randy is a loveable, affectionate, lively boy with a winning smile. He is a polite, well behaved young man. He likes sports and enjoys watching and playing hockey. Randy has even organized a hockey team in his community and is responsible for coordinating practices and games. He also enjoys swimming, rollerblading, and basketball. Randy loves almost all outdoor activities from riding his bike to riding four wheelers and going camping and fishing whenever he can. Randy loves to be around animals and is particularly interested in horses and dogs. He would love to be with a family that shares his love of animals. Randy is working hard and doing well in school. He has made great strides academically. He also loves computers and is fascinated by the internet.

Randy is eager to be adopted and is looking forward to being in a home where he will feel safe and secure. He has worked hard to heal from the pain in his past and has made great progress. Randy gets along well with other children. He loves being around little children and is very protective and gentle with them. [33601A] *LaPorte County*



**Daniel (12)**

Daniel is a loving young man who likes to play outside. He likes to play soccer, baseball, basketball, and go swimming. He also likes to go camping and especially likes to fish. Daniel enjoys going to church and likes to sing. He loves animals and would like to have a cat as a pet. He gets along well with other children at school and reports that recess is his favorite part of the school day.

Daniel needs a loving home that can provide good supervision and help him continue to heal from the wounds in his past. He needs to be the only child or the youngest child in the home. [3462MO] *Delaware County*



**Carla (13)**

Carla is a pleasant young lady who is persuasive and determined. She has a good sense of humor and is creative. Carla loves to sing, dance and play basketball. Her favorite recording artist is Chris Brown. She also enjoys going to amusement parks and talking to friends.

Carla likes living in the city and would like to be adopted by an active African-American family. She would like to have a mother and father but would be comfortable with a single parent, as well. Carla needs a loving family that will provide structure, discipline, and will help her learn the importance of responsibility, accountability and respect. [3470KY] *Allen County*

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loves to be outdoors   quiet boy   develop and grow   singing in cho



## **Michael (17)**

Michael has a beautiful, warm smile. He is a quiet, friendly young man who enjoys spending time with others. Michael's greatest wish is to be adopted and have a family of his own. Ideally Michael says he would like to have a Mother and a Father as well as some siblings. He also loves dogs and would like to have a family pet. Michael says his favorite subjects in school are Math, Science, and Reading. He gets along well with and enjoys playing with his peers. He enjoys playing board games, playing outdoors on the playground, and playing with action figures.

Michael is looking forward to being with his new family and will do best in a home that can provide consistency, patience and structure. [3480BD] *Ohio County*



## **Lukas (13)**

Lukas has a love for bugs! He likes caterpillars, butterflies, and beetles just to name a few. He is a friendly young man who likes to participate in sports. He likes baseball and basketball and collects sports cards of the different players. Lukas likes to play video games, watch movies and listen to the sound track from High School Musical.

Lukas needs a family that can provide stability, structure, love and patience. A strong positive male role model would be a great benefit. Lukas has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. [3531AKY] *Allen County*



## **Vincent (14)**

Vincent is a pleasant, likeable young man who loves to play video games and watch movies. He likes being physically active and likes playing on the trampoline and being outdoors. Vincent has a talent for drawing and would like to be an architect one day. Vincent loves animals and would love to be in a home that has dogs.

He needs a family that can provide stability, structure, love and patience. A strong, positive male role model would be a great benefit. Vincent has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. [3531BKW] *Allen County*

air needs structure outgoing and loveable very engaging helpful



**Dana (14)**

Dana is a quiet young man who keeps to himself most of the time. He is very pleasant to be around and very likeable. He describes himself as being friendly and having a good sense of humor. Dana enjoys sports including baseball, basketball and football. Football is his favorite sport and he likes to play whenever he has a chance. Dana likes to be outside playing sports or riding his bike. He also enjoys playing video games and some board games. Dana does well in school and has made Honor Roll twice. He says that Math is his favorite subject in school.

Dana would do best in a two parent home with a strong male role model. Dana needs a family that can give him lots of time and attention as he has missed out on this in his life. Dana will need to maintain contact with his grandmother, aunt, and uncle as they are important to him. [3534KY] *Allen County*



**James (13)**

James is a very bright, athletic young man who loves to play basketball. He is full of energy and has a good sense of humor. At school he excels in reading and has the potential to be an “A” student. James loves to play outside, ride his bike, and spend time with his friends at the Boys and Girls Club in his community.

James has expressed a desire to be part of an African American family. He would do best as an only child or the youngest child. James will need a two-parent family with a strong father figure and a resilient mother figure. Single-male parents with a strong support system will be considered as well. James has two older siblings with whom he would like to maintain contact. [3542BS] *Vanderburgh County*



**Cynthia (16)**

Cynthia is an outgoing young lady who likes to be the center of attention. She likes to be outdoors riding her bike whenever she can. She enjoys singing, playing video games and movies. Cynthia is very fond of animals and would like being in a family that has pets.

She will need a loving family that can provide structure and firm boundaries. She has a sister with whom she will need to maintain contact. [3553KY] *Allen County*

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enthusiastic child receives treatment loves to sing would like to be



## **Alisha (13)**

Alisha describes herself as “loveable!” She is smart, caring, and full of life. Alisha is determined to grow up to be strong and independent. She thinks she would like to be a music, art, or math teacher one day, but she isn’t ruling out being a model either. Alisha is creative and likes writing stories. She also enjoys crafts and makes jewelry and crochets. Alisha likes to sing and has been in the church choir in the past. Her favorite song is “I Believe I Can Fly.” She also enjoys playing soccer and volleyball.

Alisha needs a family that will make a permanent commitment to her and can provide structure and stability. She will do best in a home with clear boundaries and expectations. [3554KY] *Allen County*



## **Joshua (16)**

Joshua is a polite and well mannered young man. He gets along well with his peers and enjoys playing basketball and ping-pong. Joshua likes to read and enjoys reading for pleasure. He likes to be around animals when he has the opportunity and has an interest in horses.

Joshua thinks he would like to live out in the country and will do best with experienced parents who can provide him with a routine and consistent rules, expectations, and consequences. Joshua has some siblings and a grandfather with whom he will need to maintain contact. [3556IA] *Jasper County*



## **Joseph (14)**

Joseph loves to play sports and almost all outdoor activities. He likes to read and is particularly interested in anything related to dinosaurs. Joseph enjoys talking with others and receiving individual attention. He is an outgoing and affectionate boy.

Joseph is excited about being adopted. He will do best in a family that can give him a lot of attention. He will need a family that can provide consistency and structure. Joseph has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. [3587KW] *Adams County*

e a cheerleader involved in 4-H can be charming close supervision



**Nick (11)**

Nick is a lively, little boy with crystal blue eyes. He can be very well-mannered and is affectionate. Nick likes to joke around and is a very imaginative young man. He enjoys getting one on one attention and responds well to praise.

Nick needs a family that can provide structure and consistency. He will do best with a family that can be patient and nurturing to help him reach his full potential.

[3596KY] *Elkhart County*



**Katie (16)**

Katie is energetic and outgoing. When asked what she thinks is the most interesting thing about her, she says it's that she was born in Russia. There are actually many interesting things about Katie. She loves gymnastics and has taken lessons in the past. She likes to play outside and particularly likes to swing. She is friendly and talkative and gets along well with other children. Katie likes to wear jewelry, get her nails done and loves the color pink. She likes to go out to eat and her favorite foods are macaroni and cheese, hot wings, and sweet tea. She also loves to sing and enjoys music, dance and cheerleading. Katie needs a family that can offer her safety and security. She and is nervous about being adopted because she has learned that "some people seem nice at first, but then really aren't nice."

Katie needs a stable, committed family. She will need a family that can be patient and understanding as she learns to trust and feel wanted and safe. Both single-parent and two-parent families will be considered. [3611BS] *Monroe County*



**Mary (13)**

Mary is a very friendly, caring, and affectionate child. She is outgoing, easy to talk to and enjoys being around people. Mary enjoys doing things for others and is very nurturing. She is artistic and creative and is a talented singer and dancer. She also enjoys reading, shopping for clothes, and doing hair. Mary is an intelligent little girl and strives to do her best. She has made great strides in the last year and is doing well in school.

Mary hopes to be in a home with other girls close to her age so she can have someone to play with. She will need a patient, loving, and supportive family that will continue to help her grow and feel safe and secure. Both two-parent and single-parent families will be considered. [3621KY] *Allen County*

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excels at spelling wants to go to college loves to ride bikes very thou



## **David (17)**

David is a gently, tender-hearted boy. He will tell you right away that he loves super heroes and that Batman is his favorite. David would love to have a “Batman suit” to wear next Halloween. He is already planning his costume and his Christmas list which includes a Batman action figure. David describes himself as “friendly” and one who likes to meet and talk to new people. David also enjoys “little kids” and does well around them. David likes to play outside and enjoys basketball and playing with his toys. David also enjoys dancing and reports that he is a good dancer.

David says he would like to have a family and live somewhere where he could make friends. He also hopes to have a puppy in his new home. Most importantly, David wants a family that will not harm him. He wants a family that will love him and keep him safe. [3624BD] *Jackson County*



## **David (8), Christal (13) and Brittany (14)**

Brittany loves animals and hopes to be a veterinarian one day. She likes school and is an honor roll student. Brittany’s favorite subjects are math and science and she works in the school library during her lunch hour. She also likes to draw, and write songs. She sings in the school choir and plays the trumpet. Brittany enjoys playing sports, especially volleyball and basketball and she loves swimming.

Christal describes herself as a “Pop Princess”. She is fun-loving, energetic and has a passion for shopping. She likes school and her favorite subject is science. She also enjoys reading, playing volleyball, soccer and swimming. Christal would like to be a teacher one day and drive a pink Lamborghini.

David is a friendly and delightful little boy who loves to build things. He does well in school and chose math as his favorite subject. In addition to building, David loves to play sports, especially football and soccer. He also enjoys playing outside and playing video games.

Brittany and Christal stated that they would like an active family that has pets. David would love to have a father who enjoys building things. All three children are looking forward to being adopted and need a family that will make a permanent commitment to them. They need a loving family that can be patient and supportive while at the same time provide an environment with firm boundaries. Both two-parent and single-parent families with a strong support system will be considered.

[3651ABCKY] *Allen County*

thoughtful performs well in structured environments likes to get involved



**Davonald (16)**

Davonald prefers to go by his nickname, DJ. He is a bright and articulate young man who would like to study to become an archeologist. He describes himself as “sensitive” and others describe him as kind, compassionate, and helpful. He says that most of the time he is easy to get along with and has a good sense of humor. DJ likes to have fun and be active. He enjoys the outdoors, playing video games and listening to music. DJ stated that he enjoys all kinds of technology and is working to earn a computer by consistently making the honor roll at school. He is also interested in leaning photography.

DJ would like to be part of a family who could guide him through his last two years of high school and help him plan his college career. He is open to both two-parent and single-parent families. DJ needs a family that will be patient and encourage him. He has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. [3626KY] *Allen County*



**Cedric (13)**

Cedric is a very entertaining young man. His foster parents say he has a good sense of humor, a great singing voice, and can be very dramatic. Cedric likes to riding his bike, hanging out with his friends, and playing the game cube. Cedric is very bright and does well in school when he applies himself.

Cedric will do well in either a two-parent or single-parent home that is patient and caring. He will need a family that will allow him to maintain frequent contact with his older sisters and older brother. Patience will be the most crucial element with Cedric’s transition into his new home. [3658KY] *Allen County*



**Jacques (12)**

Jacques is a very intelligent and creative boy who loves to be the center of attention. He enjoys drawing, hair styling, dancing, and gymnastics. He also enjoys swimming and going to arcades. Jacques is doing well in school and especially enjoys Language Arts. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Jacques says he would like to be a lawyer so he can help others and make good money.

He is excited about the idea of being adopted and will need a family that can provide consistency and stability. He needs a family that will encourage him, redirect him when needed, and be patient with him as he makes the transition into his new family. [3659KY] *Allen County*

# Opening hearts. Changing lives.

smart, quick-witted sensitive child likes all types of music on medic



## **Steven (13)**

Steven is an adorable boy who longs to be accepted and loved. He loves to be the center of attention. Steven is very friendly although he comes off as a bit shy at first. When he gets comfortable he opens up as he loves to be around people. Steven cares a great deal about others although he sometimes struggles to find ways to express his feelings. He enjoys playing with other children, especially boys around his own age. He enjoys playing video games and sports, particularly basketball. He also loves to help out his current foster father with projects around the home.

Steven needs a family that will make a permanent commitment to him as he has gone through many losses in his life. He functions best in a structured environment where he has a set routine. Steven has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. Both single and two-parent families will be considered. [3667KY] *Allen County*



## **Nichole (17)**

Nichole is a friendly, outgoing girl. She always has a smile and loves to laugh. Nichole enjoys being around other adults and talking with them. She loves to learn new things and will always take the opportunity to try something new. Given the opportunity, she enjoys being helpful to others. Nichole enjoys watching movies, movie trivia, swimming, and basketball.

Nichole needs a family that can provide a very structured and controlled environment. She does very well when she is following a routine. Nichole needs a loving family that can be patient with her and provide consistent supervision. [3688KY] *Howard County*



## **Larry (16)**

Larry is a likeable and caring young man. He is affectionate, friendly and outgoing. He makes friends easily and enjoys playing with other children. Larry is very sympathetic when he sees that someone else is sad or hurt. He enjoys playing basketball and listening to music.

Larry needs a family that can provide structure and routine and help him continue to find positive ways to channel his feelings. Larry has siblings he cares deeply for and with whom he will need to maintain contact. [3695BS] *Vanderburgh County*

ation likes to play with dolls likes to express himself creatively likes



**Devon (11)**

Devon is a happy, outgoing, energetic young man. He loves to talk and enjoys interacting with adults. He likes to play with trucks, keys, and electronic devices. Devon is great at taking things apart but is still sometimes challenged at getting them back together again! He likes riding his bike and playing outdoors. He enjoys fishing and learning outdoor survival skills with them. Devon loves animals and likes to be around them. He is an enthusiastic, likeable little boy.

Devon will do best with a family that can spend time with him, providing frequent interaction. He is a high energy boy and does best when in a consistent, structured environment. Both single and two-parent families will be considered. [3699DH] *Vigo County*



**Erik (12)**

Erik is an active young man with a lot of energy. He likes outdoor activities such as swimming, and enjoys playing video games, and watching television. Erik has recently expressed interested in participating in Boy Scouts and the Big Brother program. Erik is very bright and does well in school.

Erik needs a family that can provide him with structure and consistency. He will do best in a loving, supportive and stable environment. [3703KY] *Allen County*



**Jerry (12)**

Jerry has a quick smile and dancing brown eyes. When asked what he would want people to know about him, he says, "I'm handsome and friendly!" Jerry is all that and more! He likes to wrestle and play basketball and football. He hopes to play on the school team when he's old enough. Jerry likes to play on his skateboard, and watch movies and cartoons. He enjoys school and says his favorite subject is Math. He has a good sense of humor and likes to play practical jokes on people every once in a while.

Jerry thinks he would like to be in an African-American family that has other children and maybe a dog. He hopes his new family attends church as he enjoys going to church and participating in the youth group activities. Jerry needs a loving permanent home that can provide structure and clear expectations. He needs a family that will help him feel important and valued. [3704DH] *Hendricks County*

# Opening hearts. Changing lives.

known to play rough received awards quiet, laid back helpful a



## **Darias (8) and Dyrus (5)**

Darias is a charismatic young man with a lot of potential. He is very polite and kind and likes to meet new people. Darias is very involved in church activities and loves to sing.

Dyrus is a cute little charmer. He is friendly and likes to flirt! Dyrus likes going to church and playing with the other children.

Both boys like to play with cars and color pictures. They like reading and having stories read to them. Darias and Dyrus enjoy traveling and seeing new people and places. These boys need a loving family that can provide structure and spend time with them to help them catch up on the things they have missed out on.

[3707ABKY] *Allen County*



## **Malique (11)**

Malique has a big smile and a lot of energy. His foster mom describes him as a very caring boy with a big heart. Malique likes to play on the computer and watch TV. He loves to be outdoors riding his scooter and playing with other kids in the neighborhood.

Malique does well with structure and routine and needs a home that can provide firm yet loving boundaries and expectations. Malique would do best with older siblings and thinks he would enjoy having an older brother. Malique has a sister with whom he will need to maintain contact. [3713BS] *Vanderburgh County*



## **David (14)**

David is an intelligent young man with an independent spirit. He is a quick learner and can often memorize and recite information. He enjoys reading books in his spare time and especially loves the Harry Potter series. David also enjoys playing board games and basketball.

David will do well in a home that can offer consistent routine, structure, and supervision. He needs a family that can be patient and continue to help him build upon his strengths. He may do best in a home where he is the only child, or the youngest child. [3735KY] *Wabash County*

around the house    polite    plays the guitar    good at playing things



**Tatianna (14)**

Tatianna is a vivacious girl who has a smile that lights up the room. She is very friendly and outgoing and loves to talk. She loves going shopping and eating out in restaurants. One of her favorite foods is Chinese food, but Chuck E. Cheese is also a favorite place to go. Tatianna likes school and says her favorite subjects are Math, Spelling, and Science. In the past she has been a school cheerleader and she hopes to get to do that again one day. Though she hasn't given it a lot of thought, she thinks that she might like to be a movie star when she grows up. Tatianna describes herself as "fun!" She likes to make others laugh and enjoys cutting up and being silly.

Tatianna enjoys going to church and hopes her new family will share that value with her. She says that she would be most comfortable with a single mother who is African American. Tatianna likes being around other children and hopes she will have brothers and/or sisters. [3746KY] *Allen County*



**Donelle (16)**

Donelle is a sensitive, quiet girl with a good sense of humor. She is a talented artist and enjoys drawing and crafts. She is very good at video games and loves to play whenever she has time. Donelle enjoys solitude and sometimes just needs some down time where she can read and relax. She is a loyal friend and goes out of her way to make sure others are happy and have what they need.

Donelle is nervous about being adopted and will need a family that can be patient with her as she may need to make a slower transition to feel secure. [3750IA] *Newton County*



**Keontaye (14)**

Keontaye is a quiet, but thoughtful young man. He is friendly, cheerful, and likes to joke. He loves sports and is a big fan of the Indianapolis Colts. Keontaye likes to play basketball and is a good player. He is very athletic and notes that he is fast on his feet. He enjoys playing video games, going shopping and eating out. His favorite food is Pizza! Keontaye likes school and is a good student. He loves history and learning about the past. He hopes to go to college one day and would like to play college basketball. His ultimate goal is to graduate and perhaps become an attorney. Keontaye very much wants to be adopted and have a family of his own. He has been through a lot in his short life, but has learned a lot about himself in the process. He is very motivated to improve himself and is very insightful. Keontaye hopes to be part of a family that likes to stay active and enjoys sports as much as he does. He would prefer to live in an urban setting and is open to having brothers and sisters. Keontaye needs a family that will stand by him and provide him with love, guidance and positive role models. [3753IA] *Lake County*

# Opening hearts. Changing lives.

enthusiastic child receives treatment loves to sing would like to be



## **Dylan (13)**

Dylan is funny and has a good sense of humor. He likes to have fun and is creative and imaginative. Dylan has a caring nature and likes to be helpful to others. He is eager to learn and works hard in school. He enjoys swimming, being outdoors, playing baseball and participating in activities at the Boys and Girls club.

Dylan will need a family that can be very consistent and provide plenty of structure. He would do best with only one or two older children in the home. Dylan has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. [3755KY] *Elkhart County*



## **Chris (16)**

Chris likes to be around people and is an engaging conversationalist. He has a great smile and his eyes twinkle when he talks about his accomplishments. He is a talented artist and enjoys drawing all kinds of things. He has even done some illustrations for a cook book. Chris is very strong and athletic and loves to both watch and play sports. His favorites are basketball and football. He also enjoys just hanging out with friends talking or playing video games. Chris likes to go out to eat, but also enjoys cooking and likes to help prepare a meal himself. He likes school and has a great desire to learn. Math is his best subject and he is working hard at improving his Reading skills.

Chris is very eager to be adopted. He would love to be in a family that enjoys sports and being active. He would benefit from having older brothers or strong, positive, male role model. Chris needs a loving family that will be a strong academic advocate and continue to nurture his strengths. [3761BS] *Monroe County*



## **David (14)**

David enjoys swimming, going to the movies, and playing in the park. He likes sports, including baseball and football. He likes going to concerts and listening to Rap music. He likes going out to eat and says his favorite restaurant is Don Pablo's.

David has a good sense of humor and makes friends easily. He enjoys positive attention from adults and enjoys one on one attention. David says he would like to have a family that enjoys traveling and doing activities together.

David will need a family that can provide a structured and supervised environment. He would do best in a family with no other children or older children. [3766MO] *Hamilton County*

e a cheerleader involved in 4-H can be charming close supervision



**Pat (17)**

Pat is a very pleasant young man who is polite and respectful. He can be friendly and outgoing and gets along well with others. Pat enjoys making friends and being a friend and is easy-going and considerate of others. He is always willing to lend a hand and is often the first one to volunteer for chores. Pat is enjoying High School and the freedom it affords him. He likes being able to choose his classes and have the opportunity for vocational school. Pat very much enjoys working with his hands and prefers “hands on” learning situations. He likes being outdoors running and climbing as well as watching television and playing on his Game Boy.

Pat is at his best when he has a stable, calm routine. He needs a family that can provide love, nurturing and stability. He also needs someone who will help him stay on task with completing schoolwork. Pat has some siblings and grandparents with whom he wishes to maintain contact. [3775KY] *Wabash County*



**Zachery (17)**

Zach loves electronics. He loves to turn up the stereo and listen to hip hop and rap music or play with his X-Box and Play Station. Zach likes to take things apart and thinks he would like to be an electrician or a mechanic when he gets older. He is friendly and has a good sense of humor. Zach enjoys spending time with his friends and enjoys being outdoors playing basketball or riding his bike. He likes to read and enjoys reading scary stories and mysteries.

Zach would like to be part of a family that is peaceful and more on the liberal, relaxed side of things. He hopes his new family will enjoy spending time together and having fun whether it's going on vacations or going out to the movies. Zach has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact and needs a family that will be accepting and encouraging of this. [3779DH] *Marion County*



**Ritchie (15)**

Ritchie is a warm, polite young man. He enjoys music and playing the piano. He loves to read and is very interested in learning foreign languages. He was able to learn some German from one of his foster parents and would also like to learn Spanish. Ritchie gets along well with other children and enjoys activities with the Boy Scouts and at the Boys and Girls Club. Ritchie loves animals and says it is very important to him to live in a home where there are animals around. Ritchie is a talented young man with a lot of potential.

He needs a family that can provide structure and stability and will love him unconditionally. A two-parent family with a strong, positive male role model is preferred. [3794KY] *Allen County*

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known to play rough received awards quiet, laid back helpful a



## **Ana (12)**

Ana loves animals and likes to help take care of the family pets. Although initially shy, once she warms up, she likes to talk and can be very engaging. Ana likes to watch TV, play tennis, basketball, and flag football. Ana has made a lot of progress in the last several months and will need a family that can be supportive and nurturing while at the same time providing structure and clear boundaries and expectations. Ana hopes her new family will have a dog, or let her pick out her own dog. She also has a sister with whom she would like to maintain contact. [3795BD] *Clark County*



## **Justin (12)**

Justin is a friendly and affectionate young man. He is very popular among his peers and adults. He enjoys going out to eat, playing outside, and being on the computer. Justin has an interest in electronics and is fascinated by cell phones and computers. He loves visiting websites on the internet and has even designed his own web page. Justin also enjoys playing basketball and watching football games.

Justin needs a family that can provide stability, structure, patience, and consistency. A loving family with no children or older children would be ideal for Justin. [4000IA] *Lake County*



## **Brandon (12)**

Brandon has a great personality! He is very funny and loves to tell jokes and tease. He is friendly and likes to talk to people. Brandon enjoys sports, fishing, and playing video games. Brandon is looking forward to being adopted. He has a strong faith and enjoys attending church. He hopes his new family will share that value. Brandon hopes to have both a mom and a dad and would love to have older brothers.

Brandon needs a family that can be loving and supportive while providing structure and clear boundaries. Brandon has a sister with whom he will need to maintain contact. [4004IA] *Starke County*

around the house   polite   plays the guitar   good at playing things



**Tiffany (14)**

Tiffany has a bubbly personality and lots of energy. She loves music and likes to sing and dance. She participates in choir and Show Choir at school. She loves to spend time with her friends, go shopping and go to the movies. Tiffany has a deep love for animals and hopes to be a veterinarian someday. She hopes her new family will have cats and dogs. Tiffany enjoys going to church and participating in Youth Group. She is looking forward to being adopted and hopes her new family will also be involved in church life. Tiffany would like to have older siblings to look up to.

Tiffany will need a family that will be supportive and patient as she makes a transition into her new home. [4009BD] *Clark County*



**Chris (15) and Sarah (13)**

Chris is a creative young man who enjoys drawing and sketching. He loves to plan and build all types of structures. He has also worked with origami and recently sewed a stuffed snake for a school project. Chris is entering the eighth grade. He likes school most of the time. Chris also enjoys playing basketball and soccer and is currently taking Karate lessons. He hopes to one day become a builder, architect or an actor.

Sarah is a “girly-girl” who loves to go shopping and dress up in fashionable clothes, make-up and accessories. She also like swimming, swinging and having overnights with friends. Sarah is a fan of Hannah Montana and the TV show, Zowie 101. Sarah is entering the sixth grade and does well in school. Her favorite subject is spelling. She likes playing basketball and is currently taking karate lessons. Sarah has an interest in learning to play the flute. She hopes to be a teacher when she is older.

Chris and Sarah would like to live in a home with a mother and father. These children are very bonded to one another and need a loving family that can provide supervision, clear boundaries, rules and expectations. Chris and Sarah hope to have siblings in the home and would do best as the youngest children. They have younger siblings with whom they will need to maintain contact. [4017ABKY] *St. Joseph County*

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loves to be outdoors quiet boy develop and grow singing in cho



## **Kristian (9)**

Kristian is an energetic young man who loves to jump and climb. His favorite activities are playing on the jungle gym and in the water. Kristian also enjoys spending quiet time cuddled in a blanket and watching a Disney video or having a book read to him.

Kristian has been making progress with some activities of daily living and responds well to positive rewards. He will need a loving and patient family who will support this growth and can provide structure, routine and close supervision at all times. [4016KY] *Allen County*



## **Katie (15)**

One of Katie's favorite activities is cooking. She loves to cook, bake, and eat! Katie has a warm smile and is friendly and talkative. She enjoys being outdoors riding her bike, going swimming, and playing in the park. Katie also likes to watch TV, go to the mall, and get her hair and nails done.

Katie would love to be part of a family. She would like to have a two-parent family and says that she loves little children and likes to help care for them. She likes pets and is particularly fond of puppies, kittens, and monkeys. Katie needs a family that will provide her with a loving, safe and structured environment. She has siblings with whom she will need to maintain contact. [4018IA] *Starke County*



## **Christian (13)**

Christian describes himself as easy-going and friendly. He is very talkative and likes helping others. Christian enjoys playing sports especially football and basketball. He also likes to go fishing. Christian is intelligent and does well in school. His favorite subjects are reading and spelling. He loves to read, especially mystery novels.

Christian would enjoy living in the country. He likes to be busy and needs a loving family that can provide consistency, structure and support him in his continued growth. Families with parenting experience are preferred. [4023MO] *Blackford County*

air needs structure outgoing and loveable very engaging helpful



**Michael (16)**

Michael is into wrestling. He used to be on the wrestling team at school and enjoys watching it on TV. Michael likes to play football, go to movies and play video games. One of his most favorite activities is fishing. He also likes to hang out with his friends riding bikes or just talking. Michael says he likes school and he can be a good student when he applies himself. His friends describe him as outgoing, friendly, and hard working.

Michael needs a family that can provide structure while still allowing him some freedom to try new things. He would benefit from having a strong, positive male role model that can help guide him. Michael has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. [4025BD] *Scott County*



**TJ (13)**

TJ is good with his hands and very mechanically inclined. He has an interest in classic cars and a knack for working on them. TJ has a great love of the outdoors and likes to go deer hunting and fishing. Ideally, he would like to live out in the country or be close to a wooded area where he could enjoy being out in nature. TJ also likes to play basketball, baseball, watch movies, and play video games. He is a hard worker and always welcomes the opportunity to do odd jobs and earn some money.

TJ would love to be part of an active family that enjoys the outdoors. He needs a family that will be supportive and encouraging of him. [4030BD] *Scott County*



**Nick (17)**

Nick is an outdoorsman who loves to go hiking, camping, fishing, and biking. Nick is a quiet, thoughtful young man. He describes himself as a hard worker and says he enjoys working outside. He is a good student and loves school. His favorite subjects are reading and science. Nick also likes to play football, basketball, and baseball.

Nick needs an active family that shares his love of outdoor life. He is a great young man who will do well in a loving family that can offer him stability and support. [4033BS] *Monroe County*

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smart, quick-witted sensitive child likes all types of music on medic



## **McKenna (5)**

McKenna is an affectionate little girl who is sweet and easy going most of the time. She loves going to pre-school and gets excited when she hears the bus coming. She likes playing with other children and being around people. McKenna enjoys playing with toys that make noise and loves playing in water. She also likes to go places and enjoys riding in the stroller or cart.

McKenna has some medical special needs and her vision is very limited. She needs a loving family that can provide a consistent schedule and routine. Experience with medical special needs preferred. [4036BD] *Switzerland County*



## **LJ (15)**

LJ is a likeable and caring young man with a good sense of humor. He loves to go fishing and mostly likes to fish for bass or catfish. He also enjoys motocross and BMX racing as well as working on cars and bikes. LJ enjoys being outdoors and likes to work in the garden. He likes swimming, playing video games, and playing guitar.

LJ is looking forward to being adopted and ideally would like to have both a mom and a dad. He would prefer being part of an African American family or an interracial family. LJ gets along best with other children his age or older. LJ needs a loving family that can provide structure and supervision. He would benefit greatly from having a strong, positive male role model. [4037BD] *Ripley County*



## **Brandon (15)**

Brandon is handsome young man who is friendly, outgoing and active. He has a good sense of humor. Brandon likes to participate in sports and enjoys drawing, hunting, fishing, playing with dogs and playing the guitar. He is a good worker and has held a job with a construction company for two months. Brandon enjoys interacting with younger children. He would like to be the oldest child in the family.

Brandon would like a family that is active and enjoys outdoor activities. He would prefer to have a single father who could hunt, fish and play sports with him. Two parent families would need to have parenting experience and be able to work as a team. They would also need to be consistent and supportive. [4040MO] *Fayette County*

ation likes to play with dolls likes to express himself creatively likes



**Jemmel (11), Felbert (9), Desiree (8)**

Jemmel is a friendly and polite young man who has “come out of his shell” over the past few years. He has a good sense of humor and does very well in school and is currently in the fifth grade. Jemmel relates well to his siblings, peers and adults and is described as generally “good-natured”. He enjoys playing basketball, riding his bike, swimming and reading. He especially likes reading the A-Z Mystery Series.

Felbert is sweet and helpful. He is in the fourth grade where he earns A’s and B’s in most subjects. He especially likes science and story writing. Felbert is very loving with his siblings and enjoys playing with them. He also likes to play basketball and ride his bike. Felbert likes animals especially cats and dogs and his favorite TV show is Sponge Bob Squarepants.

Desiree has a very sweet smile. She is shy at first but warms up when more comfortable. Desiree has made great improvement in her school work and in her relationships with others. She enjoys riding her bike, playing hide-n-go-seek, drawing, painting and singing. She is a big fan of Hannah Montana.

Jemmel, Felbert and Desiree are very bonded to one another and need a loving family that can provide a safe home that will promote their continued growth. They will do best in a consistent, structured environment. They have siblings with whom they will need to maintain contact. [4038ABCKY] *Allen County*



**Anthony (12)**

Anthony is an active boy who loves to play basketball, football or just go for a run outdoors. He is a very friendly and polite and has a great sense of humor. Anthony enjoys listening to Rap music and watching television. He enjoys attending church and hopes he can participate in Youth Group activities when he joins his adoptive family. Anthony describes himself as a nice, loving guy. He thinks he would be most comfortable having a single mom with maybe one or two other children in the home either his age or older.

Anthony needs a family that will be firm, consistent and provide structure and guidance. He has some family members with whom he would like to maintain contact. [4042MO] *Grant County*

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enjoys playing with trains personable teen known to be shy going



## **Ya'rya (10), Jarod (9), Kamarie (5) and Kamura (3)**

Ya'rya is a soft spoken little girl who likes to read and has been reading the Nancy Drew series. She likes playing with dolls and likes to wear jewelry and play "dress up." Ya'rya is doing well in school and says her favorite parts of the day are Reading and recess!

Jarod loves dinosaurs and action figures! He is fascinated by super heroes and says he is "obsessed" with The Hulk. He loves to play video games, and enjoys drawing and reading. Jarod is very friendly and talkative and enjoys sharing his interests with others. Jarod likes school and is doing well academically.

Kamarie is a sweet little girl with a bright smile. She is very active and likes to play outdoors. She likes to play house, play with her toys, and go grocery shopping. Kamarie attends pre-school and likes learning new things.

Kamura likes being with her siblings and playing with her toys. She is a happy child and enjoys adult attention.

These children need a loving family that can provide structure, routine, and clear boundaries and expectations. The children are very bonded to one another and need a family that will commit to keeping them together. [4048ABCDBD] *Floyd County*



## **William (14)**

William is a likeable, good-hearted young man. He is kind and likes to help others. He is a quiet young man with a passion for fishing. He has a tremendous depth of knowledge about fishing and knows all the best places to go for a successful catch. William loves to read books about fishing and hopes to become a professional fisherman some day.

William needs a family that will be patient and supportive of him. He longs to be loved and have a family to call his own. Families who have parenting experience are preferred. [4050IA] *Porter County*

to movies gets along well with others going to school responsible



**Nathan (9)**

Nathan is a lively little boy with energy to spare. He loves anything that has to do with John Deere. He loves John Deere tractors, toys, clothes and books. He would love to live on a farm where he could help drive the tractor, feed animals, and help take care of crops. Nathan is inquisitive and has a good sense of humor. He likes to help others and likes to please adults. Nathan loves to read and write and has won numerous reading and creative writing awards at school.

Nathan might do best as the youngest child in the family or in a context where he could be the main focus. He is affectionate and responds to firm, loving boundaries and consistent discipline. [4052BD] *Bartholomew County*



**Shanika (11)**

Shanika is an athletic girl who enjoys basketball, biking and roller-skating. She loves animals and would enjoy having pets in her adoptive home. Shanika likes to sing, dance, draw, and make things for others. She enjoys interaction with adults and with peers. Shanika continues to make progress academically.

Shanika would do best in a family setting that is structured and consistent. She will need experienced parents that can provide a safe and nurturing environment and good supervision. [4055KY] *St. Joseph County*



**Devonte (13)**

Devonte is a charming young man who is eager to be adopted. He enjoys wrestling, football and being active. Devonte has expressed an interest in joining a step team at school and wants to play the clarinet. He also likes to listen to music, watch movies and explore the internet.

Devonte needs a family that can be patient and loving yet firm in their rules and expectations. He would do best with a two parent home with a positive male father figure. Devonte has a brother with whom he will need to maintain contact. [4056KY] *St. Joseph County*

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enthusiastic child receives treatment loves to sing would like to be



## **Logan (13)**

Logan loves to talk and thrives on positive attention from adults. He is very outgoing and enjoys interacting with both adults and peers. He enjoys taking trips, going to the movies, playing games, and eating out at restaurants. Logan shared that his hobbies are playing video games and collecting Hot Wheels cars. Logan has made a lot of progress in the last year and is currently on the A/B Honor Roll at school. He is at his best when he has a structured and consistent environment.

Logan needs a loving family that can be attentive to his needs. He would do best as the only or youngest child in the family. [40571A] *Jasper County*



## **Dennis (7)**

Dennis is a charming little boy who loves to talk about dinosaurs, music, monster trucks, and the movie *Cars*. He enjoys and is good at playing dodge ball, kickball, and basketball. Dennis likes to give and receive hugs and likes to tickle others and be tickled. Dennis is very excited about getting a new Mom and Dad and likes to talk about what it will be like.

He will need energetic parents that can be patient, and provide consistency and structure. His new family will need to be dedicated and willing to working diligently to form an attachment with Dennis. [4059KY] *Adams County*



## **Donetta (12)**

Donetta describes herself as shy when meeting people for the first time although she is much more talkative after she establishes a relationship. She is intelligent and friendly and is known to be a leader among her peers. Donetta does well in school, completes assignments and puts effort into her work. Her hobbies include reading, drawing, and writing her own poetry. Donetta also enjoys watching and playing a variety of sports.

Donetta is looking forward to being adopted and having a sense of belonging in a family. She would do best with experienced parents where she could be the only child or the youngest child in the family. Donetta needs a family that can provide structure, supervision, and clear boundaries. [4060KY] *Allen County*

e a cheerleader involved in 4-H can be charming close supervision



**Cara (13)**

Cara describes herself as funny and friendly. She is outgoing, caring, and helpful. Cara is always willing to participate and jumps in to try new things. She creates wonderful poems and songs to describe feelings. Cara loves small children and animals especially the cheetah and dolphin. Some of her favorite things include the color orange, pizza and chocolate. She enjoys Hannah Montana and the television show *Wizards of Waverly Place* on the Disney channel. Cara has a dream of one day playing the clarinet. She prefers rap or country music. She also has interest in reading, crocheting, knitting, playing basketball, cheerleading, and gymnastics. She is currently reading the last book in the Harry Potter series.

Cara would benefit from a home with assertive parental figures that provide structure as well as set rules and guidelines. She would do well in loving family with other children. She will need to maintain contact with her siblings. [40611A] *Porter County*



**Rosemarie (11)**

Rosemarie is a friendly, talkative and expressive young woman. She has a strong desire to have friends and be accepted. She loves plays, reading, watching movies and the television show “Charmed”. Rose is a resilient young lady who has great potential to be successful.

It is very important that Rose be placed in a loving and supportive environment. She would do best with a female single parent, or all female household. Overall, Rose needs a home that will provide her with structure, good boundaries and supervision. [4062KY] *Allen County*



**Sylvester (7)**

Sylvester is a very lovable, out-going and handsome little boy. In the summer he loves to play in the pool, and he enjoys watching the Disney Channel, coloring, and dancing. Sylvester is bright and maintains good grades in school.

Sylvester needs a nurturing family that can provide stability, supervision, and appropriate medical attention. He would greatly benefit from a two parent home. Sylvester needs a strong male figure who will be consistent with discipline and who is willing to spend a lot of one on one time with him. He would do best in a home with only older children. He needs a family with a lot of patience and love to get him through the trauma that he has experienced. Sylvester has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. [40631A] *Lake County*

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enjoys playing with trains personable teen known to be shy going



## **Jacob (15)**

Jacob likes to play football and has been a linebacker for his school's football team. He is very bright and is doing well in school. Jacob likes to be outdoors and enjoys riding his bike and hanging out with friends. He is looking forward to being adopted and hopes his new family will support his ongoing participation in sports and other activities. Jacob would love to take Driver's Education and get his license one day.

He will do well with a family that can provide structure but also be flexible. Jacob is open to both two-parent and single parent families and would enjoy having siblings. [4064BD] *Jefferson County*



## **Ricky (9) and Mickey (7)**

Ricky is an energetic and sensitive little boy. He loves to play video games and football. He has recently been introduced to miniature horses and is enjoying learning about horses. Ricky enjoys being a helper both at home and school and responds well to praise and encouragement.

Mickey loves to play all kinds of sports and is competitive, but playful. He loves to be outdoors and especially likes riding his bike. Mickey is very bright and likes to read. He is excelling in his school work. Like his brother, he responds well to praise and encouragement.

These boys need a loving home that can show patience, consistency, and clearly defined rules and boundaries. [4065ABB] *Johnson County*



## **Raymond (2)**

Raymond loves music and likes to dance. He likes to throw balls, do puzzles, and play with bubbles. He likes to go places with his foster mother especially when they go to the park, zoo and other social activities. Raymond has several physical challenges but is a very determined and creative boy who finds ways of overcoming and compensating for them.

Raymond needs a family that will encourage him and help him develop to his full potential. A family with experience with medical special needs or a handicap accessible environment would be a plus. [4067KY] *Allen County*

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**Hannah (16) and Jorge (14)**

Hannah has many aspirations and thinks she would like to be an artist, a singer, or a horse rancher when she grows up. She likes art and rock and roll music, and shopping! She loves to be outside and likes animals, particularly horses. Hannah would like living on a farm or in a rural setting where she could be around and work with animals. Hannah is described as a sweet and thoughtful, and happy.



Jorge enjoys school and is a good student. He is a quiet, well-behaved young man who enjoys playing stringed musical instruments such as the guitar and ukulele. He loves being outdoors, and like his sister, would enjoy living out in the country or close to a wooded area where he can go for walks and explore. Jorge likes to hike and fish and describes himself as a “log cabin kind of guy.”

These children need a supportive, loving family that can provide safety and stability. The adoptive family will need to be patient as they children learn to trust them and feel secure. Hannah and Jorge would like to have both a mom and a dad. [4066ABKY] *Howard County*



**Christopher (14)**

Christopher loves music and would like to play a musical instrument and participate in band one day. He is a friendly, outgoing boy who enjoys being with others. He likes to be helpful when given the opportunity and likes to make others feel good. Christopher likes being outside and playing football and basketball.

Christopher has been working hard on his issues and is making good progress. He needs a family that will support and encourage him. He will do best in a home that can provide structure, close supervision, and where he can be the youngest or only child. [4069KY] *Allen County*



**Crystal (14), Anthony (14), Arthur (13) and Shoshanah (11)**

Crystal is a thoughtful girl who enjoys talking with friends on the phone and at school. She has a dry sense of humor and likes to laugh. Crystal would like to be a foster parent when she is older so that she can share her experiences and teach children how to forgive. She would also like to help people who are needy. Crystal prefers living in a city rather than in the country, but is most interested in a family that would spend time with her.

Arthur is an energetic and athletic boy who enjoys playing sports (baseball, soccer and football) and playing outside. His favorite subjects in school are social studies and geometric concepts. Arthur loves animals of all kinds but especially likes the dachshund breed. Arthur describes himself as funny, kind, and sometimes rowdy. He hopes to live in a family with other children near his age or younger.

Shoshanah is a friendly girl who describes herself as talkative. She enjoys school and her favorite subjects are Reading and English. Shoshanah loves to read, especially fairy tales and books about horses. She also likes to play volleyball, soccer, softball, and ride her bike. Shoshanah would like to live in the country and have pets. Shoshanah most wants “a family that loves me”.

Anthony is able to do well in school. His favorite subjects are Science and Math. Anthony says the best thing about him is “my personality!” He enjoys playing video games, running track and playing soccer. Anthony has a good sense of humor and enjoys being the center of attention.

These children need a loving family that can provide structure, supervision and stability. They need a family that will make a permanent commitment to them and help them achieve their potential. [4068ABCDMO] *Delaware County*



**Ashley(12)**

Ashley loves animals and enjoys riding horses. She would love to be involved in barrel racing and 4-H competitions. Ashley is friendly and outgoing and is interested in a wide range of activities. She enjoys crafts, swimming, basketball, and playing with the Wii and PlayStation. Ashley is very bright and does well in school. She loves to read and her favorite books are adventure stories. She hopes that once she is adopted she will have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities at school and maybe try out for cheerleading.

Ashley will need a family that can be supportive and encouraging while at the same time providing supervision, structure and clear boundaries. She feels she would fit in best with a family that has either no younger children, or where she can be the only child. [4070BD] *Jefferson County*

our needs structure outgoing and loveable very engaging helpful



**Destiny (6), Kae’Ron (5), Darius (4) and Zaccheaus (2)**

Destiny is a sweet little girl who likes to play. She is very affectionate and loves to help her foster mother. Destiny is very bright and doing well in school. She is very bonded to her brothers and likes to help take care of them.

Kae’Ron is an energetic, affectionate little boy who is always on the go. He loves to play with his brothers and sister and other children.

Darius is an active little boy who likes to play. He is outgoing and friendly.

Zaccheaus is a happy little boy who loves to do whatever his siblings are doing. He loves to be held and is very friendly.

These children need a loving family that can provide structure, routine, and patience. They are very affectionate and thrive on individual attention. [4071ABCDKY] *Allen County*



**Jessica (14), Devin (12), Terriashia (10) and De’Stevion (7)**

Jessica is a sweet, affectionate girl who enjoys making things for others and giving them away as gifts. She is friendly and outgoing and enjoys participating in church activities such as children’s choir. She absolutely loves cooking and watching movies during movie night with her family.

Devin loves playing the drums and singing in the church choir. He has a lot of athletic ability and excels in basketball. Devin likes to laugh and has a great sense of humor. He is an affectionate young man with a great personality.

Terriashia is an intelligent, well behaved young lady who enjoys helping others. She has an outgoing personality and has many friends. Terriashia is very active in her church and enjoys playing board games, shopping, and traveling. Terriashia enjoys art and hopes to become an artist one day.

De’Stevion loves to be the center of attention and looks up to his big brother and sisters. He is a friendly little boy who enjoys playing with other children, playing the drums, and singing. De’Stevion also likes to play video games and visit the library. These children need a family that can provide structure and lots of love and attention. Two-parent families are preferred. [4072ABCDDBS] *Vanderburgh County*

## How to Adopt

*The information below provides an overview of the steps involved in adopting a child from the foster care system. This information has been reprinted in part from the National Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) and can be read in more detail on their website at [www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org) or at [www.adop-tachild.in.gov](http://www.adop-tachild.in.gov).*

### Step 1: Educate Yourself about Adoption

#### Written Materials

- Some publishers and booksellers produce or market many child welfare and adoption-related materials. Some of the best known include:

#### **Child Welfare League of America**

440 First St. N.W., 3rd Floor  
Washington, DC 20001-2085  
202-638-2952 • fax: 202-638-4004  
web: [www.cwla.org/pubs](http://www.cwla.org/pubs)

#### **The Haworth Press, Inc.**

10 Alice St.  
Binghamton, NY 13904-1580  
800-429-6784 • fax: 800-895-0582  
e-mail: [getinfo@haworthpressinc.com](mailto:getinfo@haworthpressinc.com)  
web: [www.haworthpress.com](http://www.haworthpress.com)

#### **Perspectives Press**

P.O. Box 90318  
Indianapolis, IN 46290-0318  
317-872-3055 (phone & fax)  
web: [www.perspectivespress.com](http://www.perspectivespress.com)

#### **R-Squared Press**

721 Hawthorne St.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-543-0997 (phone & fax)  
e-mail: [brenr@r2press.com](mailto:brenr@r2press.com)  
web: [www.r2press.com](http://www.r2press.com)

#### **Tapestry Books**

P.O. Box 359  
Ringoos, NJ 08551  
800-765-2367 • fax: 908-788-2999  
e-mail: [info@tapestrybooks.com](mailto:info@tapestrybooks.com)  
web: [www.tapestrybooks.com](http://www.tapestrybooks.com)

#### **The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse**

(NAIC) publishes a wide variety of adoption fact sheets, many of which are free or very inexpensive. It also provides information about state and federal adoption laws, and tracks upcoming adoption conferences. NAIC's web site includes a searchable collection of adoption-related articles and report abstracts, as well as a directory of more than 5,700 public and private adoption agencies, support groups, and government officials. To learn more, contact:

#### **NAIC**

330 C St. S.W.  
Washington, DC 20447  
888-251-0075 or 703-352-3488  
fax: 703-385-3206  
e-mail: [NAIC@calib.com](mailto:NAIC@calib.com)  
web: [www.calib.com/naic](http://www.calib.com/naic)

#### **North American Council on Adoptable Children**

This national organization offers information and resources to support adoption of children from the foster care system. They host a national conference each year for adoptive families and families waiting to adopt.

970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
phone: 651-644-3036  
fax: 651-644-9848  
e-mail: [info@nacac.org](mailto:info@nacac.org)

- Your phone book. Adoption agencies, advocates, attorneys, support groups, and more can be found listed in the Yellow Pages under "Adoption."
- Use your public library. Most libraries now have online access so you can use the Internet, find listings of periodicals, and do inter-library transfers. A wealth of free information can be located through these means.
- Your home computer can be a gateway to adoption information. The Internet has no shortage of information about adoption.

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## Adoption Conferences

Many national, regional, and local groups hold annual adoption conferences with workshops geared toward new or prospective adoptive parents.

## Self Assessment

Children don't need perfect parents, just one or two individuals willing to meet the unique challenges of parenting and make a lifetime commitment to caring for and nurturing their children. One of the advantages of special needs adoption is that almost any responsible adult can become an adoptive parent. Prospective parents do not have to be rich, married, under 40, highly educated, or homeowners to adopt. Far more important are personal characteristics like:

- a belief in adoption and an ability to commit;
- patience and perseverance;
- a good sense of humor and talent for keeping life in perspective;
- a love of children and parenting;
- the ability to roll with unexpected changes, stresses, and challenges;
- the ability to deal with rejection without taking it personally;
- the ability to accept without judging;
- tolerance and understanding for your child's conflicting feelings and your own;
- an awareness that healing doesn't come quickly, all wounds cannot be healed, and your child may not attach to your family;
- the strength to be consistent and set limits;
- a willingness to learn new parenting techniques and advocate for your children's educational and medical needs; and
- resourcefulness.

If you have all or most of those qualities, then ask yourself these questions:

- Do I clearly understand why I want to adopt?
- If applicable-Do my partner and I work as a team? Are we both committed to adoption?
- If applicable - Have I talked with my own children and considered their feelings?
- Does my lifestyle allow me the time necessary to meet the needs of a special child?

Think carefully about your answers to these questions. You may decide to pursue a different type of adoption, consider foster care, or realize that adoption really is not for you. Take the time to make a good decision, because it is a decision you and your adoptive child will live with for life.

In addition, before seriously contemplating special needs adoption, prospective parents must honestly evaluate their desire and ability to successfully parent children who have troubling pasts and uncertain futures. Many children who become available for adoption at older ages have not received the early care that kids need to develop a strong sense of security, trust, and self-esteem. Many also suffer from conditions caused by past trauma, or prenatal exposure to alcohol or drugs. Children whose backgrounds include traumatic experiences, abuse, and/or neglect may exhibit symptoms of distress such as:

- aggressiveness
- attachment disorders
- attention deficits and hyperactivity
- bed wetting
- defiance
- depression
- impulsiveness
- learning disabilities
- low self-esteem
- lying
- poor peer relationships/social skills

Fortunately, through therapy, medication, and consistent care, children can overcome or at least better cope with many of these challenges.

Most children put their new adoptive parents through a period of testing to see if the parents are truly committed or just waiting for an excuse to desert the child as others have done before. To improve your chances of successfully adopting a child who has special needs, be prepared to offer a home environment that combines extra love, support, and attention with clear structure and consistent limit-setting. Parents should also be ready to actively advocate for their child at school, with peers, and within the community. It can be immensely helpful for parents to have a support network or belong to an adoptive parent support group.

## Step 2: Decide What Type of Adoption You Want to Pursue

Even if you already know that you want to adopt a child who has special needs, you still need to make a number of choices about your adoption. Most importantly, you need to decide what type of child you are willing to bring into your family. What disabilities and challenges (physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral) can you comfortably handle? What age range, background, and ethnicity would fit best within your household and community? Are you open to helping your adopted child maintain contact with some of his or her birth relatives? Can you welcome a group of two or more siblings into your home?

Next, you might want to consider whether you would rather work through a public or a private adoption agency. Though most children who have special needs become available for adoption through the public foster care system, both public and private agencies can help you locate a child or sibling group to adopt.

## Step 3: Investigate Ways to Cover Adoption Expenses

Many agencies do not charge service fees to families who adopt children from the foster care system. However, you will need a home study, and because adoption is a legal process, you may need an attorney. The cost of a home study can vary from \$0 to \$2,000. Attorney fees and court costs can range from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and special needs adoptive families often incur additional costs for medical services, counseling, etc.—costs that may continue throughout the child's lifetime. Fortunately, due to federal and employer-initiated programs, parents have several options for covering the cost of special needs adoption.

### Loans

Many loans are project- or item-specific, but some can be used for whatever the borrower wants. Two such flexible loans are home equity loans (money borrowed against the value of your house) and insurance loans (money borrowed against the value of your life insurance policies). These loans come with relatively low interest rates and a choice of payment terms. To learn more, contact a bank or mortgage broker, or your insurance company.

## Employer Assistance

Employers who offer adoption benefits may provide workers with:

- direct cash assistance for adoption expenses;
- reimbursement of approved adoption expenses;
- paid or unpaid leave (beyond federal leave requirements established through the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993); or
- resource and referral services.

To request a list of employers who provide adoption benefits or learn more about employer-provided adoption benefits, contact: Adoption Benefits Coordinator, National Adoption Center, 1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701, Philadelphia, PA 19102; 800-TO-ADOPT or 215-735-9988.

## Tax Credits and Exclusions

Through tax year 2002, adoptive parents can take advantage of tax credits or exclusions to offset qualifying adoption expenses for a domestic special needs adoption. For detailed information about the credit and exclusion, review IRS Publication 968, "Tax Benefits for Adoption." Get a copy by calling 800-829-3676 or checking the Internal Revenue Service's web site at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov).

## Adoption Subsidies

If you adopt a child who has special needs, he or she may be eligible for federal adoption assistance. Adoption assistance payments are designed to help offset the short- and long-term costs associated with adopting children who need special services. In general, children who are wards are eligible for adoption assistance benefits under specific eligibility guidelines. Benefits available through subsidy programs vary.

## Indiana Adoption Subsidy Programs for The Special Needs Adoptive Child

Under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) in Indiana is currently under review. New regulations will take effect in 2009. It also provides Medicaid. Eligibility for AAP requires a determination that the child is a special needs adoptive child and that the child is categorically eligible for the program.

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## Step 4: Select an Adoption Agency

### How to Find Agencies

To find as many agencies to choose from as possible, consider several of the options listed below:

- The Indiana Adoption Program is coordinated through the County Department of Child Services (CDCS) and private Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPA) that are contracted with the local counties to provide adoption services, including Family Preparation. You can contact the Indiana Adoption Program at 1-888-25-ADOPT or e-mail at [adoption@iquest.net](mailto:adoption@iquest.net) for agency information in your area.
- Look in the Yellow Pages under “Adoption” or “Social Services” for private adoption agencies. If you live in a small town, you may want to check in a phone book from a larger community nearby.
- Contact adoptive parent support groups or adoptive parents for suggestions. Both are a great source of information about agencies and adoption, plus they are usually eager to share what they know with prospective adopters. To find an adoptive parent support groups in your area contact your local county DCS to see if they know of one or use the Internet to search. Support groups are generally very informal and you may need to ask people in your community who have adopted to find out if a group meets near you.

### Finding the Right Agency for You

To find a public or private agency that is a good fit for you, your beliefs and values, and your unique situation, compare information from several different agencies. Most will gladly provide details about their services and requirements upon request. Before selecting an agency, take the initiative to interview agency representatives by phone or in person to learn more about them. You may want to ask:

- Who can adopt from the agency?
- What kinds of children does the agency place (ages, backgrounds, etc.)?
- Does the agency work with the foster care system or is it exclusively a private adoption agency?
- Where do the agency’s children come from, and how many are legally free for adoption?
- How long, on average, must one wait for a child? What is the time lapse between application and placement?
- How much does a completed adoption cost-in total and part by part?
- What are the assessment or home study requirements?
- What services-such as parenting classes, support group activities, access to therapy and counseling, and respite care-will the agency provide before and after a child is placed in your home?
- Can the agency provide references from parents who recently adopted from the agency?

### **Step 5: Let Your Agency Know You Are Serious about Adopting**

When you call an agency to let staff there know you are interested in adopting, the person you talk to may ask a series of screening questions or simply volunteer to send literature about the agency. If you want to adopt relatively soon, find out how you can get the process started.

One common first step is an orientation meeting or training session for prospective adoptive parents. At the meeting or training you will likely:

- meet social workers and learn about policies and practices regarding adoption;
- learn what types of children are available for adoption through the agency;
- learn about foster care;
- be asked to examine your feelings about adoption, and judge if adoption is the right choice for you;
- gain insight into the challenges and rewards of adoptive parenting; and
- obtain application materials.

### **Step 6: Adoption Application**

The application process may be different between private agencies and those agencies (LCPA) that contract with the DCS for the Indiana Adoption Program. If you are adopting a child who is in foster care, you may need to attend several of the educational workshops before you begin the application or Family Preparation process.

If you find that the application process is hard to understand, ask the agency or another adoptive parent for help. Don't let the challenges of completing forms keep you from pursuing adoption.

Find out how long it will take for the agency to process your application once you have completed the forms. Ask when you should next expect to hear from the agency, and how you can schedule and prepare for an assessment or home study.

### **Step 7: Attend Adoption and Parenting Classes**

Public agencies commonly require pre-placement training to acquaint prospective parents with issues that can arise after a child or sibling group is placed with them. School-aged adoptees bring not only unique special needs, but also a history of life experiences that will affect interactions with adoptive parents, new siblings, schoolmates, and others. Issues related to disability, culture, early abuse, and a child's birth family should all be discussed before a child is placed in your home.

Prospective Adoptive Parents who want to be approved to adopt children through the Indiana Adoption Program must complete 26 hours of adoption preparation training in scheduled workshops. Pre-Adoption Training is scheduled through your local Training Coordinator. To find out whom the Training Coordinator is in your area contact the Indiana Adoption Program.

### **Step 8: Begin the Family Preparation Process**

The Family Preparation process can loosely be defined as an educational process designed to help your social worker learn more about your ability to parent and provide a stable home, to teach you about adoption and its effect on children and families, and to prepare you to parent a child whose experiences and history are very different from your own. Everyone who hopes to adopt must have a completed Family Preparation Assessment, also called a home study. Depending on the agency, the worker, and the prospective parents' cooperation, the process can take anywhere from two months to a year.

#### **Items You May Need for a Family Preparation Assessment (Home Study)**

Specific requirements for assessments or home studies vary by agency, so be sure to ask for a list of the items and information your agency needs. The following items are commonly required during the assessment process:

- an autobiographical statement—a statement you create about your life history;
- certified copies of birth certificates for you, your partner, and any children;
- a certified copy of your marriage license;
- certified copies of divorce decrees;
- the death certificate of a former spouse;

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- certified copies of the finalization or adoption decrees for any adopted children;
- child abuse and criminal record clearances, or a notarized statement from the police declaring that you and your partner have faced no felony convictions;
- income verification (may include tax returns, W-2 forms, and paycheck stubs);
- a statement of health provided by a physician, which might include lab test results or a statement of infertility;
- written references from friends, employers, neighbors, etc.; and

At some point in the process, you may also need to pay for the home study. The cost through a public agency may be quite low or even free; other agencies typically charge between \$500 and \$2,000 for a completed study.

## Questions You May Be Asked

During Family Preparation meetings with your worker, you can expect to answer questions about your background, your education, your job history, your marriage, your leisure activities, your religion (particularly for religiously affiliated agencies), and your experiences with children. For instance, the worker may ask:

- What is your family like? How will you integrate your new child into your family?
- How will your extended family treat an adopted child?
- How is your marriage? How do you make decisions, resolve conflicts, and express your feelings?
- Why do you want to adopt?
- What is your home like? Are there places for your child to play or spend time alone?
- What is your neighborhood like?
- How do you plan to address discipline issues with your new child?
- What was your family like when you were growing up? How were you raised? Are you close to your parents?
- Where do you work? Is your schedule flexible enough to accommodate the responsibilities that come with parenting?
- What sort of child care arrangements will you make for your child?

The aim of any assessment or home study is to help the agency locate the best home for each child it places, and make

good matches between prospective parents and children. If you have questions about the process, ask your social worker or agency.

## Step 9: Begin Searching for a Child

If you adopt through the Indiana Adoption Program, you are urged to complete training and your Family Preparation process before you begin searching for a child. It may take several months for you to complete the process and become approved to adopt, so a child that you see listed in the Picture Book now may not be available several months from now.

The children are listed in the Picture Book by their first name, followed by an identification number. The last two letters of the identification number are the initials for the SNAP specialist for the child. The SNAPs and their contact information can be found on the back inside cover of the Picture Book.

If you adopt through a private agency, learn how the agency will conduct a search. What criteria do they use to match children with families? Are they willing to search outside your immediate area for a child? If you learn of a child in another state, will the agency pursue the child for you?

## Step 10: Considering a Child

Before agreeing to accept any child or sibling group for adoption, learn as much as you can about the child-including prenatal care and exposure to drugs or alcohol, birth parents' medical histories, attachments to foster families or other relatives, foster care placements, relationships with siblings, interests and talents, etc. Most agencies want adoptive parents to get to know children before agreeing to adopt. If the child has certain medical conditions or other disabilities, decide if your family is prepared to address issues that may arise from the child's situation.

If you agree to adopt and accept placement of a child whose birth parents' rights have not been voluntarily surrendered or involuntarily terminated (known as a legal-risk placement), you must accept the chance that the child could be returned to his or her birth parents. Until birth parents' rights are terminated, the child cannot legally become a member of your family and must instead stay in your home as a foster child.

## Questions for Prospective Adoptive Parents to Ask

- a. What is known about the child's birth history?
- b. What is known about the child's developmental history — physically, mentally, emotionally and socially?

- c. Is there any evidence of handicap? Any suspected learning difficulties?
- d. When was last contact with any birth family member?
- e. Are there pictures the birth family can pass on, or any family memento?
- f. Is there a Life Book for the child?
- g. Are there any siblings? Will it be possible or beneficial for ongoing contact with siblings (if they have been separated)?
- h. What social and medical history is available on the parents? On extended family members or siblings?
- i. Do the parents have a history of drug or alcohol abuse? Was the mother using substances during the pregnancy?
- j. What was the home environment like? What was the environment of the foster home(s) like?
- k. How many moves or placements did the child experience and why did they occur?
- l. What is the child's current adjustment status?
- m. Has the child been prepared for the adoptive placement? How can you help?
- n. What is the child's current health status? Does the child have any allergies?
- o. Is there any history of physical, sexual or emotional abuse? What treatment has been pursued?
- p. What method of discipline works best with the child?
- q. Does the child accept and give affection?
- r. Does the child have any therapeutic needs or treatment plans?
- s. What adoption subsidy options are there for the child?

### Step 11: Prepare for Your Child's Arrival

Anticipate how the addition of a new family member will affect your life and plan accordingly. Depending on your situation and the child you adopt, you may need to:

- Update the family's insurance. Adoptees can be covered under your health insurance from the date they are placed with your family. Group health insurance carriers must insure adoptees under the terms of their parents' policy and cannot deny coverage due to pre-existing conditions. Add a child to your health insurance plan within 30 days after he or she is placed in your home. If your child is eligible for an adoption subsidy, he or she may be covered through Medicaid. Also change beneficiary designations on life insurance policies and update wills as needed.

- Get and keep a copy of the adoption decree with the child's amended birth certificate. Once the adoption is finalized, that document may be sealed and neither you nor the adoptee can access it. Without it, some adoptees have had trouble getting passports and applying for affirmative action status. With it, adoptees may have an easier time searching for their biological roots, if and when they decide to do so.
- Prepare to get a new social security card and birth certificate for your child that recognizes the child's new last name and family situation. To claim your child as a dependent for tax purposes, the child must have a social security number.
- Learn as much as you can about the child's habits and personality. Talk to the child's foster parents and worker so you can learn information that will help ease the child's transition into your family. What are the child's favorite foods and games? What is the best way to comfort the child?
- Keep items that tie to the child's past. Encourage the child to bring all his possessions from previous homes, and ask the foster parents and workers for copies of any pictures they have of the child. Never throw away broken toys or worn out clothes unless the child wants to. Familiar objects and smells are comforting, and the child needs you to respect that he has a past and prior attachments and loyalties.
- Make your house child-friendly. Reposition or remove household objects that could be dangerous to your new child. Prepare the child's room to make it welcoming and to signal that the area belongs to him or her.
- Inform your other children about changes that will occur. Tell your children how their roles may change when the new child arrives. Prepare them to share, adjust schedules, and withhold judgment during the transition. Include everyone in visits and trial weekends before the child is placed, and establish clear ground rules for behavior, interaction, and discipline.
- Negotiate an adoption assistance agreement. Parents who adopt an eligible child with special needs from a public or private agency can receive federal or state benefits for their child. Ask your agency what steps you must take to obtain a subsidy and negotiate an agreement.

Line up services for your child and yourself.

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## Step 12: The Child is Placed in Your Home

If you adopt a younger child, you may need to find day care. If you adopt an older child, you may need to enroll him or her in school; arrange for therapy, counseling, or tutoring; and identify respite care options. You might also want to join an adoptive parent support group.

Children who are placed for adoption through public agencies may move in with an adoptive family as soon as the parents complete required pre-placement visits and are approved to adopt—provided the timing is not unnecessarily disruptive to the child’s schooling or other activities.

When a new child is placed in your home, you will assume temporary legal custody. For a few months, while your family undergoes the inevitable adjustment period, your agency will monitor how the placement is proceeding.

The monitoring period typically lasts about six months to a year. During this time, the worker may call or visit to assess how you and your new child are adjusting, and to answer questions. If all goes well, at the end of the monitoring period the agency will recommend to the court that the adoption be approved.

## Step 13: File a Petition to Adopt

An adoption petition is the document filed in court that initiates the legal aspect of adoption. Through the petition, adoptive parents formally request permission to adopt a specific child. To file a petition you will likely need the following information and documentation:

- the child’s birth certificate or birth date and place of birth;
- a written statement that confirms your desire and suitability to adopt, as well as your ability to provide financially for the child;
- a written declaration that the adoption is in the child’s best interest;
- your name, age, and address;
- the date on which and from whom you received custody of the child;
- a statement of the legal reason why the birth parents’ rights are being (or have been) terminated; and
- a disclosure of any relationship that you share with the child (other than as an adoptive parent)—such as being the child’s aunt, grandparent, or stepparent.

## Step 14: Finalize the Adoption

Your adoption is not legally complete until your newly created family goes through the finalization process. Finalization hearings usually take place within a year after a child is placed in the home. Before scheduling a hearing, check with your agency to make sure you have completed the necessary paperwork. If you are missing required documents, the finalization could be delayed.

The finalization hearing is a judicial proceeding, sometimes held in the judge’s chambers, during which adoptive parents are granted permanent legal custody of their adopted child. The hearing, which usually lasts only 30 to 60 minutes, is designed to establish the legality of the new family unit, and confirm that the adoptive parents are willing and able to provide for their new child.

### Who Should Attend the Hearing

The following individuals generally attend the finalization hearing:

- the adoptive parents and adoptee(s);
- the adoptive family’s lawyer; and
- the agency social worker who placed the child with the adoptive parents.

In a few cases, the child’s birth parents may also appear, but only if their parental rights have not yet been terminated or if they are participating in an open or cooperative adoption.

### What the Hearing Involves

To verify that the adoption should take place, the court will attempt to establish that the child has been placed in a safe, loving home. Expect to list all the identifying information included in your adoption petition and answer questions such as:

- Why do you want to adopt?
- How will you care for your new child?
- How will your family adjust to a new child?
- Is there anything the court should know before finalizing this adoption?

As soon as the judge signs the adoption order, you gain permanent legal custody of your child. Finalization is the last formal step in the adoption process and marks the official beginning of your new family. From this point, learn as much as you can about post-adoption services (like respite care, support groups, etc.) that can help you make the most of your new role as an adoptive parent.

## The Legal Aspects of Adoption

Prospective adoptive parents should consult an attorney for legal advice and as they prepare to adopt a child.

### Selecting an Attorney

Federal and state laws that apply to foster care and adoption require certain steps to be followed prior to the finalization of an adoption. It is important to have an attorney to represent you in the adoption process. Your family, friends or individuals you know who have adopted may be able to recommend an attorney for legal advice and you can find out more information on attorneys from your local county Bar Association. Sometimes it is helpful for an attorney to have knowledge of the foster care system.

For a referral to an attorney trained by ACT in adoptions from foster care, or for a free consultation with an ACT-trained attorney, call the hotline for 'Adoption in Child Time' 1-877-ACT-4KIDS.

### Attorney Fees

Attorney fees vary around the state. You will need to ask the attorney what fees they charge and how they bill their services. Since some children are eligible for an adoption subsidy (a one-time reimbursement of legal fees or non-recurring adoption expenses with a maximum expenditure of \$1500 per child) your attorney may be able to assist you in applying the subsidy to their fees.

### Approval

Prospective adoptive parents need an approved Family Preparation Assessment (Home Study) to be recommended for a child who is a ward. Your local county Department of Child Services (DCS) and/or the private agency (LCPA) that contracts with the county must determine if you have been approved. You are required to have written approval before a child can be placed with you for adoption and through your local court jurisdiction.

### Agency Supervision

Indiana law requires that adoptions be granted only after a period of supervision has been met. The child and adoptive family relationship must be supervised by a local county Department of Child Services or private child placing agency (LCPA) that contracts with them. The length of the supervision period is at the discretion of the court, however most courts require a standard time period of six months.

### Required Consents

The consent of the child's mother, if she is living, is required by law to complete an adoption. The consent of a child's father who has established paternity or signed a paternity affidavit is also required. The county Department of Child Services (DCS) may have completed a court action to terminate the parent-child relationship so that a child who is a ward can be legally free for adoption, whether the child's parents have consented or not determines the type of court action that is necessary. You will need the consent of the CDCS that has the responsibility of care and supervision of the child you wish to adopt for the court proceedings, unless the court finds that their consent is not necessary to serve the best interests of the child.

### Adoption Petition Filing

If you are an Indiana resident, you may file your adoption petition in the county where you reside, in the county where the child resides, or in the county where the private agency (LCPA) or Department of Child Services (DCS) has custody of the child. If you are not an Indiana resident, you may petition to adopt a child who is a ward of Indiana in the county where the LCPA or DCS has custody or the county where the child resides.

If you are married, both you and your spouse must sign the adoption petition. Partners of an unmarried couple may not petition to adopt together and in such cases, only one partner may be the petitioner.

### Adoption Filing Fees

The adoption filing fee consists of the following: The adoption history fee, which is \$20 and the putative father registry fee, which is \$50, both of these fees are sent to the State Department of Health for records maintenance; and the county clerk's office fee, which can range from \$100 to \$200. The court may not require payment of the clerk's fee if you are unable to pay it based on an affidavit regarding your income and expenses.

### Adoption Assistance

Under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) in Indiana is currently under review. New regulations will take effect in 2009.

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## Adoption Chart

There are four basic types of adoption: public agency adoption, domestic private agency adoption, international adoption, and independent adoption. As the chart below shows, requirements, costs, and timing vary between and within the different types of adoption. To decide which type of adoption is best for you, think seriously about the type of child you would like to adopt (for example, an infant, an older child or group of siblings, a child from another country, a child who has special needs, etc.).

Type of Adoption	Definition	Children Available	Approximate Cost	Who Can Adopt	How Long It Takes
<b>Public agency adoption</b>	an adoption directed and supervised by a state or local Department of Human Services (or Social Services, or Human Resources, or Health and Welfare, or Child and Family Services, etc.)	children with special needs (kids who are harder to place due to emotional or physical disorders, age, race, membership in a sibling group, backgrounds); rarely infants	from \$0 to \$1,500 (depending on the state, up to \$1,500 of "nonrecurring" adoption costs for eligible special needs children may be reimbursed)	flexible eligibility requirements for adoptive parents; on a case-by-case basis, will consider single parents, parents over the age of 40, parents who have other children, parents with low incomes, etc.	starts slowly, but for those who have an updated home study, placement can occur as soon as a few months after selecting a child
<b>Private agency adoption</b>	an adoption directed and supervised by a privately funded, licensed adoption agency	sometimes handle special needs children; more commonly associated with younger children and infants	\$6,000 to \$25,000; lower for special needs children; some agencies have sliding fee scales	agencies may recruit parents based on race, religious affiliation, etc.; for infant adoptions, birth mother often chooses	a few months to a few years (sometimes longer for infant adoption)
<b>International adoption</b>	process of adopting a child who is not a U.S citizen, which may be accomplished privately through an attorney, or through an international adoption agency	about 88 countries currently allow their children to be adopted by U.S. citizens—6 countries in Africa, 20 in Asia, 32 in Europe, and 30 in Latin America; ages range from infant to teens; health conditions vary generally infants	\$7,000 to \$30,000 (varies by country; travel and travel-related expenses may be additional)	depends on agency and country requirements; some will accept single parents, most prospective parents are between 25 and 45 years old	six months to several years depending on the child's age and health, and the country's political climate
<b>Independent adoption (not legal in all states; also known as private adoption)</b>	an adoption initiated by prospective adopters and completed with help from an attorney or adoption counselor		\$5,000 to \$40,000 (includes prospective parents' cost of finding a birth mother, certain birth mother expenses, and attorney's fees)	birth mothers typically choose the adoptive parent — preferences tend to run toward younger, affluent, married couples	variable; as long as it takes to find a birth mother who will see the process through to finalization

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## What is adoption?

Adoption is meant to establish a legally recognized, lifelong relationship between a parent and child who are not parent/child related biologically. The adoptive parent(s) becomes legally and morally responsible for the child's safety, education, health care, value development, development of life skills, as well as the day-to-day care of that child.

Our society acknowledges that the man and woman who biologically create a life are traditionally the ones responsible for the child. Our society created adoption as a means to meet the needs of children whose biological parents are not able to assume the responsibilities of parenting.

Originally, adoption laws were based on "ownership"-type principles and focused on the rights of adults. However, over time, laws have become much more focused on meeting the emotional, physical, spiritual and developmental needs of the child.

In the past, *the two people who biologically gave them life raised most children*. This is no longer the case in our country. Today, single parents, grandparents, stepparents, foster parents or other parents acting as guardian are parenting a majority of children. Many children are now experiencing what it is like to have multiple sets of parents, grandparents and extended families. It is common for a child to experience a series of adults functioning in parental roles in their family.

Children who are adopted always have at least two sets of parents. For these children to be able to understand who they are, it is important for them to come to know, at some level, each of the parents who have had a part in creating the life they are living. All children try to make sense of these complex relationships. The more they know about the people to whom they have had any type of parental tie, the more successful they will be at developing a more complete picture of themselves.

According to Vera Fahlberg, a child and family expert and author, we can divide the parenting role in a child's life into three parts. Part One, *the Biological Aspect of Parenting*, gives life itself to a child. The biological parent also determines the sex of the child, eye color, hair color and texture, intellectual potential, temperament, potential talents as well as some of the medical conditions that may surface as the child develops. Racial and ethnic heritage are also determined by the biological factors.

Part Two, *the Legal Aspect of Parenting*, is financially responsible for the child. It is the legal parent's responsibility to keep the child safe and secure. The legal parent makes all important decisions for the child, for instance, deciding where the child will live, what school the child will attend, what medical care is given, etc. This parent is also legally and financially responsible for the child's actions.

Part Three, *the Parenting Aspect of Parenting*, sees to the day-to-day care of the child. This parent is responsible for providing love and discipline. This parent models behavior for the child to copy. This is the person who cooks meals, washes clothes, helps with school work, takes care of the ill child, watches the child's ball game etc. This person is the child's primary educator who teaches values, religion, and most life skills.

For any child, it would be much easier to understand life if the same one or two people filled all three of these parental roles throughout the child's entire life. For many children, and all adopted children, multiple people are involved. Most children are able to do quite well with multiple "parents" as long as transitions are handled appropriately and the child has someone to talk with about the changes. In fact, many very successful adults credit their success to having had many parent models and mentors along the way.

Circumstances and the legal system may change who provides two of these three parts of parenting to a particular child. However, circumstances and the legal system cannot change the biological connection. **The child's bonds to the biological parents are permanent and important to whom that child is as a person.** Anyone planning to adopt a child needs to recognize and value this fact.

Recognizing this is the only way that you will be able to understand the identity questions that the child will wrestle with as they grow and mature. The adoptive parent, who assumes both the role of legal parent and parenting parent for their adoptive child, can help them reach their highest potential by helping the child deal with such issues.

In a legal sense, people become a member of a family in one of three ways: by birth, by marriage or by adoption. "Family" is defined in our legal structure as two or more people who: 1) have biological ties; or 2) make a long-term legally binding commitment to each other.

When entering a family by birth, the child shares genetics as well as cultural and ethnic heritage with others in the family.

When entering a family through adoption or marriage, family members blend themselves emotionally with another person or persons who usually differ in genetics and heritage. There generally is no biological tie. However, governments and societies have developed ways to recognize the great importance and permanence of such deep, emotional commitments.

Laws, regulations and practices have been developed to give persons related by adoption and marriage comparable rights and responsibilities as those related by birth. Our society expects all families, whether formed by birth, adoption or marriage, to be permanent connections that offer love, acceptance and support for all members.

## Where Do I Start Learning?

Ask adoptive parents where they started their adoption journey and you will get many answers. For some their process began with reading a newspaper or magazine article. Maybe they found adoption material on the Internet. They may have checked out a book on adoption from their local library. Others may have known someone who had already adopted and talked with them about expectations and what steps to take. Others may have looked in the phone book for adoption agencies in their area, then called and received basic information, either on the phone or in the mail.

The more information you have, the better choices you can make for yourself and your children-to-be. Individuals must choose for themselves when and how to gather the information they need.

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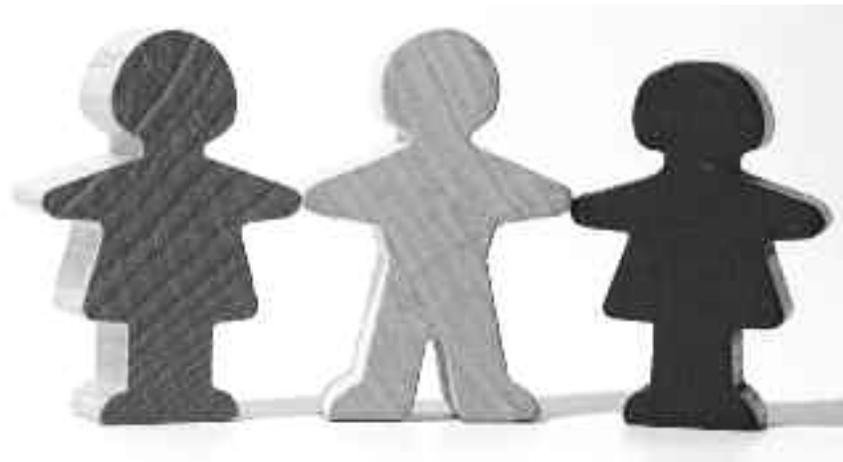
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# NEW!

## Youth Connections Program

The Department of Child Services (DCS) works with teens that are ages 14 through 18 for whom an adoptive family has not been identified or who have expressed that they do not want to be adopted; but the youth need a caring adult in their life to help them make the transition to adulthood.



The Youth Connections Program has been implemented to assist teens who will be on their own when they leave foster care. Every young person aging out of foster care should have at least one caring adult in their life whom they can count on to be there for them when they need support, guidance, advice and resources.

What can you do? Consider that a teen on their own will need someone to talk to; for advice or a sympathetic ear or to celebrate a birthday, they may need help finding a job, finishing school, or locating a safe place to live, a place to do laundry or use the telephone, a ride to work, an occasional meal, some emergency cash, they may need a coat or someone to advocate for them.

Youth Connections Program Specialists will provide support to the adults and teens to help build and sustain a relationship that will nurture a long-term connection. They will assist in identifying Independent Living services and community resources for the teen.

To find out how you can help and to receive further information on the program, please contact one of the people listed below, nearest to your own location.

**Beth Prebeck**

Southern Youth Connections Specialist  
DCS Brown County Office  
121 Locust Lane, P.O. Box 325  
Nashville, IN 47448-0325  
812-988-2239 (Work)  
317-439-6599 (Cell)  
812-988-1279 (fax)  
Beth.Prebeck@dcs.in.gov

**Barbara A. Gainer**

Northern Indiana YCP Specialist  
Youth Connections Program  
217 East Southway Blvd, Suite 202  
Kokomo, IN 46901  
765-865-2212  
765-864-3000 fax  
Barbara.Gainer@dcs.in.gov

# Special Needs Adoption Area Specialist Locator Map

Thank you for your interest in Indiana's Adoption Program.

This map shows the Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) specialist who coordinates adoption information for their Team. The counties are divided into six Teams.



## Statewide

Ann Arvidson  
Pre/Post Adoption Services  
(317) 234-4500  
Central Office  
402 W Washington St. Rm W364  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Email: [ann.arvidson@dcs.in.gov](mailto:ann.arvidson@dcs.in.gov)

## North West

Ivraline Applewhite  
(219) 881-2043  
Lake County DCS  
P.O. Box 2270  
661 Broadway  
Gary, IN 46409  
Email: [ivraline.applewhite@dcs.in.gov](mailto:ivraline.applewhite@dcs.in.gov)

## North East

Krysta Young  
(260) 458-6498  
Allen County DCS  
201 E. Rudisill Avenue  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46806  
Email: [krysta.young@dcs.in.gov](mailto:krysta.young@dcs.in.gov)

## West Central

Denise Halliburton  
(317) 232-4415  
Central Office  
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W364  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Email: [denise.halliburton@dcs.in.gov](mailto:denise.halliburton@dcs.in.gov)

## East Central

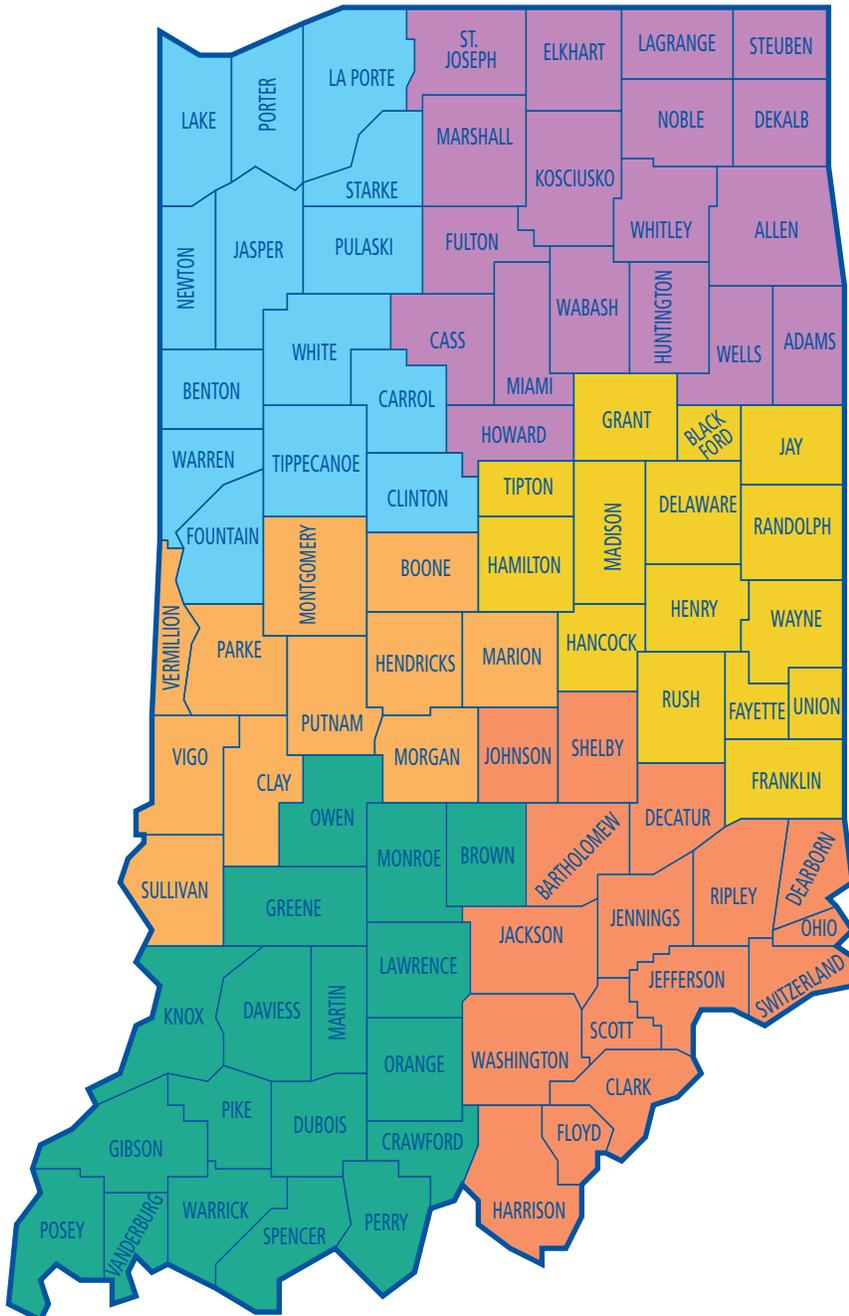
Marty Ogden  
(812) 663-6768 ext. 241  
Decatur County DCS  
1025 E. Freeland Rd. Ste. B  
Greensburg, IN 47240  
Email: [marjorie.ogden@dcs.in.gov](mailto:marjorie.ogden@dcs.in.gov)

## South East

Beth Dillon  
(317) 738-7113  
Johnson County DCS  
1784 E. Jefferson St.  
Franklin, IN 46131  
Email: [elizabeth.dillon@dcs.in.gov](mailto:elizabeth.dillon@dcs.in.gov)

## South West

Brenda Stoner  
(812) 254-0024  
Daviess County DCS  
P.O. Box 618  
Washington, IN 47501  
Email: [brenda.stoner@dcs.in.gov](mailto:brenda.stoner@dcs.in.gov)



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JAMES W. PAYNE, DIRECTOR

The Indiana Adoption Program  
c/o IFCAA  
509 E. National Ave., Ste. A  
Indianapolis, IN 46227

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*Subscription information  
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