Throughout November, at courthouses across Indiana, families will celebrate as their adoptions are finalized. We want to celebrate with them, yet also bring attention to other children in foster care in need of permanent families.

To all the families who have adopted a child–or children–from foster care: thank you.

To all the case workers, therapists, and advocates helping strengthen adoptions: thank you.

And to all the parents who are thinking of adopting: We can help. Email iap@childrensbureau.org, or visit indianaadoptionprogram.org/form to help a child in foster care find a permanent family.

Interested in being a feature family? We want to hear from you. Email iap@childrensbureau.org.

This is the last print edition of the Opening Hearts. Changing Lives adoption picture book.

But just because it’s the last print edition doesn’t mean it’s going away. It’s going digital! We’re excited to share more in early 2020.

Want to make sure you are notified when the digital picture book is available? Send an email to ecarter@childrensbureau.org.
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 Children’s Bureau, Inc.

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.


To learn more about Children’s Bureau, Inc., see us on the web at: www.childrensbureau.org or call for a brochure: 1-855-677-5437.

To mail correspondence to the Indiana Adoption program send to:

The Indiana Adoption Program  
c/o Children’s Bureau Inc.  
3610 N. Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

The Indiana Adoption Program would like to thank Lily for the front cover illustration, and Autumn for the back cover illustration.
# Indiana Adoption Program

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Opening hearts. Changing lives.

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.

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.

In 2020, this magazine will transition to a digital version. Please contact ecarter@childrensbureau.org if you would like to be notified when the digital picture book is available.

If you have any questions, please call 1-855-677-5437
Mariyah has a beautiful smile and outgoing disposition. She is energetic, sweet, funny, and happy. Mariyah is artistic and likes to draw! She is also very theatrical. She is animated and is a great conversationalist. She wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up. She loves reading, watching television, coloring, and making art.

Tiffany is a friendly, inquisitive, playful girl. She describes herself as “silly.” She loves attention and loves to smile! Tiffany is a natural comedian and can make others laugh! She loves watching TV, especially Barbie cartoons. She plays soccer and listens to Kidz Bop songs. She is playful, friendly, and quick to share a smile.

Mariyah and Tiffany would do best in a two-parent home with a strong, nurturing female role model. They need a family that provides understanding, patience, encouragement, and knowledge of the effects of trauma on children. They are very bright and would do well with a family who can help them reach their goals and potential. Prospective families need to be willing to maintain contact with their siblings periodically. (8136FIA) Lake County

Xavier is an outgoing and caring twelve-year-old boy! He describes himself as “nice, funny, and active.” He likes to play board games, play basketball, and draw. He loves animals, and dogs are his favorite. Xavier likes to bake, enjoys crafts, and plays soccer. When he is older, he hopes to become a firefighter. If he had three wishes, he would want to fly, have superhero powers, and be a superhero. If Xavier could go anywhere in the world, he would go to Disney World. Xavier enjoys learning new things and meeting new people. In the future, he hopes to join Boys & Girls Club and attend summer camp.

Tanner, who is ten, likes to play video games, play Monopoly, and swim. Tanner is proud of his drawing skills! He is a natural conversationalist. He loves attention and loves to smile! Tanner has only one wish—to have an adoptive family.

The family that would be best for Xavier and Tanner would be knowledgeable in helping children who have experienced trauma. Parents who provide structure, safety, and set clear boundaries would help Xavier and Tanner to thrive. They hope a family has a routine and will play with them. They are affectionate and would thrive in a home that can provide lots of one-on-one attention. They would like to live with a family that resides in the country and has lots of pets. They would like to have a nice, kind family that enjoys traveling and watches movies together. (8405ABHC) Ripley County
Jayden is a kind, bright nine-year-old boy! He enjoys playing outside, doing things like flag football, basketball, and climbing trees. In his downtime, he would be happy to play a game of chess with you, draw, or play Minecraft. Jayden does well in school, but his favorite day of the school year is "Fun Friday," when students get to "watch movies" and "eat good food!" Jayden is a fun-loving, charismatic nine-year-old.

Although Nathanial can be a bit shy when you first meet him, when he begins to open up, his personality shines! Nathanial, who is nine, has a curiosity about life and is quick to ask questions and engage with others. Nathanial enjoys playing card games such as Uno and Go Fish. He likes playing with trucks and cars and listening to music – especially country. He likes television and watching Paw Patrol and SpongeBob SquarePants. His favorite video game is Mario Kart. He always chooses Mario as his character. His favorite sports are basketball and football. Nathanial also enjoys other outdoor activities such as going to the park, where he can climb and swing. Those close to Nathanial describe him as an intelligent and funny nine-year-old boy, who is also creative and is caring.

Robert, who is sixteen, describes himself as "quiet, shy, and friendly." What Robert likes most about himself is how helpful he is to his brothers. Robert’s favorite subject in school is art because he loves to draw. For fun, Robert plays soccer, basketball, or video games. He wants to try out for his school’s basketball team. His goals are to get good grades, and to be the best he can be! He is an inquisitive and caring young man.

Leroy is an outgoing and confident fourteen-year-old! “I’m a cheerful person!” he says. Leroy excels in school, where he enjoys reading, math, and art. He likes to draw, play basketball or soccer, and play make-believe. He says, “We act out different things and it makes us laugh!” Leroy is a friendly boy who has a smile that will light up a room.

Robert and Leroy will need a strong single or two-parent family that maintains consistency and understands how trauma can affect children. They thrive when given praise and encouragement, as well as clear expectations. Parents must provide supportive, nurturing care and help these boys maintain their sibling bond. (8731ABIA) Lake County

The family that would be best for Jayden and Nathanial would be patient and committed to their long-term well-being. Potential parents will need to provide strong support to Jayden and Nathanial. It would be beneficial for Jayden and Nathanial to join a family that is active and focused on encouraging their growth through education and new activities. Parents will need to provide constant supervision and guidance. It is important that all prospective families understand the effects trauma can have on children. (8564ABDD) Owen County
Indiana Adoption Program

Conyaeh, who is twelve, loves riding bikes, playing with neighborhood friends, bouncing around on a pogo-stick, and watching the movie "Cars." He is very reserved at first, but his foster mother says he has a kind heart and is affectionate once you get to know him. He is a good student and his teachers note that he is well-behaved and a joy to be around. Conyaeh is interested in joining the military someday.

Neveaha is a happy seven-year-old girl who loves coloring and playing with My Little Pony toys. She is outgoing and cuddly and she loves anything having to do with princesses! She is excited to begin school and she is a quick learner.

These siblings would do well in a two-parent home with parents who would advocate for their well-being and provide plenty of one-on-one attention. They would do well with at least one male role model. Both siblings love to participate in activities, so an active, attentive family would be best for them. They thrive with a routine and they would do well with siblings. It would be beneficial for their new family to be connected to the community and to local resources. Conyaeh and Neveaha have a lot of potential and would do well in a family that encourages them. (8834ABDD)

Aquanis is a true gentleman! What he likes most about himself is that he plays well with others. Aquanis is nine, and enjoys playing video games, basketball, or going to the movies. He enjoys doing puzzles or playing with his LEGO toys. His favorite movie is Black Panther, but he really enjoys The Avengers series. Aquanis is an active boy who enjoys learning. His favorite subject in school is gym. Overall, Aquanis is a loveable, easy-going kid!

Aquyla, who is thirteen, is a bright, confident young lady who describes herself as funny and smart! She is charming and outgoing and she makes friends easily. For fun, Aquyla enjoys drawing and running. She recently ran a 5K. In her downtime, she will sit with a good book or journal. She loves pop music. Hailee Steinfeld is her favorite musician. Aquyla dreams of becoming an actress someday, but for now she is focusing on getting good grades this year! Aquyla believes her greatest strength is that she helps others.

Aquanis & Aquyla

Conyaeh & Neveaha

Aquyla and Aquanis would do best in a loving family that can provide structure, safety, and stability. It is important that they are in a home where they have supervision. Potential adoptive parents must understand how trauma can affect children. (8838ABIA)

Lake County

Vanderburgh County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Brayden is an open, honest young man who’s big into sports! He is thirteen, loves basketball and his favorite team is definitely the Golden State Warriors. He likes to look good and you can usually find him decked out in his nicest Nike or Jordan brand clothing, perfect for shooting hoops! He does well in school and makes the A/B honor roll. Brayden enjoys explaining things and talking them through so that he knows he fully understands a subject. When he’s with his friends, he likes to play the collectible card game Magic: The Gathering, he’d even be happy teaching you how to play someday! If the weather cooperates Brayden enjoys being able to get outside and go fishing or swimming, especially if his brother gets to go, they have a strong relationship. He’s not a picky eater, but he’ll probably skip the peas.

Zayne is a funny ten-year-old boy who loves to be the center of attention! In his free time, he likes to play video games or sports, two hobbies he really wants to be able to share with a forever family. His favorite sports are baseball and football and one day he wants to become a professional football player! Zayne is a big animal lover and hopes that wherever he ends up has a cat and a dog, preferably a big Husky. When not active on the field, he likes to spend some time relaxing and reading a good book.

Brayden and Zayne would do well in either a two-parent home or a one-parent home with support as they both adore one on one time. Families should be able to express healthy emotions and openness. They do well with other children but would prefer brothers or sisters that are their age or older so that they can play games together. The boys need stability, support, and communication. Patience will be key to a smooth transition. Families should model appropriate behaviors in a violence-free home. Brayden and Zayne will thrive if given proper mentorship by a forever family. (8916ABMN) Elkhart County

Jayden is an energetic ten-year-old boy who will tell you his big dream is to become a professional basketball player. His other hobbies include football and collecting cars. Jayden enjoys card games such as UNO and playing with his action figures which lets him stretch his already big imagination. He is also a fan of the movie “Black Panther.” Just like the “Black Panther,” Jayden would describe himself as both fast and smart. When not pretending to save the world, he is an animal lover, his two favorites being cheetahs and puppies.

Jayla is a playful but sensitive nine year-old girl who enjoys helping others. She likes singing and playing dress-up with her dolls and her friends. She especially loves when the outfits she has to work with are pink, her favorite color! Jayla likes to read and loves the book “Sometimes I Curl Up in a Ball.” She will tell you the subject she enjoys most in school is reading, and wants to do it more often. If she had one wish it would be that she could travel anywhere in the world! Hopefully somewhere she could get some turkey, her favorite food.

Jayden and Jayla would do best in a two-parent home that has some support. Ideally that would include a strong male role model to spend plenty of one-on-one time with the young children. They will need a family who can provide firm and consistent boundaries while also showing affection and understanding. They would thrive in a household where they are the only children so that they receive all the attention they desire. (8917ABWS) Tippecanoe County
Julia & Brandon

Julia, who is twelve, is a bright young lady with a big smile! She is a good student who takes pride in working hard academically to achieve her goals. Outside the classroom she spends a lot of her time playing sports. You can find her on the diamond or on the court where she excels at both softball and basketball. She has recently taken an interest in drama and the theater, and hopes to get a part in some school plays soon. This independent girl has a big imagination and likes to relax by watching YouTube or playing on her computer. She’s always ready to learn something new!

Brandon is a smart, friendly eleven year-old boy who does well in school! When not busy learning, he loves to stay active. Whether it’s playing sports, he has been on both the wrestling and basketball teams, or just playing outside. Brandon likes to play video games to relax and also spends time collecting both baseball and Pokémon cards. He is very protective of his siblings and they have a familial bond that needs to be nurtured.

Julia and Brandon would do best in a two-parent home and would prefer to have a mom and a dad. She is looking for someone who can teach her about clothes and makeup and he needs a strong parent who can show healthy emotions. They have a strong sibling bond and need plenty of attention so would do best as the only children in a home. Interested families should be willing to make education a priority as both children work hard in school. Parents should show patience, support, and understanding with regards to the transition into a forever family. (8928ABDD) Gibson County

Gaevyn is a thirteen-year-old with lots of energy who loves to talk! He is a big reader and you’ll often find him getting lost in one book or another, his latest binge is The Hunger Game Series. When not caught up in a book, Gaevyn loves sports. He would play them all day! His favorites are football, soccer, and dodgeball. He has big plans for his future and his goal one day is to become an electrical engineer. In fact, if he were given three wishes they would be to own his own football team, earn a Nobel Prize for being an engineer, and to play in the NFL! He is very bonded to his brothers and one of his favorite things is when they all get to do activities together.

James, who is ten, loves to help almost as much as he loves being the center of attention! He’s sporty like his big bro, and would love to be a professional football player someday. Really though, he loves almost all sports, as long as he gets to stay active. Football, basketball, dodgeball, bike riding, he loves it all! James is also creative and likes drawing works of art or building things with blocks. Since he definitely looks up to his big brother, his three wishes would be to be rich, become a famous sketch artist so his pictures are in museums, and to be an electrical engineer. It helps that his favorite subject in school is math, he’ll get to do plenty of that as an engineer!

Khristian is a loving and outgoing nine-year-old boy! He loves being active and you can often find him playing soccer, football or basketball. When it’s time to relax, he enjoys watching tv like Paw Patrol, SpongeBob, or even Tom and Jerry! Khristian also loves coloring and getting to listen to music, like his favorite rapper Migos. He’s not a picky eater, he especially loves spaghetti and hasn’t yet found a food he won’t eat! If he had three wishes he would use them to make the world a better place, he wants all the homeless people to have a place to live, get himself a car, and an outdoor pool. He loves his brothers and whenever they get to do things together he’s happy!

Gaevyn, James, and Khristian would do best in a two-parent home with a positive male role model for the boys. If there are other children in the home, they should be older than Gaevyn, James, and Khristian. These guys love attention and getting to do activities together. They do well with pets and would enjoy a forever home that came with animals. They would thrive with consistency, stability, and reliability. They need parents who can model healthy and appropriate behaviors and emotions. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8950ABCIA) Lake County
Angel & Cheyenne

Harley, who goes by Angel, is a friendly fourteen-year-old who likes to be creative! She’s a bit of an introvert so she usually prefers solitary activities like arts and crafts, drawing, painting, or even making some gooey slime. Once she warms up to people, she’ll welcome them to join her but she still needs some alone time now and again. Angel is a big fan of the outdoors and she enjoys any time she gets to spend camping, fishing, tubing, or kayaking! She likes music and you can often find her dancing around the house to her favorite tunes, especially pop or classic. She enjoys books and spends time writing her own stories, she may even share some with you someday!

Cheyenne, who is eleven, loves to talk! She makes friends everywhere she goes and people are drawn into her warm personality. She adores the water and playing in splash pads or going for a swim. She has a big imagination and uses it when making her very own arts and crafts. She also likes to take her baby and Barbie dolls out for strolls around the neighborhood! Don’t ask Cheyenne what her favorite color is, she can’t decide, if she does tell you one it’s going to be the rainbow because it has all the colors! If you gave her three wishes she’d make the most of them. She wants to be a queen, go to Disney World, and go to a water park!

Angel and Cheyenne would do well in either a one-parent home with plenty of support or a two-parent home. If there are other children in the home, these two need to be the youngest and it would be best if they were the only children. They will thrive with firm, consistent boundaries and parents who follow through on what they say. They need structure and monitoring, with rules that don’t change. A rigid schedule is ideal. Families should be willing to accept any medical or therapeutic needs the children may have throughout their lives. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8972ACMN) Allen County

Annibelle

Annibelle, who is eleven, is a social butterfly who is always making friends! She is empathetic and cares about how those around her are feeling and goes out of her way to try to make their days better. She is very active and outgoing and she loves to be outside. She has a ton of fun playing basketball on her team at school or riding her bike around outside! When it’s time to relax she enjoys getting out her iPad and watching funny videos on YouTube or playing games. Annibelle is always improving herself and that includes scholastically as she works hard to ensure she’s doing her best!

Annibelle and Maribelle would do well in either a one-parent home with support or a two-parent home. They need a violence free, calm home with parents who are willing to use their words to settle disputes and punishments. They need stability, structure, and clear rules and expectations in a forever home. They will thrive when given love and consistency. Families should be willing to make education a priority. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (9014BCBD) Jackson County

Maribelle

Maribelle is an eleven-year-old girl trying to build her own identity! While she and her twin sister like to do almost all the same things, Maribelle has a much larger independence streak and loves figuring things out on her own. She is just as outgoing and enjoys playing basketball and riding her bike like her sister! She also makes friends easily and has a big group of friends at school and has never met a stranger in her life. With the right love and support she’ll be able to find the person she’s always wanted to be!

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Natia is thirteen, and knows how to get things done. She is loyal, resourceful, and looks out for those around her. She took on a motherly role with her younger siblings. She is engaging and opens up easily, always willing to have a good conversation! Natia is big into arts and crafts and enjoys writing in her journal and making bracelets for herself or her friends. You can often find her with her nose in a book, she even prefers non-fiction to fiction! One of her new favorites is a book called "The Lost Child" which she says speaks to her and her experiences. She’s not a picky eater and she’ll try just about anything at least once. She’s not a fan of video games, she prefers to check out Instagram and see what all her favorites are up to!

Nataysha is an active twelve-year-old who is always looking for something to do! If one activity doesn’t work out, she jumps right to the next one, she doesn’t let anything hold her down. She is polite, kind, and hopes to find a family that will take her to church. In fact, she recently started performing praise dances at her current church and she loved it! Dancing isn’t her only musical talent, if Nataysha had two wishes she would want to have a lot of money and to become a world famous rapper. When not running around outside or performing, she likes to relax by playing games like Roblox that let her stretch her imagination! What she most wants you to know about her is that she is polite, kind, and appreciates what people do for her.

Nariah is ten, and a real scholar and athlete. She does well in school and usually makes the all As Honor Roll. Her favorite subject in school is math but she also excels in science, she even won second place in the school’s science fair! She loves team sports and has played both basketball and golf before and wants to keep doing so, she did so well she won a golf championship. Nariah participated in a local Black History Bowl which involved questions all about Black History, she’s proud of all the studying she did! Nariah needs to stay active and she always wants to be doing something, like going to the local community center, swimming, or playing games on her tablet.

Nasziere is a seven-year-old reader who loves to learn. His absolute favorite books are about sports or Black History. He enjoys staying active and participating in events throughout the community like church or sports, he particularly likes when he gets to sing songs at church. He has played basketball, golf, and flag football and he hopes that one day he’ll get to play on his own soccer team! Nasziere can be a bit shy once you first meet him, but once he feels comfortable around you he’s a lot of fun to talk to. He very much looks up to his older siblings and wants to do everything they do!

Natia, Nataysha, Nariah, and Nasziere would do best in a two-parent home with support. Ideally they would be the only children in the home, but if there are other children, these siblings should be the youngest. They need plenty of one-on-one attention to make them feel wanted and to help build trust in the transition into a forever home. Parents need to show both patience and resilience. Some of the children have been active in church so a family that respects their faith is important. They participate in various activities so families should be ready and willing to ensure they can continue to do so. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8978MNBCDE) Allen County
Zylan, who is six, is a helpful little guy always looking for something to do! He enjoys being useful so he’s usually asking about what chores he can help with, he particularly likes helping with laundry. He has a great memory and he’ll remember the names of everyone he meets, even if it’s only once! He adores cars and trucks and if he had his way he’d play with them all day long, running them all over the house getting into some fun adventures. When Zylan sits down to relax, you can find him watching his favorite shows like "PJ Masks" and "Paw Patrol!" He loves animals of all kinds and has never met a pet that wasn’t his best friend.

Brooklynn is a natural born leader! She is five, and loves directing play time and making sure everyone is doing what they’re supposed to be doing and most importantly that everyone is having fun. She adores animals and currently has a pet rabbit that she calls "Bear!" She likes to stay active and has her very own baseball bat she likes to take outside with her other toys when it’s time to play. Brooklyn is currently attending a preschool and her favorite class is art, especially when she gets to paint! She loves her brothers more than anything else and is very protective of them, she’s always looking out for them. She’s excited for real school and can’t wait to go make some new friends!

Connor, who is three, is a sweet little guy who loves moving around! Whether he’s outside scooting around on his bike or his motorized tractor, he just loves to go fast! He gets super excited about tractors and occasionally even gets to go for rides on them through the fields near his current placement. He is a great climber which when combined with his curiosity about everything around him means you never know what adventures Connor is going to get up to next! He adores affection and especially cuddling, he’s not a big fan of the word "no" but getting a few cuddles after hearing it usually cheers him right back up!

Brody is a happy little one-year-old who laughs a lot! He is incredibly curious and amazed by the world around him so he always wants to learn something new or try new things! One of his favorite things is running all over the place exploring whatever new situation he finds himself in. He doesn’t hide the fact when he’s happy, you’ll hear his coos and laughs all over the house! Brody is pretty good at feeding himself, and he’s even working on using a spoon to give his fingers a break. When it’s time to play, he has an assortment of balls he likes to toss all over the place. If you find yourself out in the backyard playing catch with him, though, you better watch out, he’s got a cannon!

Zylan, Brooklynn, Connor, and Brody would do well in either a one-parent home with support or a two-parent home. They all need lots of one-on-one attention so the more support the better. They all love animals and would do well in a home with pets, however the pets need to be very comfortable with children. All four can get enthusiastic with their love of pets so any animals would need to be patient and calm. In public, the children get excited by any new animals they see and will run up to play with them so a watchful eye is needed. They have been thriving when put into a placement with structure and consistency that puts a value on education. Interested families should be willing to take on the responsibility of any future therapeutic needs the children may have. (9036ABCDDD) Dubois County
Indiana Adoption Program

Alan, who is sixteen, describes himself as funny and artistic. He hopes to have a nice, caring family that travels. For fun, Alan enjoys LEGO and Pokémon. Alan’s favorite Pokémon is Charazard, and he likes to play with trading cards and virtual games. Alan wants to be an inventor or a video game designer when he grows up. He loves dogs of all sizes, and if he had his own dog, he would name it “Coco.” He is very good at building things. He likes to build space ships out of LEGO! He would like to visit LEGOland in Chicago someday. His second dream destination would be Japan. Alan plays basketball, and he wants to be on a team someday. His favorite NBA team is the Chicago Bulls. In school, Alan enjoys art, science, and gym. Alan is an easy-going kid whose smile will brighten your day!

Alan needs a loving, patient family that can nurture him and help him reach his fullest potential. Alan will need a lot of one-on-one attention and his family will need to be willing to take plenty of time for him to adjust to change. Alan does best with structure and routine and it would be best for him to be an only child. Any potential family will need to be committed to supporting Alan. Alan wants a family that is nice and caring, as well as active and involved in the community.

(6056SG) Marion County

Damon is a fifteen-year-old boy with many interests, like being outdoors and participating in sports. He loves being active and likes to ride his bike and play baseball and basketball. He enjoys fishing and camping and prefers playing outside. Damon also likes playing video games on his tablet and is eager to show those interested how to play. His favorite video game is Minecraft. Damon likes to play by himself or one friend at a time. He excels in school and enjoys all subjects, especially math and science. Damon describes himself as “funny” and “awesome.” He is driven and has a positive demeanor.

Damon would do best in a family that can provide lots of attention, structure, and stability, as well as nurture him. It would be best if he was an only child or there were older children in the home. Parents should be patient and be able to advocate for his educational and emotional needs. Both single and two-parent homes will be considered. (7047BBD) Bartholomew County

Avery, who is eleven, has a happy disposition and is quick to smile. He enjoys watching animals and spending time outside. He likes to sit at the window and watch the birds. Avery gets very excited to watch his foster family’s chickens and dogs. Avery loves to swing! He has a swing inside that he enjoys. He likes to put puzzles together and enjoys participating in home-based school. He likes listening to stories, and enjoys arts and crafts. Avery also enjoys music and watching TV programs. He especially likes to watch the Disney Channel. Avery loves to spend time with others. He is bubbly and a lot of fun!

Avery is a very sweet boy who needs a family that is committed to him and his many medical challenges. It would be beneficial to have a family that is familiar with parenting a child with special needs. Families with an excellent support network, and knowledge of developmental delays and medical needs are preferred. It would be recommended that the family be familiar with or willing to learn sign language, as this would allow the family to communicate with Avery.

(8039MN) Allen County

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Tyresa

Tyresa is a very smart and inquisitive fourteen-year-old girl who is a joy to be around, and she can be very insightful. For fun, Tyresa likes to spend time with her friends or read. Tyresa loves to laugh and make others laugh, so her favorite thing about herself is that she is funny. Tyresa has interest in dance, gymnastics, and art. Tyresa likes to listen to music in her downtime. When she grows up, she wants to be a therapist. If Tyresa had three wishes, she would wish for a nice adoptive home, to keep on seeing her siblings and grandmother, and that she could keep in contact with all the people who have helped her.

Tyresa needs an understanding, patient, structured home, preferably with two parents. Her new family will need to encourage her to have the childhood she missed out on and also will need to advocate for her emotional well-being. Potential parents should be active and model good behavior. Tyresa would thrive in a home where she is the only or youngest child. She has a sibling with whom she will need to remain in contact. (8122IA) Lake County

Michael

Michael loves to try new things! He gets very excited about learning new skills, like how to swim or how to play baseball. Basketball is his favorite sport and he also loves to play with action figures, Nerf toys, and puzzles. Michael is a polite and soft-spoken fifteen-year-old. He can also be very funny! He enjoys making art and he loves television shows and video games. He hopes to become an actor when he is older. When asked what kind of home he would like, he said, “I am not too picky, but I hope they have a TV!” Michael is very helpful, and his favorite thing about himself is he can do splits!

Michael needs a loving, stable, permanent home where he can receive plenty of one-on-one attention. Michael would do well in a single parent or two-parent home with or without siblings. Michael’s new family will need to advocate for his education and provide structure, patience, and reassurance. (8121IA) Lake County

Briestyn

Briestyn is an intelligent, funny, and energetic fifteen-year-old boy! Briestyn loves the outdoors, and doing activities such as riding bikes, jumping on a trampoline, and playing with animals. He also enjoys watching movies, listening to rap music, playing video games, and drawing. Briestyn has natural athletic ability and enjoys playing football and basketball. Briestyn’s favorite football team is the Seattle Seahawks. He would like to play wide receiver on a football team in the future. He is eager to try new things, especially if it involves physical challenges or creativity! Briestyn has a wonderful sense of humor, and is compassionate and caring. He is an engaging young man who is full of life!

Briestyn would be most successful in a two-parent home, with an extended family support system. His family will need to provide close supervision and plenty of one-on-one attention. He needs a family that is encouraging, strong, and patient to help him overcome his intense emotional and behavioral needs. Briestyn would do best as an only child, or as the youngest child with an older sibling who can be a positive role model. Briestyn needs parents who will show him unconditional love. (8106DD) Vermillion County

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www.adoptachild.in.gov
Aubra "Zack" is an imaginative, inquisitive, and funny sixteen-year-old boy! He is very interested in computers and technology, especially video games. He once learned how to build a computer in school! Zack enjoys putting things together and figuring out how they work. Zack likes LEGO and comic books. He is fascinated by Greek mythology and symbols. Zack's favorite thing about himself is that he is a quick learner. Those close to Zack like that he smiles a lot, and he is eager to learn. In the future, he hopes to travel the world. Zack describes himself as funny, helpful, and believes anything is possible if you set your mind to it!

Zack will do best with a family that is patient and understanding. His new family can help him by providing structure and routine. Zack thrives on one-on-one attention and encouragement. He would do best as the youngest or only child in a family. He needs a family that supports his imagination, but is also comfortable in being realistic with Zack. It is important that an adoptive family understands how trauma affects children. Zack hopes he is adopted by a nice, fun, and active family. (8125WS) Miami County

Jonathan is a friendly, adventurous seventeen-year-old boy who loves to play outside. He enjoys spending time with adults, and can be quite helpful in the home. Riding his bike is one of Jonathan's favorite activities! He also enjoys kicking around the soccer ball. Jonathan works very hard to be as independent as he can be and he has made great strides. Jonathan's teacher thinks he is a remarkable young man who is sweet and caring. In school, Jonathan enjoys group reading time, as well as recess! He is quick to lend a helping hand to his teachers. One of our favorite things about Jonathan is his easy-going nature!

Jonathan would do best with a family that can provide structure and consistency. He needs a single parent or two-parent home with a family that can provide supervision, encouragement, and attention to his medical and educational needs. Jonathan does well with other children and pets. (8149IA) Newton County

James is an intelligent, funny, and caring sixteen-year-old boy. He is very clever and he has a great memory. He is friendly and easy-going. James likes "every kind of animal, except for snakes, crocodiles, and spiders." James is energetic, so he loves to run and play outside. James describes himself as, "nice and sometimes funny," and he is "still thinking" about what he wants to be when he grows up.

James would benefit from being in a home where the caregivers are encouraging and nurturing. He would do well in a home with a strong male role model. James needs parents who will help him express his feelings and create a safe environment to do so. James would thrive in a home where he is able to participate in extracurricular and community events, and where the parents are actively involved and supportive of these endeavors. (8156ABD) Scott County
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Jonathan, who is fifteen, can be shy, but he has a wonderful smile and happy disposition! He likes to swim, play basketball, and ride his bike. In the past, he participated in the Special Olympics. He is very social and likes to make new friends. He is happy to shoot hoops with his peers or play outside. Jonathan likes to go to sporting events, and is a huge Colts fan. Jonathan is very curious and inquisitive. He is doing well in school, and he likes to try new things. Jonathan would do best in an active two-parent home with no younger children. Parents should be patient and consistent, as well as flexible to change. Jonathan will need a home that can provide structure and routine. Jonathan responds very well to loving, supportive, and structured environments. They should also be motivated and strong with a good community of support to advocate for Jonathan’s needs. Jonathan wants a family where he feels understood and he knows he is safe. (8181SG) Marion County

Joshua is a sixteen-year-old boy who is sweet and affectionate! He likes being tickled, and will hold your hand once he gets to know you. Joshua enjoys sensory activities and toys. He has a big appetite, and is not a picky eater! Joshua is an on-the-go kind of guy, and enjoys spending time in the community. He loves to watch TV, and his favorite movies are “Shrek” and “Home Alone.” Those close to Joshua adore him! He is a good kid who will shine when he is happy!

Joshua will do best in a two-parent home that can provide one-on-one supervision and a safe environment. Families should have a support network to help in caring for Joshua. He needs a family who will advocate for his educational and emotional needs. Potential parents will need to be patient, understanding, and active. (8225IA) LaPorte County

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Mahogany

Mahogany is a sweet ten-year-old girl who loves to play! Mahogany makes friends easily because she is friendly and polite. She likes to have fun and be silly! Mahogany likes to play outside by riding her bike, jumping rope, going swimming, and playing catch. Mahogany is very considerate, loving, and helpful. She is also creative, and likes to make posters. Mahogany has participated in karate, gymnastics, and church youth activities.

Joshua

Joshua is polite, easy-going, and active. Joshua is a polite, easy-going, and active seventeen-year-old boy who likes video games, matchbox cars, LEGOs, and playing outside. He’s got a big smile and likes to be around people. The video games he likes the most are Mario and Sonic. His favorite TV show is The Price is Right, and he enjoys rock music. Joshua enjoys sports, and his favorites are baseball, basketball, football, and dodgeball. Recently, Joshua was in the Special Olympics for track and swimming! Joshua is doing well in school and his favorite subject is reading. Joshua’s favorite professional sports teams are the Chicago White Sox, the Chicago Bears, and the Chicago Blackhawks. When asked what is most important to him in his life, he responded, “Getting a home.” Joshua hopes to have a “regular family” where on weekends, the family would spend time together by going bowling, having a movie night, or going shopping.

Damon

Damon is a fun sixteen-year-old boy! He enjoys staying active, especially in the summertime when he gets to swim and enjoy the outdoors. Damon is sweet and peaceful, and often happy to spend time on his tablet or watch Disney movies. Damon has a great smile that can light up a room. He gets along well with younger children, and loves to laugh! Damon likes to spend time with animals as well.

Damon would do best in a family that has experience with medically fragile children. He would do well in a home that can provide safety, stability, and structure. It would be beneficial for Damon to have parents who can stay emotionally regulated and role model dealing with their emotions in a healthy manner. Parents will need to be consistent in tending to Damon’s medical and emotional needs. Damon will need plenty of supervision and assistance in a home, so parents who are patient and nurturing would be beneficial for him. It is important that potential parents have a healthy support system. (8249BHC) Wells County

An ideal family for Joshua is a patient, calm, nurturing two-parent family where he can have adequate supervision. Joshua hopes his adoptive parents will help him with homework and play sports with him. It would be best if he were in a home where he can be the youngest or only child. (8232IA) LaPorte County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Jamarion is an energetic eleven-year-old boy who loves staying active by playing football! His favorite football player is Odell Beckham Jr. Jamarion describes himself as smart and athletic. He is ambitious and shows little hesitation in trying new things. Jamarion is bright, creative and has a positive outlook on life. Jamarion likes school and makes friends easily. He is also on the A/B Honor Roll! Jamarion likes to play video games with his friends. Overall, Jamarion is friendly, does well in school, is social, and likes to try new fun activities!

Jamarion has a desire to be a part of a family. He would do best in a single or two-parent home that can provide structure and unconditional positive regard. He would benefit from a strong male role model who can help guide and support Jamarion. Jamarion will need to keep in touch with his biological family once he’s adopted. (8253IA) Lake County

Jamarion

Sean is a nice fourteen-year-old who enjoys playing video games, and his favorite game is Minecraft. Sean’s favorite subject is science. Sean doesn’t really like to read, but he does like to watch movies! He really likes Power Rangers. Sean’s favorite meal is spaghetti. What others like about Sean is his fun sense of humor.

Sean would do best in a home with two parents who have a large support network. Parents will need to be able to provide adequate supervision as well as positive redirection. Potential parents will need to advocate for Sean’s educational and emotional needs. It would be best if Sean were the only or youngest child in an adoptive home so he can get lots of attention. (8254MN) Allen County

Sean

James is a shy, but friendly boy. He is quite energetic and very inquisitive and insightful. James collects yo-yos and is very good at yo-yoing. James is mature for his age, and he does very well with structure. James enjoys comic books, and his favorite superhero is Batman. He likes sports, enjoys playing basketball and football, and his favorite teams are the Chicago Bulls and the Indianapolis Colts. His favorite subjects in school are science and art. James loves to play video games. If he could have three wishes, he would want an adoptive home, a “nice family,” and lots of candy. James wants a home that will take trips and perhaps go to the circus! What he wants others to know about him is that he is good at video games and good at yo-yo.

James needs a family that can provide love, attention, support, and supervision. He needs one or two parents who can advocate for his emotional well-being. James does well with male caregivers, so it would be best if there was a strong male role model in the family. He would do best as the only child in a home. James needs a lot of reassurance that he is loved and cared for. James has a brother with whom he will need to remain in contact. (8264BHC) Delaware County

James

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Javier is a happy and affectionate ten-year-old boy! Javier loves to play outside in the summer! He loves to play in his wading pool, dance to music, or play football. His favorite television show is “Paw Patrol.” In his downtime, Javier enjoys drawing and coloring. Overall, he is a sweet and polite boy who likes to meet new people!

Javier will benefit from an adoptive family who recognizes his history of trauma, and understands how it can affect a child. Javier would thrive in an active family that is patient and can encourage Javier to meet his full potential. He would do best as an only child in a two-parent household. Javier will benefit from a family that can provide structure, clear expectations, and set boundaries. He does best with a regular routine, which helps him feel secure. (8271BIA) Lake County

Steven is a fifteen-year-old boy who loves to fish and be outdoors as much as possible. He is interested in walking through the woods and looking for all of the wiggly and slimy things to use as bait. Steven likes to ride bikes and do many other outdoor activities. He will look through his tackle box all day. He recently used his allowance to buy a tool box! Steven likes to try and put things together, such as easy models. He enjoys feeling helpful and being included. He would benefit from a strong male role model! He wants to live in the country and he asked for cowboy boots and a cowboy hat for when he is placed in the country. He also says that he wants to buy a boat some day. His teachers think he’s a great kid and very respectful. Steven is becoming more affectionate and likes to get hugs. He has a good sense of humor and is a very enjoyable kid.

Steven would do best in a home that can provide supervision and structure. Parents will need to be able to recognize Steven’s strengths and resiliency, and tend to his emotional needs. If there are children in the home, it would be best if they were older than Steven. Potential parents should have an understanding of how trauma affects children. (8314WS) Howard County

Cody is a charming fifteen-year-old who has an abundance of strengths and interests. He enjoys working with his hands, and hopes to be a mechanic or an engineer when he is older. Cody also enjoys crocheting, learning new trades (such as woodworking), listening to music, playing games, and having fun! He likes dogs, specifically Great Danes. Cody wants a home in the country so he can have lots of pets. He likes to stay active and enjoys football and basketball, so Cody hopes his future family is active too! Cody is a personable young man with a great sense of humor, and a wonderful smile!

Cody would do best in a home with a strong male role model. He would benefit from having a family who has good communication with one another. He would thrive in an environment where the parents are patient and can provide structure. He has a strong desire to be a part of an adoptive family. He would greatly benefit in a family where he receives lots of positive, one-on-one attention. Families will need to show unconditional love and maintain a safe environment with age-appropriate boundaries and consequences. (8315BD) Jennings County
Devin is an affectionate sixteen-year-old who enjoys helping others. He is fascinated by electronics and likes to play video games. Devin likes to stay active, and participates in track and field. His favorite event is the long jump. He describes himself as “sporty, intelligent, and helpful.” Devin does well in school, and likes his math and science classes. When he is older, he hopes to attend Purdue University in hopes of becoming a Mechanical Engineer. Devin wants a family that will provide plenty of one-on-one time. Devin hopes to find a family that is nice and enjoys spending time together.

Devin would do best in a home with structure and supervision. He would thrive as an only child, but homes with children will be considered. Families with knowledge of how trauma affects children would be best for Devin. Two-parent homes would be best for Devin so he can receive plenty of attention, but single parent homes with a large support network will be considered.

(8340BD) Bartholomew County

Lande’ll is a thirteen-year-old boy who describes himself as a helpful, loving, hopeful, and cool person! He is creative, and likes to invent things out of LEGO. He also enjoys reading comic books and watching comic book movies. His favorite superhero is Black Panther. He enjoys school because he gets to learn and to interact with people. Lande’ll’s favorite thing about himself is that he’s brave and willing to take risks. When he is older, Lande’ll wants to become a professional football player and a mentor to kids. He wants to teach kids to follow their dreams!

Lande’ll would thrive in a family that provides consistency, structure, and a predictable daily routine. Lande’ll would benefit greatly from parents who can model positive behavior. Lande’ll thrives when given consistent praise and encouragement. Parents will need to advocate for Lande’ll’s needs. He would do best in a home where he is the youngest or only child and can receive plenty of one-on-one attention. Lande’ll wants adoptive parents who would love to spend time with him. He wants parents who will take time to help him solve problems. Lande’ll wants a mom and dad who will play sports with him and teach him how to cook! Most importantly, Lande’ll wants to write a letter to his adoptive mom on Mother’s Day.

(8344SG) Marion County

Deshawn is an athletic and talented sixteen-year-old boy. He likes to be outside, but he enjoys video games, too. He is polite and respectful and he does well in school. He likes to help out around the house and he is very connected to his siblings. Deshawn would like to have a dog someday.

Deshawn is hopeful about adoption and would like a mom that bakes or parents who are good cooks! He asks for “parents who can appreciate who he is.” To Deshawn, adoption means “having a place to belong.” Deshawn would do well in an active family that can encourage him to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities.

(8399ADD) Vanderburgh County
Annie is a bright, energetic fourteen-year-old who is engaging and friendly! Annie is cheerful and talkative, and is friendly when she meets new people. Always curious, Annie enjoys learning, and her favorite class in school is gym. In her spare time, she enjoys helping her foster sibling learn to read. Annie likes to sing and dance, and her favorite thing about herself is that she is good at dancing. If she could go anywhere in the world, Annie would want to go to the Bahamas. Annie is caring, loving, and helpful, and those close to her say she is a sweet, loving, and "all around good kid."

Annie needs a home where the parents provide structure, consistency, and have an established routine. She would thrive in an environment where the parents can provide her with lots of attention. It would be best for Annie if her parents are patient and understanding. (8458MN) Allen County

Star is an outgoing, creative, and friendly twelve-year-old girl! She loves to do crafts, and in her down time, she likes to finger knit, play in the park, and play basketball. Star enjoys reading, and she participates in a summer reading program. She enjoys swimming in the summer and likes to make up songs to sing. She learned to crochet and enjoys making things! Star is a sweet girl with a great sense of humor.

Star would benefit being in a home where she is an only child or the youngest child. She would do well in a home with a large support network. She needs parents who will give her love and support, as well as provide stability and structure. Star thrives off one-on-one attention. (8462MN) DeKalb County

Ashley is a sweet, funny, and caring fourteen-year-old who is full of potential! She can be a little shy when you first meet but once she warms up she loves to talk and loves having big conversations. She likes to look stylish so she always pays attention to her nails and really enjoys the times she gets to go out and go shopping. Ashley is caring for others and adores younger children. While she is always happy to help out around the house, her favorite thing to do is getting to care for the little ones.

Ashley would do well in either a one-parent or two-parent home but at least one of the parents needs to be female. She would prefer to be the oldest child in the home and would love it if her forever family came with younger siblings. Parents should be able to show patience with the bond building process and be willing to help prepare her for her future goals. Consistency and stability are two of the most important things a family can offer Ashley. (8476ASG) Marion County
Stephanie is an intelligent, well-spoken, kind, funny, and compassionate sixteen-year-old girl. She enjoys reading, drawing, writing poetry, and cooking. Her favorite foods are fried chicken and macaroni and cheese. She likes roller-skating, and is interested in playing basketball and cheerleading. In her downtime, Stephanie enjoys reading and watching TV. Stephanie does well in school and gets along with adults and her peers. The classes she enjoys most are math and choir. Stephanie likes to try new things - food, activities, meeting new people, or going to new places!

Stephanie needs a family who understands how trauma can affect a child, and is very flexible. She needs to be part of a family that will maintain firm, healthy boundaries, and provide adequate supervision. Stephanie will do well in a one or two-parent home where she is the youngest or only child. Stephanie has a desire to be included and to feel as though she is part of a family. (8493IA) Lake County

Hailey, who is thirteen, describes herself as playful, courageous, and outgoing. For fun, she likes to go bike riding and play outside. Hailey is very imaginative. She enjoys singing and dancing, doing arts and crafts, and making up her own songs. Her favorite pop singer is Demi Lovato. Hailey would like to be involved in horseback riding someday. She adores horses, and hopes to be adopted by a family that stables horses. Hailey likes watching TV and movies in her downtime. Gym and reading are her favorite subjects in school. Hailey is respectful and talented, and fun to be around!

Hailey would do well in a home with a single mother or two parents. Parents must provide Hailey with structure and support. Hailey would like a family that is calm and reassuring. She needs strong parents who will advocate for her needs, and love her unconditionally. Parents must be patient, nurturing, and understand how trauma affects children. (8502BD) Putnam County

Patrick is a very active, sweet ten-year-old! He enjoys playing basketball, football, and soccer. He also enjoys doing gymnastics! Patrick enjoys drawing and listening to music, as well as playing Xbox. His favorite game is Minecraft. He collects Hot Wheels toys and his favorite is a Lamborghini. Patrick’s favorite movie is “Space Jam.” He enjoys learning new things, and is very polite. Patrick hopes to have a family that likes the same things as him.

The family that would be best for Patrick should provide adequate supervision and support. Parents will need to be patient and understand Patrick’s emotional and educational needs. Patrick would do well in a home with older children, where there is clear structure, routine, and expectations. (8513ADD) Clay County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Joshua is a very happy, loving little eleven-year-old. He enjoys getting hugs and being held. He likes playing with any sensory toys, such as something with a lot of sound or flashing lights. He likes to stay active and likes the trampoline, swing, and jumping. Joshua enjoys dancing and watching TV. Joshua once went on a roller coaster and he loved it! Joshua likes to be rocked and read storybooks. Joshua loves to laugh, and has a great personality.

The family that would be best for Joshua must be able to provide adequate supervision and support. Parents will need to be patient and understand Joshua’s emotional and educational needs. Joshua would do well in a home with older children, where there is clear structure, routine, and expectations. (8513BDD) Clay County

Ternae is a sweet, kind, and helpful young man. He enjoys playing LEGO’s, coloring, and collecting Pokemon and Naruto cards. He enjoys building things out of paper, including airplanes and origami. He also enjoys swimming and playing football. Ternae is learning to cook in school, and enjoys making lasagna, spaghetti, healthy snacks, and salads. Ternae’s favorite thing about himself is that he’s “funny.” Ternae is a fourteen-year-old who has a big heart with a lot of love to give, and needs parents who are ready for the joy that he can bring into their life.

Ternae would be suited in a home where he is the only child or the siblings are older. The family should be able to have flexibility and creativity in advocating for his educational needs. Ternae thrives with one to one attention, structure, consistency, and routine. He is always willing to help around the home, especially when he is working with someone as motivation. Ternae has a strong desire for adults to love him unconditionally, and help him overcome his struggles to help him succeed. It would be best if parents had an understanding of how trauma affects children. (8515MN) Allen County

Mariyah, who is eleven, is an outspoken young lady who loves learning new things! Those around her say she’s intelligent and gifted and she’s using those skills to learn her way around the kitchen and how to make delicious meals. It’s no surprise that she loves to read and her favorite genre of book is mysteries! She enjoys trying to figure out who did it before she gets to the end. Mariyah likes to stay active, although she has said “I won’t run unless my life depends on it!” so her exercises are more fun in nature like dancing! She hopes that in the future she can use that to join the cheerleading squad at school and root on the team!

Mariyah would do well in either a one-parent with support or a two-parent household. She’s looking for a lot of love and attention so being an only child would be ideal for her. A violence free home with plenty of patience and understanding is required. She may need a slow transition into a forever home so parents who are willing to work with and understand her needs would be great. Families should be willing to take on any therapeutic needs she may have in the future. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8521CSG) Marion County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Cameron is an outgoing fourteen-year-old boy with a great sense of humor! He enjoys playing video games and watching movies. He likes going to the park, being outside, and playing basketball. His favorite football team is the Denver Broncos. He has a good vocabulary and likes math at school. Cameron hopes to have a dog in his forever home!

Cameron would do best with a two-parent family who is patient, intentional, mindful, and loving. He would benefit from having two adult role models who can show him positive coping skills and behaviors. Cameron responds well to consistency and structure. If there are other siblings in the family, it would be best if they were older than Cameron, and could be good role models for him. Cameron would benefit from parents who are able to help and encourage him to succeed in school. (8522AHC) Wayne County

Isreal is a funny, helpful fifteen-year-old. His favorite foods are anything spicy that you can eat at a Chinese buffet. For fun, Isreal enjoys playing video games, reading Harry Potter (he describes himself as a Harry Potter fanatic!), and playing sports such as basketball and football. He also collects Dragonball Z cards. Isreal likes to stay active, and enjoys basketball and football. If he could go anywhere in the world, Isreal would like to go to Hawaii to see the ocean and volcanoes. Isreal’s favorite things about himself are that he is “funny and smart!” What others like about Isreal is his sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around him. Isreal is hopeful, and has a strong desire to be adopted.

Isreal needs a two-parent family, or a single parent who has a strong support system. Isreal does best when he receives lots of attention, so it would be best if he were an only child. He does not like to be bored, so he would do well with an active family. Individual time with parenting figures will be calming for Isreal. Parents who are accessible, patient, calm, and predictable will help Isreal to thrive. He does well in environments where close supervision and structure is provided. (8546SG) Marion County

Naija is a lovable and sweet ten-year-old girl who has a big heart! She is sensitive and creative, and loves attention, as well as being social. Naija has a curiosity about life and all those she meets! She enjoys coloring, reading, music, sports, being active outdoors, and dancing and playing with her sister. Her favorite television shows are “Paw Patrol” and “Sofia the First.” She has also begun to show an interest in cooking. Naija is doing well in school. When she is happy, Naija lights up!

Naija needs a stable, structured, loving, and safe family. Naija would thrive with parents who can provide encouragement and assurance, as well as plenty of attention and supervision. Naija would benefit having active parents that can keep her busy and allow her to experience new ideas, activities, and challenges. Parents will need to be patient and understanding of how trauma can affect children. (8553ASG) Marion County

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Indiana Adoption Program

Jon is a curious, funny, and kind thirteen-year-old boy. He is inquisitive and loves to explore! Jon enjoys playing video games, and is good at playing Minecraft and Roadblocks. He enjoys doing tangible activities, such as building LEGOs, playing on his iPad, and playing card games like Apples to Apples. He also collects Pokemon cards, and his favorite Pokemon is Pikachu. Jon does well in school, and his favorite class is his technology class. Jon enjoys his time spent on the computer at school. He also enjoys going to the gym and building things. Jon is funny and affectionate, and would thrive with a family who is kind, energetic, and shares his curiosity.

Jon is in need of a stable, loving, and safe two-parent home that is able to provide structure and guidance. Adoptive parents need to understand how trauma can affect children. Jon would benefit from having active parents that can keep him busy and will allow him to experience new ideas, activities and challenges. A family will need patience as they slowly build a relationship with him. Jon should be supported and encouraged to maintain contact with his sister. It is recommended that Jon live in a home with no other children. (8577DD)

Owen County

Ja’lyssa

Ja’lyssa is a warm, caring fifteen-year-old who always looks out for those around her! She’s mature for her age, and already has big plans for her future. She hopes to become either an obstetrician or maybe a lawyer! She likes to stay active, she’s played volleyball, basketball, and even Powder Puff football. Ja’lyssa describes herself as very “girly” and loves to go out and get a mani/pedi, do some shopping, or get her hair done! You can often find her singing and dancing along to music, and she enjoys going to church to participate in the choir or the shows they put on. She is helpful in and around the house, always willing to give a hand with chores and she has volunteered at some of her favorite charities like the Humane Society. Ja’lyssa is a big animal lover and hopes to have her own pet bulldog someday!

Ja’lyssa would do best in a one-parent home with support or a two-parent home. She would prefer to be the only child in the house, but if there are others she should be the oldest. She is hoping for a family that likes to stay active, especially one that does activities together. Family time is something she very much looks forward to! She’s had to grow up too quickly so a family that can give her the structure and safety to just be a kid is ideal. Families need to be reliable and give her something to count on. They need to show patience and provide clear, consistent boundaries and rules. Families should make education a priority. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8567AMN) Elkhart County

Mikko

Mikko is a funny and positive boy whose favorite thing about himself is his sense of humor. He likes playing basketball, hockey, and staying active! Mikko enjoys playing with LEGOs, especially the Star Wars LEGO sets. His favorite video games include Batman video games, and the LEGO Pirates of the Caribbean game. When he is older, Mikko wants to be a professional athlete. He hopes to have an adoptive home where he can have a dog, be read to, and spend time as a family. Overall, Mikko is sweet, loving, charismatic, loves to do activities as a family, enjoys sports, and can be goofy!

Mikko thrives on encouragement and one-on-one attention. Potential parents should enjoy being active and be affectionate. He would do best with a family that provides structure and routine. Prospective adoptive families need to have a solid understanding of the impact of trauma and its impact on children. Mikko is hopeful about being adopted. He has expressed a desire to be placed with a Caucasian family. He has also stated that his ideal adoptive father would be President Barack Obama. Mikko will need a longer transition period into an adoptive home, and needs to feel involved in that process. (8568MN) St. Joseph County

Elkhart County

www.adoptachild.in.gov

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
When spending time with Ethan, you have got to keep up! He is an inquisitive boy who has lots of energy. He is also creative and artistic. Ethan likes to spend time outdoors swimming, fishing, or playing on the playground. In his downtime, he enjoys playing educational games on the computer or building LEGO's. If he could go anywhere in the world, Ethan would want to go to California. He is caring towards animals, and he likes dogs the best. For fun, he likes to go to the zoo, water park, or just a regular park — Ethan likes to have fun! Ethan’s favorite superheroes are Spider-Man, The Hulk, and The Flash. Ethan’s mentor says that Ethan is respectful and has a great sense of humor. He is a resilient boy who can bounce right back.

Ethan would do well in a single or two-parent home where he can receive lots of one-on-one attention. Because of this, it would be best if Ethan were an only child, or the youngest in the home. Ethan would benefit from having a father figure in the home. Potential parents would need to ensure appropriate boundaries and expectations for Ethan, as well as understand how trauma can affect a child. Ethan is a bright, cheerful young man who would thrive in a home where the family is committed to spending time getting to know him, and will keep up with his boundless energy. Ethan hopes his adoptive family is "really nice" and has two dogs. (8601HC) Grant County

Piper is a happy and adventurous fifteen-year-old girl! She enjoys playing video games like Star Fox and Zelda. Piper also collects Pokemon cards; her favorite Pokemon is Pikachu. Her favorite television shows are Scooby Doo and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Piper loves animals, especially horses. She hopes to have adoptive parents who are "cool and awesome," spoil her a little bit, and have game nights. People who are close to Piper describe her as "one of a kind," funny, smart, and always on the go. Piper is curious, energetic, and enjoys spending time with people and making others laugh!

Piper would do best in a family where the parents (or single parent) are patient and maintain firm boundaries. She would do well with a family that is active and has a wonderful sense of humor. Piper would thrive with a family that has consistency and stability. Piper hopes to have parents who can help her be happy. Piper would do well in a family as an only child. (8603BD) Floyd County

Rocky is a very energetic nine-year-old boy! He is adventurous and likes to jump on the trampoline, play in his sandbox, and swing! In his downtime, Rocky enjoys playing with his tablet or watching some television. Rocky does well with helping take care of animals.

Rocky would do well in a single or two-parent family with a supportive community. He needs a family who will show him affection and love, as well as maintain a consistent routine. Rocky will need a family to teach him appropriate boundaries. If there were other children in the home, it would be best if they were older than he is. Rocky needs a family who understands how trauma can affect a child, and it is important for his family to ensure that his physical, social, and emotional needs are met. (8605DD) Vigo County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
John is a curious and sensitive twelve-year-old boy. He is playful and observant, and has a happy disposition! John enjoys spending time on the playground, and taking long van rides. What others like most about John is how playful and friendly he is. John loves the water, and enjoys swimming and playing with aquatic toys. He is learning well, and thrives with one-on-one attention.

John would do well in a two-parent family, or single parent family with a support network. John needs a nurturing family who can advocate for his emotional, educational, and medical needs. John also needs a family that will understand that he needs time to adjust to a new family. The family will need to be patient with him. John will thrive in a home where he gets plenty of one-on-one attention. He does well with structure and routine. It would be best if John had a family that has knowledge about how trauma can affect a child throughout their life. (8612DD) Vermillion County

Brysen is a funny, smart and outgoing thirteen-year-old boy who enjoys spending his time outside! He enjoys riding his bike, reading comic books, singing and dancing! His favorite superheroes are Green Arrow and Deadpool. Brysen likes karate, and playing football and baseball. In his downtime, Brysen likes to play video games and build LEGOS. He's an imaginative storyteller and likes spending time with others. He hopes to have a nice adoptive family with lots of pets!

Brysen would do well in a two-parent family as the youngest child. He would benefit with a family that will come alongside Brysen and guide, encourage, and support him. It will take some time for Brysen to establish trust with an adoptive family, so potential parents will need to be patient and understanding on how trauma can affect a child. He would do well in a home with a routine and consistency. Parents will need to set firm boundaries and clear expectations. (8618DD) Vanderburgh County

Kammie, who is fifteen, has a good sense of humor! For fun, Kammie likes to hang out with her friends and family, play board games, and play video games. Kammie enjoys doing art and crafts, cooking, riding her bike, watching movies and cartoons. Kammie also enjoys playing on her Nintendo DS and tablet, as well as listening to music. She likes playing games such as kick ball or basketball, or playing at a playground. Kammie is doing well in school and is very helpful in the classroom.

Kammie would benefit from parents who are committed to her long term and who can provide a safe nurturing home with age appropriate boundaries and consequences. She would benefit from a calm environment with parents who can give her plenty of one-on-one attention. Kammie needs a predictable environment and does better with a routine. Kammie does best when there is a high level of structure and supervision. Kammie would like to have an adoptive family that includes a “mommy and a daddy.” Kammie thinks she would like younger siblings. Kammie likes animals and would really enjoy having a pet. She likes cats, dogs, and turtles. (8621ADD) Orange County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Daniel is a charming and lovable eleven-year-old boy with a big imagination! He enjoys listening to audio books and doing science experiments, especially if they involve plants. He loves being able to grow and cultivate his own plants around the house! Daniel's love of nature keeps him outside a lot, having fun on the playground or getting to swim. His favorite toys are his cars, trucks, and trains that he loves to drive around. In fact, if he had three wishes he'd ask to drive a car, to be able to build his very own car, and to have a phone. To relax, Daniel likes to listen to country music or watch Paw Patrol and sit in a comfy chair while he knits.

Daniel would do well in either a one-parent home with support or a two-parent home, and has said that he would prefer to have a mom and dad. He gets along with other children and would enjoy some older brothers and sisters, but since he loves attention he needs to be the youngest child in the home. Daniel adores animals, so he would really like a home with pets, but he does get enthusiastic so he needs to be supervised. He does best when put into an environment with structure and routine. Scholastically, he has thrived when he has done either online learning or homeschooling. Families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8641MN) Elkhart County

MeKenzie is a talkative, friendly eleven-year-old girl! She enjoys humming along, singing, and dancing to her favorite tunes. MeKenzie likes to play on her tablet, with her toys, and read. She likes sensory activities as well. MeKenzie is a bright girl who is happy and active!

MeKenzie would do best in a two-parent home where the parents are flexible in keeping up with MeKenzie's medical and educational needs. MeKenzie would do well in a family that can provide supervision. Potential parents need to be aware of MeKenzie's needs in a home, and provide an adequate safety plan. MeKenzie likes structure and routine, and would do well with a family that can maintain these for her. (8643MN) Elkhart County

“Nice!” That's how Aiden describes himself. He also says he "likes to be a helper." Aiden is a bright, affectionate, and humorous twelve-year-old boy who enjoys sports and video games. He likes to play football and basketball, and his favorite subject in school is gym. Aiden's favorite thing about himself is that he's fast! When he's older, he hopes to own a farm. Aiden adores animals, and hopes to have a couple of cats and dogs in the future!

Aiden would do best in a safe, stable, and loving family where the parents will be strong advocates for his emotional and educational needs. He would thrive in a two-parent home where parents provide consistent schedule, structure, and routine. Aiden would benefit from having a strong male role model in the family. Parents must understand the effects trauma can have on children. (8646ADD) Vanderburgh County

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Indiana Adoption Program

Halie is a fun-loving girl who is talented at singing. Her favorite music is country. She hopes to be a famous actress and singer someday! For fun, Halie likes to jump on the trampoline, play games on her tablet, or ride her bike. She is hoping to participate in cheer this year. Halie describes herself as an animal person. She likes deer, dogs, and cats. Halie’s favorite thing about herself is her big imagination!

Halie would do well in either a one-parent or two-parent home and would do best as the only child but is open to having siblings. She likes animals and would enjoy a home that came with pets. She needs stability and a family that will love and support her. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8649ADD) Vigo County

Remy is a lovable four year-old boy with a beaming smile and a big personality! He enjoys being around people, and likes to laugh. He enjoys colors and sensory activities. He adores a little book filled with feathers, which his in-home teacher made for him! Those who know Remy say he’s a "super little guy!" and think a family will fall in love with him!

Remy would do best with a family who has an extended support system, and an understanding of how to care for medically fragile children. He does well with routine and consistency. Remy is not able to go into public, and needs a calm, nurturing, sterile, and accessible home without pets. Due to Remy’s needs, it is important that the potential parents work closely with his medical team to help Remy thrive. He is a resilient kid, and would thrive in a loving, caring, and attentive family. (8656HC) Wayne County

Jaden is an twelve-year-old boy who likes to watch shows on Cartoon Network. His favorite food is pepperoni pizza, and he likes to play the LEGO Batman videogame. He enjoys doing arts and crafts, playing outside on the playground, and playing lots of sports! His favorite sport is football, and his favorite team is the Chicago Bears. Jaden is a sweet boy. He is funny, strong-willed, and likes things neat! He likes working out, lifting weights, and doing chores. He believes his friends would describe him as funny and helpful. Those who know Jaden say their favorite thing about him is his sense of humor.

Jaden would do best in a family with two parents who have previous experience working with traumatized youth. Jaden needs parents who can stay calm. Jaden needs to feel safe, like he can rely on his parents, and that he is a secure, permanent part of a family. Jaden will do best in a family that is structured, has clear boundaries and expectations, and is focused on building an encouraging, lasting relationship with Jaden. Jaden’s potential family will need to commit to keeping him in school, supporting him with whatever academic services he may need. (8658IA) Lake County
Emmanuel is a fifteen-year-old boy who loves monster trucks, go-carts, dirt bikes, and Hot Wheels. He likes to play pool with his friends or play games on his iPad. He also enjoys playing with fidget spinners. He is mischievous, but he also desires to be helpful and important. He is independent and loves to make art, play games, climb trees, and play Frisbee.

Emmanuel thrives with structure and consistency. He would do well in a single or two-parent home that is resourceful and engaged in community resources. Emmanuel would do well with other children in the home and animals. It helps him to have time to process directions or information, so that he can be prepared to respond and act. A family that understands trauma can help him overcome challenges. The transition into a new home will need to be slow and deliberate, with plenty of patience, so that the family can build a strong, lasting bond with Emmanuel. (8662AMN) Allen County

Isaiah is a creative, smart thirteen-year-old who loves to play outside. He is very talented at creating and building things. He has a great imagination! Isaiah enjoys building with LEGOs and playing video games. Isaiah can be quite the comedian, and he often tries to make others laugh. Isaiah has participated in martial arts, and he thinks he would like to try it again. He enjoys playing sports, and football and basketball are his favorites. Isaiah is also interested in taking up skateboarding. Isaiah is a charming young man, and is eager to be a part of a family.

Isaiah needs an adoptive family that is willing to be persistent, consistent, and can offer Isaiah permanency. Isaiah does best with defined boundaries and structure. Parents will need to be patient as Isaiah transitions into an adoptive home. Isaiah needs parents who understand how trauma can affect a child. (8664HC) Decatur County

Abram is a very kind and helpful twelve-year-old. He likes to put things together, Abram likes to do activities such as rock wall climbing, playing video games, and building LEGOs. In school, Abram’s favorite subject is science. Abram is a creative and intelligent student, who reads well and has a good sense of humor. Abram collects stuffed animals. He enjoys playing outside and finding insects. If he could go anywhere, he would want to go to the Amazon Rainforest!

Abram would do best with a family that can provide him with support, safety, and supervision. It would be beneficial for Abram to have at least one strong male role model in the family. The potential family will need to be consistent with routine, expectations, and consequences. Parents will need to be patient and calm. He would thrive as an only child in a home, but would benefit from being involved in extracurricular activities. It would be beneficial for Abram if potential adoptive parents had an understanding of how trauma can affect a child. Abram hopes to have a family where the parents are funny and nice, and where he can spend one-on-one time with each parent. (8666MN) St. Joseph County
Armond is a happy and smiling eight-year-old boy. He likes to laugh and play with his pet dog. Armond is quite active. He is pretty much always on the move, so keep up! Armond is fast and good at running and climbing. He likes to watch movies, and his favorites are Surf’s Up, Finding Nemo, the Bee Movie, and Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. He likes to jump on a trampoline, look at books, and play with cars. Armond is naturally happy and full of life and joy!

What is important for Armond in an adoptive family is that the parent(s) be patient, be able to keep a fairly strict routine, and be consistent with expectations and consequences. It is important for the parent(s) to be able to stay emotionally regulated, as Armond benefits from calm and patience in the home. He is an active boy, so it would be beneficial for Armond if his family were active as well. It would be best for Armond if he were with a family that can provide plenty of supervision and positive attention. (8667MN) St. Joseph County

Anthony, who goes by Tony, is a fun and imaginative fifteen-year-old boy who enjoys being around people. What others like about Tony, is he can be so silly and joyful! He loves to laugh, sing and dance. Tony is adventurous, and is open to trying new things. Tony is passionate about music. He has a pleasant singing voice, and is in the school show choir. His favorite musicians are Bruno Mars and Twenty One Pilots. He wants to pursue a career as a music producer someday. For fun, Tony likes to spend time outside, playing basketball or football. He hopes to have a family that likes sports, and will play games of pick-up basketball. Tony describes himself as caring, and “a good listener.” His favorite thing about himself is that he likes to help others.

Tony would thrive in a home where he is an only child, and the parents are patient and understanding. It is important that a family knows how trauma can affect a child. Tony needs parents who are intentional, encouraging, and focused on his educational success. Tony will benefit from lots of one-on-one attention and supervision. If there are other children in the home, they would need to be boys who are older than Tony. It would be best for Tony if the home had no animals. (8669BDD) Monroe County

Hagan is a fun-loving, eleven-year-old boy who enjoys playing with LEGOs. His favorite LEGO sets are Batman themed. Hagan enjoys painting, as well as arts and crafts. He likes Pokemon, playing Candyland, and running and jumping around! "I like to jump!" Hagan will excitedly tell you. Outside, he likes to play on the swings, and ride his scooter or skateboard. Hagan likes to meet new people and enjoys spending time with adults. Hagan is described by his teachers as "imaginative, funny," and “fun to talk to.” Hagan enjoys being read to. He is sweet and affectionate. He thrives with encouragement and one-on-one attention.

Hagan would do best with a two-parent family that can provide supervision, as well as clear, consistent rules and expectations. Hagan needs a family where he is the youngest or only child in the home. It is important the parents are calm, nurturing, and encouraging. Hagan would benefit having parents who understand how trauma affects children, and who are experienced in parenting youth who have experienced trauma. Hagan will need continued educational and emotional support as he grows older, so it is important that any potential family is ready to make a life-long commitment to Hagan. He has goals and tries hard to do his best, and would do well with a family that can encourage him to be successful. Hagan needs a family that is close-knit, eats meals together, plays games, and can show him new experiences. (8670HC) Wells County
Hallie, who is fifteen, describes herself as “funny and outgoing.” For fun, Hallie likes to spend time with her friends and go to school football or basketball games. Hallie participates in cheer, dance, volleyball, and choir! She is a natural athlete. Hallie is also a member of the Future Farmers of America. She enjoys going to church, where she is part of the youth group. In the future, she hopes to visit Miami or New York City. Her favorite thing about herself is her sense of humor! If Hallie could have three wishes, she would want just one wish: “to have a family.” Having a family to love and care for her is what’s most important to Hallie.

What Hallie wants in adoptive parents are a couple who can offer love and happiness. She looks forward to movie nights and time spent at school football games with a family! The family that would be best for Hallie would be a two-parent home where healthy, positive relationships are modeled and encouraged. She would do well with a family who is familiar with educational supports and resources available for Hallie. Parents will need to understand how trauma can affect a child, and be able to show respect, understanding, and honesty toward Hallie. Overall, Hallie wants a family that will love her unconditionally and encourage her to reach her full potential! (8671BS) Spencer County

Joseph, who is nine, describes himself as “polite and nice.” He has a great imagination, and is a wonderful storyteller! Joseph enjoys creating stories where he is a superhero and he protects and saves others. For fun, he enjoys playing basketball, swimming, or riding his bike. He also enjoys drawing, playing with Play-Doh, and building LEGO. In his downtime, he enjoys playing racing video games, or watching Teen Titans Go! When he is older, Joseph hopes to travel to Florida. His foster parent says Joseph is “respectful, and wants to help.” Joseph does well in environments with clear rules, guidelines, and expectations. Joseph enjoys riding bikes, playing basketball, and swimming, so active parents with similar interests would be good for him. Joseph would like a family that has a quiet home environment that is calm and peaceful. Lastly, Joseph needs a family that will show him how to treat others, and teach him appropriate boundaries. (8672BS) Monroe County

Mia, who is fifteen, describes herself as bubbly, interesting, and intelligent. She likes to do crafts of all sorts, including painting! In school, she runs Cross Country and participates in theater. Mia enjoys reading, dancing, and singing. Her favorite thing about herself is that she is a good cook, so she can bake her favorite desserts, such as apple cobbler. When she is older, she’d like to be a psychiatrist, because she is fascinated by the human mind. Those that know Mia describe her as active, smart, witty, and always on the go! Mia would do best in a family that can provide a high level of stability, routine, and consistency. Mia does well when she’s kept busy. Mia wants a family where she feels she belongs and is cared for. (8686WS) Hamilton County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Jamar is an outgoing, talkative and funny thirteen-year-old boy! He is loving, respectful, and helpful around his foster family. He enjoys being active, and his favorite sports are football and basketball. His favorite NBA player is Stephen Curry. Jamar also enjoys playing his video games. He likes tinkering with electronics, LEGOs, and remote-control toys. He enjoys pets and would one day like to own a dog.

Jamar needs a stable, structured, loving and safe family. An adoptive family must be prepared to make a lifelong commitment to Jamar. Jamar should be supported and encouraged to maintain essential connections with his sibling. It would be best if the family had some knowledge about how trauma can affect children. (8692ASG) Marion County

Angel is a sweet, kind young woman who is a true artist! She absolutely lights up when she’s creating something new. She enjoys writing and recently wrote her very first poem, something she’s quite proud of having accomplished! Her true love, however, is art. She is definitely in her happy place when she gets to use her skills as an artist! She likes talking to adults and once you get to know her she’ll make you laugh over and over. She adores animals and in particular cats and even more particularly Siamese cats, they’re the best looking. Angel got to spend some time at a stable and fell in love with the horses there and can’t wait to go back and ride one! She is getting more into makeup and beauty products and would be delighted to have a mom or big sister who can help teach her all about it!

Angel would do well in either a one-parent or two-parent home but at least one parent needs to be a woman. She would be thrilled with a forever home that came with young children, she knows she’d be a great big sister. If there are children in the home around her age or older they would need to be girls. Families should understand the familial bond she has with her siblings and that contact should be maintained. She would like a family that does activities together and spends lots of quality time together. She wants to be able to sit down and have real conversations with her parents. Education is important to her so parents who are willing to help with school are ideal. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8713ABD) Scott County

Kaden is a kind, lovable fourteen-year-old boy. Kaden is a big fan of superheroes. He likes all things Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, including the video games, the toys, and the movies. He also likes Spider-Man, The Hulk, and Batman. For fun, Kaden likes to play kickball, basketball, and soccer. He also enjoys coloring and drawing. What other people who know Kaden like about him are his generosity and charming demeanor. He is always smiling, and has a laugh that can brighten a room!

The family that would be best for Kaden would provide structure and routine. He would benefit living with a calm family that is loving and patient. Kaden would do well with a family that understands and advocates for his emotional and educational needs. Kaden is eager to please and very much wants to belong in a family. He craves love and support from adults, and would thrive in a family that can offer him encouragement and positive support. (8719BD) Montgomery County
Kiaera is a friendly and inquisitive fifteen-year-old! Kiaera has a great sense of humor. Kiaera loves to read, play sports, and spend time outdoors. Kiaera does well in school, especially in writing. Kiaera has a unique sense of style, and says, “I’m always picture perfect.” Kiaera adores animals, and hopes to become a marine biologist in the future! When asked what adoption means, Kiaera replied, “my chance for me to make my mark on the world.” Kiaera says that the most important thing in life is “to have a family that can support me.”

Kiaera needs a calm, stable family that understands how trauma can affect a child. It would be best if Kiaera were the only child in the home, as this would give Kiaera the attention that is needed to make a strong bond with an adoptive family. Kiaera will need a home that can provide supervision. Kiaera would do well in a family with a single mother, or with a mother and father. It is important that parents are understanding and comfortable with LGBTQ youth. Kiaera would like to live in the country on a farm with lots of pets! (8729WS) Madison County

Haelee is a sweet twelve year-old girl with a smile that will brighten your day! Haelee loves books and being read to. Haelee loves sensory toys that light up or play music! She is an affectionate girl, and likes to hold her foster parent’s hand or give hugs to her friends. Haelee loves music, which she will sing and dance to! She also enjoys going for car rides. Overall, Haelee is an easy-going, joyful girl!

Haelee needs adoptive parents who can provide her with a calm, structured, and routine-oriented home. She needs parents who are able to meet and advocate for her emotional, educational, and medical needs. Haelee would thrive in a family that will maintain stability, consistency, and permanency. Haelee does best as an only or youngest child so she can receive plenty of individualized attention. (8746DD) Knox County

Jaydon is a bright thirteen year-old boy who has a creative mind! He is very mature for his age, and he gets along very well with adults. He enjoys playing video games and board games, including chess. He has played soccer for the last three years. Academically, Jaydon is doing well in school and is an A/B student.

Jaydon needs a family that will provide a loving and nurturing environment. He likes order and routine, and would thrive in a family that can provide consistency, stability and support. Jaydon would do best in a home with one sibling or as an only child. Jaydon would benefit from having a family that will enroll him in engaging, fun social activities. (8750DD) Vigo County
Macey is a creative and polite sixteen-year-old girl! She is a talented musician, and likes to sing, play guitar, piano, and drums. She also enjoys writing poetry and keeping a journal. Macey is very active, and enjoys playing football, basketball, and swimming. Her favorite football team is the Pittsburgh Steelers. She would like to be on a football or basketball team in the future. In her downtime, Macey enjoys playing video games, watching television, and listening to music. Her favorite genre of music is rap. Macey’s strengths are she is artistic and helpful. Macey is honest, and able to advocate for herself. She gets along well with others and makes friends easily!

Macey would do fine in a single or two-parent family. Macey is eager to join a family and feel like a kid again. Macey hopes to have a two-parent family. It is important that a potential family understands how trauma can affect a child throughout their life. (8753BD) Putnam County

David, who is thirteen, describes himself as “awesome!” He has a good sense of humor, and can be quite the comedian. David enjoys playing video games, watching videos on YouTube, and listening to music. His favorite artist is Michael Jackson. David’s favorite subject in school is science. In his free time, he likes to go fishing. He hopes to go to Hawaii someday. “It looks like a relaxing place,” says David. He is a bright kid and has the potential to do well in school if given the right support.

David would do best in a home that sets firm boundaries with clear consequences. David does well with structure and routine. He needs a family that makes education a priority and is willing to support him in all his endeavors. He will thrive when given unconditional love and understanding of who he is. It is important that an adoptive family understands how trauma can affect a child. (8758SG) Marion County

Anthony is an outgoing twelve year old boy who doesn’t know a stranger! He’s a sweet kid with a huge imagination! Anthony loves to spend time reading books, or being read to. Other activities he enjoys include coloring, building LEGO’s, or doing puzzles. Anthony wants to go outside and play everyday! His mentor said that Anthony has a big heart. Anthony can be a little shy when you first meet him, but he’s friendly and can be a good friend!

The family that would be best for Anthony would be patient, nurturing, loving, and affectionate. They must be able to provide consistency and have an understanding of how trauma affects a child. Anthony would benefit from outings in the community that allow him to experience new activities and further develop social skills. Potential adoptive parents should expect that it would take Anthony some time to transition into a home environment and to develop a secure bond. Overall, Anthony is a friendly child who is well liked by his mentor and as well as his teachers! (8763BD) Morgan County
Ayla, who is thirteen, is a strong young lady who tells it like it is! She’s an open book and she’ll tell you exactly what she’s thinking and she’s got the convictions to back it up. Once you get to know her, you’ll find she warms up and is respectful to those around her, but she does expect that respect in return! She has a big soft spot for animals and she hopes to one day work in a pet store or even volunteer at a local animal shelter. She’s always happy to help out with pets around the house! Ayla enjoys staying active whether it’s attending church and its youth group each week or going to a camp. If she could go absolutely anywhere in the world, she’d love to visit Florida and maybe check out Disney World and the beach!

Ayla would do well in either a one-parent or two-parent home, but at least one of the parents needs to be female. She gets along with other children and wouldn’t mind having siblings, but she’ll thrive when given plenty of one on one attention to show her she’s special. She would do best in a calm, relaxed environment with parents who want to spend time with her and do activities, but also understand she needs space and room to express her feelings. The transition into a forever home should be slow to give time to adjust. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8769WS) Hamilton County

Frederick is a funny, polite, charming, and friendly ten-year-old boy! He likes to be active and have fun. Frederick enjoys riding his bike, jump roping, and hula hooping, and racing. He says no one can beat him in a race! He loves Pokemon, and wishes he could have a real Pokeball and Pokedex! Frederick hopes to be a chef someday. His favorite foods are tacos and pepperoni pizza.

Frederick needs a family that can be patient and provide a calm, predictable, safe home environment. He would do well in a family with one or two parents who understand how trauma affects children. Frederick would thrive being an only or youngest child in a family so he can receive a great deal of parental attention. It would be best for Frederick to be involved in activities and spend quality time together with a family, doing activities that they all enjoy together. (8771IA) Lake County

Skye is a kind young lady who is eager to please others! She is tenderhearted, and enjoys helping younger children. Skye, who is fourteen, likes to play games on her tablet, and play sports like kickball or dodgeball. Her favorite book is “Diary of a Wimpy Kid.” If she could have three wishes, her wishes would be to get adopted, travel, and eat gummy bears! Skye is a loving girl who is loyal to her friends and loved ones. She is very respectful and wants to lend a helping hand!

Skye would do best in a family that can provide supervision and attention. She needs a family that has consistent boundaries and clear expectations. Skye does well with children, but it would be best if other children were more independent than Skye. (8787HC) Wells County
David, who is fourteen, is a polite, funny, and helpful young man. Some of David’s interests are video games, the outdoors, sports, and building computers. Basketball and baseball are the sports David enjoys the most. At one particular baseball game, David is proud that he got the game ball! His favorite baseball team is the Chicago Cubs, and his favorite basketball player is LeBron James. David enjoys swimming, camping, and hiking. If David could have one wish, it would be to find a family. He hopes to have a mom and a dad who will help him through life. It is important to him that an adoptive family is a good match.

David would do best in a two-parent home where he is the youngest child. An adoptive family should keep clear boundaries, and be committed to David. He wants a mother and father, and would like for one of the parents to have previously been in the military. David wants a nice family that enjoys the outdoors, and shares his same interests. He would like a dog, specifically a husky. It is important that David has a family who understands how trauma can affect a child throughout their life. (8791BD) Jennings County

Jordon, who is fourteen, is a bright and active boy, and he describes himself as “nice, and cool to be around.” He enjoys playing chess and other board games, shooting pool, and playing basketball. Basketball is his favorite sport, and he wants to try out for his school’s team. Jordon also loves to draw, and he is a talented artist! He likes to play video games, and some of his favorites are “Minecraft” and “Star Wars: Battlefront.” Overall, Jordon is a great kid!

Jordon would do best in a family that is understanding and encouraging. He would thrive with one-on-one attention and praise by adults, so he would need to be the only child in the home. It is very important for the family to understand childhood trauma, and how this can affect a child’s behaviors. He will need a family that will share meals, play games as a family, and spend quality time together. Jordon needs a family that will encourage him to be active in extracurricular activities, and support him in these endeavors. Jordon needs love, attention, support, and stability. Mostly, he needs a chance to be a kid. (8814ADD) Monroe County

Evan, who is thirteen, would love to have friends that like video games as much as he does! He likes to help others and has a very good heart. He loves drawing, playing football, and socializing with his peers. He is a smart boy who gets A’s and B’s in school. He works hard and really loves to learn about computers and technology. He has a great sense of humor. Magic tricks, Minecraft, and Madden are a few of his favorite things. He is loyal and forgiving.

Evan is independent and strong, but he will need a home that will help him have a childhood. He will need strong role models to teach him rules, trust, and healthy relationships. Evan would do well in a two-parent home with a family who is loving and understanding. He needs a family who will not give up on him, one who is persistent and committed. Evan is good with younger children, and he likes to read and play with them. He would also do well in a home with pets. Evan needs a family that understands how trauma affects a child throughout the child’s life. (8817ABD) Montgomery County
Isaac, who is twelve, is extremely smart. He’s a quick learner and he loves to do a good job. He is sweet and funny. He loves sports and wants to play basketball at IU in the future. “Sorry!” is his favorite board game and “Holes” is his favorite movie and book. Isaac likes to ride bikes with his neighbors. He is also learning magic tricks and loves to show off his new skills.

Isaac would be successful in a two-parent family that is structured and calm. He does well with routine and he would benefit from having a strong male role model. It would be best if Isaac could be the youngest or only child in the home. He needs a family that can be loving and patient and teach him how to trust. Trauma-informed parents would be beneficial to Isaac. Isaac does well with animals. (8817BBD) Montgomery County

Robert is a funny, candid guy! He is eleven, and describes himself as funny, reliable, trustworthy, and nice. If he could go anywhere in the world, he would want to go to Florida or Hawaii to spend time at the beach. Robert enjoys books, and is reading a collection of poems by Shel Silverstein. Minecraft is his favorite video game. Robert has a rock collection and is interested in geology (although he will tell you his favorite subject is recess). When asked what’s his favorite thing about himself, Robert likes how smart he is. Those close to Robert know him to be a strong, caring individual who sticks up for his friends, and a friendly, respectful kid!

Robert thrives where there is stability, structure, and clear rules and expectations. He would do better as the youngest child in a family. It is important he has a family who understands how trauma can affect a child throughout their life. Robert hopes to have a nice family that will play video games, chess or checkers with him. (8837WS) Hamilton County

Anthony is a fun-loving eight-year-old who is always on the go! He likes to play outside, ride his bike, swim, or play sports. He loves to spend the day outside! He is a funny and creative boy, and enjoys hands-on activities. His favorite meal is anything from McDonald’s. Anthony says he would get “chicken nuggets, Dr. Pepper, fries – everything!” Anthony loves to have books read to him, and play with toy cars. Anthony’s favorite movie is “Cars” and his favorite video games are LEGO City and LEGO Ninjago. The best thing about Anthony is that he is compassionate, affectionate, and thrives with one-on-one attention.

Anthony would do best in a family where he is the youngest or only child, with parents who have the time and energy to meet his needs. As stability and safety are important in helping Anthony, a consistent, structured home environment is necessary. Anthony will thrive if he can receive the positive one-on-one attention that he needs. (8840HC) Wells County
Zander loves to help! He is a pleasant, funny eleven-year-old boy who is eager to please. He enjoys going to the library and using the computer. He will play video games and watch animated YouTube videos. He enjoys playing LEGO, watching Pokémon, and fishing. Zander will fish all day if he could! When asked what type of animal he would like to have, Zander says a baby cat because they are fun and adorable.

Structure and consistency are important for Zander to thrive in an adoptive home. He does best when he has an established routine. A family that will take him to the library or play outside with him would be beneficial to Zander. He should be encouraged to play with others to help his social skills blossom. (8848MN) Allen County

Logan is a pleasant nine-year-old who is full of curiosity. He likes to spend time outdoors, and enjoys fishing. Logan likes Batman, Hot Wheels, and swimming. Logan is personable, and will tell you all about his favorite toys and hobbies. Logan is learning to ride a bike. The best thing about Logan is he has an infectious smile and endearing personality!

Logan needs a family that is patient, loving, and supportive. He does best when there is consistent structure and routine. He will benefit being with a family where there is stability and significant one-on-one attention. He will flourish in a family that reinforces the importance of education, and continues to nurture a love for reading and learning. It is important that an adoptive family understands how trauma can affect a child throughout their life. (8863DD) Posey County

Rayon is a friendly, funny fourteen-year-old boy. He likes to be active and spend time with others. Rayon loves sports, and his favorites are basketball and football. He also enjoys riding his bike. In his downtime, he likes to read, play video games, and watch TV. What others like most about Rayon is he is easy to talk to, and has a good sense of humor.

He needs a two-parent home that is understanding of how trauma can affect a child. He would thrive being an only child or the youngest child in a family where he can receive a great deal of attention. It is important that the family spends quality time together. Rayon will do best with parents who can be patient, and provide a calm, predictable, safe home. He would do best in a family where his involvement in extracurricular activities is encouraged. (8868IA) Lake County
Jasmine is a strong-willed, but loving, twelve-year-old! She is artistic and creative, recently joining her school’s ukulele club. She is a fan of reading and particularly enjoys the Billie B. Brown series. Jasmine likes playing outside in the water, but prefers it when there are no bees or other bugs around. When it’s not raining out, she loves taking her roller skates out for a spin, but says she needs some new ones as hers are a little small and very used. Jasmine also likes watching the show Master Chef and trying to recreate the recipes with her current family.

Jasmine would do well in a one or two-parent household provided at least one of the parents is a female. She would prefer a home with at least one African American parent but would also thrive in a diverse community with members of different backgrounds. She would need to be either the only child in the household or at least the youngest child by several years. Jasmine would like her own room so that she has somewhere quiet to go if she gets overstimulated. She does well with animals and enjoys taking care of dogs and cats. Parents should understand the impact trauma has on a child. (8871ADD) Monroe County

Akiemah is a ten-year-old girl with a big smile that lights up a room! She likes to stay active, preferring to ride her bike or play basketball. If she has the chance, she also likes to take out her roller blades to see what kind of adventure she can find. Akiemah also enjoys staying inside to play card and board games, or to play with her Barbies if she has friends over. Music is very important to her, she will have the radio on all day if possible. You can usually find her singing along to pop songs or making up her own! What she wants you to know is, she's "funny, can make people laugh," she's a great dancer, and she can "do a lot of math."

Akiemah would do well in either a one or two-parent home, preferably with at least one parent being female. She will need to be the only child in the home or at least the youngest child by several years. She will thrive in an environment that provides structure, calm, and understanding. Consistency will be very important when it comes to her new routines and parents will have to be persistent about building up a level of trust with the child. Parents will need to understand the impact trauma can have on a child. (8871BDD) Monroe County

Talitha is a friendly sixteen-year-old! She likes to meet new people, and cares for others. When she is older, Talitha wants to be a nurse, so she can help kids. Talitha likes shopping, and some of her favorite stores are Champs and Finish Line. She likes sports, plays basketball, and hopes to be on a dance team at her school. She loves to listen to music and dance! Talitha’s three wishes are to be adopted by a caring family, to be loved, and for someone “to have my back.” Talitha has wonderful leadership qualities.

Talitha would do best in a single or two-parent home with a strong female role model. She would do well in a home where the parents are nurturing, understanding, and value education. Talitha needs a family that can provide structure and permanency. Talitha would like parents who spend one-on-one time with her. (8878BD) Floyd County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Tasha

Tasha is a crafty sixteen-year-old who always looks out for those around her! She is open, honest, and likes talking to other children and helping them work through tough times. She is very crafty and can usually be found working on different art projects. Tasha is a huge Harry Potter fan and has seen all of the movies multiple times! She likes to stay active and some of her favorite activities are playing volleyball or dancing, she's also thrilled to get to spend time outdoors. She enjoys that country living and a nice relaxing day spent camping and fishing. If she had three wishes, she'd want a family, more friends, and a job. Her plan for her future right now is to use some of that creative spirit and become a cosmetologist!

Tasha would thrive in either a one-parent or two-parent home, but at least one of the parents needs to be female. She would do well with other children in the home, but only sisters, and she interacts well with older children. She would prefer to live in the country, or at least somewhere that her family can have animals. She would especially love if there were horses or kittens, those are her favorites! Tasha needs firm, consistent boundaries and a family that sticks to what it says. She will require time to bond with her forever family so patience is important. She would love a family that takes the time to do activities together, like various arts and crafts. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8880HC) Delaware County

Mackaya

Mackaya is a happy-go-lucky six-year-old girl who loves to stay active! She likes riding around on four wheelers or getting to go swimming, but she's just as happy staying inside playing with her Barbies and other dolls. She's currently working on her ABC's, colors, and shapes and loves getting to show off what she's learned. Mackaya likes getting to be the center of attention, especially when she gets to dance around or tell you some funny jokes she knows! She wants you to know that her favorite colors are pink and purple, and her favorite food is definitely pizza rolls.

Mackaya is looking for a two-parent home so she can receive all the love and attention she deserves. She would prefer to be the only child in the household. She likes animals and would love to have a pet, as long as they're monitored. She wants a family that emphasizes time to do activities together. Families should provide plenty of structure, routine, support, and especially patience while the transition into a forever home occurs. Parents should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8909CDD) Spencer County

Jason

Jason is a helpful ten-year-old boy always willing to give a hand around the house! Whether it's carrying groceries inside or doing chores, he's happy to help. He has a big imagination and spends a lot of time playing with his LEGOs and dreaming up stories to go along with his creations! His big imagination leads to an even bigger curiosity, he wants to know how everything works! Jason especially loves learning new board or card games, he's always down to try out a new one. He adores the outdoors and loves running around and being active. His favorite part of summer? Definitely baseball! When it's time to come inside he likes to sit down and watch one of the best shows on tv, Power Rangers!

Jason is looking for a home with either a mom and a dad, or just a mom. He will need patience as he transitions into a new home and parents who are capable of giving space when needed. He would do best in a home where he was the youngest child, he wants as much attention as he can get. He likes animals so a home with pets would be great, but he does prefer cats to dogs as he says they are a bit too "slobbery for me." Parents need to be able to demonstrate appropriate and respectful boundaries in a violence-free home. Interested parents should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8918MN) Noble County
Kenneth

When people talk about Kenneth, who goes by Kenny, the thing that pops up most is positivity. He is a positive influence on his football team, school, wherever he goes. Kenny, who is sixteen, loves being a leader and motivating his teammates on and off the field every week, and goes out of his way to ask people how they’re doing. He wants people to feel cared for, whoever they are.

He thrives on challenges, which is why math is his favorite subject, and he is always eager to learn. After school he likes to work out and stay strong, his big goals right now are becoming either an NFL player or maybe a body builder. Kenny’s strength helped him get four sacks in one football game, an impressive accomplishment that makes him proud!

Kenny would do well in a two-parent home, or a one-parent home with plenty of support. He would prosper with a positive male role model in his life, and with parents who genuinely love and respect one another. Parents who can model to Kenny what healthy relationships look like and demonstrate appropriate behaviors. You should have a focus on education and be willing to show Kenny lots of patience and support. He would also really like it if you attended his football games to cheer him on! (8932MN) DeKalb County

Luna

Luna is a charming young lady with a lovely personality! She fourteen, smart, observant, and doing very well in school. She has participated in different clubs like dance, cheer, track, and martial arts in the past and would love to continue doing so in the future. Luna’s big passions in life are make-up and dancing! She especially loves to dance to that old-school R&B like Toni Braxton and TLC. Her plans are to attend college and she has a few big career plans lined up. She’s hoping to become a model, a cosmetologist, an artist, or maybe a veterinarian. She likes to spend her time watching make-up tutorials on YouTube so she knows when she goes out she looks her absolute best! She loves learning about other cultures and is open to all sorts of new experiences.

Luna would do well in either a one-parent or two-parent home, but needs at least one of the parents to be female. She has particularly requested a strong black woman to help her identify with her own culture better but understands all forever families are different. She would be delighted with some big sisters in the house to help with her beauty routines, but she would prefer no brothers or only brothers who are younger. She loves pets and would do well with any animals in the home, she has dreams of helping to train a dog someday. She would thrive in a diverse community that portrays many different lifestyles and backgrounds. Families should be LGBTQ+ friendly, Luna needs reliability, stability, and especially a family she can learn to rely on. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8940HC) Grant County

Samuel

Samuel is a twelve-year-old boy who loves to make people laugh! If he doesn’t get you with his jokes, he’ll definitely get you when he decides to act silly. He cares about those around him and is polite and uses his manners. He is kind and likes to ask people how they’re doing. If Samuel likes you, you might even be fortunate enough to get one of his drawings! He has an engineer’s mind and is always creating. Whether it’s his own worlds in Minecraft, sets of LEGO, or even a fort, Samuel’s always got some ideas running through his head. He was able to go on a fishing trip once and loved it! He hopes to get a forever family that will take him camping for the first time.

Samuel is looking for a two-parent home with at least one male role model. He doesn’t mind if there are other children in the home, but he would prefer to be the youngest so he can get a little more attention. He needs consistent rules and expectations and thrives when given a daily schedule that he can understand and follow. With the schedule, he needs to feel like he has some control so families need to understand that. He would do best if the home was calm, patient, and reliable. Families should be willing to work with Samuel’s school and make education a priority. (8953BD) Jennings County
Sadie, who is sixteen, always likes to look her best! She likes fashion, and loves getting her hair and nails done and getting her makeup just right. She enjoys shopping and adores when she gets to go to the mall to shop and hangout! Sadie is a big artist and she’ll do just about anything as long as it’s crafty. She’s a talented musician who knows how to play the piano and would like to learn to play the violin someday. She enjoys getting to help out in the kitchen whether it’s full meals or baking some tasty desserts! Sadie is very active and has played both volleyball and softball before, she also enjoys when she gets to experience the great outdoors by hiking, swimming, camping, or even fishing!

Sadie would do best in a two-parent home or a one-parent home with support. She does well with other children and would prefer to have a forever family that came with some siblings. She loves animals so a family that has a dog would be ideal for Sadie. She will thrive with parents who can give her plenty of one-on-one attention and who practice open and honest communication. Families should be willing to make a commitment to any therapeutic needs Sadie may have throughout her life. She needs firm, consistent boundaries with supervision of electronics in the home. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8958BD) Putnam County

Anna is sixteen, and a helpful young lady who enjoys helping out with chores around the house. If she could live anywhere she’d pick the country so she could work on a farm. She loves animals and with Anna the more the merrier! She’s sporty and you can often find her working out or shooting hoops on the basketball court. She works hard in school and is always improving! She makes friends easily and has a close circle she loves hanging out with, whether it’s just chatting or seeing a movie. Anna really wants to finish high school then attend college, her big hope is to one day become a preschool teacher. She loves being a caregiver!

Anna would do best in a two-parent household and she would prefer to have a mom and a dad both. She does well with other children and would love a house that came with a big family. Her preference is the country over the city and her ideal home would be a farm with animals. Interested families should be willing to make education a priority. Parents should understand the transition with Anna needs to be slow and deliberate. Communication will be important to make her feel safe and secure in her new home. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8961DD) Dubois County

Jayden is a fourteen-year-old with a lot of love to give! Her biggest aspirations in life are to become a mother and a police officer, she can’t think of anything better than getting to help people. She’s very friendly and will open up to just about anyone, one of her favorite things is getting to meet new people! She does best when she gets to be the center of attention so get ready for all the fun stories she’s going to tell. She definitely sees herself as a ‘girly-girl’ and enjoys any time she gets to have her hair and nails done. Jayden also loves being active and you can often find her skating around or zipping around a store while shopping. She’s a real creative and likes to crochet, if you’re lucky she might make you a blanket or scarf someday!

Jayden would do well in either a single-parent female household with support or a two-parent home. She loves children and would like a home with brothers and sisters, however, she needs a lot of attention so it would be best for her to be the only or youngest child or to at least have parents who make it a priority to give her plenty of one on one attention. She adores animals and hopes to find a forever family with lots of pets, she’s only ever lived in cities so she’s unsure how she feels about country living. Jayden will thrive with firm, consistent rules and boundaries. A sense of reliability will help her feel at ease in a forever home. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8965MN) St. Joseph County
Octavius is a happy ten-year-old boy who loves the outdoors! He’s always active whether it’s running around outside or playing sports like tennis! When not using some of that energy, he likes to relax inside by playing Pokemon or board games. If he’s got the radio going, you’ll usually find it on a country station, that’s his favorite! Octavius is a musical kid and he enjoys singing along and wants to learn to play a musical instrument someday. One of his big goals in life is to join a band eventually! In fact, if he had three wishes he’d ask for money, a family, and a bunch of musical instruments. He’s doing well in school, currently on the A&B honor roll, and he says his favorite class is math, he loves the logic aspect of it.

Octavius would do well in either a one-parent or two-parent home. If there are children in the home, he’d prefer them to be older, he would like to have brothers or sisters he can look up to. He adores animals so a family that comes with pets would be a plus! Octavius wants a family who does activities together whether it’s singing songs, playing sports, or taking trips to different places. A family that makes him feel included is ideal. He does best when given consistent routines and a predictable schedule. He needs stability and patience with the transition. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8970BD) Putnam County

Kambri, who is fourteen, is an intelligent young lady who loves to read! Her favorite books series are Harry Potter and the Twilight novels. If she could spend all day with a good book she’d be happy! She’s polite and always willing to help out around the house. She loves being active and being outside. Kambri practices yoga and enjoys riding her bike around. She has participated in gymnastics before and hopes to continue doing so in the future. When it’s time to relax, she likes to put on her favorite tv shows “Criminal Minds” or “Law & Order.” She describes herself as a real “girly-girl” and she has to make sure her hair and nails are done just right! She has a creative mind and likes to spend time making arts and crafts.

Kambri would do best in a one-parent home with support or a two-parent home. She does well with other children, but if there are others in the home she needs to be the youngest. She’s open to living with pets but has never done so before so they would need to be monitored to start. Families should provide firm, clear, and consistent boundaries with follow-through on rules. Kambri would do better with a slower transition into a forever home. Parents who are active and can keep up with her are ideal. Parents should be able to display healthy, appropriate behaviors and relationships. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8971DD) Sullivan County

Kenneth is an open, honest eleven-year-old boy who loves sports! He can’t wait until it’s game night, he doesn’t care if it’s high school or college, he wants to watch it all. He thrives being the center of attention and if you’re around him long enough he’s definitely going to try to get you to participate in some Nerf wars. In fact, if Kenneth had three wishes they’d all be Nerf related! He wants a lot of Nerf guns, a huge full of Nerf bullets, and attachments for his Nerf guns. He likes to stay active by riding his bike, going for a swim, or getting to fish, he’s quite the outdoorsman! He’s not generally a picky eater but if you put some celery on his plate, it might be there when dinner’s over.

Kenneth would do well in either a one-parent home with plenty of support, or a two-parent home. He will thrive with firm, consistent boundaries and parents who follow through on what they say. They need structure and monitoring, with rules that don’t change. A rigid schedule is ideal. Families should be willing to accept any medical or therapeutic needs he may have throughout his life. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8972BMN) Allen County
Indiana Adoption Program

Kenski is a bright eight-year-old boy who loves to play games! He's always up for a game of Trouble or Sorry, or getting to play some video games on his PlayStation. While he can be a little shy when you first meet, once he opens up he's a real chatterbox! He's proud of his extensive collection of Pokémon cards and shows them off whenever he gets the chance. When the weather cooperates, he likes to get outside and play basketball or soccer. Kenski adores animals, especially cats, and does well taking care of pets around the home. He doesn't hesitate to help others, and excels when given specific tasks. Right now he enjoys watering flowers around his home or even helping with dinner! He also appreciates getting rewarded with his favorite treat, a strawberry shake!

Kenski would do best with strong-willed parents who run a household with structure and routine. He loves pets so if your home comes with animals he'll be delighted and even willing to help take care of whatever furry pals you have! He gets along with other children, but would do best if he's the only child in the home, if there are other children he needs to be the youngest. Parents need to be determined, and willing to show patience with a transition into a forever home. Kenski can take time to process new information, so parents who won't rush him around are ideal. Parents need to understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8979DD) Vanderburgh County

John is a polite thirteen-year-old young man with a good sense of humor! He can be quiet and cautious at first, but once you make him feel secure he'll crack you up. He has excellent manners and asks permission before doing things and works hard around the house. John also works hard on the basketball court, he'd play all day if he could! His big dream is going to college and then becoming a professional basketball player or a judge because he wants “to give people a second chance.” Right now, his favorite team is the Lakers because they have LeBron James, he always makes sure to pick L.A. whenever he plays on his PS4. His current placement has a Friday Night Movie Night and he'd love that tradition to continue!

John would do best in a two-parent home and he wants both a mom and dad. If there are other children in the home, he needs to be the youngest. He does well with pets and if he could have any pet in the world, he'd want a lizard. He'd prefer his own room but is open to sharing if needed. Families should provide a calm environment and firm, consistent boundaries. Education should be made a priority. He would thrive with parents who are good communicators who display love and patience. His sibling bond is important to him so families need to appreciate his familial connection. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8975SG) Marion County

Alex would do well in either a one-parent home with support or a two-parent home. He gets along well with other children, older and younger, and would do fine with either in his home provided ample supervision is in place. He will thrive in a stable, structured environment full of love and support that helps him feel safe. He loves to learn so parents who are interested in teaching him and helping him experience new things are ideal. Prospective families should be willing to make education a priority and accept the therapeutic needs he may have in the future. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8976MN) Marshall County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Kahlaiya is a sixteen-year-old with big dreams! She enjoys school and hopes to attend college someday either heading off to medical school or maybe joining the FBI, all she knows for sure is that she wants to be able to help those who need it. She is very sporty and has participated in both track and cheerleading before. She combines this with her love of fashion and getting dressed up! Her favorite color when it comes to clothing is definitely pink. Once Kahlaiya gets comfortable with you, get ready because she laughs loudly and often! Her big dreams don’t end with schooling, she would like to someday travel and maybe live outside the U.S. She would enjoy getting to learn and experience new cultures!

Kahlaiya would do best in a two-parent home where she is the only child. She would thrive with plenty of one on one attention. Parents will need to show patience with the transition into a forever home while trust is being built. Families should be willing to work with whatever therapeutic needs she may have in the future. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8981MN) Elkhart County

Nicholas is an eleven-year-old who once you've earned his trust, you've earned it forever! He can be a bit standoffish when meeting new people, but if you treat him with the respect he'll treat you, he'll warm up before you know it. He is very inquisitive and loves not only figuring out how things work, but making things work! He recently made a bow and arrow out of things he only found in his backyard. He is becoming quite the artist and loves painting and drawing, especially when he gets to go outside and use nature as his inspiration. Nicholas is becoming more adventurous every day and has even learned how to snorkel! He adores the water and can’t wait until he gets to go swimming or fishing, be ready to hear about the two huge bluegill he caught on his last trip! If he had a choice on city-life or country-living he would definitely pick the country. He really wants to have his own four-wheeler or motorcycle someday that he can ride around the property!

Nicholas would do best in a two-parent home and while open to it, would need a little extra time to adjust to a same-sex home. The ideal home would be one in which he is the only child, if there are other children he has to be the youngest by several years, he is not open to a home with young children. He likes pets and would enjoy a home that came with a dog, or especially a fish, but he's allergic to cats. If he had his choice, he would stay inside all day playing video games and watching television so families should be willing and able to help push him to experience outside activities. Every new thing he's tried in his current home he's loved. Nicholas needs routine and structure, and time to adjust to new things. He does best when he has a consistent schedule. Families should be willing to make education a priority and to make a lifelong commitment to Nicholas. Families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8986DD) Monroe County

Unique is a smiley eleven-year-old who is always friendly! She can take a little bit to warm up, but once she feels comfortable with you she’s respectful and enjoys talking. She’s working hard in school, always trying to improve herself! One thing Unique finds relaxing and fun is when she gets to pamper herself and paint her nails or go shopping for clothes. You always have to look your best! Music is important to her and you can often find her singing or dancing along to her favorite songs. She is a big animal lover and is always delighted when she gets to see a dog! At home she’s not a picky eater and will try just about anything, she’s even been practicing in the kitchen and can make some meals on her own!

Unique would do best in a one-parent home with a mom and plenty of support. She would thrive if she was the only child in the home, if there are other children in the home they would need to be older and time would need to be set aside for one on one attention for Unique. Families should be willing to provide firm, consistent structure and boundaries. She does best with a routine. Education needs to be made a priority. Patience with the transition into a forever home would be ideal. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (8987IA) Lake County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Jordan is a witty twelve-year-old boy who charms all those around him! He loves being the center of attention and making jokes to keep everyone nearby laughing. He's happiest when he gets to stay active and is always looking for something fun to do. He can't wait to get outside and go swimming, riding his bike, or maybe trying out some new science experiments! Science is his favorite subject in school, he really enjoys figuring out how things work. Jordan has participated in summer camps before and hopes to continue doing that in the future, especially when they have tons of fun stuff to do every day! He is a big animal lover and if you let him pick any animal in the whole world to have as a pet, he would love to own his very own goat.

Jordan would do best in either a one-parent or two-parent home but would enjoy having a mom and a dad. He gets along with other children and would welcome siblings but they should be at least a couple years older or younger than him. He enjoys animals and would have fun in a home that came with pets (especially a goat). He will thrive with consistent structure and routine and time to adjust to the transition into a forever home. Active parents who are willing to participate with Jordan in the things he loves to do are ideal. Parents need to be able to demonstrate patience and understanding. Interested families should be willing to advocate for any therapeutic needs he may have. (9001WS) Tippecanoe County

Caleb, who is thirteen, is a leader inside and outside the classroom! He makes friends easily and is always willing to help out those who need it. He has been in the Cub Scouts previously and hopes to continue that in the future. He loves art and creating things and you can often find him working on his drawings or creating intricate designs with his origami! He's quick with a joke and enjoys making all those around him bust up with laughter. Caleb enjoys the outdoors and is thrilled whenever he gets to spend time either camping or fishing! When it's time to relax, he enjoys lounging around either listening to his favorite pop music or watching funny cartoons like SpongeBob SquarePants!

Caleb would do well in either a one-parent or two-parent home, but he would prefer to have a forever home with a mom and dad. Ideally he would be the only child in the home, and if there are children in the home they would need to be his age or older. He would love to have a home out in the country with some animals. He's hoping for a family that likes to do activities together like playing board games or going to the library together. He will thrive if given firm, consistent limits and boundaries and if he's shown a stable and loving home environment. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (9002BD) Montgomery County

Selena is an outgoing and friendly sixteen-year-old who loves the arts! She is very creative and artistic and she likes to spend her time drawing or taking photographs. She's also a big fan of reading and is currently in a competition in school to see who can read the most! She enjoys being active and has played both basketball and volleyball for her school, activities she'd like to continue in the future. Selena isn't a picky eater, but if you ask her for her favorite foods, she'll tell you spaghetti and tacos! She's an accomplished chef in her own right and may whip up some fancy dishes for you someday, or maybe even play you some music on her violin.

Selena would do well in either a one-parent or two-parent household and does well with children, the ideal home would have children her age or older. She does well with animals and wouldn't mind a home that came with pets. She'll thrive with monitoring, consistent rules and consequences, and a slow transition into a forever home. Stability, reliability, and support are important so families will need to be able to provide those consistently. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (9004MN) St. Joseph County
Michelle is a sporty fourteen-year-old who's always on the go! She loves sports of all kind and you can often find her out playing soccer, volleyball, basketball, or football. With all that activity it's not hard to believe that one of her other favorite activities is sleeping! When the mood strikes she'll take the time to make some arts or crafts or she likes playing games that revolve around cars. Michelle doesn't mind helping out around the house and is pretty good about doing her own laundry and is even learning her way around the kitchen! She likes helping people so much, in fact, that her big dreams in life are to grow up to become either a teacher or a nurse!

Michelle would do well in either a one-parent female led home or a two-parent home. With a two-parent home she would prefer to have a mom and a dad. It would be best if she was the only child in the home as she thrives on getting plenty of one on one attention. She enjoys animals and would like a forever home that came with pets. She will thrive when given a home that has strict guidelines and boundaries with parents who follow through on what they say. She needs structure and patience to help achieve her full potential in life. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (9006DD) Perry County

John is a friendly eleven-year-old boy who's always on the go! He is an excellent whistler and if you ask him, he may be willing to show off his skills. He loves doing different activities and is always up to go find new adventures, he's hoping to find a forever family that takes him to new places so he can learn all about them! He likes playing with his StikBots or with his Pokemon characters, but he usually prefers getting up and doing something fun. John is very polite and happy to help around the house with whatever needs done. In fact, John loves helping people so much that he hopes to grow up and become a detective some day! Either that or an astronaut, he hasn't quite decided yet.

John would do well in either a one-parent or two-parent home, and he wouldn't mind having some brothers or sisters but he would prefer they be older than him so he can get plenty of attention. John loves attention! He will thrive in a home with structure, firm boundaries, and routine. Parents who are willing and excited to take him out to try new activities or experiences would be ideal, especially if they make it clear to John that they care about his happiness and delight in his accomplishments. Interested families should be willing to make education a priority. Families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (9017AMN) St. Joseph County

Ishaylah is a friendly eleven-year-old who makes friends everywhere she goes! She’s a real people person and loves participating in groups like at her church or in school. In church she particularly enjoys the singing and music, especially the drums and guitars. She’s a big fan of music and is even working on learning to play the piano herself! In addition to perfecting her piano playing, she’s learning to master and kitchen and will tell you that she makes delicious chocolate and angel food cakes. Ishaylah really wants to help people when she gets older which is why she wants to be either a doctor or maybe a children’s mental health therapist. If she had three wishes she’d ask to be able to swim every day, an unlimited supply of walking tacos (her favorite!), and for a pink Lamborghini when she gets a little older!

Ishaylah would do well in either a one-parent home with support or a two-parent home, but would be the most comfortable if at least one of the parents was a woman. She really hopes to have a mom so they can work on braiding hair together. She does well with other children, but there shouldn’t be older boys in the home, she would love to have a little sister she can look after. In a perfect world she wants a forever home with a little sister, a dog, and a swimming pool but she’d settle for a cat. She will thrive with structure, consistency, and predictability along with compassion, nurture, and understanding. Interested families should understand the impact trauma can have on children. (9026IA) Lake County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
**JOIN US FOR A MEET & GREET**

Enjoy basketball, arcades, crafts, or laser tag? So do our kids! Indiana Adoption Program Meet & Greet events are fun for everyone. If you are a foster family who is open to adoption, or if you would like to meet the children whose profiles are featured in this book, please e-mail iap@childrensbureau.org or message Indiana Adoption Program on Facebook and learn how you can attend Meet & Greet.
Opening hearts. Changing lives.

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
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 he or she grows and matures. 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.

How Do I Start The Adoption Process in Indiana?

The Adoption Process for a child who is a ward of Indiana requires the supervision of the Department of Child Services. 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.

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 Adoption Liaison.

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

To begin to inquire about Family Preparation contact the Indiana Adoption Program:
Call 1-888-25-ADOPT or e-mail at iap@childrensbureau.org
How to Adopt Overview

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 or at www.adoptachild.in.gov.

Step 1: Educate Yourself about Adoption

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.

National Adoption Organizations

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
web: www.childwelfare.gov

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

Adoption Conferences

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

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

Written Materials

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/welcome.htm
Headquarters
2395 Crystal Dr., Suite 250
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: 703-412-2400 • fax: 703-412-2401

Tapestry Books
P.O. Box 651
Ringoes, NJ 08551
877-266-5406 • fax: 609-737-5951
e-mail: info@tapestrybooks.com
web: www.tapestrybooks.com
• 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.

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

• 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 $3,000. Attorney fees and court costs can range from $2,000 to $5,000, 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.

**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)
- 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**

Because tax credits change from year to year, please consult the IRS website or a tax specialist for inquiries regarding tax credits.

**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. Children who are wards may be eligible for adoption assistance benefits if they meet specific eligibility guidelines.

**Indiana Adoption Subsidy**

Indiana Adoption Subsidy is determined by the Central Eligibility Unit. Please contact centralized eligibilit@dcis.in.gov or 877.265.0086 with questions.
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 (DCS) 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 view a list of SNAP Specialists at http://www.in.gov/dcs/2747.htm 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 group 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—in 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
- 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.

www.adoptachild.in.gov
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 adoption 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 the Resource & Adoptive Parent Training (RAPT) sessions I-IV. Pre-Adoption Training is scheduled through your local Training Coordinator. To find out who 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
- 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.

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?

**Questions for Prospective Adoptive Parents to Ask**

- What is known about the child’s birth history?
- What is known about the child’s developmental history — physically, mentally, emotionally and socially?
- Is there any evidence of handicap? Any suspected learning difficulties?
- When was last contact with any birth family member?
- Are there pictures the birth family can pass on, or any family mementos?
- Is there a Life Book for the child?
- Are there any siblings? Will it be possible or beneficial for ongoing contact with siblings [if they have been separated]?
- What social and medical history is available on the parents? On extended family members or siblings?
- Do the parents have a history of drug or alcohol abuse? Was the mother using substances during the pregnancy?
- What was the home environment like? What was the environment of the foster home(s) like?
- How many moves or placements did the child experience and why did they occur?
- What is the child’s current adjustment status?
- Has the child been prepared for the adoptive placement?
- How can you help?

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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 other official documents. 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 adoption assistance agreement, including any post-adoptive services and subsidies.

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
- 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
- the agency social worker who placed the child with the adoptive parents

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.
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.

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.

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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.

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.

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

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects describes 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, but do 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.

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 intelligence, adaptive behavior or other adult caretakers of children.

Neglect

Neglect includes physical neglect, child abandonment and neglect and educational neglect by parents, parent substitutes, other adult caretakers of children. 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.

Learning Disability

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

Emotional Disability (ED)

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

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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.

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.
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
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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.
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, please view the following website for contact information at: www.adoptioninchildtime.org.

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 $1,500 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 CDSC 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

In Indiana, an attorney needs to file the adoption petition and represent the family through the court process. A petition may be filed in the county where the pre-adoptive parent resides, or in the county where the child resides, or where the Department of Child Services (DCS) or private agency (LCPA) 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 LCPC 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

If a child has been determined eligible for adoption assistance, the adoption assistance agreement MUST be signed by all parties before the final adoption is entered.
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.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Adoption</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Children Available</th>
<th>Approximate Cost</th>
<th>Who Can Adopt</th>
<th>How Long It Takes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public agency adoption</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>starts slowly, but for those who have an updated home study, placement can occur as soon as a few months after selecting a child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private agency adoption</td>
<td>an adoption directed and supervised by a privately funded, licensed adoption agency</td>
<td>sometimes handle special needs children; more commonly associated with younger children and infants</td>
<td>$6,000 to $25,000; lower for special needs children; some agencies have sliding fee scales</td>
<td>agencies may recruit parents based on race, religious affiliation, etc.; for infant adoptions, birth mother often chooses</td>
<td>a few months to a few years (sometimes longer for infant adoption)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International adoption</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>$7,000 to $30,000 (varies by country; travel and travel-related expenses may be additional)</td>
<td>depends on agency and country requirements; some will accept single parents, most prospective parents are between 25 and 45 years old</td>
<td>six months to several years depending on the child’s age and health, and the country’s political climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent adoption (not legal in all states; also known as private adoption)</td>
<td>an adoption initiated by prospective adopters and completed with help from an attorney or adoption counselor</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,000 to $40,000 (includes prospective parents’ cost of finding a birth mother, certain birth mother expenses, and attorney’s fees)</td>
<td>birth mothers typically choose the adoptive parent — preferences tend to run toward younger, affluent, married couples</td>
<td>variable; as long as it takes to find a birth mother who will see the process through to finalization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Youth Connections Program

The Department of Child Services (DCS) provides a youth-driven, youth-led program that primarily serves foster youth 14 and older, who have expressed that they do not want to be adopted. This program recognizes the need for all youth to have caring, committed adults in their life to help them make the transition to adulthood, and works to facilitate these connections.

The Youth Connections Program has been implemented to assist youth 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 youth on his/her 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 youth 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.

Dave Schoening
Youth Connections Specialist
938 N. 10th Street
Noblesville, IN 46060
(317) 383-1967 (Work)
Dave.Schoening@dcs.in.gov
Thank you for your interest in Indiana’s Adoption Program.
This map shows the Adoption Liaison who coordinates adoption information for their Team.
For more information, please call the toll-free number:
1-888-25-ADOPT
Opening hearts. Changing lives.

indianaadoptionprogram.org
iap@childrensbureau.org

1-888-25-ADOPT

Facebook: Indiana Adoption Program
Instagram: @IndianaAdoptionProgram
Twitter: @adopt_in_IN (IN Adoption Program)