Nicole has seen adoption from almost all of its angles. She knows the ins and outs of adoption from a personal and a professional point of view, and she and her husband John have adopted through private adoption, as well as through foster care.

After the couple had their first daughter, Abi, they began the process of adoption. “She was such an easy baby. She gave us such confidence in being parents,” Nicole laughs, “We had no clue! No matter how prepared you think you are, you’re not!”

As Nicole and John welcomed Alana, and then Henry, and then Austin into their home, their parenting style changed. “Each child is different,” says John, “Rules have to be different for each child depending on the trauma they’ve experienced.”

“Every child who goes through adoption has some form of trauma,” explains Nicole, who works with children in foster care and is also a foster parent. Because each child in the foster care system has experienced at least two traumatic events—the event that led the child to be removed from the home, and the removal itself from the places and people who were familiar to the child—it is important for Nicole to use trauma-informed care in both her parenting and in her work. She encourages families to take trauma-informed care trainings and practice what they learn.

Nicole helps to write child summaries for children in foster care. These are the documents that share details about a child with prospective parents who are prepared and recommended to adopt. Nicole writes child summaries that include the difficult things a child has experienced and the behaviors that may result from those traumatic events. But most importantly, the summaries share the child’s personality and strengths, and the tools they will need to overcome any obstacles.

Nicole knows that her children are not only what is in their child summaries. Abi is the strong-willed, determined “mega-big sis.” Alana is quiet and sarcastic and funny. Henry is a helper and a sweetheart. Austin is the extrovert who doesn’t know a stranger.

FROM ALL ANGLES

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
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.
3266 N. Meridian St., Ste. 1000
Indianapolis, IN 46208

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

Subscription Information

Please contact snap@childrensbureau.org if you would like to receive a copy of this magazine.

If you have any questions please call 1-855-677-5437.
Brandon is a smart, outgoing, and athletic sixteen-year-old. He is a good drummer and is learning to play piano. Brandon loves to play and watch basketball and hopes to be on a team someday. Brandon can be very helpful and likes to mow the lawn and take out the garbage. Faith and attendance at church are important to Brandon and his brothers.

Trenton is a quiet and easy-going fifteen-year-old boy. He likes school, is a quick learner, and gets along well with his peers. He is athletic and enjoys playing basketball and football. Trenton's favorite food is sausage pizza with garlic dipping sauce. He also likes crab legs, shrimp, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. He likes to watch football on television and his favorite team is the Cincinnati Bengals.

Aaron is a friendly, active, and energetic twelve-year-old boy! He likes the Disney XD channel and movies such as The Martian, Maze Runner: Scorch Trials, and Goosebumps. He also likes hip-hop music and video games like WWE, racing, and sports games. Aaron is helpful and gets along well with others. He has a good sense of humor, is bonded to his brothers, and enjoys laughing.

The girls 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. These sisters are very bright and would do well with a family who can help them reach their goals and their potential. (8136DEFIA) Lake County

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The home that would be best for Brandon, Trenton, and Aaron would be a two-parent African American home that can provide structure and be strong role models for positive behavior. Parents that are active and can show these boys group and individual attention would be beneficial for Brandon, Trenton, and Aaron. These brothers will do best in a home with firm parents, and would benefit from a strong male role model. Parents will need to be patient and understand the effects of trauma on children. These boys enjoy attending church and would like to continue doing so. They seem to respond well to the structure in the church setting. (8378ABCIA) Lake County

Aaliyah is a stylish and talented fifteen year-old girl! She has many goals for herself and she wants a better future. She is a great student and English is her favorite subject. She enjoys gymnastics, reading, choir, and dancing. She is good with her sisters and other children, but does appreciate spending time alone. She is kind and soft-spoken and will need to be around people who support her and who will listen to her.

Mariyah, who is twelve, has a beautiful smile and outgoing disposition. She is energetic, sweet, funny, and happy. 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 ten year-old girl. She describes herself as “silly.” She loves attention and loves to smile! 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.

These girls 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. These sisters are very bright and would do well with a family who can help them reach their goals and their potential. (8136DEFIA) Lake County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Jaimee is a very sensitive and caring twelve-year-old girl. She is very aware of others' feelings and tries to help others. Her favorite books are the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series. She is not a picky eater and will pretty much eat anything. Her favorite food is sushi! She likes to play outside with her sister and look for insects. She also enjoys going on bike rides. If she could go anywhere in the world, she would want to go to Alaska. Jaimee likes to wander around and explore. Jaimee loves to help around the house with things such as cooking, and enjoys one-on-one attention. She thrives on positive attention and praise.

Jazmine is a bit shy when she first meets new people, but once she gets to know you, she is a sweet girl. Jazmine, an twelve-year-old girl, loves to be outdoors with her sister, Jaimee. While they are outside, they explore and search for insects and animals. If she could go anywhere in the world, Jazmine would want to go to Canada. She also likes to play with her toys and read books. Jazmine is a very adventurous eater! Jazmine is an out-of-the-box thinker and very inquisitive and she is eager to learn new things. Jazmine is a very independent little girl that loves to explore the world.

Nevaeh is a very happy and social eleven-year-old girl. She is very outgoing and gets along well with others. She likes to be around people as much as possible. She listens to music, and her favorite is country. Nevaeh likes to play with her toys and her iPad. Nevaeh can be mischievous, and has a wonderful sense of humor! Overall, Nevaeh is resilient and a joy to be around.

The family that would be best for these girls would be consistent and patient. Parents will need to stay the course in regards to discipline, and always teaching and clearly communicating. Jaimee, Jazmine, and Nevaeh will need guidance and reassurance, and need encouragement to grow and learn. These girls thrive with one-on-one attention. Potential parents will need to have an understanding of Nevaeh's medical needs and prepare the home for her safety. Transition into an adoptive home should be slow. (8429ABCBD) Jennings County

Jason is an introverted child who enjoys playing with his brother, Brandon. He is fourteen and he is very motivated by encouragement. Once he opens up to you, Jason has a wonderful sense of humor. Jason loves “Despicable Me,” and anything to do with minions! His favorite color is blue. He enjoys doing crafts at school and spending time with his peers. He also enjoys putting together LEGOs and doing puzzles. Jason is happy and content. He enjoys cleaning and helping out. He is active and enjoys being outside. Jason can be funny and enjoys making sure those around him are happy. He loves to watch movies and play video games with his brother.

Brandon is a very sweet, loving twelve-year-old. He enjoys cuddling and giving hugs. He is very close to his brother, Jason, and will typically “talk for Jason” as Jason is the quieter of the two. Brandon thrives off of praise. He enjoys cleaning and organizing things, as well as doing his schoolwork. Brandon loves to work in the garden. Brandon is also funny, although he can be shy when you first meet him. Brandon loves Transformers, video games, and bicycles. He is very active and enjoys playing outside. He also enjoys doing puzzles with his brother.

The family that would be best for these boys would be a two-parent home with plenty of routine and structure. Parents will need to be strong advocates for Jason and Brandon’s well-being. It would be best if potential parents understood the effects of trauma on children. Parents will need to be patient and nurturing for Brandon and Jason. (8472ABHC) Delaware County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Indiana Adoption Program

Jeremiah “Patrick” & Joshua

Patrick is a very active, sweet ten-year-old boy! 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 (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.

Joshua is a very happy, loving little guy. 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 is a nine-year-old boy who loves to laugh, and has a great personality.

The family that would be best for Patrick and Joshua should be able to provide adequate supervision and support to both boys. Parents will need to be patient and have an understanding of Joshua’s emotional and educational needs. Patrick and Joshua would do well in a home with older children. Patrick would do well in a home with clear structure, routine, and expectations. (8513ABBS)

Clay County

Naija & Mariah

Naija is a lovable and sweet 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!

Mariah is lovable, entertaining, and smart! She is very active and enjoys playing outdoors. She is outspoken and inquisitive. Mariah enjoys dance and wearing skirts – she has many ballerina-style skirts! Mariah enjoys playing tag with her friends. Mariah loves getting her picture taken and being silly in front of the camera! Her favorite TV show is Paw Patrol. Mariah also adores animals!

Naija and Mariah need 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 and Mariah will need active parents that can keep them busy and will allow them to experience new ideas, activities, and challenges. Parents will need to be patient and understanding of how trauma can affect children. (8553ABSG) Marion County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Jayden is a kind, bright 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 eight-year-old.

Although Nathanial can be a bit shy when you first meet him, when he begins to open up, his personality shines! He 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 Cart. 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 eight-year-old boy, who is also creative and is caring.

The family that would be best for Jayden and Nathanial would be patient and committed to their long-term wellbeing. 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. (8564ABBS) Owen County

Tristan loves to play video games. He likes flying remote control helicopters and likes playing football. The Indianapolis Colts are his favorite team! He likes NASCAR and Kyle Busch is his favorite driver. Tristan is guarded when you first meet him, but he can be affectionate and caring of others. He loves playing outside. Tristan is a very intelligent and curious thirteen-year-old, and he made the honor roll at school.

Alex is an easy-going, bright eleven-year-old boy who takes pride in his accomplishments, like earning the honor roll at school. He enjoys playing with LEGOs and toy cars. He also enjoys riding his bike. Alex likes to swim, go to the creek on adventures, play on the trampoline, and spend time outdoors. He can be outdoors for hours if you let him! He also likes to play games with his siblings and peers. He hopes to play soccer and football! Alex is very intelligent, and has a very creative imagination.

Lyric, who is seven years old, loves to talk and loves attention. She likes to dress up and play make-believe! Lyric says she can be "girly" but also can also be a "tomboy." She likes to be the boss, but does play well with other children. Lyric has a great imagination. She likes to play with LEGOs and watch LEGO movies. She loves to draw, ride her bike and enjoys swimming in the foster parent’s pool. Lyric would love to have a mother figure in her life that will nurture her, care for her, and love her.

Tristan, Alex, and Lyric would do well in a home with a mom and a dad. Parents must have an understanding of how trauma can affect children. Tristan, Alex, and Lyric will need a family that can offer plenty of one-on-one attention. These siblings need a home where there is a lot of structure and can have a daily routine. They thrive on consistency. Adoptive parents need to provide a drug-free home with unconditional love, safety, and stability. They need parents who are strong and will stand their ground in a calm, direct manner. Tristan, Alex, and Lyric would benefit having parents who are active and want to be involved in their lives. (8570ABCBS) Perry County
Kammie is a thirteen-year-old girl who has a good sense of humor! For fun, Kammie likes to hang out with her friends and family, play board games and video games. Kammie enjoys doing art and crafts, cooking, riding her bike, and watching movies and cartoons. Kammie also enjoys playing on her Nintendo DS and tablet, as well as listening to music. She likes to play outdoors too, especially kickball, basketball, or playing at a playground. Kammie is doing well in school and is very helpful in the classroom.

Kaitlynne is an active nine-year-old girl who enjoys spending time outside. Her strengths are that she is a compassionate and considerate girl. Kaitlynne is very social and well-spoken. In school, her favorite subjects are history and science. When she is older, she hopes to become a biologist to study reptiles! She enjoys one-on-one attention and thrives when she feels cared for. Kaitlynne would like a potential adoptive family to know the following about her: “I love sports. I like to play softball and tennis, but I love basketball and really, really love playing soccer!”

Kammie and Kaitlynne would benefit from parents who are committed to them long term and who can provide a safe nurturing home with age appropriate boundaries and consequences. They would benefit from a calm environment with parents who can give them plenty of one-on-one attention. Kammie needs a predictable environment and does better with a routine, 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. She likes animals and would really enjoy having a pet, perhaps a cat, dog, or a turtle. Kaitlynne would like a home where the parents are active in outdoor activities, and can let her cook dinner sometimes! (8621ABBS) Orange County

Christina is a sweet and sincere nine-year-old girl. She likes to play on her trampoline, participate in gymnastics, and ride her bike. Christina recently learned how to roller-skate, and how to ice skate. During the summer, she likes to go swimming. When she is stuck inside, Christina enjoys playing with baby dolls, and enjoys playing house. She has a great imagination! If Christina could have three wishes, she would want a bunk bed, a kitten and a puppy, and a clean house.

Christopher is a fun guy who is always on the go! He enjoys playing with his toys, which include dinosaurs, cars, and an electric four-wheeler. His favorite tabletop game is Connect Four. During the summer, he like to camp and swim. He enjoys watching television, and his favorite show is Power Rangers. If he had three wishes it would be to get a power ranger toy, a dinosaur toy, and Transformers toy.

Christina and Christopher would do best in a structured, nurturing, and calm two-parent family. It would be beneficial for Christopher if he had a strong male role model to look up to. Christina and Christopher would thrive if they had a family that could guide, encourage, and support them. (8624ABSG) Monroe County
While Aiden is a bit shy, he is quite funny! Aiden is a twelve-year-old who likes to play baseball, basketball, and soccer. He also enjoys swimming. Aiden enjoys watching television, and favorite show is American Pickers because he also collects antiques. He hopes to have a dirt bike some day! Aiden's favorite thing about himself is that he likes to try new things.

Draeven is an introverted eight-year-old boy who is always on the go! He is content to spend the day roaming around outdoors, catching bugs or swimming. When he is older, he hopes to be a park ranger. In school, he enjoys art. Draeven also enjoys baseball, basketball, and soccer. His favorite thing about himself is that he's great with animals.

Aiden and Draeven would do fine in a single or two-parent home with a good support network. It would be best if they were the only children in the home. They need a family that will show them how to treat others and appropriate boundaries. These boys would benefit from having a positive male role model in their lives. Aiden and Draeven need a family who understands how trauma can affect a child throughout life. (8626ABBS) Monroe County

Emmanuel 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.

Nehemiah, who goes by Nemo, is a problem solver. He loves to find ways to improve things or make things happen! Nehemiah is great at taking charge. He loves to stay active and involved. He is adventurous and inquisitive, but also caring, quiet, and helpful. Nehemiah enjoys watching “SpongeBob SquarePants,” cheering on his favorite team, the Warriors, and playing with cars. Nehemiah would like to be an auto mechanic when he grows up and he hopes that someday he will have a yellow or an orange Lamborghini.

Both of these boys thrive with structure and consistency. They would do well in a single or two-parent home that is resourceful and engaged in community resources. These boys would do well with other children in the home and animals. It helps them to have time to process directions or information, so that they can be prepared to respond and act. These boys will need continued support and guidance to navigate all of their past trauma and emotions. A family that understands a history of trauma can help these boys overcome their 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. (8662ABJS) Allen County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Heather is outgoing and friendly, and she loves attention! She is an affectionate four-year-old who enjoys cuddling and giving hugs. She is playful with animals, and adores her foster family’s dog. Heather likes to play with her dolls, play dress up, and paint her nails. She loves to be read to! Heather likes to play new games and interact with adults. Overall, Heather is a sweet, gentle, and happy girl!

Hunter is a very observant, friendly and funny three-year-old boy! He is a rough-and-tumble little boy and loves to climb and run. He presents as shy at first, but when he warms up, Hunter is all smiles! He has a lot of energy and loves to be playful with foster siblings. He loves to play with the family dog and explore outside.

The family that would be most beneficial for Heather and Hunter would be a loving one or two-parent home that has strong and clear boundaries and structure. Family will need to be supportive and able to provide plenty of one-on-one attention. Heather and Hunter are used to having siblings, and would do well with other children in the home. The family would need to be understanding of Heather and Hunter’s emotional, medical, developmental, and educational needs. The transition into an adoptive family must be slow. Heather and Hunter have foster and biological family with who they will need to remain in contact. (8700ABBS) Clay County

Jasmine loves school and spending time with her peers! She is an athletic thirteen-year-old, and loves swimming, softball, and basketball. Jasmine is on student council, and plays the flute in the school band. At home, Jasmine likes to garden. She is also involved in her local church youth group. Jasmine’s favorite thing about herself is how helpful she is. Jasmine cares deeply for her brothers, and looks forward to having a new adoptive family.

Jeremy is a funny, friendly, and intelligent eleven-year-old boy! He is on the spell bowl team and participates in competitions. Jeremy also plays for the school basketball team. His favorite subjects in school are math and reading. When he is older, he hopes to become a brain surgeon. For fun, Jeremy likes reading and playing on his tablet. Overall, Jeremy is a charming young man!

Justus describes himself as outgoing and athletic. He is nine, and likes to play basketball. His favorite basketball player is Kevin Durant. If he could go anywhere in the world, he would want to go to California. He loves to eat chili-dogs! He likes being active, and his favorite thing about himself is his athleticism.

Jasmine, Jeremy, & Justus would do best in family that can offer, structure, stability, and consistency. It is important after the adoption has been finalized that the adoptive family ensures that Jasmine, Jeremy, and Justus remain in contact with their current placement, as the foster parent has created stability and has bonded with the children. (8702ABCBD) Jennings County
Seth is an articulate, kind, and smart twelve-year-old boy! Seth likes to watch Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors play basketball. He would like to be a part of an organized basketball team someday. Seth enjoys being outside, and likes activities such as riding bikes and spending time with his brothers. Seth's favorite thing about himself is his athletic skill, and he dreams of being an NBA player someday. He likes animals, and his helpful taking care of his foster family's goats. Seth has natural leadership abilities, and is a role model for his brothers.

Shane is an animated and funny ten-year-old boy! He likes to joke around, and has tons of energy. In his down time, Shane likes to play with his LEGOs or action figures and watch music videos on YouTube. Most of the time, Shane enjoys being outdoors, playing football, or swimming. Football is Shane's favorite sport, and he dreams of being an NFL player. Shane says his favorite NFL player is Odell Beckham Jr. His favorite thing about himself are his athletic skills, especially catching--he rarely drops balls when thrown to him!

Sage is a bit reserved when you first meet him, but he's a thoughtful and sweet nine-year-old. He is caring and enjoys helping others. Sage enjoys being outside climbing things, playing baseball, or spending time with his brothers. Sage loves baseball and would like to be a part of a team in the future. He also enjoys playing with LEGO's and Hot Wheels, and collecting coins. Sage likes playing with his foster siblings and their baby dolls, and hopes that it might help him to “be a better dad someday.” Sage's favorite things about himself are that he is creative and imaginative, which his brother Seth agrees with.

Seth, Shane, and Sage need an adoptive family that will give them structure and support. They would do best in a two-parent home with active, playful parents that can keep them busy. They would thrive in an environment that will allow them to experience new ideas, activities, and challenges. Seth, Shane, and Sage would benefit having parents who understand how trauma affects children. (8712ABCBS) Monroe County
Nicole and John also currently have a “smart, sassy, sweet” daughter in their home who is in foster care. When she entered the foster care system, the plan was for her to be reunified, in hopes that her family could be a safe, healthy placement. In some cases, the court may determine that adoption is in the child’s best interest. If her plan changes to adoption, Nicole and John would be happy to adopt her. They also knew their daughter’s mother and they encourage prospective families to be open to a relationship with a child’s birth family. When it comes to raising children who have experienced trauma, Nicole’s advice to foster and adoptive parents is, “Accept it, go through it, and love birth parents because your children do.”

Nicole and John are intentional about having one-on-one time with each of their children, and about how they raise each child. Nicole advises families to, “Discipline, but connect more than you discipline.” Even though each member of their family has a different background and a different personality, Nicole and John have found that their parenting style is a good fit for them, and Henry agrees. “My parents are awesome!” he says, “They’re the best parents in the world!”
Opening hearts. Changing lives.

Indiana Adoption Program hosts seven adoption Meet & Greet events across the state each year. Guests include families who are prepared and recommended to adopt and children who are interested in meeting adoptive families. Our events are fun and interactive—filled with games, activities, and new experiences. Inevitably, by the end of each fun day, we have kids and adults asking us when the next event is, so they can save the date.

If you would like to learn more about how you can receive an invitation to these events, please e-mail snap@childrensbureau.org or message us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IndianaAdoptionProgram.
Toby

Toby's favorite thing to do is to go on “tall tower adventures.” He is fascinated by electrical and cell phone towers and he loves to drive to see all the different types. He can even give directions to his favorite ones. Toby, who is sixteen years old, loves computer games and games that he can play on his iPod. He likes to play Labyrinth Two when he is inside. When he is outside, he likes to ride his bike and he always wears his helmet. He likes to swim, dance, and read SpongeBob books and Berenstain Bears books. Toby is a friendly, outgoing child who loves to be helpful and loves to share things with others. Toby has made great strides with communication skills and activities of daily living. He is eager to please others and responds positively to attention and affection.

Toby needs an experienced family that can provide structure, routine, some redirection, and close supervision at all times. His family should be patient and respond appropriately to his behavioral needs. A two-parent family with a strong extended support system is preferred. (3716HC) Delaware County

Sylvester

Sylvester is a very lovable, calm, and handsome sixteen-year-old boy. In the summer he loves to play in the pool and he enjoys watching the Disney Channel, coloring, and dancing. His favorite movie is “Red Tails” and he enjoys when someone reads to him. Sylvester is bright and maintains good grades in school. Sylvester's favorite classes are gym, music, and art. He would like to be a policeman when he grows up. When asked where he would like to go someday, he says, “to college.”

Sylvester needs a nurturing family that can provide stability, supervision, and appropriate medical attention. He would greatly benefit from a two-parent home. Sylvester needs a strong male figure who will be consistent with discipline and who is willing to spend a lot of one-on-one time with him. He would do best in a home with only older children. He needs a family with a lot of patience and love to get him through the trauma that he has experienced. Sylvester has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. (4063IA) Lake County

Austin

Austin is an inquisitive, polite, and friendly sixteen-year-old boy! Austin likes to read and has a vivid imagination. He enjoys being part of a group, but really thrives with one-on-one adult attention. He has an interest in doing drama or theater at school. Austin describes himself as “cool and helpful.” He likes to play basketball, and his favorite team is the Golden State Warriors. Austin also enjoys playing video games. He is very interested in action movies and comic books, his favorites being Spider Man, Ant-Man, and Batman.

Austin needs a family that can give him a lot of attention while providing structure, consistency, and close supervision. An adoptive family will need to be patient and committed to providing stability while he works on developing a bond with them. Austin needs parents who will be involved in his education. Austin needs to be the youngest or only child in the family. Austin hopes to have nice parents he can talk to who will sometimes do movie nights on the weekend. (5002SG) Tippecanoe County
Alan, who is fourteen, 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

Brian is a friendly eighteen-year-old boy. He has lots of energy and likes to have fun and joke around. Brian likes to watch action movies. His favorite movie is Fast & Furious. Brian enjoys playing and watching basketball. He is very technical and skilled at building things. If he could go anywhere in the world, Brian would want to go to California so he can enjoy the beach and go surfing! When asked how he would describe himself, Brian says he is “caring, respectful, and helpful.” What he likes most about himself is his personality.

Brian thinks that he would like to have both a mom and a dad. He needs loving, energetic parents who can provide plenty of patience, understanding, and a stable environment. Brian needs a family where he will feel loved and accepted. It would be best if potential families were active in outdoors and/or sports. Brian needs guidance and support and would benefit from having parents who can encourage him. Brian has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact.

(6085SG) Marion County

Nate is a personable and helpful seventeen-year-old boy. He is very inquisitive and likes to know how things work. He loves outdoor activities such as fishing and baseball. Nate likes animals and is very gentle with them. He is very interested in reptiles, snakes being on of his favorite animals. Nate is very intelligent and enjoys school and learning different things. Nate thinks he would like to travel to Japan someday because he is curious about Japanese culture. When he grows up, Nate thinks he wants to be a dermatologist because he wants to help people. Nate collects model cars and business cards.

Nate is looking forward to being adopted and is eager to have a family. He wants parents that are nice. He will do best in a stable, consistent, and caring environment with an established routine. Potential parents should be loving and patient. It would be best if there were no other children in the home. Both single and two-parent homes will be considered.

(7025SG) Marion County
Emily likes to go to the park and play on the swings. Emily, who is sixteen, is unselfish and generous and likes to help others. She likes school and says her favorite subjects are reading, math, and free time. Emily likes to play matching games, read rhyming books, sing, and play outdoors. She describes herself as, "nice, thoughtful, and only silly a little tiny bit." She wants to play soccer and be a cheerleader someday. When she grows up, Emily wants to be a police officer because, "they are nice and they help people and they wear police hats and drive police cars."

Emily is an affectionate girl who needs a family that can provide structure, consistent rules and consequences, support, and encouragement. She would like a mom and a dad and she prefers to have no animals in the home. Emily has siblings with whom she will need to maintain contact. Emily needs caregivers who can address her medical needs. (7041JS) Allen County

Damon is a fourteen-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

Breion is a nineteen-year-old boy who loves to have fun. He has an active imagination and loves to create art and draw pictures. Breion has a very strong sense of determination and likes to be able to try new things and meet new people. He hopes to teach math, music, or physical education because he enjoys it, and "why not show others?" Breion spends his days playing basketball and football, reading, listening to music, and doing arts and crafts. Breion is a very bright kid who is pleasant to be around!

Breion is an easy-going child who likes to talk, be listened to, and feel as though what he says matters. He wants a family that communicates clearly and provides stability. Breion would benefit from a two-parent home with a strong father figure and a structured, consistent schedule. (8006IA) Lake County
Avery is an active nine-year-old boy with a happy disposition and a ready smile. He enjoys animals and spending time outside. Avery appears very excited to watch his foster family’s chickens and cat. He likes to put puzzles together and enjoys participating in home-based pre-school. Avery also enjoys music and watching TV programs. He especially likes to watch "Sophia the First" on the Disney Channel. Avery loves to interact with others. He is described as bubbly and a lot of fun.

Avery is a very sweet little 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 system 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. (8039JS) Allen County

Kylis is a fifteen-year-old boy who is fun to be around. He is very outgoing, pleasant, and polite. He likes to spend his time drawing, playing video games, riding bicycles, and playing with friends. Recently, Kylis enjoys swimming, and says he enjoys spending time outdoors. He likes to be around peers and enjoys attention from adults. He likes school, especially math and science. When he is older, he hopes to become an engineer! Kylis hopes to have a family with whom he can go to the movies. He wants parents who are “nice and cool.” What he wants people to know about him is he is “fun to be around.”

Kylis would do well in a home that can provide structure and consistency. He needs a family that is attentive to him, will let him know he is important, and will ensure him that he is safe. Parents must commit to Kylis’ permanency. Kylis would benefit from a family that is patient and understanding, and able to encourage Kylis. Parents should provide Kylis with a variety of activities to offer structure. Both single-parent and two-parent families will be considered. (8060BS) Vanderburgh County

Caleb is a very loyal friend. He makes friends easily and he enjoys telling jokes and making other people laugh. He is compassionate and caring and will defend those he feels are being mistreated. Caleb is eighteen years old and he enjoys video games and watching movies. He is proud to be left-handed because he feels it makes him a better basketball player. He has a desire to succeed in life and works hard to achieve his goals. He would like to be a cop when he grows up so that he can, "help the world out.” He hopes to visit Chicago someday to see the Chicago Bulls play.

Caleb would like to have older siblings. He would prefer to live with a single mother who is African-American, but two-parent homes will be considered as well. He needs a patient family that understands the importance of healing and will advocate for his education. He needs love, stability, and a sense of security. He would do well in a structured environment with firm boundaries. (8070BS) Vanderburgh County
Aniya is a sixteen year-old girl who describes herself as “outgoing, curious, understanding, and caring.” Those close to Aniya say their favorite quality about her is her personality, as well as her passion. Aniya’s favorite thing about herself is also her personality! Aniya is in the tenth grade, and her favorite subject is history. She hopes to participate in cheer, volleyball, soccer, and other after school programs. When she is older, Aniya wants to be an OBGYN, or join the military. For fun, Aniya likes to play soccer, listen to music, sing, and spend time with others. She enjoys being active! When asked what’s important to Aniya, she says, “trustworthiness and responsibility.” She wants a family that is caring, and even when she is having a bad day will ask, “Want to talk?” Overall, Aniya just wants a loving family.

Aniya has a strong desire to be part of a family. The family that would be best for her would be calm and consistent. She needs a loving and patient family that can help her deal with the loss she has experienced. She would benefit from having a strong female role model who can encourage and guide her. Both single parent and two-parent families will be considered. (8097SG) Marion County

Briestyn is a fourteen-year-old boy who likes animals, 4-wheelers, and his bike. He prefers to be outdoors, but he also loves to play XBox games and watch cartoons or movies. Briestyn is very good at reading and spelling. He has a good sense of humor and can be compassionate and caring, especially when working with the elderly. Briestyn is eager to try new things. His favorite movie is “Real Steel.” Briestyn likes football and would like to play running back on a team someday. He is an intelligent, funny, and energetic boy.

Briestyn will do best in a two-parent home with an extensive support system and parenting experience. 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. It would be best if Briestyn was the only or youngest child. Briestyn needs parents who will show him unconditional love. (8106BS) Vermillion County

Kenneth is a very friendly, fun-loving child with a big personality and a big smile. He loves to make other people happy and he is a good helper. Kenneth is sixteen years old and he loves to dance. His favorite song to dance to is “We Will Rock You” by Queen. McDonald’s is his favorite restaurant because he loves their cheeseburgers and fries. He loves to play on electronics, especially playing “phone call” on real phones. He is good at computer games that involve picture or letter matching. He also loves the Angry Birds game.

Kenneth needs a family that is ready to be completely invested in his growth. His family will need to understand his limitations and work with him to achieve his greatest potential. Kenneth needs a home that can provide supervision and continued medical services. His family will need to advocate for him educationally. Two-parent families with older or no other children will be preferred. (8108BD) Jennings County
Cordale is an intelligent, well-mannered, and creative sixteen-year-old boy. He likes to ask questions to improve his understanding of others and events. He is good at math and science and he likes to read and spell. Cordale loves art and enjoys drawing. When he grows up, he wants to work in animation making cartoons. Cordale would like to participate in extracurricular activities and he will need a home that will allow him to be active in his interests.

Cordale is very eager to have a family that wants to include him and love him. He wants to play board games and video games with his new family. He would love to have siblings and he has displayed patience around younger children. His new home needs to be considerate of the trauma he has experienced and they would need to provide positive support and encouragement. He has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. (8110IA) Lake County

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 fourteen-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 the 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

Tyresa is a very smart and inquisitive thirteen-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 down time. When she grows up, she wants to be a therapist.

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 wellbeing. 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
Aubra is an imaginative, inquisitive, funny, and sweet fourteen-year-old boy. He is very interested in computers, gadgets, and video and card games. Science and technology are his favorite subjects, and his favorite thing about himself is that he is a quick learner. Aubra enjoys putting things together and figuring out how they work. His favorite toys are LEGO's. He loves to build things! Aubra is loyal and protective of the important people in his life. In the future, he wants to open his own toy shop. He is a very loving boy, and takes pride in his accomplishments. Aubra does well with frequent encouragement.

Aubra will do best with a two-parent family that can be patient and understanding with him. His new family will need to provide clear boundaries, supervision, and routine. Aubra thrives with one-on-one attention. He needs a family that will advocate for his academic, social, and emotional well-being.

(8125JS) Miami County

Jonathan is a friendly, adventurous fifteen-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 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 fourteen 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

Aubra

Jonathan

James
Charles is a bright twelve-year-old boy who enjoys reading! His favorite book is Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Charles enjoys playing basketball. He also likes to dance, draw, and watch movies. Charles does well in school, and enjoys studying with his classmates. He recently participated in his school’s spelling bowl! Charles likes dogs, and hopes to have an adoptive home with a dog. Charles is smart, personable, and gets along well with others.

Charles would do well in a loving two-parent home with parents who are firm, but fair. He will need supervision and parents who can provide stability, patience, and security. Charles would thrive in a home where the parents continue to encourage him to succeed as well as advocate for his educational needs. (8161CIA) Lake County

Gregory, who prefers to be called Greg, is a bright and funny seventeen-year-old boy. He enjoys music, art, and reading. Gregory loves science fiction and fantasy books. He is a big fan of the outdoors, and enjoys swimming and fishing. He also enjoys writing and hopes to be an author someday. Greg recently took up magic and has been teaching himself various tricks! His favorite thing about himself is that he is artistic. Greg is talented at origami. He is a caring and helpful boy who is accepting of others and makes friends easily.

Greg would do best in a two-parent home. He would like older siblings to look up to. He needs positive, nurturing parents who can also provide appropriate structure and boundaries. He would love to have parents who can participate in activities with him. Greg loves the outdoors and would like to be in a home located in the country. (8164ABS) Crawford County

Michael is a quiet and kind sixteen-year-old boy who likes to have fun. He loves tell jokes! He enjoys helping others. Michael also enjoys school, especially reading. He likes sports and hopes to join baseball, basketball, and football teams. He likes to play card games, such as Uno and Kings in the Corner. Michael enjoys the outdoors, and hopes to have a family that will take him hunting and fishing. Michael likes horses, and hopes to have one someday. When he is older, he would like to join the military. Michael would like a family that spends time together, is active, and enjoys the country.

Michael would do best in a two-parent home. He would like older siblings to look up to. He needs positive, nurturing parents who can also provide appropriate structure and boundaries. He would love to have parents who can participate in activities with him. Michael loves the outdoors and would like to be in a home located in the country. (8164BBS) Crawford County
Indiana Adoption Program

Jonathan is a kind thirteen-year-old boy who enjoys staying active. Some of the activities he enjoys are swimming, basketball, and riding his bike. He participates in the Special Olympics! Jonathan can be shy, but he has a wonderful smile and has a happy disposition. He is very social and likes to make new friends. Jonathan responds very well to loving, supportive, and structured environments. He loves spending time as a family and has a strong desire to be part of a loving home. Jonathan is thirteen and very inquisitive. He has a desire to learn more about individuals and ideas.

Jonathan would do best in an active two-parent home with no younger children. Parents should be consistent, as well as flexible to change, as Jonathan's needs change. Jonathan will need a home that can provide structure and routine. 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 where the parents are reliable. (8181SG) Marion County

Charles, who goes by Charlie, is a sweet, talkative nineteen-year-old who is fascinated by cars and racing. He enjoys playing video games like Need For Speed. His favorite car is the Dodge Charger, and his favorite NASCAR driver is Jeff Gordon. Charlie's favorite TV shows are SpongeBob SquarePants and Scooby Doo. His favorite subject in school is science. He really likes animals, especially cats and bunnies. Charlie likes to stay active and enjoys baseball. He describes himself as, "awesome, funny, and protective." He is caring, energetic, and very helpful.

Charlie wants an active mom and dad who "like racing and don't fight." He would like to be the oldest child. Charlie would benefit from calm parents who can set clear guidelines, and maintain structure and firm boundaries. Charlie would benefit from attentive parents who can provide routine. He will need a lot of direct attention and guidance. Charlie desires to be in a loving home. (8183SG) Marion County

Johnnie is a fun-loving and kind ten-year-old boy who is inquisitive. He enjoys school, and his favorite subject is math. If given the opportunity, he likes to Google topics that interest him. Johnnie thinks about his future often and has dreams of being successful. Because of this, he puts a great deal of effort into his academics. It is important that potential families continue to encourage his success and interests in extracurricular activities. He is very adventurous and likes to try new things! Johnnie likes playing games, puzzles, and reading books. Recently, Johnnie attended basketball camp. Johnnie prides himself on being helpful and willing to share. His laugh is adorable and he is a pleasant boy to be around. Johnnie is caring and makes a great friend.

Johnnie will do best in a home where he can receive a great deal of attention from his adoptive parents. Johnnie would like to be in a two-parent home with at least one male parent, where he is the only or youngest child. He would do well in a calm, nurturing family that offers stability and structure. Parents must have an understanding of how trauma affects children. Johnnie has shown great resiliency and will flourish given the opportunity to be in a loving, forever home! (8192IA) Lake County

www.adoptachild.in.gov

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Shane is a bright boy twelve-year-old who is eager to learn new things. He describes himself as funny and nice. He does well in school and likes all his classes, especially math. He was recently in the school’s spelling bee! For fun, Shane likes to be outside, play baseball and basketball, and collects Pokémon cards. Shane is very active and likes attention. He also likes to draw cars. Cars fascinate Shane, and his favorite is a Lamborghini. The books Shane likes are the Percy Jackson and Harry Potter series. He likes to be around animals, especially horses, and hopes to live in the country someday. Shane likes to help others, and if he could have one wish it would be that “anyone in need has what they need.”

Shane needs a two-parent home that can show him unconditional love. Positive reinforcement would be ideal for Shane. He has a desire to belong to a family and be nurtured. He wants to be a part of a family that will invite him in and accept him for who he is. Parents should provide consistency, structure, and clear boundaries so Shane can thrive. Parents should have an extended support community. (8193SG) Marion County

Chase, who is eighteen, is an easy-going boy with a great sense of humor. He plays guitar and is in a band with a few of his friends! Chase likes animals, especially cows and horses. If he could have a dog, he would have a Chihuahua. He likes being around adults, is very sociable, and can be very helpful. Chase likes video games, and his favorite game for XBox is one where you race dirt bikes. Chase has done well at school in reading and spelling. Football is his favorite sport. He loves to stay active and enjoys playing sports outside. Chase tries hard to be successful, and has a desire to be adopted.

Chase would benefit from a two-parent home with no other children so the parents could give him plenty of positive attention. Families should be consistent, calm, and able to maintain a stable environment with adequate supervision. Parents should be willing to advocate for his emotional wellbeing. A slow transition into an adoptive home would be best for Chase. (8203BD) Hamilton County

Jesse is a friendly and inquisitive thirteen-year-old boy who loves to be active and outdoors. He enjoys riding his bike, fishing, and swimming. Jesse is very helpful and takes pride in his work. Jesse is independent and likes to try new things. Jesse’s favorite sport is football and he likes to play as quarterback. Jesse loves animals, especially cats! If the opportunity arises, Jesse has a humorous personality that can light up a room! Jesse is a happy and sweet young man who is optimistic and hopeful about the future.

Jesse is excited to be adopted and he hopes his future home has lots of animals. He would like to have older siblings—a older brother and an older sister. Jesse would do best in a two-parent home that can provide lots of attention and reassurance. He would benefit from having a father and/or and older brother who can be strong role models. Jesse needs a home that can provide safety, stability, and unconditional love. (8204HC) Jefferson County
Elaina is a very talkative fifteen-year-old young lady who loves attention. She is very outgoing, independent, and helpful. She loves to cook and clean and play board games. She also loves music and crafts. Elaina is interested in gymnastics, swimming, and reading.

Elaina has experienced trauma in her life, so her parents will need to have the capability to work through that trauma, as well as the willingness to receive education on how to help Elaina. Elaina needs plenty of one-on-one attention, so it would be good for her to be the only child in an experienced two-parent home. Elaina also needs a family that will encourage her to enjoy childhood. (8220BD) Shelby County

Wells County

Isaiah

The first thing you notice about Isaiah when you meet him is he loves cars. Some of his favorites are the Dodge Charger and the Chevy Camaro. He likes to go for car rides and would like to work as a mechanic someday. Isaiah is seventeen and stays active by swimming, biking, and playing outside. Baseball and basketball are his favorite sports. For fun, he likes to build with Legos and look at picture books. In his down time, Isaiah likes to watch TV shows about cars or Spongebob Squarepants. Those close to him would say he is kind, polite, and affectionate and can be caring and helpful.

Isaiah would do best in a two-parent home with lots of structure and clear boundaries. Isaiah loves attention and will need supervision. A home with a calm environment and caring, affectionate parents would allow Isaiah to thrive. Isaiah is always on the go, so parents will need to be active, as well as encourage Isaiah to participate in extracurricular activities. A sense of humor and optimism will go a long way with Isaiah. Overall, Isaiah really wants to belong to a family. (8206JS) Wells County

Randy

Randy is a friendly, humorous fourteen-year-old! He loves animals, especially cats! He describes himself as funny, and he enjoys joking around. He really likes vegetables, so his favorite meal is a salad from Olive Garden. In his spare time, he likes to paint and draw as well as play with LEGO:s. Randy likes hands-on work, such as mechanics or carpentry. He is also quick to mention that he is helpful around the house, and enjoys chores! He really likes Marvel comics, particularly The Avengers. Randy likes to stay active. Football and basketball are the sports he enjoys the most. His three wishes are to be adopted, to have infinite wishes, and to be successful in life. If he could go anywhere in the world, he would go to Germany. Those who know Randy would say he’s a good kid who tries hard. Randy hopes to have a family that is active and enjoys spending time with him.

Randy needs to be placed in an adoptive home that is understanding, calm, and nurturing. Positive reinforcement is best for Randy. Randy tries hard and wants to succeed, and a family that can encourage him to reach his potential would be best for him. Parents should be flexible, and able to show unconditional love. It would be beneficial for Randy to be in a home where the parents are knowledgeable of how trauma can affect a child. (8207JS) Wabash County

Wabash County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Marlena is a seventeen year-old girl who is quite the social butterfly! She loves to work with others and enjoys being with people. When she is older, Marlena would like to become an anesthesiologist. Marlena hopes to travel to Germany someday! She enjoys reading and helping others. She also loves to shop, get manicures, sing, dance, and do karaoke. Marlena likes to sing her way through the day! In school, Marlena likes to do theater. She loves to act! She also enjoys poetry. If she could have three wishes, she wants (first) to be adopted, (second) a car, and (third) she wants more wishes!

Family is very important to Marlena. She hopes to stay in contact with her other siblings. Single-parent and two-parent homes will be considered. Marlena will do well with other siblings, and would like to have a home with pets! She would really love a home that would allow her to be active in extracurricular activities and church activities. Marlena has a strong desire to be adopted, and really wants a father figure. (8221BJS) Allen County

Ethen is a curious sixteen-year-old boy who loves the outdoors. He likes to hike and look at wildlife. His two favorite animals are snakes and spiders. Ethen is bright, funny, and helpful as well as a people pleaser, enjoying time spent with adults. He has a desire to write neatly and spell correctly. Ethen easily gets interested in new things and would likely enjoy participating in any hobbies prospective families may enjoy. Ethen is a sweet, affectionate, and bright boy.

An active, nurturing home that can provide adequate supervision would be best for Ethen. Prospective parents will need to maintain a structured and safe environment with consistent routine. If there are children in the home, it would be best if they are older. Families should be prepared to advocate for his emotional and educational needs. (8224BS) Daviess County

Joshua is a happy fourteen-year-old boy with a bright smile. He is sweet and affectionate. He likes to be tickled and also likes to cuddle. Joshua is active, and he enjoys swimming and playing with bubbles. He also likes playing tag! He loves to watch TV and his favorite show is “Barney.”

Joshua will do best in a two-parent home that can provide adequate supervision and a safe environment. Families should have a support network to help in caring for Joshua, as well as preparation to be an advocate for his emotional and educational needs. Potential parents will need to be patient, understanding, and active. (82251A) La Porte County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Pete is an active sixteen-year-old who enjoys helping others. For fun, Pete likes to read and play sports, such as volleyball or basketball. He describes himself as "nice, caring, reliable, and helpful," and his favorite thing about himself is that he is charitable to others. Pete has a strong desire to be a part of a "nice family" that shares similar interests with him. Pete would love to try playing basketball on a school team or extracurricular club. He would also like to attend a school where he feels cared for by both staff and students. If Pete could have three wishes, they would be to have a loving family, that everyone was nice, and to one day travel the world.

A family that is best for Pete would be safe, patient, kind, and nurturing. Pete does well with routine and structure. Pete would love to be part of a family that is active and likes to try new things. However, he wants the adventurous times to be balanced with "chill time" at home. He would very much like to be able to remain in contact with his siblings and one of his previous foster families, even post-adoption. Overall, Pete needs a family that can balance structure, routine, and clear expectations with unconditional love, patience, and acceptance. (8226AIA) Lake County

Matthew, who goes by Matthew, is a sweet, happy fifteen-year-old boy. His smile can brighten a room! He loves electronics, cell phones, iPads, video games, and magazines. Matthew is very caring and gentle with children who are younger than he is and he stands up for others when he feels like they are being hurt. Matthew is proud of his achievements at school and he enjoys showing off his completed homework. He is working on identifying letters, addition and subtraction, and counting currency. He helps out with chores and loves to earn time on the computer.

Matthew will need the support of loving parents who will help him regulate his emotions and behaviors. He would do well in a home where he can be an only child, however, Matthew would love to be a big brother. Two-parent families with a strong support system, a knowledge of special needs, and a willingness to commit to Matthew’s emotional health would be very beneficial. (8229BS) Vanderburgh County

Joshua is a polite, easy-going, and active fourteen-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.

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) La Porte County
Opening hearts. Changing lives.

Aaron is a fun, easy-going eighteen-year-old boy who loves the Green Bay Packers. His three wishes are to go to Green Bay, meet Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, and have a mansion with Packers memorabilia. Aaron describes himself as “awesome” and “a good friend.” He likes to watch crime dramas on TV, such as NCIS. Aaron likes listening to country music, and his favorite bands are The Band Perry, Florida Georgia Line, and Luke Bryan. When he thinks about what he wants in a future home, he wants parents that share his interests.

A home best for Aaron would be patient and understanding with older or no children in the home. Aaron has a high need for structure, routine, and consistency. Aaron is outgoing, funny, and helpful, and would do well in a loving home that can advocate for his education and emotional needs. (8234IA) La Porte County

Damon is a fun boy to be around! 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 healthful 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. (8249BJS) Wells County

Mahogany is a sweet nine-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 is charismatic and enjoys speaking in front of audiences. She is engaging and smiles a lot. Mahogany has participated in karate, gymnastics, and church youth activities.

Mahogany is a very bright girl who very much wants to find a forever home. A family that would be best for her would be a two-parent, African American home that can provide stability, unconditional love, and affection. Mahogany needs parents who are consistent and will set and maintain boundaries with her. Parents who are calm, nurturing, and active would be helpful for Mahogany. If there are other children in the home, it would be best if they were older. (8252IA) Lake County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Jamarion is an energetic ten-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 an 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

Sean is an active and friendly twelve-year-old boy! Sean enjoys playing video games on his XBox. His favorite games are racing games. Sean will proudly show off his favorite toy: A remote control dinosaur. He also enjoys playing with the other children at home and at school. Sean is a very caring and loving child and is eager to please. He is more open to trying new things and is doing well in school. Sean is good at sports, such as basketball, soccer, and bowling. His goals for his future are to master the yo-yo, and to become a superhero! Sean has a growing sense of mastery over his world and has begun to approach activities with excitement.

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. Sean does well with other children and enjoys being around other people. (8254JS) Allen County

Dallas is a friendly and smart twelve-year-old boy. Dallas is a sweet boy who likes to read and play video games. He plays a lot of sports and especially enjoys football. His favorite position to play is quarterback. His favorite sports teams are the Indiana Pacers and the Indianapolis Colts. Dallas really likes superheroes, especially Batman. He likes to build with Legos. He enjoys reading and he hopes to go to Mexico someday to learn about the culture. His favorite movie is "Toy Story." His favorite type of food is Mexican food. What’s important to Dallas is to get a family he can "stay with forever" that is "nice and friendly" and takes family vacations. He wants any potential parents to know that he’s friendly!

Dallas 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. Dallas needs a lot of reassurance that he is loved and cared for. Dallas has a brother with whom he will need to remain in contact. (8264AHC) Delaware County
James is a shy, but friendly ten-year-old 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 wellbeing. James does well with male caregivers, so it would be best if there were 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

Shemare is a sweet kid who likes to stay active. He is a curious and observant eleven-year-old boy who enjoys spending time outside. He is a quick, visual learner and thrives with encouragement and positive reinforcement. He enjoys playing basketball, video games, and drawing. Shemare loves hot sauce and spicy foods! Shemare enjoys spending time around animals, especially dogs. He also really likes frogs! For Christmas, he was excited to get LEGO's and a remote control car. When he is older, he hopes to become a police officer with the K-9 Unit. If he could have three wishes, Shemare would ask to go places he's never been, to have fun, and to be adopted.

Shemare would do best in a two-parent home with a strong male role model. The family best suited for Shemare should also be active and enjoy the outdoors. Parents will need to set realistic rules and structure. Shemare would thrive in a home where there is consistency, clear expectations, and guidance. (8300AIA) La Porte County

Dillon is a pleasant sixteen-year-old boy who loves the outdoors. He hopes to go to Alaska someday because he wants to see all the wildlife and go camping. For fun, Dillon has enjoyed participating in clubs, such as 4-H and Boy Scouts. Dillon describes himself as "funny, nice, athletic, and intelligent." Dillon likes to stay active outdoors and plays basketball. He hopes to take up fishing, hiking, and camping. Dillon loves animals, especially dogs. When he grows up, Dillon thinks he'd like to be an architect. Dillon hopes to have a family that is outdoorsy and caring.

Dillon would do best in a two-parent home with a strong male role model. He does well with positive, one-on-one attention. Dillon would thrive in a family that can provide unconditional love, structure, and stability. Potential parents should be patient and seek to continue to advocate for Dillon's educational and emotional needs. Dillon wants a home where "people are respectful" and "help me out and listen." (8305HC) Wayne County
Malik is a sweet and imaginative eighteen-year-old! He loves animals, and his favorite animal is the Bengal Tiger. He would like to work for a veterinarian someday. Malik enjoys spending his time outside, playing sports or fishing. Malik likes lifting weights and plays basketball and football. Malik is quite the talented artist! He likes drawing and sketching things that inspire him. Malik hopes to travel the world someday. His favorite thing about himself is that he is “caring and loving.” Malik wants people to know how great of a friend he can be, and he hopes to live on a farm with lots of animals!

A family that would be best for Malik would be a two-parent home. If there are other children in the home, Malik would prefer children his age or younger. It would be best if the home was nurturing, patient, and worked hard to build trust with Malik. Malik hopes to have a family where he can have a pet. Malik needs a family where he will feel loved and accepted. A family that is actively involved in his schooling would be helpful to assist him with his educational needs. A slow transition into a home would be beneficial, as well as continued support for Malik’s emotional needs. Potential families should be knowledgeable on how trauma can affect a child. (8306SG) Marion County

Leilani is a bright eleven-year-old girl. She is full of energy and has a wonderful sense of humor, and is outgoing and personable. Leilani describes herself as “playful, creative, and smart.” Her favorite subject in school is math. She loves Disney movies and Barbies. For fun, Leilani likes to play soccer and go swimming. She also likes to dance and sing. If she could go anywhere, she would want to go to New York City or Hawaii. Her favorite animal is a Zebra because she likes the pattern. When Leilani is older, she wants a job where she can help others. Her big wish is she “hopes all the people who are homeless find homes.”

Leilani would do best in a home with patient, kind, but firm, parents who have a good understanding of how trauma affects children. Leilani would do best in a home where the parents would love her unconditionally, seeking to understand her as well as be supportive and nurturing. It would be important that there are no other children in the home or if there are, they are older. Parents should continue support for Leilani’s emotional needs. (8311JS) Steuben County

Lewis is a charming and caring fourteen-year-old! His favorite subject in school is science. For fun he likes to sing and dance, but he also loves sports. Lewis loves football and hopes to play running back on a team someday. Lewis collects watches and hats. His favorite superhero is the Flash. When he is older, Lewis thinks he wants to be a police officer or a maintenance man. Lewis would also like to learn how to cook. Lewis is a genuine, kind-hearted young man who hopes to have a family that is understanding and spends time together. He hopes the parents are present and have a real desire to be involved in his life.

Lewis would do well in a two-parent household that is patient and can provide a structured environment. He would benefit on parents who can show him plenty of one-on-one attention and focus on his needs. Lewis has family with whom he will need to remain in contact. Lewis would do best in a home as an only child or the youngest sibling. It would be beneficial if the parents had an understanding on how trauma can affect a child. (8312JS) Allen County
Steven is a thirteen-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. (8314JS) Howard County

Cody is a charming fourteen-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 crochet, 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 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

Austin is a fifteen year-old boy who is fun to be around! His favorite subject in school is gym because he enjoys staying active. Austin enjoys playing football and soccer. He describes himself as, "caring, protective" with "a big imagination." In his free time, Austin enjoys playing with Legos. Austin also enjoys playing video games, journaling, and drawing. Austin’s favorite thing about himself is that he likes a challenge and is willing to work hard. In the future, Austin thinks he’d like to be a "person that helps animals that have been abused or left behind."

A home that would be best for Austin would have a strong male role model. Parents would need to provide adequate supervision. If there are children in the home, it would be best if they were Austin’s age or older. Parents will need to be strong advocates for Austin’s educational needs. Austin needs a home that is safe, stable, and can provide for his emotional needs. Potential parents should have knowledge on how trauma affects children, and be willing to show unconditional love for Austin. (8317JS) Elkhart County
Indiana Adoption Program

Chan is always learning! He is seventeen years old, loves to read, and collects inspirational quotes. Chan is very interested in Eastern culture, music, and religion. He would like to learn more about the martial art of Judo because it is more peaceful than other forms of martial arts. He is a vegetarian and he is also interested in learning more about Buddhism. Chan draws anime in his free time and is an excellent artist. Someday, he would like to visit Hawaii or other places that are quiet and peaceful. If he could have three wishes, they would be 1) for the world to be a good place, 2) to have a dog, preferably a Husky, and 3) for the world to be loving.

Chan would like to live in the country and it is important to him to be in a home where he does not have to experience fighting. Chan is very intelligent and would do well with a family that encourages his interests. Chan's family needs to have an understanding of the effect that trauma has on children, and needs to advocate for his well-being and his needs. Chan would thrive in a home where the parents are patient, encouraging, nurturing, and set clear expectations. (8319SG) Tippecanoe County

Katlynn is a sweet twelve year-old girl who describes herself as "funny, nice, and pretty." Katlynn loves the movie Frozen and will gladly sing you her favorite song, “Let It Go.” When she is older, Katlynn wants to be a cosmetologist, or a dog groomer. For fun, Katlynn likes to play volleyball, enjoys arts and crafts, as well as journaling, and watching movies. Her favorite thing about herself is the she is "nice to others." Katlynn is curious and loving, and hopes to have "the best family."

The family that would be best for Katlynn would be a two-parent home that is very patient and structured. Parents will need to have an understanding of how trauma affects children. If there are other children in the home, it would be best if they were older than Katlynn. At this time, Katlynn’s team is only considering families in Northeastern Indiana. Out-of-state inquiries will not receive a response until all in-state families have been considered. (8320JS) Allen County

Izaak is happy thirteen-year-old boy who loves nothing more than going fishing. Fishing is his passion, and he hopes one day to be a famous angler. He also hopes to visit Florida someday so he can go to the beach and perhaps go on a deep sea fishing trip. Izaak would like a family that is "funny and cool" and lives by a lake. He wants parents who share his same interests. Izaak likes to stay active, and would like to play on a football team someday. If he had three wishes, Izaak would like to own a lot of fishing poles, own his favorite stores, and have a mom and a dad.

The best family for Izaak would be structured, patient, and understanding. Parents should have an in-depth understanding on how trauma can affect a child. Families should show acceptance to Izaak, and nurture him to achieve his full potential. (8323JS) Steuben County
Tasha’Na is an energetic ten-year-old girl who describes herself as “nice, good, and smart.” Her favorite subject in school is math. Tasha’Na enjoys playing outside with her friends, playing Mario Kart, and watching TV. If Tasha’Na could go anywhere in the world, she would want to go to Disney World. Her favorite Disney character is Minnie Mouse! Tasha’Na’s favorite thing about herself is that she is smart and enjoys school. When she is older, she wants to be a teacher.

Tasha’Na would do best with a one or two-parent home that provides safety, structure, and stability. The family will need to be loving, active, and nurturing. Tasha’Na would benefit from parents who support her and guide her, and are willing to keep up with her and commit unconditionally. Potential parents will need to advocate for the emotional and education well-being of Tasha’Na. (8330AIA) Lake County

Noah is a creative fourteen-year-old boy who enjoys art and science classes. He likes to make things, especially out of paper maché and clay. For fun, he likes to build LEGO. In his down time, Noah likes to watch cartoons on TV. Noah hopes to travel the world someday and especially wants to go to China. His favorite thing about himself is that he loves the outdoors and likes nature. Noah hopes to have a home with a tree house and a big backyard.

The family that would be best for Noah would provide consistency and establish adequate boundaries. Parents will need to understand trauma and grief and how it affects children. Noah will need a family that is patient and willing to commit to him unconditionally. Noah needs a home where he will feel safe, stable, and cared for. (8334JS) Allen County

Hannah is an upbeat and polite fifteen-year-old! She loves to bake, and would like to learn more about baking. She hopes to become a pastry chef when she is older. Hannah describes herself as “fun, helpful, and creative.” In her down time, she enjoys drawing. She likes to draw portraits of her friends. Her favorite thing about herself is that she loves to help others. Hannah wants a family that is calm and understanding with parents who enjoy cooking and sharing meals together. In an adoptive home, Hannah hopes all members of the family will spend time together having thoughtful conversation or watching movies. To those close to Hannah, they would say her strengths are how caring and supportive she is!

A home that would be best for Hannah would be a small family that can provide structure and consistency. A calm home that is nurturing would let Hannah thrive. She would do well in a home with a strong female role model or a single mother. Parents who understand the affects of trauma and loss on children would be beneficial for Hannah. (8337IA) Newton County
Devin is an affectionate thirteen-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 friendly twelve-year-old boy who enjoys playing outdoors. For fun, Lande’ll likes to play basketball and football. When Lande’ll has free time, he enjoys watching Disney XD, building with LEGOs, reading comic books, and watching comic book movies. His favorite superhero is Batman. He loves attending church with his foster family! If Lande’ll could go anywhere in the world, he would go to Chicago. Lande’ll likes Chicago because it has "lots of great things to do." He describes himself as "funny, cool, and smart." Lande’ll’s favorite thing about himself is his sense of humor. Lande’ll has a strong desire to be a part of a family, and enjoys spending time with his foster family.

Lande’ll would thrive in a family that provides consistency, structure and a predictable daily routine. Lande’ll would greatly benefit from parents who can model positive behavior. Parents will need to advocate for Lande’ll’s emotional and medical needs. Lande’ll is helpful, outgoing, and hopes to be a part of a family soon! (8344SG) Marion County

Roderick is a nice twelve-year-old boy. He enjoys staying active. Roderick likes to play basketball and soccer at his local Boys & Girls Club. In his down time, Roderick likes to play with his action figures and video games. He is doing well in school. Roderick has a sweet demeanor, engaging smile, and is very polite and respectful of adults. He is personable, active, and has good communication skills. Roderick is athletic and likes to engage in many different after school activities.

Roderick needs a stable home that can provide permanency and safety with parents who are nurturing as well as advocates for his educational and emotional needs. (8347IA) Lake County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Jason is a kind sixteen-year-old boy who loves animals. He has worked with horses in the past, and he also has a pet dog! Jason gets along well with others and does well in school. He likes sports, his favorite being football. His favorite football team is the Seattle Seahawks. He hopes in the future, he can participate on a team or in extracurricular activities, like Boys & Girls Club. Jason has learned how to crochet and is currently working on a scarf. When asked how he would describe himself, Jason said, “kind.” Jason is a sweet kid who wants a home that will love and accept him.

Jason would do best in a home that can provide structure and routine. He wants a family that is active, kind, and respectful. Jason has a dog that he would like to bring with him to his new home, however, this is not a deal-breaker. Interaction with animals has been really good for Jason. A family that is nurturing, patient, and is active in the community would allow Jason to thrive. (8351IA) La Porte County

Ryan has great big brown eyes and a smile that will light up a room! Ryan likes to spend one-on-one time with people. He is a very curious sixteen-year-old boy who likes to stay busy. For fun, Ryan enjoys watching movies and cartoons. He also loves to be read stories. Ryan is relaxed and easy-going.

The family that would be best for Ryan would have knowledge and experience with medically fragile children. The home will need to accommodate for his needs. Ryan is in a school program where he has made great strides in eye contact, touch, and strength. Ryan needs parents who will provide nurturing love and affection that he needs and deserves. (8355BD) Madison County

Alya is a pleasant, creative girl who loves to draw and sing. She enjoys lots of things, but really likes to crochet. She recently crocheted a scarf! Alya describes herself as important and nice. For fun, Alya likes to dance and enjoys participating in the open mic night at her school. Alya enjoys going to church and participating in youth group activities. She is eighteen and she loves animals! She has a strong desire to be a veterinarian or part of an organization to help animals someday. If Alya had three wishes, they would be to have “a good respectful family, to have a beautiful house, and a beautiful life for me.”

Parents that would be best for Alya would be patient and loving. Parents will need to have knowledge on how trauma affects children. Alya will need parents who will advocate for her emotional and educational needs, and can provide stability. If there are other children in the home, it would be best if Alya was the youngest. Alya will do well with lots of encouragement. (8357IA) Jasper County
Savior is a sweet, outgoing, smart thirteen-year-old boy with a good sense of humor. He displays a reserved demeanor when meeting people for the first time, but when he warms up, he is goofy and outgoing. Savior enjoys telling jokes and making other people laugh. Savior’s hobbies include video games and playing cards, especially Pokémon. Savior says he wants to be on a soccer team next year, as soccer is his favorite sport. Savior is resilient and kind-hearted.

Savior would thrive in a two-parent home that is active, supportive, loving, and does activities as a family. Savior needs parents who can provide plenty of structure, as well as advocate for his emotional and educational well-being. Potential parents will need to exercise patience and provide Savior a caring home. (8364BBS) Vanderburgh County

James is a fun nine-year-old boy whose favorite TV show is Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. He also likes the show Transformers. Some of his favorite things are donuts, the color red, and sports like football and soccer. He enjoys playing with action figures. James can be very loving and caring. James has good energy and likes to be active. He likes to play, and responds well to positive attention. James wants to feel valued and important in a family.

James needs an adoptive home with parents who understand how trauma affects children and are willing to give him a permanent home, as well as build a stable, lifelong, secure relationship with him. James would greatly benefit having a strong male role model. It is important that potential parents establish and enforce boundaries and provide adequate supervision. Parents will need to continue to advocate for James’ educational needs. (8372JS) St. Joseph County

Felix is a mature, well-mannered seventeen-year-old boy who enjoys helping others and meeting new people. Felix is very passionate about video games, and his favorite games are the Zelda series. Felix loves to busy himself with errands and activities outside home and school. He likes to stay active in the community, and regularly volunteers at local homeless shelters and food banks. He also enjoys shopping and going out to eat. Felix enjoys watching movies, and likes comic book movies the most. When he is older, he would like to become a video game programmer. Felix likes to draw and create new things, and excels with computers. Felix is a likable young man who is very thoughtful and pleasant to be around.

A well-established family with clear boundaries and structure would be great for Felix. Felix is calm and would enjoy a peaceful household where there is little to no arguing amongst family members. Felix is not very athletic, so he feels likes a quiet home that spends time together would be best for him. It would be best if there were older or no children in the home. He needs a home where parents will encourage and support him to accomplish his goals. He would benefit from continued services post-adoption. Felix has family with whom he should remain in contact. (8375HC) Decatur County
Alex is a bright and curious fourteen-year-old boy who loves to learn! He is artistic and creative, and enjoys building things from Legos. He enjoys sports! His favorite is football, and was part of a flag football league. He also plays soccer and basketball. Alex likes to stay active. He has expressed a desire to run a marathon. He enjoys horseback riding and working with animals. Superhero movies and comic books are some of Alex's interests. In the future, Alex wants to go on a safari. Alex is funny and enjoys making other laugh. He is caring and makes friends easily.

Alex would do best in a home where he is the only child or has older siblings so he doesn’t have to compete for attention. If there were siblings, it would be good for Alex if they were older brothers who could be role models for him. Alex likes living the country and being around animals, so he thinks he'd like to live on a farm. Alex would do well in a home with structure, consistency, and praise. Parents should continue to support Alex's involvement in sports as these have been a good outlet.

(8383JS) Noble County

Devonte works hard at school so that he can say, "I had another great day!" when he gets off the bus. Devonte, who is thirteen, has a big personality - he's a lot of fun! Devonte is sweet, curious, and honest. He loves to talk about basketball, swimming, video games, and drawing. He loves the NBA, and his favorite team is the Indiana Pacers. If he could have three wishes, he would ask for 1. An adoptive family, 2. New shirts, and 3. A Nintendo DS. He proudly says, "I'm a great kid!" He says his favorite thing about himself is his athletic talent. Devonte is resilient and sweet, and he likes to make others proud. Someday he would like to see California.

Devonte hopes to have siblings and dogs at his new home. He also wants "a good family." He likes being a brother and he likes helping. He can’t wait to have his own bedroom with a TV! Devonte needs a family that can coach him through times of stress, anxiety, and defiance. He does well when he can stay busy with structured activities like basketball and martial arts. He needs a family that will support and encourage him, as well as remain firm in their boundaries as well as be caring and nurturing towards Devonte. (8396SG) Marion County

Deshawn is an athletic and talented fourteen-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. (8399ABS) Vanderburgh County
Nicole is a positive and quirky seventeen-year-old young woman. She likes to be social and is appreciative to those who care for her. Nicole is a voracious reader! She enjoys fantasy and mystery novels. She also enjoys sports, and participates in volleyball. She says she has a good spike! Nicole went on vacation to Oklahoma once, and she thinks she’d like to go again someday. Nicole enjoys fashion and likes to paint her nails and put on make-up. Nicole is talented at drawing sketches of fashionable clothing and wants to be a fashion designer when she is older. She is sweet and goal-oriented, and hopes to find her forever family soon.

Nicole could thrive in a one parent or two parent home, but at least one of the parents must be female. Nicole would like to be the only child in her pre-adoptive placement or have only one other child about her same age. Nicole enjoys one-on-one attention. Nicole will need parents that are patient and supportive in regards to assisting Nicole with school work, as well as teaching her social skills and appropriate boundaries. Nicole wants patient parents with a large extended family that will love her unconditionally. Nicole is resilient, honest, and caring. (8406BS) Vanderburgh County

Jamia is a sweet and fun seventeen-year-old girl whose friends describe her as “nice, curious, and joyful.” For fun, Jamia enjoys listening to music, shopping, and spending time with her friends. Her favorite stores are Rue 21 and Forever 21. Jamia’s teachers say she has a genuine love for learning, and is a joy to have in the classroom. Her favorite subject is English. During the summer, Jamia participates in tennis. She also likes to play basketball, and hopes to participate on a team someday.

The family that would be best for Jamia would have a background in parenting trauma-affected children. While Jamia is open to a family of any race, she would prefer a family that is African American. Parents will need to set boundaries, but also be understanding and willing to listen. Jamia responds well to structure and environments where she has a voice. Parents will need to be patient and nurturing. It would be beneficial for Jamia (and family) if parents had an extended community of support. Jamia would thrive in a home as an only child where she’s given the support she needs, can be herself, and can belong. (8416JS) St. Joseph County

Owenn likes school and likes new things. In the classroom, Owenn will help younger students with their coursework. When he is older, he thinks he would like to work with animals. Owenn is fifteen and he enjoys hands-on activities, such as building LEGOs, and playing with toy cars or stuffed animals. His favorite types of music are classic rock and country. Owenn likes to stay active by playing outdoors. In his downtime, he likes to read series novels and comic books. Owenn has a big imagination! He enjoys attending church. When asked what his strengths are, Owenn says he plays well and is good at helping other children.

Owenn would benefit from an adoptive home where he can receive all the attention he needs. He wants a family that cares and will treat him as an equal member of the family. Owenn needs parents who are invested and willing to commit and love him unconditionally. He needs a family that is wants to play and engage with him. Owenn would do well in a nurturing and structured home. His forever family should have a positive, supportive community that can help him feel like he belongs. (8420SG) Marion County
James is an upbeat eighteen-year-old young man who is outspoken, talkative, and likable. He enjoys reading, cooking, and playing video games. James is honest and advocates well for himself. He knows what he wants and sets attainable goals. In the future, James hopes to travel to Europe, but he really hopes to travel the world! James can be very animated and has a wonderful sense of humor. His favorite thing about himself is that he likes to read. James likes the company of adults, although he does get along well with his peers. James is ambitious and excited for the future.

James needs a home with a parent or parents who can make a lifelong commitment to a child. James would benefit from a family with a strong male role model in the home. He would do well with a family that is patient, nurturing, and loving, as well as understanding of how James’ past trauma may affect his behavior. James wants parents who will let him help with cooking. He wants parents who have stability, will spend time together as a family listen and encourage him, and will show him respect. (8425HC) Delaware County

Maliek is a personable, friendly, and easy-going sixteen-year-old boy! He enjoys puzzles, word searches, video games, and reading. He likes art such as drawing and coloring and is talented at hands-on activities. He enjoys staying active in sports, such as football. He also enjoys spending time outside either hunting or fishing. Maliek is helpful and eager to learn. Maliek’s favorite thing about himself is that he can make people laugh. He is a hard worker who sets goals for himself.

The home that would be best for Maliek would be structured with a strong routine. Parents will need to be patient and understanding. Maliek wants a dad who will “build stuff” with him, and a mom that will “make me laugh.” He hopes that his future parents will be calm and patient. Maliek has family with whom he will need to remain in contact. (8440HC) Delaware County

Leigh-Ann is a caring, bright, helpful girl who loves animals. Her favorite animal is the panda bear, and she would love to go to China to see the pandas. Leigh-Ann would like to be a veterinarian when she grows up. Leigh-Ann also enjoys writing poems and stories, especially mysteries. Her favorite book series is “The Hunger Games.”

Leigh-Ann would do best with parents that support and accept her. Leigh-Ann would like parents that will put effort into building a relationship with her. She would do well in a home that provides structure and supervision. Leigh-Ann is close with her siblings and maintaining that relationship should be a priority. Prospective parents should be informed on how trauma affects children. (8444BD) Jennings County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Dalton is a funny, polite, and kind sixteen-year-old who has a great imagination! He likes to spend his time outside. He enjoys swimming, fishing, and playing sports. Dalton has participated in football, basketball, and bowling in the Special Olympics! Basketball is his favorite sport. He likes music and enjoys singing, and if you ask politely, he may even show off his dance moves. Dalton enjoys playing video games and working with electronics. His favorite video games are racing games. He hopes to have a family that is calm and cooks good meals!

Dalton needs an adoptive family that will model appropriate behaviors towards others. He thrives on structure and support. Parents will need to be firm and consistent. Parents will need to advocate for Dalton’s educational and emotional needs. It would be best if the adoptive family had some understanding of how trauma affects children. (8446HC) Wayne County

Kristin is an avid reader who enjoys fantasy and science fiction novels. She is seventeen and she likes to write Transformers fan fiction. Kristin also writes poetry and enjoys the Harry Potter series. She collects Pokémon cards and enjoys trading cards with her friends. Kristin likes animals, and her favorite animals are horses. Kristin enjoys gardening. She describes herself as “sophisticated, intelligent, and happy.” She is compassionate and loyal to her friends and family. Kristin’s favorite thing about herself is that “she loves to learn!” Kristin is a bright girl with lots of interests.

Kristin would do best in a home with a two-parent family who understands her emotional and educational needs, and accepts her for who she is. Kristin needs a home with structure and supervision. She wants her new family members to have respect for her and each other. Kristin wants to be in a patient, loving, and nurturing home, however, she needs parents who have established boundaries and clear expectations. Kristin would do best as the only or youngest child in the home. (8453BD) Madison County

Kyrie is an intelligent and clever fifteen year-old! She is likable and easy-going. She enjoys participating in drama and music in school. She is creative and artistic, and enjoys drawing. For fun, Kyrie likes to play video games, like Minecraft and Pokémon. She enjoys building and collecting things, and considers herself a survivalist. When she is older, she hopes to become a vet or a doctor. She’s funny and has a wonderful sense of humor, and enjoys making others laugh!

Kyrie would do best in a two-parent home with older children. She would thrive in a home with parents to nurture, guide, and listen to her. Kyrie would benefit from a family where she is free to express herself, and will encourage her to open up. She would benefit from a family that is active and inclusive. Due to her love of animals, she would like a family with lots of pets, and may benefit from some sort of equine therapy. (8475HC) Decatur County
Jay is an honest, caring, and friendly fifteen-year-old boy. He enjoys art and music. Jay also enjoys drawing, and likes to draw cartoons. Jay likes to watch comic book movies, especially Batman. He likes Batman because "he fights for what's right." Jay likes animals. "I would adopt all the animals if I could!" If he could go anywhere in the world, Jay thinks he'd want to go to Georgia. He says it sounds nice! When Jay sets his mind on something, he is determined to reach that goal.

Jay would do best in a two-parent home with no other children where one parent can stay at home and give Jay attention. He would do best with parents who can provide for his medical and emotional needs. Jay has a strong desire to be a part of an adoptive home. He hopes to live in a home where the family goes out together. He wants the family to be caring and loving. Parents must be knowledgeable in how trauma can affect a child. (8481HC) Decatur County

Dawnia, who goes by Kelly, is a fun eighteen-year-old girl who cherishes family and friendships. She likes fashion, hair, and make-up, as well as music. Her favorite band is One Direction. Kelly enjoys making friends and joking around - she has a wonderful sense of humor! Kelly is quite active. She likes to swim and play outside, and sometimes she does yoga. In her down time, she likes to do art. Kelly adores animals, and hopes to have a cat someday (she would name it 'Smokey'). She also hopes to work with animals when she is older. Kelly hopes to have parents who are caring, funny, and nice.

The home that would be best for Kelly would have parents who are nurturing, and can provide structure, routine, and permanency. Parents should have an understanding of how trauma affects children. It would be best for Kelly if she was an only child, or the youngest child in a home. Kelly thrives in an environment where parents have clear expectations and boundaries. (8490JS) Miami County

Stephanie is an intelligent, well-spoken, kind, funny, and compassionate fourteen-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 down time, 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

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Serenity is a talented and intelligent twelve-year-old girl! She enjoys singing and cooking. She hopes to become a baker or a chef someday! She is athletic, and would like to be on a basketball team. She also enjoys swimming. Serenity is outgoing and considers herself a good friend. She is loyal and very creative. Serenity sings, dances, and has a keen interest in the arts! If she could go anywhere in the world, she would want to visit Germany. Serenity is curious and fun, and likes to try new things!

Serenity would do well in a home where the parent(s) are calm, patient, and understanding. She wants a home where the parents are loving. Serenity would like a mother who is biracial and has curly hair. She would also like to have a dog (named Baxter) and a hamster (named Peaches). Serenity would thrive in a home where she feels safe and has structure. Serenity needs adequate supervision, and would benefit in a home where there is an understanding on how trauma affects children. (8512BS) Spencer County

Ternae is a sweet, kind, and helpful young man. He enjoys playing LEGOs, 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. (8515JS) Allen County

Kasia is a funny and outgoing fifteen-year-old who is always smiling! She says she’s “good at making friends and being goofy!” Kasia likes to watch TV and movies. Her favorite TV show is Empire, and her favorite movie is Radio. Kasia enjoys reading young adult fiction books. She enjoys spending time with her friends at school and at the park. If she could go anywhere in the world, Kasia would want to go to Hawaii because it looks peaceful and beautiful. Her favorite thing about herself is that she can make others laugh. She is a natural leader!

Kasia does well in a structured, consistent setting with a routine. She would benefit from a two-parent or single-parent household where she is loved and cared for. Kasia wants parents who will support and guide her, as well as listen to her. Parents should be patient, understanding of how trauma can affect a child, and willing to love Kasia unconditionally. Kasia hopes to have a family that likes to be active and likes to be involved in the community, as well as take trips together. (8527BD) Madison County

please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Isach is an outgoing and friendly fifteen-year-old boy. He is a jokester, and likes to have fun with members of his foster family. He likes to work with tools and is gaining confidence in helping to fix things in the garage. Isach enjoys a challenge! When he is older, he hopes to become a carpenter or an electrician. He likes outdoor activities and has taken an interest in horseback riding, ATVs, and hunting. When he finishes his homework, he likes to play video games. His favorites TV shows are on Discovery and National Geographic. He likes going to the YMCA to play basketball with friends and loves hanging out with his foster family.

Isach needs a family that has an understanding of how trauma can affect children. He would feel most comfortable in a structured home. Isach would like an active family that enjoys outdoor activities and would teach him new things. Isach would like to live in the country or a small town where he can hunt and ride a dirt bike or an ATV. He said that he would like to have a mom and a dad. He would also do well with a single father. Isach is looking for a strong male figure that will teach him different life skills. He would do well in a home as an only child or as the youngest. (8530BS) Clay County

Tyler is a kind and caring sixteen-year-old boy! He is funny and likes to learn. Tyler is a voracious reader, and some of his favorite books are from the Divergent series. One of Tyler’s favorite things about himself is that he’s athletic. He enjoys playing football, basketball, and baseball. Tyler enjoys working with his hands, whether it’s building LEGO sets or putting something back together. He collects baseball and Yu-Gi-Oh cards. Tyler likes the Marvel comic book universe, and his favorite superheroes are Spiderman and Ghostrider. Tyler hopes to have a family that has similar interests to him and parents who are funny and like to watch movies and play sports.

Tyler would do well in a single or two-parent home without children. Tyler thrives in environments with structure and routine. He would benefit from parents who would be active with him. Parents should continue to support his participation in sports, as this has been a good outlet for him. (8531JS) Miami County

Jaquan, who is fifteen years old, is a kind, polite, and humorous young man. He gets along well with adults. Jaquan is an avid sports fan, and likes to play hockey, basketball, football, and softball, but his favorite sport is basketball. Jaquan can be competitive and tries to do his best. Jaquan is a confident singer and dancer and loves music!

Jaquan wants to be part of a family where he feels he is loved and cared for, and where the family has committed to him unconditionally. He would benefit from a family that is consistent, stable, and nurturing. Jaquan has a strong desire to be with a supportive and positive adoptive family. (8533JS) Allen County
**Isreal**

Isreal is a funny, helpful thirteen year-old boy! His favorite foods are anything spicy, especially the “Blazin’ Hot Wings” at Buffalo Wild Wings. For fun, Isreal enjoys building LEGO sets, playing video games like Pokemon and Star Wars, and playing sports such as basketball and football. He also collects Dragonball Z cards. Isreal likes to stay active, so playing sports is important to him. 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 he is “funny and smart!” 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. Individual time with parenting figures will be calming for Isreal. Parents who are accessible, patient, calm, and predictable will help Isreal to thrive. He thrives in environments where close supervision and structure is provided. (8546SG) Marion County

**Zayden**

Zayden is a cheerful and sweet four-year-old boy! He can be a little shy when you first meet him, but he will warm up quickly. He is always smiling and in a good mood! His favorite activity is playing outside with his friends, or playing with toy cars! He is affectionate and enjoys attention. Zayden is an adventurous and curious boy - he is fearless and likes to explore!

Zayden is in need of a stable, structured, loving and safe family. He will need active parents that can keep him busy in an environment that will allow him to experience new ideas, activities and challenges. Parents will need to advocate for all emotional, educational, or medical needs that may arise. Zayden has two siblings with whom he needs to be adopted. (8559BBS) Owen County

**Kayden**

Kayden is an amazing young man who is personable and caring. Kayden, who is sixteen years old, is a great cook. Recently, he put together a complete dinner for all of his fellow residents. Kayden created a menu and prepared the food. He enjoys reading in his downtime. Currently, he is reading a few sci-fi books, “Eragon” and “Way of the Wolf.” Kayden is also interested in history and likes to watch the History Channel. He prefers to hang out in his room listening to music or playing video games with a couple of friends. He is working hard to prepare for his adult life, which includes taking personal responsibility for his actions. He is well liked among his peers. He is determined to not let his past define him, and hopes to use his past to help others, and has plans to make this a reality.

Kayden needs a home that will provide him with support and structure. He needs guidance and encouragement, and Kayden’s team thinks he would benefit from having an African American family. In his adoptive family, he would like a father that will spend time with him and possibly watch sports with him or “hang out” with him outside. Kayden would also like to have a nurturing mother. He would like a mother that is active, respects his need for some freedom as a teenager, and is supportive of him. He loves animals and would love a home with pets, but he doesn’t want a home that smells like animals. It may be best for Kayden to be the only child or the youngest child in the home. He would also like a house that is clean and not cluttered. He would love to live in the country again and would not mind living on a farm. (8563BS) Brown County

**Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.**
Mikko is a funny and positive twelve-year-old 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, and 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. (8568JS) St. Joseph County

Maleki is a funny, outgoing twelve-year-old boy! He’s a sociable kid who makes friends easily. Maleki describes himself as "cool, awesome, and nice." He enjoys playing board games and video games. Maleki likes to spend time outside, and hopes to play on a football team someday. He enjoys drawing comics and superheroes. Maleki’s favorite things about himself are that he can run fast and his sense of humor. Maleki enjoys school, and his favorite subjects are math and science.

Maleki needs an adoptive family that will be patient and persistent, as Maleki does well with clear expectations and limits. Parent must be consistent with rules and follow through with rewards and consequences. He will need a slow transition into an adoptive home. Maleki needs parents who will give him their time and individual attention. Parents who will show interest in him and his activities and believe in him and his abilities will help Maleki to flourish. Maleki would do best in a two-parent home, or with a single parent with a good support system. Maleki is helpful and sweet, and would do well with a family that is unconditional in their love and can celebrate and encourage Maleki’s success. (8569JS) Howard County

Ta’Shonda is a sweet twelve-year-old girl! She describes herself as “talkative, helpful, and active.” Ta’Shonda participates in and enjoys Girl Scouts. She loves to sing, and her favorite type of music is R&B. In the summer months, Ta’Shonda enjoys swimming. She also likes playing Just Dance 2016 on the Xbox and reading books from the Sweet Valley High series. Ta’Shonda believes one of her strengths is that she is helpful. She hopes to go to New York City someday.

Ta’Shonda will do well with a single mother that is patient and understanding, and can be a positive role model for her. She would do well as an only child or with younger siblings. A potential adoptive mother must provide stability, consistency, and clear expectations and boundaries. A good sense of humor will go a long way. Ta’Shonda hopes to have a family that will go to the mall and the waterpark together. (8571IA) Lake County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Brooklyn is a funny and outgoing thirteen-year-old girl! Brooklyn enjoys being social and active. She has participated in social activities including basketball and choir. She considers herself a very motivated individual! She likes to shop, play board games, watch movies, draw, listen to music and sing. Brooklyn is known to be very helpful. She does fairly well in school, and her favorite subjects are writing and reading. She adores animals, and her favorite animals are ferrets and red foxes. Her favorite thing about herself is her sense of humor.

Brooklyn would do best in a home with older siblings or as an only child. If the family is a single parent home, Brooklyn would feel more comfortable with a single female. She does well with routine, structure, and clear expectations. Brooklyn will need adequate supervision, and if there are siblings in the home, plenty of one-on-one time with the parent(s) to foster a familial bond. Brooklyn wants a nice, supportive family that will love her unconditionally. (8574JS) Dekalb County

Jon is a curious, funny, and kind eleven-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 LEGO's, 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. (8577ABS) Owen County

Alex is a kind and active sixteen-year-old young man. For fun, Alex likes to play basketball, ice hockey, and ride bikes. He's very good at ice-skating! In the summer he enjoys swimming. Alex enjoys school and likes all his classes. Alex plays video games in his down time. When he gets adopted, Alex hopes to have a caring family that enjoys going places, or spending time together at home having movie nights.

The family that would be best for Alex would provide structure and stability. It would be beneficial for Alex if he were the only child in a home. Alex needs parents who will advocate for his educational needs. It would be best for Alex if potential parents had an understanding of how trauma affects children. Potential parents should also consider the benefits of maintaining connections with Alex’s birth family, where possible. Alex would thrive with a family that is encouraging and loving. (8596ABS) Vanderburgh County
Keana is a very sweet, polite seventeen-year-old girl! She enjoys playing Minecraft, board games (like Monopoly), and building Legos. Keana enjoys watching movies. Her favorite is the LEGO Batman Movie. For fun, she likes to write about movies she's watched. She enjoys jumping on the trampoline or swimming when it's nice out. Keana loves music, enjoys singing and dancing, and has a wonderful voice! Keana has many strengths. She is very polite, she gets along well with others, and she likes to learn new things. Those close to her admire Keana for her upbeat, positive attitude.

Keana would do well in a two-parent or single parent home where the parents demonstrate appropriate boundaries and behaviors. She would do fine with other children in the home. However, there should be no teenage males in the home. Keana will thrive with a family that is involved in activities and will take her out in the community. Keana needs a family that will advocate for her educational and emotional needs. It would be best if any potential adoptive family understands how trauma can affect a child. (8602BD) Jennings County

Piper is a happy and adventurous fourteen-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

Albert is a caring, independent nine-year-old boy who loves to stay active. He enjoys riding his bike, playing basketball, and spending his time outside. He likes to draw, and describes himself as an artist. He enjoys drawing things he likes, such as speedboats, houses, and superheroes. Albert collects superhero action figures, and his favorite superhero is Spider-Man. His second favorite is The Flash. If he could have a pet, he would have a goldfish named Dorothy. Albert is affectionate and enjoys helping others. Albert's three wishes are "be smart, be helpful, and make gift cards to give to family."

Albert would do best in a family that can provide supervision and routine. He would thrive with a family that models responsible behavior and can offer guidance as well as affection. Albert would do well with a family that is active. He will need a family that is patient, nurturing, and committed. (8609IA) Lake County
John is a curious and sensitive ten-year-old boy. He is playful and observant, and usually has a happy disposition! John enjoys spending time on the playground. He enjoys van rides and going out in the community. He learning well, and thrives with one-on-one attention.

John would do well in a two-parent family, or single parent family with supports. John needs a nurturing family who can advocate for his emotional, educational, and medical needs. John also needs a family that will understand he needs time to adjust to a new family. The family will need to 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. (8612BS) Vermillion County

Destiny is a kind seventeen-year-old girl who enjoys reading and writing. She would like to be an author someday. She keeps a journal, and her favorite books are mysteries. Destiny is very easy to talk to and enjoys talking about her hobbies and interests. She also enjoys watching television and playing video games. Destiny adores cats and hopes to have one in her adoptive home! Destiny likes being outside and spending time with others.

Destiny would like a single female parent and prefers no children in the home, but is open to older siblings. Destiny wants a parent who is nice, loving, caring, put together, easy going, and laid back. Destiny also said she would like a home that is clean. Destiny’s adoptive family needs to be familiar with educational support and advocate for her educational needs. Adoptive parents need to be fully aware of the child’s trauma and knowledgeable about parenting teens with a history of trauma. Adoptive parents will need to be patient and honest, and respond in a nurturing way to meet Destiny’s needs. (8617BD) Harrison County

Brysen is a funny, smart and outgoing eleven 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 down time, Brysen likes to play video games and build LEGO. 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. (8618BS) Vanderburgh County
Bryley is a bright, happy eight-year-old girl! She likes to play with sensory toys, as well as her My Little Pony toys. Bryley has participated in a gymnastics club, and loved it! She enjoyed the swinging rope and ball pit. In her downtime, Bryley likes to play educational games on the tablet. She likes the game Roadblocks the most! Bryley is smart and determined, and just wants to have fun!

Bryley will do best in a family by being the only or the youngest child in the home. She will benefit being in a two-parent home, where the parents can take turns supervising Bryley and giving her positive attention and unconditional, healthy affection. It is important that parents are patient, and have a consistent routine with clear expectations and consequences. (8635JS) Miami County

Grainger is a loving and affectionate twelve-year-old boy! The activities he enjoys the most are drawing and watching Disney movies. He is a talented artist who can draw many things from memory! Grainger also likes to do sensory activities, like jumping on the trampoline, swimming, and relaxing with a weighted blanket. Grainger likes to sing, and enjoys doing karaoke! He is a playful, fun-loving boy who is in tune with his environment. He has a artistic view of his surroundings, and enjoys visual and tactile activities.

Grainger thrives with one-on-one attention. He does well with adults, and would do best in a two-parent home as the youngest or only child. His forever family must be prepared to provide abundant emotional attention. Grainger needs a family that is caring, nurturing, and will advocate for his educational, emotional, and potential medical needs. (8638HC) Henry County

“A nice!” That’s how Aiden describes himself. He also “likes to be a helper.” Aiden is bright, affectionate, and humorous eleven-year-old boy who enjoys sports and video games. He likes to play football, 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 advocate 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. (8646ABS) Vanderburgh County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Indiana Adoption Program

Maddy is a social butterfly! She has a fun sense of humor, and likes to spend time with her foster family. Listening to music is one of Maddy's favorite activities. Her favorite musical artists are Bruno Mars and Ed Sheeran. Maddy also enjoys watching TV, including shows like Full House, Criminal Minds, Raising Hope, and Stranger Things. In her down time, she likes to read. Her favorite books are thrillers by the author April Henry. She also enjoys playing volleyball, singing, dancing, and swimming. Band is Maddy’s favorite subject in school, where she plays trumpet! Those who know Maddy say she is energetic and loving. Maddy’s strength is her willingness to help others!

Maddy would do well in a family where the parents are understanding, patient, and knowledgeable in how trauma can affect a child. Maddy would like a family where members spend time with each other. Parents will need to be advocates for Maddy's educational and emotional needs. Maddy is a bright girl who would thrive with guidance and unconditional love! (8652AJS) Elkhart County

Jaden is a ten 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

Orjana is a good-hearted and fun sixteen year old! She enjoys reading books, spending time with friends, and drawing pictures. She also enjoys playing video games, watching movies and television, as well as listen to music and singing along! Her favorite artist is Bruno Mars. Orjana likes to stay active, and likes doing yoga and zumba. She enjoys time spent outdoors with friends, and likes to visit the zoo! Orjana adores all the animals at the zoo. Orjana is creative and has a great imagination!

Orjana would do best in a two-parent or single parent family (with supports). Orjana would do best with a family that can provide supervision, as well as be patient and understanding towards her. It is important that potential families have an understanding on how trauma can affect a child. (8660BD) Floyd County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Opening hearts. Changing lives.

Abram is a very kind and helpful ten-year-old. He likes to put things together. Abram likes to do activities such as rock wall climbing, playing video games, and building LEGO toys. In school, Abrams 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. (8666JS) St. Joseph County

Hagan is a fun-loving, nine-year-old boy who enjoys playing with LEGO sets. 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, 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." He is sweet and affectionate, and 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, and the parents are calm, nurturing, and encouraging. Hagan would benefit having parents who understand how trauma affects children, and 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 better, and would do well with a family that can encourage him to be successful! (8670JS) Wells County

Mia, who is thirteen, 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. (8686BD) Hamilton County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Nathaniel is a very polite, helpful eleven-year-old boy! He enjoys reading, and will read every night before bed. Nathaniel likes being active. His favorite sports are basketball and karate, and he also enjoys swimming. In school, his favorite subject is reading. Nathaniel also enjoys watching football and basketball. Nathaniel’s favorite teams are the Golden State Warriors and Pittsburgh Steelers. What others like about Nathaniel is his caring and helpful personality.

Nathaniel needs a family that will be patient with him. Potential families must take time to establish a bond with Nathaniel. He would do well with other children in the home, however, it would be best if the other children were similar in age to Nathaniel. He would benefit from a family who understands how trauma can affect a child.

(8688SG) Marion County

Jayce, who is twelve, is shy when you first meet him, but he is very tenderhearted. He enjoys school, where he is doing well in art class. He likes to draw. He has a strong interest in history, and loves to learn about pre-historic times. Jayce enjoys playing video games as well. If Jayce could ride his bike and play video games all day he would be the happiest kid ever! Jayce also enjoys attending church, volunteering, and working around the house and yard. He can be very helpful. Overall, Jayce is a resilient, respectful, and caring young man!

Jayce needs a family that will encourage him and motivate him. He would thrive with consistency and stability. It would help Jayce in a pre-adoptive home if all members of the family spent quality time together. Jayce would like to travel, and hopes to go on a family vacation. In the ideal family, Jayce would be the youngest or only child so he can receive plenty of attention. He would benefit having lots of one-on-one attention with a pre-adoptive family. Jayce likes the country and would like to have an active family.

(8703JS) Wells County

Kaden is a kind, lovable thirteen-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
Arianna

Arianna is a very funny and outgoing twelve-year-old girl! Arianna loves to sing and dance. She enjoys reading in her free time, especially science fiction novels. Arianna likes to shop, play board games, watch movies, draw, and listen to music. Arianna adores horses and would love to be a horse trainer one day! She is very interested in learning how to care for animals, as well as learning how to speak Spanish. She already knows a few words and phrases and is excited to learn more. Those who know Arianna say her strengths are that she is goal-oriented and can advocate for herself.

Arianna would do best in a single or two-parent home that can provide supervision and structure. If the family were a single parent home, Arianna would feel more comfortable with a single mother. If there are other children in the home, it is best if Arianna was the youngest child. Arianna states that she is hoping for a family who will celebrate her Mexican heritage. (8742JS)

Huntington County
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 Special Needs Adoption Specialist.

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 snap@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 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
Step 1: Educate Yourself about Adoption

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 (NCAC) and the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse (NAIC) and is available online through the childwelfare.gov website.

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.eligibility@dcs.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 — 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.

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

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

Step 7: Attend Adoption and Parenting Classes

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

Prospective adoptive parents who want to be approved to adopt children through the Indiana Adoption Program must complete 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.

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**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?

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**Step 10: Considering a Child**

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

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

**Questions for Prospective Adoptive Parents to Ask**

- 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?
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. The Adoption Program has been referred to as a Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) and the regional representative coordinating the adoption process for a child is called a SNAP Specialist.

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

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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.

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

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

Neglect
Neglect is the absence of essential and healthy nurturing of a child for their physical, intellectual, and emotional development. Neglect includes physical neglect, child abandonment and expulsion, medical neglect, inadequate supervision, emotional neglect and educational neglect by parents, parent substitutes, and other adult caretakers of children.
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 attorney's 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.adoptachildtime.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 CDCS that has the responsibility of care and supervision of the child you wish to adopt for the court proceedings, unless the court finds that their consent is not necessary to serve the best interests of the child.

Adoption Petition Filing

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 LCPS 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.

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.

Preandra Jones
Youth Connections Specialist for Northwest
302 W. Washington St., E306, MS-47
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 234-5008 (Work)
(317) 232-4436 (Fax)
Preandra.Jones@dcs.in.gov

Barbara A. Gainer
Youth Connections Specialist for Northeast
217 East Southway Blvd, Suite 202
Kokomo, Indiana 46901
(765)865-2212 (Work)
(765)864-3000 (Fax)
Barbara.Gainer@dcs.in.gov

Gloria Alumbaugh
Youth Connections Specialist for Southern Regions 13-18
Department of Child Services, Decatur County
1025 E. Freeland
Greensburg, IN 47240
(812) 212-7979
Gloria.Alumbaugh@dcs.in.gov

Preandra Jones
Youth Connections Specialist for Northwest
302 W. Washington St., E306, MS-47
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 234-5008 (Work)
(317) 232-4436 (Fax)
Preandra.Jones@dcs.in.gov

Dave Schoening
Youth Connections Specialist for Central
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 Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) specialist who coordinates adoption information for their Team.

For more information, please call the toll-free number—
1-888-25-ADOPT

Sharon Grayson
4150 N. Keystone Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana  46205-2843
(317) 544-3890
Sharon.Grayson@dcs.in.gov

Ivraline Applewhite
661 Broadway
Gary, Indiana  46402
(219) 881-2043, ext: 13280
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Shannon (Heather) Click
54 S. Second Street
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www.IN.gov/dcs