September / October 2016

adoption

opening hearts. changing lives.

Indiana Adoption Program
www.adoptachild.in.gov

Breaking the Cycle

Susan was adopted at age 9. When she thinks about where she would be without adoption, it is not a pleasant thought. "I would be on the streets, dead, drugs, prostitution—it's a cycle," Susan says. She knew she had to help break that cycle, so Susan became a foster parent. She has fostered 109 children. "Sometimes I foster children and I worry that I didn't have them long enough to change that cycle," she says. But Susan does not give up.

She has adopted three boys—Tyler (13), Owen (9), and Ryder (6). All three boys have special needs, ranging from severe burns to autism. Her boys were labeled with various diagnoses and Susan is proud to say they have all overcome the odds stacked against them. "They said Owen would never walk or talk and now you can't stop him," Susan laughs as Owen climbs onto the couch to give her a hug.

> "There will be times where you want to give up. You can't give up. **They are your kids.**"

"One of the biggest challenges in parenting is just figuring out where a behavior is coming from and what a child is frustrated about," says Susan. "You never know a child's triggers. One time Tyler was upset because the answer to a test question was 'pick up the playground' and he read it literally and knew that you couldn't physically pick up a playground!"

Ryder was aggressive and angry when he came to Susan. He had had 6 placements in 1 year. "I would have been angry too!" says Susan. Ryder would ask Susan, "When are you going to call them to take me to another home?" Susan had a better idea, though; she began taking away a toy each time Ryder hit someone. She vividly remembers the day that Ryder said, "Mommy I won't hit you anymore," and he kept his word.

"The most important thing is that these children find a place where they never have to leave again. There will be times where you want to give up. You can't give up. They are your kids."

What are the best parts of foster care and adoption? "The best parts are the challenges," says Susan, "I worked on an ambulance so I get to use my knowledge. I get to make lives better."

What are the hardest parts? "Working with parents and the system to figure out what is in the best interest of the child," states Susan. "I think about what their lives have been like and what we can do to help. Children need to know where they came from but they need to know they are safe, too."

What keeps Susan going? Her kids. "When people learn that I only take in children with special needs, they say I'm selfless. I'm not. I don't know where I'd be without them. It would be lonely!"

Welcome to the Indiana Adoption Program

The Indiana Adoption Program is a statewide effort to create permanence for children who are wards of the State of Indiana. It is a program of the Indiana Department of Child Services in collaboration with the Children's Bureau, Inc.

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

The picture book is also available on the internet. To view a current list of children available go to http://www.adoptuskids.org/states/in/index.aspx. You may download a PDF copy of this "Opening Hearts. Changing Lives." Adoption Picture Book at http://www.in.gov/dcs/2737.htm

To learn more about Children's Bureau, Inc., see us on the web at: www.childrensbureau.org or call for a brochure: 317-545-5281.

To mail correspondence to the Indiana Adoption program send to:

The Indiana Adoption Program
c/o Children's Bureau Inc.
3801 N. Temple Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Mary Beth Bonaventura
Director

Protecting our Children,
Families & Future.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

The Indiana Adoption Program would like to thank Lindsey for the front cover illustration and James 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.

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 317.545.5281 x136.

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.

Aaliyah

Mariyah

Tiffany

Aaliyah is stylish and talented. She has many goals for herself and she wants a better future. She is a great student and English is her favorite subject. She is fourteen and 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 has a beautiful smile and outgoing disposition. She is an energetic, sweet, funny, and happy eleven-year-old. 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 child. 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*

Mercedez

Dymond

Mercedez is a good student who wants to be an artist or an art teacher when she grows up. She is a very active fourteen-year-old and she enjoys riding her bike, jumping rope, and running. Mercedez would like to participate in band class at school and she enjoys being involved in choir at church. She makes the honor roll at school and she loves to help take care of dogs.

Dymond loves to dance and play with toys and dolls. She is a pleasant twelve-year-old girl who makes good grades. She loves attention! She enjoys watching movies and she reports that she likes to brush her teeth. She attends church with her siblings and participates in choir and church readings.

Mercedez and Dymond would do well in a loving two-parent home with parents who are firm, but fair. These children will need supervision and parents who can provide stability, patience, and security. They are learning the importance of family and they want to be adopted. They would enjoy being in a home that has a dog. (8161ABIA) *Lake County*

Nylah, Nathan, & Jaye'den

Jaye'den is a bright, articulate twelve-year-old boy who likes to draw. He is friendly and outgoing and gets along well with his siblings. Jaye'den enjoys staying active, and likes to play sports. In his down time, Jaye'den enjoys playing on the iPad, listening to music, and watching TV. Jaye'den is a smart boy who thrives in a consistent, structured environment.

Nathan can be shy when you first meet him, but he opens up quickly and has a great smile! He is an active and athletic nine-year-old boy who enjoys football and soccer. For fun, Nathan likes to draw, play video games, and play sports. He is doing well in school and gets along with his peers. Nathan would do well in a home that is well-structured and presents clear boundaries.

Nylah is a curious and smart seven-year-old girl. She is very outgoing and likes to be silly. She likes to color, style, and comb hair with her dolls, and also meet new people. She is very engaging and outgoing. Nylah is doing well in school.

These siblings would benefit from a home with structure and clear boundaries. It would be best if parents are able to provide a consistent routine and adequate supervision. Parents should have an understanding of how trauma affects children. Both two-parent and single parent homes will be considered. (8281ABCJS) *Allen County*

Brandon

Trenton

Aaron

Brandon is a smart, outgoing, and athletic fourteen-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 thirteen-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 eleven-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 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*

Levie

Athaniel

Levie is a friendly twelve-year-old boy who enjoys participating in bowling, cross country, and ice hockey. His favorite sport is hockey, and his favorite NHL team is the Arizona Coyotes. In the future, he hopes to play hockey professionally. He enjoys spending time with others and going out to eat. His favorite foods are tacos and pizza. Levie likes to read mystery novels, watch TV, and play video games. Levie likes to build with Legos. If he could go anywhere in the world, he would want to go to California or Florida. Levie wishes to live in a one-story house where he can have his own room with lots of video games. What's important to Levie are his friends. Levie is a talented athlete who pushes himself to excel. Overall, Levie is a very happy boy who is enthusiastic about life and his future.

Athaniel is a fun, outgoing eight-year-old boy who enjoys art. He hopes to collect lots of art supplies in the future. He enjoys playing Legos and video games. His favorite Legos series are Star Wars and Ninjago, but Athaniel mostly like to free build and use his creativity. Athaniel spends time outside riding his bike. He is enthusiastic about spending time outdoors. He hopes to play sports soon, and wants to play baseball. He is good at helping around the house, and enjoys helping others in the kitchen. Athaniel is very close to his brother Levie and looks to him for support. He is very endearing and quite lovable.

Levie and Athaniel need a home where they are loved, supported, and where the parents are consistent in their discipline. It would be best for Levie if parents continued to support his participation in extracurricular activities. Levie wants a father who will teach him how to fish and a family that likes to go on vacations together. Athaniel wants a mother who is loving and patient with him. Both siblings need structure and stability in a home, and parents will need to commit to providing a nurturing, loving home for these boys. (8398ABBS) *Vanderburgh County*

Deshawn, Keshawn, & Rayshawn

Deshawn is an athletic and talented twelve-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.

Keshawn is bright, easygoing, and athletic. He is nine years old and he loves basketball and riding bikes. Keshawn is kindhearted and caring. He collects rocks and loves to be around dogs. He would like to be in the NBA when he grows up. His favorite food is chocolate cake.

Rayshawn is seven and he loves to run and play. His favorite sports are basketball and football. He enjoys playing with trucks and wrestling figures. He likes to learn and he is very resolved when he puts his mind to something. He wants to be a superhero when he grows up. Rayshawn loves horses. He enjoys going to church, playing football, and playing outside. He also loves riding bikes and scooters.

These boys are very affectionate and silly sometimes. They need a family that will make sure they can stay together. They are hopeful about adoption and they would like a mom that bakes or parents who are good cooks! They asked for "parents who can appreciate who they are." To them, adoption means "having a place to belong." These boys would do well in an active family that can encourage them to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities. (8399ABCBS) *Vanderburgh County*

Montre & Kyree

Montre describes himself as "nice, serious, good in school, kind, and helpful." He is ten years old and he loves sports. He collects Pokémon cards. He wants to be a basketball player when he grows up. Montre likes school and his favorite subjects are math, art, reading, and PE. Montre has a bright smile! His favorite candy is Reese's Cups and his favorite color is red.

Kyree is an energetic, outspoken nine-year-old boy. He describes himself as "funny, not serious, playful, I like to comfort people and cheer people up." He enjoys playing outside and spending time with friends, and playing sports. He likes singing at church. Kyree wants to go to SkyZone someday and he wants to be a football player or be in the military when he grows up.

These boys are very excited to find a home. When asked what is important to them, they said, "having a family that cares about us." They also hope to have a family that plays together. They would like to have more siblings. They say, "We'd want some kids to play with!" These boys need a family that will not give up on them. (8400ABBD) *Clark County*

Janiyah & Ja'mesia

When Janiyah grows up, she wants to adopt a child so she can tell stories about when she was a kid and was adopted. Janiyah is a cheerful ten-year-old girl who has a big heart and loves to talk and dance. She dances hip-hop and ballet. She loves animals and thinks it would be fun to have a parrot as a pet someday. Her favorite food is vanilla cake. Family is important to Janiyah. She would love to have her own bedroom, which she would likely decorate in purple because that is her favorite color.

Ja'mesia wants to be a superstar, a fashion designer, a fairy godmother, or a shoe designer when she grows up. She is nine and she loves twirling around in dresses! She is very polite and she genuinely cares about others. She loves the outdoors, but thinks she would like to live in a city. Brownies are Ja'mesia's favorite food. Ja'mesia loves summer time because she can swim with a lifejacket and play softball and basketball. Her favorite colors are "pink, purple, and shiny."

These girls would do best in a two-parent home or a single-parent home with a strong support system. An active family that enjoys participating in extracurricular activities would be great for these sisters. A patient, loving, supportive family would help them redevelop a sense of trust. These girls have great potential. Their family should also be an advocate for their education and their emotional well-being. (8413ABIA) *Lake County*

Joshua, Andrew, & Ryan

Joshua loves his younger brothers because they cheer him up. Joshua is a smart twelve-year-old boy who is proud of his good citizenship and his good grades at school. He hopes to travel someday and his dream destinations are: Germany, Sweden, Seattle, Denver, and Chicago. He thinks he will join the military when he grows up. He likes all subjects in school. He hopes that his new parents are "nice people with an Xbox!"

Andrew is a sweet and funny eleven-year-old boy who loves maps and clocks. His favorite subject is social studies. He is very interested in wheelchairs and is excited to be able to use one to get around! He loves to play outside. When he grows up, he'd like to have his own TV show like "The Wiggles." He would like to travel to Egypt and Bethlehem someday. He loves going to school and has not missed a spelling word all year!

Ryan is a kind seven-year-old boy. He says that everyone calls him "adorable" at school. Ryan loves semi-trucks, teddy bears, and dinosaurs. He is fascinated by earthquakes and fire drills and wants to learn more about what to do in case of natural disasters. He loves all animals, but especially loves bunnies, pandas, horses, and frogs.

These children will need a home that is wheelchair accessible and they need a family that can provide medical attention and frequent transportation to medical appointments. The boys love living in a rural setting because they love to play and be around animals. These brothers have a strong connection to each other, to the church they attend, and to their current foster parents. It would be beneficial for them to be able to maintain those bonds. (8414ABCIA) *Starke County*

Keana & siblings

Keana is a shy, but sweet girl who is nice to everyone she meets. She is very selfless, and is very caring and helpful to others. She is fifteen and likes to go to the movies and spend time with her friends. In her down time, Keana likes to read and listen to music. She likes to shop, spend time outdoors, and cook. Her favorite subject in school is World Cultures. Keana wants a family who will treat her with respect and value her as an individual.

The family that would be best for Keana would be loving, patient, and understanding. The family should be active and close-knit, wanting to spend time with one another with a strong desire to be involved in each others' lives. Parents must provide stability and structure. Keana needs a family who will encourage and support her. Parents should be understanding of how trauma affects children. Keana has two siblings with whom she will need to be adopted. (8418ABS) *Vanderburgh County*

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

Jaimee

Jazmine

Nevaeh

Jaimee is a very sensitive and caring ten-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, a ten-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 nine-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*

Jadelin, Gretchen, & Gaberiel

Jadelin is a very caring, nurturing fourteen-year-old girl who loves her siblings. She values being part of a family and hopes for permanency. When she puts her mind toward a goal, she is determined to accomplish it! Jadelin excels in band and choir class. She has a lovely singing voice. She is also good at martial arts. Jadelin is a natural when it comes to cosmetology; she has a lot of fun trying new braids or makeup. She is very good with animals, especially the ones at the shelter where she volunteers. She loves to clean. She is athletic and outgoing and makes friends easily. When she grows up, Jadelin would like to be a forensic anthropologist.

Gretchen loves to take photos on her iPad and spend time on her karaoke machine! She is an outgoing and engaging eleven-year-old girl; the people around her call her a socialite. Gretchen likes school. She earns good grades and loves math. She loves drawing, fashion, and crafts. Gretchen works hard and even enjoys doing chores! When she grows up, she would like to be a cook, a mom, or a teacher. She loves all kinds of activities, but she is not a big fan of hiking!

Gabe is a shy and silly nine-year-old boy. He loves the outdoors and will happily roll around in the grass if you let him! He loves his bicycle and his NERF gun. One of his favorite activities is to play with Legos. He loves the book "Sideways Stories from Wayside School." Gabe is excited to play on a baseball team this year! Gabe is well liked by his teachers. He is smart and is excited to learn new things. He practices hard because he likes to be the best he can be!

The family that would be best for these siblings would be nurturing, patient, and encouraging. They must be able to provide an environment that is safe, stable, and has adequate supervision. Parents will need to be child-centered, calm, and predictable. Jadelin, Gretchen, and Gaberiel have many talents and strengths, and they would thrive in a home where they are encouraged and loved. (8441ABCHC) *Grant County*

Matthew, Ashley, & Shelby

Matthew is a sensitive, yet kind fourteen-year-old who likes playing sports and video games. He enjoys spending time outside. Matthew enjoys attending church and youth group. In the summer, he likes to go fishing. Matthew enjoys making others laugh. Matthew would benefit from a home that has a strong male role model. Matthew likes to draw.

Ashley is a funny twelve-year-old who does well in school and loves to read. Ashley enjoys playing basketball, volleyball, reading, and listening to her music. She participates in gymnastics and dance. Ashley enjoys attending church and youth group. She likes animals and does well around them. Ashley's favorite animals are monkeys and horses. Ashley is a bright girl who enjoys spending time with others.

Shelby is a friendly, outgoing ten-year-old. Shelby enjoys activities such as playing sports, playing with her dolls, and being outside. She likes music and enjoys dancing and gymnastics.

Matthew, Ashley, and Shelby would benefit from parents who are committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment with age-appropriate boundaries and consequences. The children would do well in a calm environment with parents who have the ability to provide individualized attention. The children are very active and enjoy being outdoors. They also enjoy participating in sports and would like to have an adoptive family who will support these interests. A two-parent home with a strong support system would be a good match. It would be best if these siblings could be the only children in the home. (8460ABCBS) *Orange County*

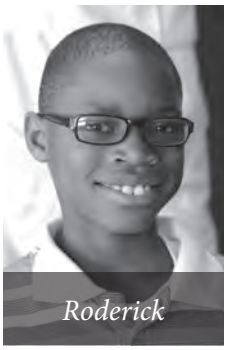
Jason

Brandon

Jason is an introverted child who enjoys playing with his brother, Brandon. He is twelve 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 eleven-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*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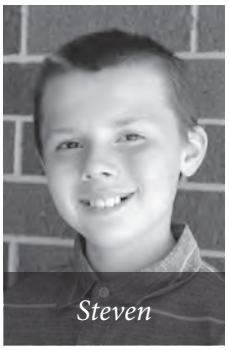
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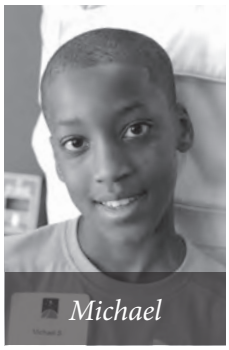
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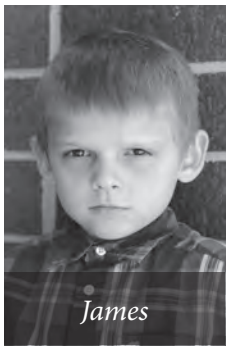
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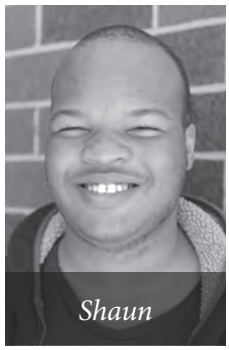
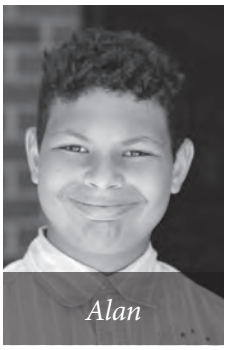

Shaun

CHALLENGER

3-2-1 BLAST OFF! Indiana Adoption Program took a Voyage to Mars! The kids on the shuttle crew worked together to coordinate with mission control at Chryse Station to complete a space mission at Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana. Once we were back on Earth, we enjoyed astronaut ice cream and STEM activities. It was a day of fun that was out of this world!

If you would like to attend one of our Meet & Greet Events, please find the Adoption Specialist in your region listed on the back inside cover of this book. Your local Adoption Specialist can tell you how to receive an invitation!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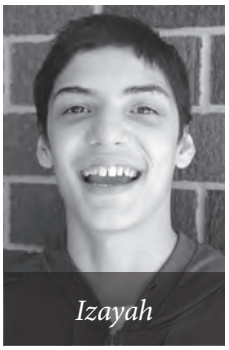
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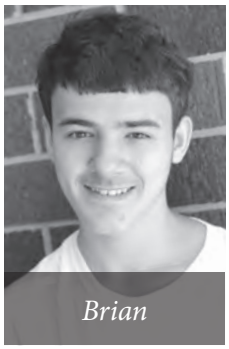
Nate

James


Brian

Cassie

Andrew

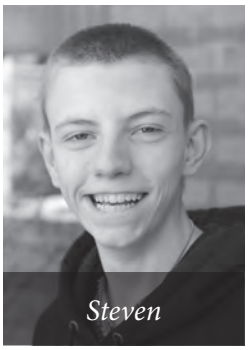
OLYMPICS

We were going for gold at Ben & Ari's on August 6. We traded gymnastics, swimming, and tennis for arcade games, putt-putt golf, and crafts! From getting a hole-in-one to racing alongside our teammates, we were all gold medal winners!

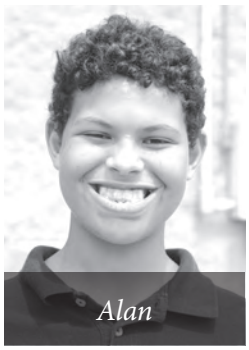
If you would like to attend one of our Meet & Greet Events, please find the Adoption Specialist in your region listed on the back inside cover of this book. Your local Adoption Specialist can tell you how to receive an invitation!

Felix

Ariel



Steven



Alan

Felix and Scarlet bowl.

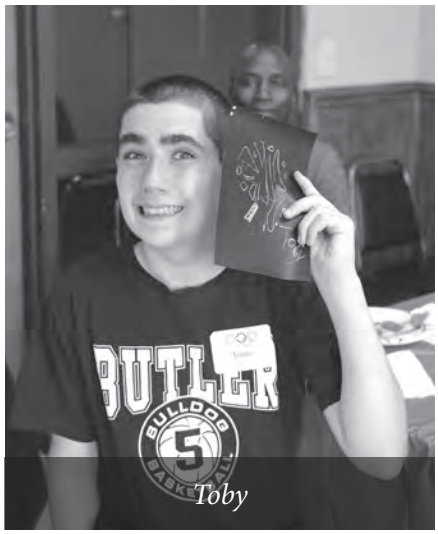
James

James

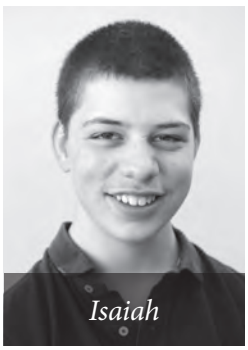
Michael plays games.

Nate

Candi

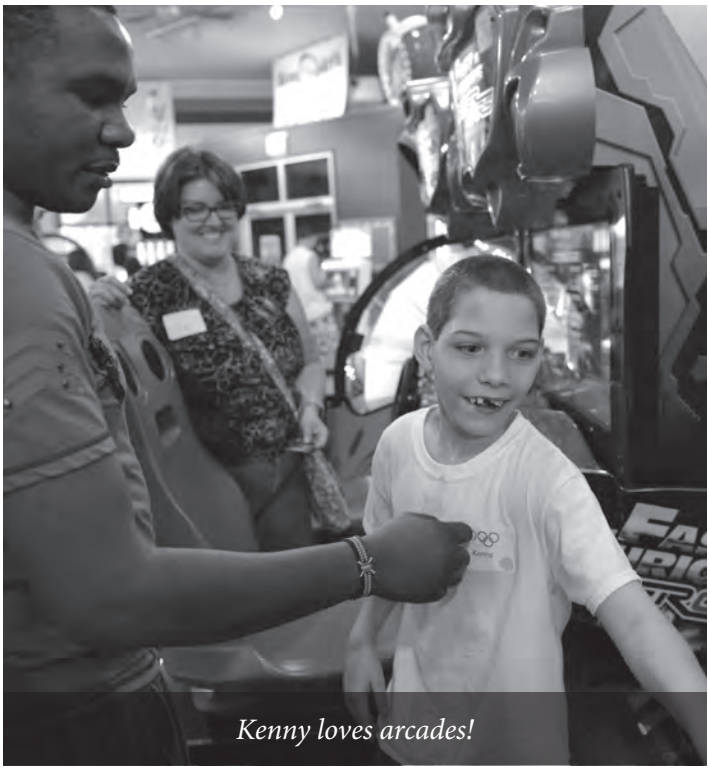


Toby



Isaiah

Kids enjoy crafts!



Kenny loves arcades!

Indiana Adoption Program

Christopher

Christopher loves anything that has a remote control. He keeps a sketchbook of his drawings of remote control cars and planes and all sorts of robotics that he hopes to build someday. He loves electronics and hopes to have an iPod in the future. His favorite drink is pop; he loves root beer, cherry Coke, and Mountain Dew. Christopher, who is seventeen years old, describes himself as "a creative, nice, clean hard worker" and he wishes he had a job. He has not decided what he wants to be when he grows up, but he knows he loves to build things. He also loves to sing, do math, and play with NERF toys. He would prefer to live on a farm, especially if it has bunny rabbits.

It would be beneficial for Christopher to be placed with two parents and preferably a home with older children or no other children in the home. The family would need to provide patience, support, encouragement and guidance to help Christopher adjust to the home. Christopher is very eager to have a family of his own. (3672IA) *Lake County*

Jerry

Jerry is a pleasant, affectionate sixteen-year-old boy who likes to give and receive hugs. He enjoys wrestling and rough-housing on the floor. He likes music and will dance and sometimes babble, trying to sing along. He likes to rock in his rocking chair or on a rocking horse. Jerry likes swinging and climbing into things he can sit in.

Jerry is a sweet little boy who needs a family that can be patient and loving with him. Families with an extended support system, and knowledge and understanding of developmental delays and autism are preferred. (3682BD) *Bartholomew County*

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 fifteen 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*

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

Opening hearts. **Changing lives.**

Sylvester

Sylvester is a very lovable, calm, and handsome fourteen-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 and friendly fourteen-year-old boy! He likes swimming and running, and he recently started track and field. his favorite event is the distance run. He is very interested in action movies and comic books, his favorite being Spider Man. Austin is also very interested in cause-and-effect relationships and how things work. He enjoys being part of a group, but really thrives with one-on-one adult attention. He enjoys being read to and has a vivid imagination. Austin is very bright and is doing well in school. He wants to work at a veterinary office when he grows up because he likes animals. Austin describes himself as "smart, excited, and cool."

Austin needs a family that can give him a lot of attention while providing structure 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 to be the youngest or only child in the family. (5002SG) *Tippecanoe County*

Steven

Steven is a quiet but bright kid with who is pleasant to be around. He very much wants to be adopted and join a family. He likes to learn new things and says history, art, and biology are his favorite subjects in school. Steven says, "I'm a really good artist and I like to draw!" He is seventeen and he loves playing outside and playing football and basketball with his friends. He also likes helping others in whatever way he can. Steven loves to eat and some of his favorite foods are Big Macs, spaghetti and meatballs, and Chinese food. He enjoys telling jokes! Steven likes to help around the house with dishes, gardening, vacuuming, or any other household chores. Steven likes to have his own space and prefers to be around people who are calm and nice. He likes to play with Hot Wheels, Ninja Turtles, LEGOs, and his toy helicopter. He loves animals, especially dogs. Steven hopes he can have a family that lives in the country.

Steven hopes to have a family that he can talk to and with whom he can have good conversations. He's quite shy at first and needs some time to open up. Steven needs a family that can be patient with him and provide structure and clear expectations and boundaries. Ideally, Steven would like to have a mom and a dad and be part of a family that has pets. Steven would do best in a home where he could be the only child or the youngest child. He needs parents who can support Steven's medical needs. Steven wants families to know that he's nice, smart, and helpful. (5037HC) *Jay County*

Indiana Adoption Program

Ariel

Ariel is a very intelligent, well-spoken sixteen-year-old girl. She makes friends easily and likes to play with other children. She is creative and likes to draw and color. Ariel loves to sing and dance and will often make up her own songs and dance moves. Ariel is mature for her age and very inquisitive. She is very caring and helpful and is protective of her friends and family.

Ariel will thrive in a structured, peaceful, loving environment. Ariel would do best in a home where the parents are patient and can show unconditional love. Ariel has a strong desire to be adopted, and wants to live in a home calm, nurturing and stable home. (5058AIA) *Lake County*

Alan

Alan is sweet kid who likes to talk about the things that excite him, especially LEGOs and Pokémon. Alan's favorite Pokémon is Pikachu and he likes to play with trading cards and virtual games. Alan is thirteen and 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 Legos! He would like to visit Legoland in Chicago someday. Alan plays basketball, and he wants to be on a team someday. His favorite NBA team is the Chicago Bulls.

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. He will need plenty of behavioral and emotional support. Alan wants a family that is nice and caring, as well as active and involved in the community. (6056SG) *Marion County*

Brian

Brian is a friendly 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 is sixteen and enjoys playing and watching basketball. He his favorite NBA players are Michael Jordan and Steph Curry. He likes to play baseball, and played on a team where he played in the outfield. He hopes to play baseball again someday. Brian 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 bet 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*

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

Paul

Paul is an honest boy with a wonderful, bright smile. He may take a while to open up to new people, but once he does, he is a lot of fun! Paul is sixteen years old and he likes playing video games, reading Sci-Fi books, and riding his bicycle. He has also expressed an interest in playing piano and learning about virtual design. In his free time, he likes to play basketball with his friends.

Paul needs a loving, committed family and would benefit greatly from having positive adult role models. He will do best with a family that will be supportive, accepting, and encouraging, one that will work on helping him feel comfortable and helping him enjoy his childhood. He will also need plenty of time to adjust to a new setting. A stable home with structure and consistent rules and consequences would be beneficial for him. Single-parent and two-parent homes will be considered. (6089BD) *Madison County*

Da'Jaion

Da'Jaion has a cheerful demeanor and a contagious laugh! He is fifteen years old and he enjoys playing with small toys, especially ones with lights, sounds, or music. His favorite toy is a tambourine in the shape of a turtle. While he cannot walk independently, Da'Jaion utilizes a wheelchair and a stander. He is able to scoot around on the floor and can cover ground pretty quickly! Da'Jaion can drink from a sippy cup and feed himself finger foods. His favorite food is probably Cheetos.

Da'Jaion needs a loving family that can provide 24-hour supervision and total care for him. Families with knowledge and experience with special needs children are preferred. (7016JS) *Allen County*

Nate

Nate is a personable and helpful fifteen-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'd like to travel to Japan someday because he's 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*

Indiana Adoption Program

Nathan

Nathan is a lively seventeen-year-old boy with energy to spare! Nathan is bright, inquisitive, and has a good sense of humor. He likes to help others and likes to please adults. Nathan likes doing hands-on physical work and would thrive working alongside a father figure. He enjoys playing with and working with electronics. He is currently enrolled in a radio class in school where he produces his own radio show! His favorite movies are Tyler Perry's "Madea" films. Nathan is a vegetarian and tries to eat healthy. He loves the outdoors and likes fishing, biking and camping. Nathan loves animals and likes to help care for them and play with them.

More than anything, Nathan wants to be adopted and have a permanent family. Nathan is looking for a family that will stick by him and give him the sense of belonging that he longs for. Nathan might do best as the youngest child in the family, or in a context where he could be the main focus. He is affectionate and responds to firm, loving boundaries and consistent discipline. Nathan has a brother with whom he will need to maintain contact. (7040BD) *Bartholomew County*

Emily

Emily likes to go to the park and play on the swings. Emily 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

Damon has many interests, like being outdoors and participating in sports. He loves being active and rides his bike, plays baseball and basketball, and helps around his foster family's farm. He likes fishing and camping and would rather be playing outside. Damon is twelve and enjoys playing video games on his tablet and is eager to show those interested how to play. Damon likes to play by himself or one friend at a time. He excels in school and enjoys all his 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, stability and nurture. 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*

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Scarlet

Scarlet is a very creative and engaging fourteen-year-old. She loves to interact with others and enjoys helping others. Scarlet has a curious nature and likes to learn. She is doing well in school and math is her favorite subject. She enjoys drawing and watching TV. Her favorite show is "Victorious." For fun, Scarlet likes to play card games and board games. She likes being around people and can be a joy to be around.

Scarlet needs a loving, nurturing family that can be patient with her as she learns to bond with her new family. She loves adult attention and thrives on praise. Her new family will need to be encouraging and supportive as she continues to heal from past trauma. It would be beneficial for Scarlet if parents have knowledge and/or experience parenting children who have experienced trauma. (7057HC) *Grant County*

Breion

Breion is a seventeen-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

Avery is an active eight-year-old 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 their 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" which is 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*

Cassie

Cassie loves animals and would especially like to have a Siberian husky. She would name her dog Diamond or Scooby, after the cartoon. Cassie enjoys listening to hip-hop music, reading, drawing, bike riding, swimming, swinging at the park, shopping, and dancing. Cassie, who is sixteen, is kind and soft-spoken. She shares smiles readily and enjoys laughing. When Cassie grows up, her goal is to become a veterinarian. Her favorite class in school is science. Cassie would like to be able to visit Disney World someday and attend a Justin Bieber concert. Cassie enjoys going to church and would like to live with a family that attends on a regular basis.

More than anything, Cassie wants to be part of a family and she needs a home where she will be accepted and loved. Cassie would do well in a one-parent or two-parent home, and she also would do well with older or younger siblings, or as an only child. Cassie would like to live in the city and she will need parents who can provide her with clear boundaries and unconditional love and acceptance. (8051JS) *Allen County*

Kylis

Kylis is a thirteen-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

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 seventeen 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*

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

Zion

Zion is a charming and outgoing sixteen-year-old boy! He describes himself as funny, caring, and independent. He enjoys healthy competition, and excels as an athlete. Basketball and football are his favorite sports, but he is a great runner. He enjoys playing video games in his down time and hanging out with his friends. He does well in school, and enjoys math and history. Zion is very insightful, and enjoys helping others. He has the qualities of a leader and is responsible. Zion wants a home where he feels trusted and can be given responsibilities. Zion wants a fun, active family where he feels like he belongs. He is resilient and bright and those who know him can say that Zion has a bright future!

Zion would do best in a two-parent home where he can get special attention and encouragement to succeed in extracurricular activities, especially sports. It would be beneficial for Zion to live with a family that is involved in the community. He wants to feel like he's part of a family. Parents will need to provide Zion with love and encouragement, while also clearly communicating expectations. Zion would also benefit from having a loving and caring female role model in the home. (8088SG) *Marion County*

Briestyn

Briestyn is a twelve-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

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 fourteen 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.

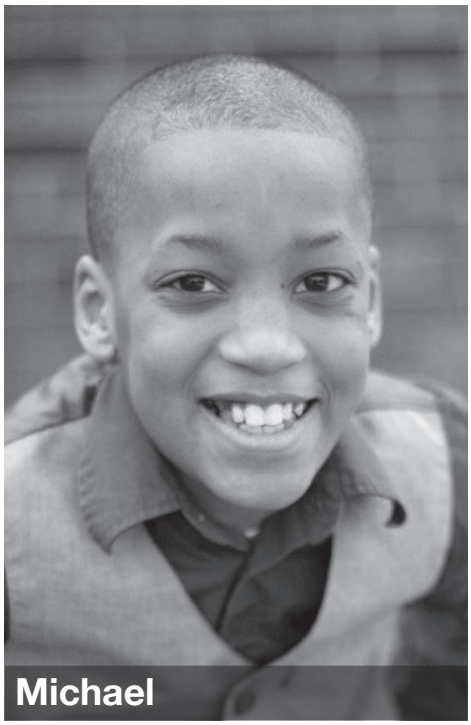
Kenneth needs a family that is ready to be completely invested in his growth. His family will need to understand his limitations and work with him to achieve his greatest potential. Kenneth needs a home that can provide supervision and continued medical services. His family will need to advocate for him educationally. Two-parent families with older or no other children will be preferred. (8108BD) *Jennings County*

Indiana Adoption Program

Cordale

Cordale is an intelligent, well-mannered, and creative fifteen-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

Michael loves to try new things! He is twelve years old and 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 and puzzles. Michael is polite and soft-spoken. He can also be very funny. He enjoys making art and he loves television shows and video games. When asked what kind of home he would like, he said, "I am not too picky, but I hope they have a TV!"

Michael needs a loving, stable, permanent home to help him overcome his past trauma. He thrives under the attention of a positive male influence, but 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

Tyresa is a very smart and inquisitive twelve-year-old girl who is a joy to be around. Some activities she enjoys are "playing with friends and reading." Tyresa loves to laugh and make others laugh. Her favorite thing about her self is that she is funny. Tyresa has interest in dance, gymnastics, and art. For fun, she likes to play kickball. She also enjoys the Boys and Girls Club. When she grows up, she wants to be a therapist. Tyresa is mature to a certain degree for her age, and she is can be very insightful.

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

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

Aubra

Aubra is an imaginative, inquisitive, funny, and sweet boy. He loves to show off how fast he can run, especially when he gets a new pair of shoes! Science and reading are his favorite subjects and his favorite thing about himself is that he is playful. Aubra is thirteen years old and enjoys putting things together and figuring out how they work. His favorite toys are LEGOs. He loves to build things! Aubra is loyal and protective of the important people in his life. He is a very loving boy. He would like to have a pet wolf someday, but would settle for a pet dog! Aubra takes pride in his accomplishments and 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

Jonathan is a friendly, adventurous child who loves to play outside. He is thirteen years old and he enjoys interacting with adults and he likes to go to parks. He says his favorite thing to do is, "walk!" His favorite books are ones with pictures in them and he likes to write in his notebook. He likes his teachers and he is learning life skills in school. Jonathan works very hard to be as independent as he can be and he is making great strides. He has learned how to tie his shoes, how to be patient, and how to show empathy for others. His favorite animal is a koala, but he also likes big dogs.

A family with a consistent schedule and a calm environment would be best for Jonathan. 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*

Everett

Making Everett smile is easy—just hand him a basketball! He could shoot hoops all day. He is very shy at first, but once he opens up, he is creative and he likes to have conversations. He is seventeen and learns quickly. He loves to teach others the things he has taught himself: origami, crocheting, and drawing. Everett says, "I'm a kind person and I stay to myself. I am 6'1. I am mixed with Caucasian and African American and my biological mom was also part Puerto Rican. I want to be involved in sports, and I want to be a Big Brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program."

Everett is open to all types of families. He hopes for a family that, "is active, loves sports, likes to go shopping, and is kind. I want a mom and a dad. I would like it if they were Caucasian, and age does not matter. I want as many siblings as they have and I want younger siblings, like 2 years younger. I hope the family has a dog. I want a family that lives in the city because there is a lot to do in the city."

Everett needs to be around a family that is patient, positive, and nurturing. When asked what adoption means to him, Everett says, "It means that I have a family I can stay with forever, and that a family will always be there for me. I would feel good about myself if I had a family to live with." (8151IA) *Lake County*

Indiana Adoption Program

James

James is an intelligent, funny, and caring 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*

Charles

Charles is an active child! Coloring and drawing are his favorite hobbies. He is eleven years old and he likes to dance for fun. He enjoys watching television and playing with his sisters. Charles is making great strides academically and will need someone to continue to advocate for him.

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. He is learning the importance of family and he wants to be adopted. He would enjoy being in a home that has a dog. (8161CIA) *Lake County*

Tovaris

Tovaris is a very athletic fifteen-year-old boy. He could play sports all day and never get bored. He stays active and he enjoys spending time with his siblings. Tovaris says he does not like to have his picture taken, but will always sneak in a smile or two. He likes spending time with his siblings and would like to maintain contact with them.

Tovaris would like to live in a home with a mom and a dad. He also wants to keep contact with his brother and sister. His new family will need to provide a safe, consistent, and nurturing home, and they will need to advocate for Tovaris' behavioral and emotional wellbeing. Potential parents will need to be patient, but firm in their discipline. (8163ABS) *Daviess County*

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

Devin

Devin is an outgoing and likable thirteen-year-old boy who does well with other kids. Church is one of his favorite things and he enjoys participating on Sundays. Devin does really well with animals and hopes to have pets in his new home. Sports have been a positive outlet for Devin and he would do well with a family that can encourage his athleticism.

Devin would like to live in a home with a mom and a dad. He also wants to keep contact with his brother and sister. Devin's new family will need to provide a safe, consistent, and nurturing home, and they will need to advocate for Devin's behavioral and emotional wellbeing. Parents will need to be patient, but firm in their discipline. (8163BBS) *Daviess County*

Gregory

Gregory, who prefers to be called Greg, is a bright and funny sixteen-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*

Daniel

Daniel has a big heart, and is always helping someone. He currently volunteers in a classroom for children with Autism. He walks with the children when they are upset and he teaches them how to communicate with sign language or speech. "They're probably acting out because they don't know how to tell people how they feel," Daniel says, "so I want to help them."

Daniel is seventeen and has always wanted to be a firefighter. He is excited to have the opportunity this year to spend time at a fire station learning the skills he needs to achieve his dream. Daniel has a reputation for being a team-player, and enjoys basketball, volleyball, football, boxing, and hockey. He will gladly show off the medals he has earned in these sports!

Daniel wants a family who shares his love for helping others. "I hope it happens soon," he says, "because I'm almost seventeen but I want to be adopted." Daniel misses his siblings but he says adoption gives him hope that he will have a family again. He would thrive in a two-parent home with a calm, nurturing environment. It is important for Daniel's new family to advocate for his continued success and emotional and educational wellbeing. He is so proud of the great strides he has made in the past few years and he is eager to greet the next chapter of his life. (8168BD) *Clark County*

Indiana Adoption Program

Jonathan

Jonathan is a sweet child 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 very inquisitive and 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

Charles, who goes by Charlie, is a sweet, talkative young man 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. He really likes animals, especially cats and bunnies. Charlie, who is seventeen years old, likes to stay active and enjoys baseball. He describes himself as, "awesome, funny, and protective." He is caring and very helpful.

Charlie wants an active mom and dad who "like racing and don't fight." He stated that he has always wanted a little brother. 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. He will need a lot of direct attention and guidance. Charlie is caring and energetic. Charlie desires to be in a loving home. (8183SG) *Marion County*

Johnnie

Johnnie is a fun-loving, energetic nine-year-old boy. He is very inquisitive and loves to talk. He likes to play video games and watch movies. Johnnie also enjoys playing games, puzzles, and reading books. His laugh is adorable and he is a pleasant boy to be around. He is very adventurous and likes to try new things.

Johnnie will do best in a calm, nurturing, and patient home with stability and structure. Parents should have an understanding of how trauma affects children. Families should be active, like the outdoors, and/or interested in sports. Both single and two-parent homes will be considered. (8192IA) *Lake County*

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

Shane

Shane is a bright boy eleven-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

Chase, who is sixteen, 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

Jesse is a friendly and inquisitive eleven-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—-an 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*

Indiana Adoption Program

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 fifteen 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*

Marlena

Marlena is a very bright young lady who does well at school when she puts her mind to it. She loves to work with others and enjoys being with people. She is quite the social butterfly! Marlena is fifteen and she would like to become an anesthesiologist. She enjoys reading and helping others. She also loves to shop, get manicures, sing, and do karaoke.

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, but would like a home without cats. Dogs are okay though! She would really love a home that would allow her to be active in extracurricular activities and church activities. (8221BJS) *Allen County*

Ethen

Ethen is a curious fifteen-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

Joshua is a happy thirteen-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. (8225IA) *La Porte County*

Matthew

Ronald, 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

Joshua is a polite, active fourteen-year-old boy who loves video games, matchbox cars, LEGOs, and playing outdoors. He enjoys playing with other children his age. Joshua loves playing basketball and baseball. He's got a big smile and likes to be around people. Joshua is doing well in school and enjoys going to classes. He has a healthy appetite—his favorite foods being bacon, pizza, and spaghetti.

An ideal home for Joshua is a calm, nurturing two-parent home where a positive relationship is modeled. It would be best if he was in a home with no younger children. Parents will need to be patient and have the ability to advocate for his emotional and educational needs. (8232IA) *La Porte County*

Indiana Adoption Program

Kevin

Kevin is a fun and energetic nine-year-old boy. He is eager to please others and is outgoing. Playing sports and staying active are two things Kevin enjoys. He has been doing well in school, and likes math and science. Kevin is a sweet boy who hopes to play on a football team some day.

A home that would be best for Kevin would be a home with older or no other children. A home that is nurturing and patient, and can encourage Kevin to achieve his potential would be ideal. Potential parents should be active and able to provide a lot attention. A parent that can model positive behavior would be best for Kevin. (8233BJS) *Allen County*

Aaron

Aaron is a fun, easy-going sixteen-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*

Alyssa

Alyssa is a nice sixteen-year-old girl who is fascinated by Japanese culture. She hopes to visit Japan someday! Her favorite cartoon is Pokemon, and she enjoys the trading cards and video games. She can tell you all about Pokemon culture. Alyssa describes herself as creative, and art is her favorite subject in school. She is very talented at drawing, so when she is older, she wants to be an artist. Her perfect Friday night would be quiet, spent at home drawing or playing Pokemon games, and maybe watching some Saturday Night Live with the family. Alyssa likes to laugh and joke around and hopes her forever family enjoys humor as well.

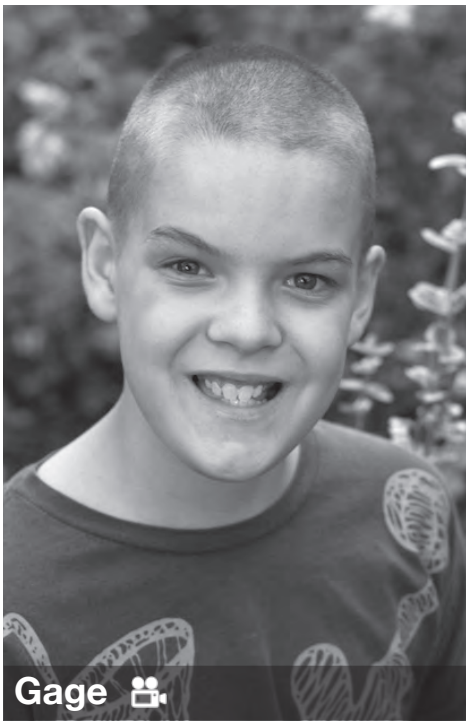
A home that would be best for Alyssa would be open to supportive services to assist her with educational and emotional needs. Parents should be caring, patient, and calm with the ability to provide structure and close supervision. Alyssa would like to live in a big house with lots of animals! Alyssa hopes to have a mom who is smart and nice. (8236JS) *Allen County*

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

Andrew

Andrew is a personable fourteen-year-old boy who likes school. His favorite classes are his technology class, in which he uses tablets to learn, and his physical education class. Andrew likes to read and describes himself as "kind of quiet" and "nice." In his free time, he likes to play board games, like Monopoly and Trouble. He collects Pokemon cards and will gladly tell you about his favorite cards. Andrew is friendly, loving, and affectionate and likes to please others. He likes to be helpful and work hard. He likes to laugh and has a good sense of humor.

Andrew would thrive in a home that can provide lots of one-on-one attention. He would do best in a home as the youngest or only child. He would also benefit from parents that are able to identify his needs and remain dedicated to maintaining a calm, structured, and positive environment. Parents will need to be advocates for Andrew's educational and emotional needs. (8237JS) *Allen County*



Gage

Gage is a nice thirteen-year-old boy who enjoys nature! His favorite thing to do is play outside and explore. He likes adventuring in the woods looking for different animals and insects. Dinosaurs fascinate Gage! His favorite dinosaur is the Tyrannosaurus Rex, and he hopes to be a paleontologist or an archeologist someday. Gage collects rocks, but his favorite collection is his fossil collection. Gage likes playing LEGOs and building things.

Gage would do best in a home that can provide safety, stability, consistency, and structure. It would be beneficial for him 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 Gage's medical and emotional needs, as well as maintain visits with his siblings. Gage wants to find a forever home. Both single and two-parent families will be considered. (8249JS) *Wells County*

Sean

Sean is an active and friendly eleven-year-old boy. Sean enjoys playing video games on his Play Station. 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 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*

Indiana Adoption Program

Dillen is a sweet sixteen-year-old boy who enjoys his action figure collection. He has a few "How to Train Your Dragon" figures that he proudly will show you! Dillen is polite and loves going to school. He enjoys being outside, and likes to ride his bike and play basketball. Dillen can be very insightful and has a strong desire to succeed. Dillen is pleasant to be around and is well-mannered.

A family that would be best for Dillen would be understanding and patient. Dillen would do best with plenty of guidance and supervision. Dillen will thrive in an environment that is safe and nurturing and can provide plenty of one-on-one attention. He would do well with a strong, positive male role-model. (8260BD) *Johnson County*

Dallas is a friendly and smart eleven-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 nine-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 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 "good family," and lots of candy. James wants a home that will take trips and perhaps go to the circus! What he wants others to know about him is that he is good at video games and good at yo-yo.

James needs a family that can provide love, attention, support, and supervision. He needs one or two parents who can advocate for his emotional well-being. He would do best as the youngest 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*

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

Samuel

Samuel is a bright eleven-year-old boy with a great personality. He has a good sense of humor and is quick to smile. Samuel is intelligent and enjoys learning new things. He catches onto new concepts easily and likes to share what he has learned. His favorite subject in school is science because he likes to learn about the world. Samuel enjoys playing LEGOs and putting things together. He describes himself as, "fast, athletic, funny, and smart." Samuel enjoys playing football and playing outside. When he's inside, he likes to play video games, like Minecraft.

A home that would be best for Samuel would be a two-parent home with older siblings. Potential parents should be nurturing, patient, understanding, and must show unconditional love. Samuel would do well in a home that is active and can provide plenty of supervision and positive attention. (8270JS) *Fulton County*

Izayah

Izayah is energetic and has a great sense of humor. He is thirteen years old, loves to participate in group activities and he recently earned silver medals for behavior. He enjoys watching movies, playing basketball, playing video games, and playing with LEGOs. He would like to learn how to box and he wants to participate in extracurricular activities. Izayah has played the drums for a few years and would like to learn how to play better. Hawaii is his dream destination.

Izayah would do well in a home with a family that can provide a structured environment and a routine. Izayah will need someone who can advocate for his behavioral needs. He would like to have a mom and a dad. He is at his best when he feels safe and respected. Family is important to him and he would like to go on a family vacation someday. (8276SG) *Tippecanoe County*

Mari

Mari is a creative, talkative girl who plays the flute and loves scrapbooking. Mari, who is fifteen, would love to have a dog someday. She also wants to travel internationally to help others. She describes herself as "nice and a good friend." She enjoys going to church. She would like to participate in gymnastics and she loves to make crafts.

Family is very important to Mari. She hopes to find a family where the parent or parents are supportive and active. She would do well in a structured home. Mari needs a safe and stable home environment where she can be a kid. She has many creative outlets and her new family should encourage those. (8282JS) *Allen County*

Indiana Adoption Program

Brenda

Brenda, who goes by Bree, is an engaging and funny sixteen-year-old girl. Bree enjoys arts and crafts, music, and playing basketball. She enjoys writing and keeps a journal about her life. She is helpful and good at doing chores. Bree is good at babysitting and gets along well with younger children. Her favorite colors are pink, blue, purple, and green.

A family that would be best for Bree would be a stable home that can provide structure and routine. She needs a family that can model appropriate, positive behavior. Potential families should be patient, yet firm and have a strong working knowledge on how trauma affects children. Family should show unconditional love and would need to be a strong advocate for Bree's emotional and educational needs. (8301JS) *Howard County*

Dillon

Dillon is a pleasant fourteen-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 enjoys fixing things and going on bike rides. Dillon describes himself as "funny, nice, athletic, and intelligent." In his down time, he enjoys playing Minecraft or drawing. Dillon loves animals, especially dogs. When he grows up, Dillon thinks he'd like to be a construction worker, a doctor, or the host of a television show about the outdoors.

Dillon would do best in a two parent home with a strong male role model. A family that can provide unconditional love and stability would allow Dillon to thrive. Dillon does well with positive one-on-one attention. 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

Malik is a sweet and imaginative seventeen-year-old boy. He loves animals, and would love to have a pig named "Porkchop" someday. Malik loves fishing, and would enjoy living on a farm. He hopes to be a zoologist someday. He is involved in church and enjoys being an usher. Malik enjoys lifting weights and plays basketball and football. He wants to play college football. He likes drawing and sketching. Malik hopes to travel the world someday. Malik wants people to know that he is a great friend.

A family that would be best for Malik would be a two-parent home with no or younger children. It would be best if the home was nurturing, patient, and worked to build trust with Malik. 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. (8306SG) *Marion County*

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Kyle

Kyle is an active seventeen-year-old boy with a good sense of humor. He loves animals and enjoys volunteering at an animal shelter. He is creative and enjoys drawing, listening to music, and painting with watercolors. For fun, Kyle likes to watch action movies and play video games. Kyle has participated in sports, like karate, in the past and hopes to be involved in athletics again. Kyle hopes to travel someday. Kyle loves the outdoors and enjoys rock climbing. Kyle is a pleasant boy and makes friends easily.

The home that would be best for Kyle would be a two-parent home with no other or older children in the home. It would be best if parents can provide encouragement and positive reinforcement, as well as have an understanding of how trauma affects children. Families should enjoy being active and spending time outdoors. Kyle will need strong parental supervision that is both firm and compassionate. (8309BD) *Hancock County*

Leilani

Leilani is a bright nine-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 brilliant." She loves Disney movies, her favorite being "Hercules." For fun, Leilani likes to do puzzles. If she could, she "would do a puzzle everyday." She also likes to dance and sing. If she could go anywhere, she would want to go to New York City or Hollywood. When Leilani is older, she wants a job where she can help others.

Leilani would do best in a home with patient, kind, but firm, parents who have a good understanding of how trauma affects children. Parents should have an unconditional love for Leilani. 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

Lewis is a charming and helpful thirteen-year-old boy. His favorite subjects in school are math and 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. He enjoys drawing, and likes to sketch houses, chairs, people, and dogs. 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. When asked how he would describe himself, Lewis said, "I'm a good kid."

Lewis would do well in a two-parent household that is patient and can provide a structured environment. He would benefit from parents who can show him plenty of one-on-one attention and focus on his needs. Lewis has family with whom he'll need to remain in contact. If there are other children in the home, it would be best if they were older. (8312JS) *Allen County*

Steven

Steven is an active twelve-year-old boy. He is a hard worker and likes to try new things. For fun, Steven enjoys watching TV, his favorite show being "Firehouse Dog." He is great at video games. Steven also enjoys playing outside, especially going sledding in the winter. He plays football and kickball in his free time. Steven hopes to have a big RC plane someday. Steven is a curious boy and has a big imagination.

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

James "Cody"

Cody is a charming twelve-year-old boy who has an abundance of strengths and interests. He enjoys working with his hands, and loves to make paper airplanes. He is quick to tell you all about the best ways to make a great paper airplane. Cody also enjoys playing LEGOs. 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. Cody hopes his future family is active too. Cody is a personable young with a great sense of humor.

Cody would do best in a home with a strong male role model. He would benefit from having a family who has good communication with one another. He would thrive in a environment where the parents are patient and can provide structure. Families will need to show unconditional love and maintain a safe environment with age-appropriate boundaries and consequences. (8315BD) *Jennings County*

Austin

Austin is a fourteen-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*

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Shaun

Shaun is always learning! He is sixteen years old, loves to read and he collects inspirational quotes. Shaun 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. Shaun 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.

Shaun 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. Shaun is very intelligent and would do well with a family that encourages his interests. Shaun's family needs to have an understanding of the effect that trauma has on children, and needs to advocate for his wellbeing and his needs. (8319SG) *Tippecanoe County*

Falancia

Falancia is a kind fifteen-year-old girl who likes to learn new things. She enjoys team sports, her favorites being soccer and volleyball. In her free time, she enjoys drawing and going to the park with her friends. Falancia loves going to the movies. When she grows up, she wants to be a model, a pop star, or a fashion designer. Falancia describes herself as "funny, kind, caring, and independent." Falancia does well in school and is an avid reader. She wants parents who are honest, trusting, and fun.

Falancia would do best in a home with parents who are able to understand how trauma affects children. It would be best if Falancia was an only child. Parents will need to be patient and stable. It would be beneficial to Falancia if parents continue to cultivate her academic and athletic interests. (8321BS) *Warrick County*

Semaj

Semaj is a bright thirteen-year-old boy who likes to build things. He enjoys playing with LEGOs, and tends to let his imagination run wild while building. Semaj enjoys staying active, his favorite sport being football. His favorite position in football is wide receiver. Semaj likes video games, especially Minecraft. Semaj loves to read and likes the Hunger Games the best. Semaj is doing well in school.

Semaj would do best in a two-parent home with older children or no other children. It would beneficial for Semaj if parents can provide plenty of one-on-one attention. Homes will need to offer security and stability, as well as firm boundaries. Semaj has a sibling with whom he will need to keep in touch. Single mother homes will also be considered. (8331BD) *Madison County*

Indiana Adoption Program

Honesty

Honesty is a talented twelve-year-old girl who loves to sing. She is very active in her church and gets along well with her peers. For fun, Honesty enjoys playing with her American Girl doll collection. Honesty does well in school, and math is her favorite subject. Honesty loves to do puzzles! If she could go anywhere, she would want to go to the Build a Bear workshop. She describes herself as "friendly."

Honesty would do best in a two-parent home where she is an only child or with younger children. It would be beneficial for Honesty if parents were able to provide plenty of one on one attention. Honesty needs a home that can provide safety and stability with firm boundaries. (8332BD) *Madison County*

Noah

Noah is a creative thirteen-year-old boy who enjoys art and science classes. He likes to make things, especially out of paper mache and clay. For fun, he likes to build LEGOs. 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

Hannah is an upbeat and polite thirteen-year-old girl. She loves to bake, and would like to learn more about baking and hopes to become a pastry chef when she is older. Hannah describe 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 is loves to help others. Hannah wants a family that is calm and understanding with parents who enjoying cooking and sharing meals together.

A home that would be best for Hannah would be a small family that can provide structure. 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 that understand the affects of trauma and loss on children would be beneficial for Hannah. (8337IA) *Newton County*

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

Lande'll

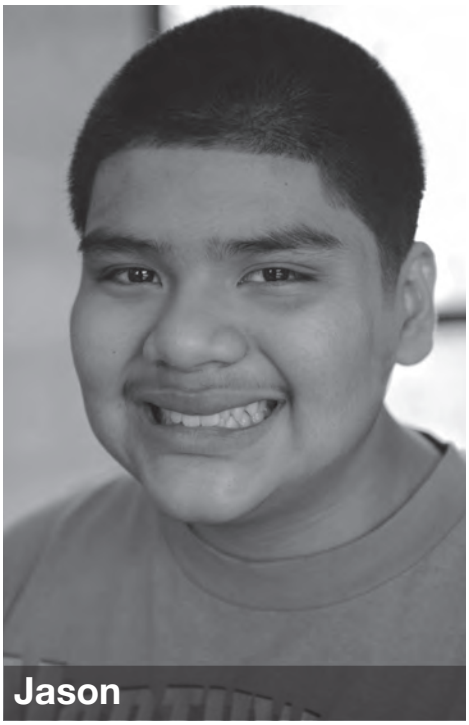
Lande'll is a friendly ten-year-old boy who enjoys playing outdoors. For fun, Lande'll likes to play basketball and football. His favorite position in football is quarterback. He enjoys jumping on the trampoline, and can do a back flip! Lande'll likes to play with LEGOs in his free time. When he is older, Lande'll hopes to become a scientist so he can "make new stuff no one has seen." 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.

The home that would be best for Lande'll would be structured and nurturing. 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. (8344SG) *Marion County*

Roderick

Roderick is a nice ten-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*



Jason

Jason is a kind fourteen-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*

Indiana Adoption Program

Carl'liyah

Carl'liyah, who goes by Carly, is a bright fifteen-year-old girl with a wonderful smile. Her favorite food is pancakes (breakfast is her favorite meal of the day). Her favorite movies are "A Walk To Remember" and the Harry Potter series. For fun, she likes to draw, write songs and poetry, and sing. She is very talented at crocheting and will proudly show off her work. "Crocheting is my life!" she says. Carly enjoys going to the movies and thinks she'd like to work in a theater someday. Carly describes herself as nice. She can be very helpful as well.

The home that would be best for Carly would be safe and stable, and will focus on relationship building. Parents will need to be patient and nurturing as Carly transitions into a home. Parents who are calm and have experience working with older youth and/or youth who have been affected by trauma would be beneficial for Carly. Parents will need to continue to advocate for Carly's emotional needs. A strong female role model would be helpful to Carly. (8354JS) *Elkhart County*

Ryan

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 fourteen-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

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 sixteen 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*

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

Damon

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 is thirteen and has a great smile that can light up a room. He gets along well with younger children, and loves to laugh! Damon is thirteen and he likes to spend time with animals.

Damon would do best in a family that has experience with medically fragile children. Damon will need plenty of supervision and assistance in a home, so parents who are patient and nurturing would be beneficial for him. Parents will need a healthy support system. Routine and stability is great for Damon and would allow him to feel safe and loved. Damon has siblings with whom he will need to remain in contact. (8358JS) *Wells County*

Jocelyn

Jocelyn enjoys school, and her favorite subjects are social studies and science! She describes herself as "funny, quiet, helpful, and good-hearted." For fun, Jocelyn enjoys playing outside and spending time with her friends. She likes to ride bikes, play card games, and likes participating in track and field at school. Jocelyn is fifteen. When she is older, she wants to be a nurse. Jocelyn is an artsy, creative girl who tries hard to better herself as well as encourage those around her. She is positive and happy, and hopes someday in the future to take a trip all around the world!

The home that would be best for Jocelyn would be safe, stable, and focused on relationship building and communication over discipline. Potential parents will need to provide nurture and unconditional love for her. Jocelyn wants to feel welcome and respected in a family. (8360JS) *Elkhart County*

Zanea

The best word to describe Zanea is "spunky." She loves to laugh and has a lot of friends. Zanea, as a fifteen-year-old girl, takes pride in her appearance and enjoys getting her hair and nails done. Those who know her best say she's caring. She describes herself as "a leader, funny, and helpful." Zanea's education is very important to her. In the future, she hopes to be a community leader. She is also very athletic and enjoys playing sports and cheerleading. She currently participates in the choir at her school. On the weekends, she enjoys going to the mall and shopping with her friends.

Zanea would thrive in a two-parent home that is active, supportive, loving, and does activities as a family. Zanea wishes to remain active in school activities and needs a home that is willing to allow her to continue participating in extracurricular activities. Potential parents will need to exercise patience and provide Zanea a caring home. (8364ABS) *Vanderburgh County*

Savior

Savior is a sweet, outgoing, smart eleven-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

Sarah

Sarah is a very happy nine-year-old girl who smiles frequently and is eager to please those around her. Sarah enjoys helping and has a very outgoing personality. She loves to sing, dance, and be creative. Sarah loves the movie Frozen and knows the words to all of the songs. Sarah is a very energetic little girl and one of her favorite things to do is to play outside and ride her bicycle. She also enjoys jumping on the trampoline! Sarah is a sweet girl who is a joy to be around.

Sarah needs a home where parents can offer a structured environment, as well as patience and a willingness to advocate for Sarah's educational and emotional needs. If there are other children in the home, it would be best if they were older. (8366HC)
Fayette County

Cameron

Cameron is a fun and creative twelve-year-old boy! Cameron enjoys playing with Legos, and his favorite Lego series is Ninjago. He likes animals and has been very helpful taking care of pets. Dinosaurs fascinate Cameron. In his free time, Cameron likes to stay active. One of his favorite outdoor activities is swimming! In the past, Cameron has participated in cross-country. He wants to learn how to skateboard. When asked to describe himself, Cameron says, "I'm a nice kid who likes Legos."

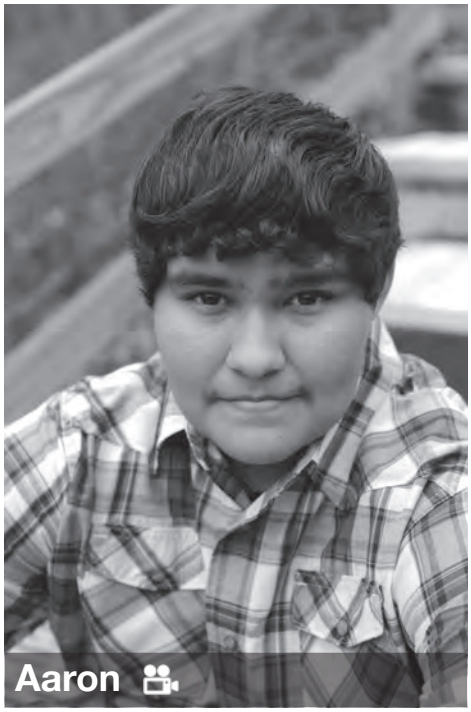
The home that would be best for Cameron would be patient and have an understanding of how trauma affects children. Cameron does well in response to firm and consistent structure. Parents will need to be positive role models for Cameron and encourage him to reach his fullest potential. (8367JS)
Marshall County

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

Jessica

Jessica, who is fifteen-years-old, is a social young lady who has a lot of personality and a pleasant disposition. Jessica enjoys playing volleyball and basketball. She loves music and being creative, especially by drawing and singing. Jessica loves to read and participates in a book club (Her favorite book is Because of Winn Dixie!). Jessica does very well in school, and her favorite subject is math. Jessica enjoys attending church and youth group, and currently sings in the choir. She likes animals and does well around them. She also likes to be outdoors and participate in outdoor activities. Jessica describes herself as "funny, always smiling, and not really a 'girly-girl.'" When she is older, Jessica hopes to become a nurse because she likes helping others.

Jessica would benefit from a calm environment with parents who have the ability to provide her with individualized attention. She is very active and likes being outdoors so a family who enjoys the same would benefit Jessica. Jessica would also benefit from a home with a strong support system as she comes from a large family. She would do best with parents who are firm, patient, and set clear, consistent boundaries while at the same time being supportive and loving. Jessica needs to be encouraged to be a kid. (8368BS) *Orange County*



Aaron

Aaron is a friendly seventeen-year-old boy who enjoys reading and playing games with others. Aaron has learned lots of card games and some of his favorites include Spades, Hearts, and Rummy. He enjoys playing football and basketball, and his favorite teams are the Miami Heat and the Seattle Seahawks. Aaron is a talented artist and enjoys drawing pictures. He also learned how to do origami, and will gladly teach you how to make an origami star. Aaron likes to collect shoes, his favorites being Air Jordan's and Vans. If he could go anywhere in the world, Aaron would go to London to "experience new things." Aaron wants a family that would show him respect and stick with him.

The family that would be best for Aaron would be patient and have parenting experience. Potential families should have knowledge on how trauma affects children. Aaron thrives on structure and encouragement. Parents should have an extended support system and be willing to not give up on Aaron in order to help him bond with a family. (8370BD) *Clark County*

Felix

Felix is a mature, well-mannered fifteen-year-old boy who enjoys helping others and meeting new people. Felix is very passionate about video games, and his favorites 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

Alex is a bright and curious twelve-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*

James

James is a polite and pleasant fifteen-year-old boy. He enjoys playing video games and watching TV shows on Nickelodeon. James is a quick learner and enjoys playing basketball. Science is his favorite subject in school. For fun during the summer, James likes to ride his bike and go swimming. James identifies more with kids younger than him and enjoys playing with them. James is doing well in school and likes to help and encourage others. James' favorite movie is Avatar.

James would do best in a two-parent home with a strong father figure. He needs a home that is safe, stable, consistent, and emotionally supportive. He would do well with parents who expose him to opportunities and activities that will model more age-appropriate social interaction. James will need a forever family that will be in good communication with his school. Parents will need to be patient and reassuring with James. Parents must have an understanding of how trauma affects children. (8389JS) *Noble County*

Brooklyn

Brooklyn is an energetic and charming eleven-year-old girl. Brooklyn likes to write and enjoys reading. Her favorite book is “Charlotte's Web.” For fun, she likes to hang out with her friends and ride bikes. Brooklyn enjoys singing and dancing, particularly hip-hop dancing. She hopes to be involved in a church in the future. Brooklyn love animals and wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up. When asked what her favorite animal is, she responds, "I can't pick a favorite because I like them all!" Brooklyn has a good imagination and she is very creative. Brooklyn says her favorite thing about herself is "I care for people."

Brooklyn will need experienced parents who can provide a stable, consistent, and predictable environment for her. Adoptive parents must develop clear expectations and boundaries. Parents will need to be patient with Brooklyn and provide unconditional love. Parents will need to provide lots of assurance and attention for Brooklyn. Adoptive parents will need to advocate for Brooklyn's emotional needs. Ideally, Brooklyn will benefit from a family where she is the only the child in the home. If there are other children, they should be older than Brooklyn and be more independent. Brooklyn will need to make a slow transition to an adoptive family. A prospective family will need to support Brooklyn’s continued contact with her aunt. Finally, a family will need to advocate for Brooklyn in the school setting. (8390SG) *Marion County*

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

Devonte

Devonte works hard at school so that he can say, "I had another great day!" when he gets off the bus. Devonte has a big personality--he's a lot of fun! Devonte is a sweet, curious, and honest eleven-year-old boy. He loves to talk about basketball, swimming, video games, and drawing. He loves the NBA, especially the Warriors. If he could have three wishes, he would ask for 1. a watch, 2. new shirts, and 3. LeBron shoes. He says, "I'm glad I don't have to pay bills. I'm happy because I'm a kid." He says his favorite thing about himself is "my life and what all I've been through." 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 "an xBox, a grown up bed, wall paper, and a mirror!" 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. (8396SG) *Marion County*

Courtney

Courtney is a creative twelve-year-old girl who enjoys painting and drawing. She likes sports and staying active. She plays basketball and softball. She adores animals of all types, her favorite being dogs. She knows how to care for livestock and horses! She hopes to be in a home where the parents have pets. She enjoys doing jobs to be helpful. She also enjoys being around younger children is very helpful with them. Courtney is a natural leader. She loves reading and usually reads one book a week. She is excited to find a forever family. If she had three wishes, she would want a big house in the country, a farm, and a big yard.

Courtney would do best in a two-parent home where she can be the only child. Courtney would benefit from parents who can provide her with lots of attention. Courtney's transition into the adoptive home should be slow. Parents should have an understanding of how trauma can affect children. (8402BD) *Morgan County*

Nicole

Nicole is a positive and quirky sixteen-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*

De'Ongjaquaon

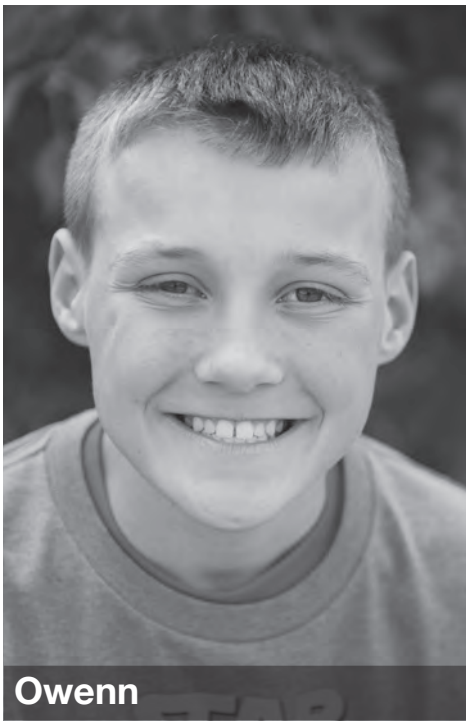
De'Ongjaquaon, who goes by Quaon, is a well-spoken and intelligent boy. He does well in school, and usually makes all A's. His favorite subject in school is technology because he enjoys working with tablets and computers. Quaon is eleven and he likes to make others laugh; he can be quite a comedian! Others describe him as a creative thinker. Quaon likes to practice origami. He is very active and likes playing outside. In the past, Quaon has played on basketball and baseball teams, and he hopes to participate in those sports again. Quaon is a generous boy and is always willing to help others. He does very well academically and is an advanced student. He makes friends easily and likes to be around others.

The home that would be best for Quaon would be loving and committed to helping him succeed, as well as a committed to permanency. He needs parents who are loving, patient, and willing to advocate for him. Quaon will need adequate supervision, and parents must clearly communicate their expectations as well as consequences. Quaon would do best as an only or younger child. He is a gifted student, so it would be beneficial for him if parents nurture and encourage him to participate in extracurricular activities. (8412BS)
Vanderburgh County

Chantilly

Chantilly is very intelligent and likes to read. Her favorite type of book is fantasy. Chantilly is quite social and enjoys spending time with her peers. She is a friendly, conversational twelve-year-old girl that enjoys being active, playing games and playing with animals. Chantilly likes playing board games and shopping. She is funny and likes to learn new things. She can be very helpful. Chantilly has a great memory, and she is loyal. She has a strong desire to have a forever home.

She thrives when there is follow-through with discipline, structure, consistency, and routine. Chantilly needs parents who will be firm, but affectionate and understanding, and able to provide lots of attention. She would like a family that is active, caring, loving, and kind. She likes to be outdoors and would love to be with a family that has a pond or access to a body of water where she can fish. She is also fond of electronics and wants to be able to use her Nintendo DS and her tablet. A sense of humor will also go a long way, as well as patience. Chantilly's faith is important to her, and she would like to be placed in a Christian home. (8415HC)
Randolph County



Owenn

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 thirteen 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

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

Candi

Candi is a bubbly fourteen-year-old girl who is all smiles! She likes to collect stuffed animals and dolls. Candi describes herself as creative and helpful. In school, her favorite subjects are art, creative technology, and gym. Candi likes to swing and play, but especially likes to swim. "I'm a mermaid at heart," jokes Candi. She enjoys outdoor and spiritual activities, such as church. Candi likes to build and create things, and hopes to study art in the future.

The home that would be best for Candi would be a two-parent home that can provide consistency, stability, and love. Candi will need parents who will advocate for her educational and emotional needs. Candi wants parents who make her feel at home and to whom she feels important. She has a strong desire to be in a home where she feels wanted and loved unconditionally. Parents will need to be patient and nurturing, but firm and consistent in discipline. (8421SG) *Tippecanoe County*

James

James is an upbeat sixteen-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*

Cory

Cory is a personable thirteen-year-old who is easy to talk to! He is polite, respectful, funny, and helpful. He collects coins, and was eager to show off his collection of 50 States Quarters. Cory also collects stamps! Cory likes playing with Legos, watching hockey or football, and playing basketball. He likes to spend time with his friends, playing outside or playing board games like Operation or card games like UNO. When he is older, Cory hopes to join the Air Force or become a writer. Cory's favorite thing about himself is that he's a "smart, good kid."

Cory has a strong desire to be a part of a family, and hopes his forever family is caring and nice. He would benefit from being in a home with parents who are understanding of how trauma can affect children. Parents will need to be advocates for his emotional well-being, as well as nurturing and engaging. The transition into an adoptive home would need to be slow. Cory would thrive in a home where the parents are patient and understanding. He desires to have an adoptive family that lives in a rural setting, and hopes to have a dog. It is important to Cory that a family is a church-going, Christian family. (8434JS) *Allen County*

Josiah

Josiah is a sweet eleven year-old-boy with lots of energy! He likes to stay active, and his favorite sports are basketball and football. His favorite basketball team is the Cleveland Cavaliers, and his favorite player is Kevin Durant. In his down time, Josiah plays video and board games. He likes the Star Wars movies and universe. Josiah likes to play with LEGOs. Josiah enjoys superhero movies and TV shows such as “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” and “Transformers.” When asked how he would describe himself, Josiah says, "I'm a cool kid."

The home that would be best for Josiah would be structured yet nurturing with consistent rules. Parents will need to understand how trauma affects children. Josiah would benefit from parents who will be patient with him and will love him unconditionally. He hopes his adoptive family will also enjoy going to restaurants, playing outside, and watching his favorite movies. Josiah has a brother with whom he will need to remain in contact. (8437JS) *Allen County*

Leviticus

Leviticus is a polite, helpful twelve-year-old boy who likes art. He sings in the choir and enjoys writing. Leviticus is learning how to cut and style hair. Leviticus enjoys hip-hop and R&B music, and his favorite artist is Beyoncé. Leviticus likes video games. He likes to play football. He enjoys watching cartoons and football on TV. Leviticus likes superheroes, his favorite being Batman. Leviticus describes himself as "nice and handsome." He is also caring and protective of his friends and family.

The family that would be best for Leviticus would understand how trauma can affect a child. Parents will need to provide a home that is structured and consistent. Leviticus would benefit from a home that is nurturing and patient. Leviticus has a brother with whom he will need to remain in contact. (8438JS) *Allen County*

Leigh-Ann

Leigh-Ann is a caring, bright, helpful fourteen-year-old 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.

Kristin is an avid reader who enjoys fantasy and science fiction novels. She is fifteen 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*

Star is an outgoing, creative, and friendly nine-year-old girl who is good at crafts! She recently went to summer camp and enjoyed it. In her down time, she likes to finger knit, play in the park, and play basketball. She enjoys reading, and she participates in a summer reading program. She enjoys swimming in the summer and likes to make up songs to sing. She learned to crochet and enjoys making things! Star is a sweet girl with a great sense of humor.

Star would benefit being in a home where she is an only child or the youngest child. She would do well in a home with a large support network. She needs parents who will give her love and support, as well as provide stability and structure. Star thrives off one-on-one attention. (8462JS) *Dekalb 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 child welfare and adoption-related materials. Some of the best known include:

Written Materials

Child Welfare League of America
440 First St. N.W., 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20001-2085
202-638-2952 • fax: 202-638-4004
web: www.cwla.org/pubs/welcome.htm
Headquarters
2395 Crystal Dr., Suite 250
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: 703-412-2400 • fax: 703-412-2401

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

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

Self Assessment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Step 2: Decide What Type of AdoptionYou 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.eligibilty@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 (CDCS) and private Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPA) that are contracted with the local counties to provide adoption services, including Family Preparation. You can contact the Indiana Adoption Program at 1-888-25-ADOPT or 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.

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.

Step 9: Begin Searching for a Child

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

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

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

Step 10: Considering a Child

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

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

Questions for Prospective Adoptive Parents to Ask

a. What is known about the child's birth history?

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

c. Is there any evidence of handicap? Any suspected learning difficulties?

d. When was last contact with any birth family member?

e. Are there pictures the birth family can pass on, or any family memento?

f. Is there a Life Book for the child?

g. Are there any siblings? Will it be possible or beneficial for ongoing contact with siblings (if they have been separated)?

h. What social and medical history is available on the parents? On extended family members or siblings?

i. Do the parents have a history of drug or alcohol abuse? Was the mother using substances during the pregnancy?

j. What was the home environment like? What was the environment of the foster home(s) like?

k. How many moves or placements did the child experience and why did they occur?

l. What is the child's current adjustment status?

m. Has the child been prepared for the adoptive placement? How can you help?

n. What is the child's current health status? Does the child have any allergies?

o. Is there any history of physical, sexual or emotional abuse? What treatment has been pursued?

p. What method of discipline works best with the child?

q. Does the child accept and give affection?

r. Does the child have any therapeutic needs or treatment plans?

s. What adoption subsidy options are there for the child?

Step 11: Prepare for Your Child's Arrival

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

- Update the family's insurance. Adoptees can be covered under your health insurance from the date they are placed with your family. Group health insurance carriers must insure adoptees under the terms of their parents' policy and cannot deny coverage due to pre-existing conditions. Add a child to your health insurance plan within 30 days after he or she is placed in your home. If your child is eligible for an adoption subsidy, he or she may be covered through Medicaid. Also change beneficiary designations on life insurance policies and update wills as needed.
- Get and keep a copy of the adoption decree with the child's amended birth certificate. Once the adoption is finalized, that document may be sealed and neither you nor the adoptee can access it. Without it, some adoptees have had trouble getting passports and 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.adoptioninchildtime.org

Attorney Fees

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

Approval

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

Agency Supervision

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

Required Consents

The consent of the child's mother, if she is living, is required by law to complete an adoption. The consent of a child's father who has established paternity or signed a paternity affidavit is also required. The county Departent 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 LCPA or DCS has custody or the county where the child resides.

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

Adoption Filing Fees

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

Adoption Assistance

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.).

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

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Youth Connections Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

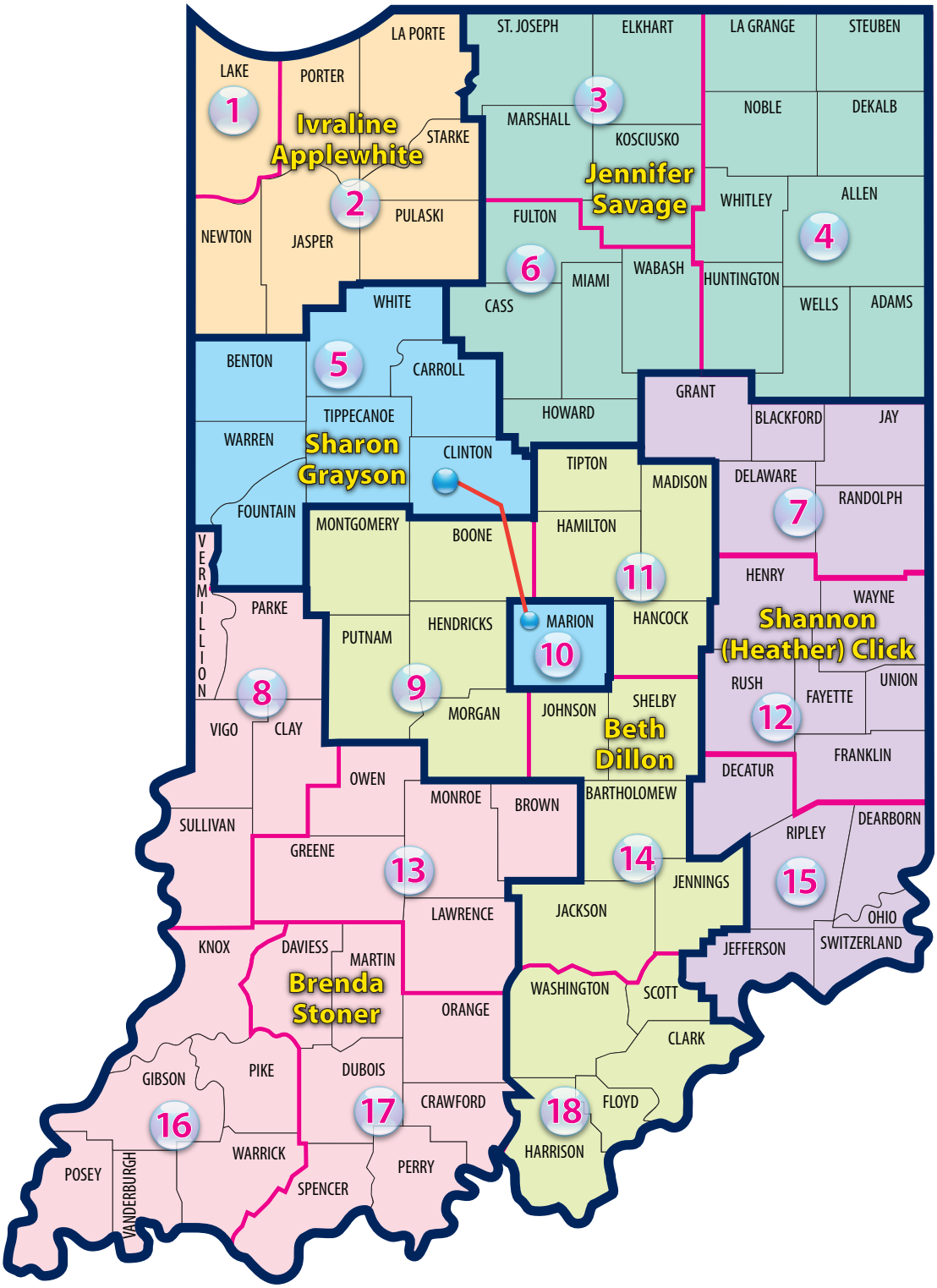
Adoption Specialist Locator Map

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

This map shows the Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) specialist who coordinates adoption information for their Team.

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
Ivraline.applewhite@dcs.in.gov

Jennifer Savage
122 N. Detroit Street
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
(260) 463-3451 ext. 11710
jennifer.savage@dcs.in.gov

Shannon (Heather) Click
54 S. Second Street
Richmond, Indiana 47374-4276
(765) 983-7748, *ext:* 12986
shannon.click@dcs.in.gov

Beth Dillon
2535 Parkway Drive, Ste. 1
Shelbyville, Indiana 46176
(317) 392-5040, *ext:* 11917
elizabeth.dillon@dcs.in.gov

Brenda Stoner
4 North East 21st Street
Washington, Indiana 47501
(812) 254-0024, *ext:* 12191
brenda.stoner@dcs.in.gov

www.IN.gov/dcs

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

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c/o Children's Bureau Inc.
3801 N. Temple Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46205

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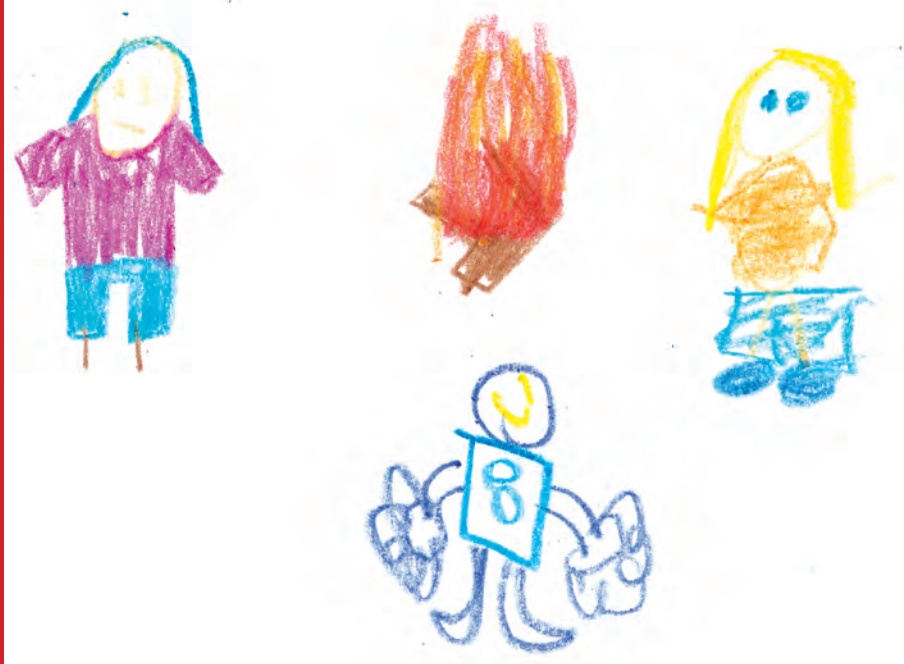
Subscription information is available in this book on page 3.

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