"As a teenager, I knew that I wanted to be a foster mother when I grew up," says Zanita, who is also an Adoption Champion with the Indiana Adoption Program, "and that’s what I did!"

Zanita and her husband, Wilhelm, have been fostering children for 10 years. Both personally and professionally, Zanita encourages others to adopt from foster care, and her focus is on inspiring families to consider accepting older youth into their homes.

"Some people tend to shy away from fostering older children, but we welcomed the experience," explains Zanita, "Our first foster child was 16. I wanted to foster older youth because older kids are harder to place, plus my motto is, ‘You’ve got to roll when I roll!’ and teens can do that!"

During Zanita and Wilhelm’s fostering experience, a sibling group, Samara and Brian, came to stay with them.

“It was 11 o’clock at night,” Zanita remembers, “They were scared, they were nervous. I told them they were safe.”

“We were scared because we didn’t know them,” Samara agrees, “but when we got to know them, we felt closer, better, safer.”

Brian remembers that first night vividly. “We got into a gold car. When we got in the door, we took off our shoes and placed them on the doormat. Samara went to shower first and she [Zanita] handed us washrags and towels. My bed wasn’t set up yet, but when I saw my room, it was so big. That night was the best sleep I ever had.”

As a foster-only home, Zanita and Wilhelm had not considered adoption, but when Samara and Brian became available for adoption, they knew they had to make a decision. Zanita remembers asking Wilhelm what he thought about adoption. She already knew her answer was, “Yes!”

“We can keep them,” said Wilhelm. Zanita was in disbelief and asked again. “I said we could keep them!” he confirmed.

“When I told the kids that the court was going to terminate parental rights, they said, ‘We’re staying with you!’ so we had a good laugh over us being chosen by our children to be their parents,” says Zanita.

“I knew I wanted them to be my parents the first year we were there,” says Brian.

“We have never regretted that decision,” says Zanita, “We forget that we adopted them because they seem like they have been a part of our lives the whole time! When they came, I didn’t know how long they’d stay.”

“I’m glad we stayed!” says Brian.

Wilhelm concurs, “We each have a mini-me now.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
Welcome to the Indiana Adoption Program

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

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


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

The Indiana Adoption Program would like to thank Paula for the front cover illustration and Libra for the back cover illustration.
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If I inquire about a child, does this mean I will get to adopt this child?

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

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

Therefore, adoption requires serious considerations.

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

### Meet Our Children

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Subscription Information

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

If you have any questions please call 317.545.5281 x136.
Mercedez is a good student who wants to be a journalist when she grows up. Mercedez, who is fifteen, describes herself as quiet and creative. Her favorite thing about herself is that she is creative and can "think up ideas quickly." She is very active and she hopes to try out for track and field. Mercedez loves animals, especially dogs. If she could have any wish, she would wish for unlimited wishes.

Dymond is a pleasant thirteen-year-old girl who enjoys being social and describes herself as funny. 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.

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. Parents should be reassuring and nurturing to help Mercedez and Dymond thrive. They would enjoy being in a home that has a dog. (8161ABIA) Lake County

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 fifteen 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 energetic, sweet, funny, and happy twelve-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.

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

Tiffany is a friendly, inquisitive, playful child. She is nine years old and 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 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. Parents should be reassuring and nurturing to help Mercedez and Dymond thrive. They would enjoy being in a home that has a dog. (8161ABIA) Lake County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Gage is a nice fourteen-year-old boy who enjoys nature! His favorite thing to do is play outside and explore. He likes adventuring in the woods and looking for different animals and insects. Gage is fascinated by dinosaurs! 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 fossils. Gage likes playing LEGO's and building things.

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

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

Jaye’den, Nathan, and Nylah would benefit from a home with structure and clear boundaries. It would be best if parents were 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

Jaye’den is a bright and creative twelve-year-old boy who likes to draw. Jaye’den enjoys staying active, and likes to play sports. His favorite sport is football! In his down time, Jaye’den enjoys playing on the iPad, listening to music, and watching TV. Jaye’den does well in school, and his favorite subject is math. He is friendly, outgoing, and gets along well with his siblings.

Nathan is a personable nine-year-old boy who has a great smile! He is an active and athletic boy who enjoys swimming, football, and soccer. He enjoys spending his time outdoors jumping and tumbling! In his down time, Nathan likes to draw, play video games, and watch movies. He is doing well in school and gets along well with his peers.

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 meet new people. When asked what she likes to do for fun, she said, “Go places!” She is very engaging and outgoing. Nylah is doing well in school, and likes to play learning games on the iPad.
Brandon is a smart, outgoing, and athletic fifteen-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 fourteen-year-old boy. He likes school, is a quick learner, and gets along well with his peers. He is athletic and enjoys playing basketball and football. Trenton's favorite food is sausage pizza with garlic dipping sauce. He also likes crab legs, shrimp, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. He likes to watch football on television and his favorite team is the Cincinnati Bengals.

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

The 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. They seem to respond well to the structure in the church setting. (8378ABCIA) Lake County

Joshua loves his younger brothers because they cheer him up. Joshua is a smart thirteen-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 eight-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
Jaimee is a very sensitive and caring eleven-year-old girl. She is very aware of others’ feelings and tries to help others. Her favorite books are the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series. She is not a picky eater and will pretty much eat anything. Her favorite food is sushi! She likes to play outside with her sister and look for insects. She also enjoys going on bike rides. If she could go anywhere in the world, she would want to go to Alaska. Jaimee likes to wander around and explore. Jaimee loves to help around the house with things such as cooking, and enjoys one-on-one attention. She thrives on positive attention and praise.

Jazmine is a bit shy when she first meets new people, but once she gets to know you, she is a sweet girl. Jazmine, an eleven-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 ten-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 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. (8429ABCD) Jennings County

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

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

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

Clay County

Austin is a friendly, talkative nine-year-old boy. He is happy to share his interests. Austin enjoys playing with his remote-control drone and cars as well as listening to music. He has taken a recent interest in origami and church. He also enjoys building with LEGOs and puzzles. Minecraft and Thief are his favorite video games. Currently, his favorite movie is “The Lego Movie.” Austin is also an active young boy. On a recent Florida vacation, Austin says he enjoyed his time playing on the beach and in the pool. He hopes to play soccer on a team soon. He enjoys riding his bike and skateboarding. Austin is nurturing, and has taken in stray animals and cared for them. He enjoys helping and caring for others. He is funny and responsible.

Alexis is creative, so it is no surprise that her favorite class in school is art! She enjoys coloring and collecting jewelry. Alexis likes to be outdoors and loves animals. Her favorite animals are cats, especially cheetahs. She would like to become a veterinarian someday. Alexis also enjoys music and her favorite artist is Jason Aldean. Alexis is a determined, bright, and lovable seven-year-old girl. Alexis has a strong self-confidence and she describes herself as beautiful, kind, and truthful.

Austin and Alexis are in need of a stable, structured, loving and safe home. An adoptive family must be prepared to make a lifelong commitment to them. They would do best in a two-parent home as only children. It is important that potential families have knowledge on how trauma can affect children. Austin and Alexis will need active parents that can keep them busy and an environment that will allow them to experience new ideas, activities, and challenges. If a new home must be found, a slow transition should occur. A new family will need patience as they slowly build a relationship with them. (8575ABIA)

Starke County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Douglas is an engaging and thoughtful ten year-old boy! His favorite foods are ice cream and cookies. Douglas likes to read, and he also enjoys playing in the school orchestra. He is learning to play the recorder and the xylophone. He enjoys all sorts of music! For fun, Douglas likes to drive his remote control cars or play basketball. If he had one wish, he would wish for good luck! Douglas is helpful and doing well in school.

Jeshurun is a pleasant and playful seven year-old boy who is fascinated by dinosaurs! His favorite dinosaur is the T-Rex. He enjoys collecting and playing with toy dinosaurs. Jeshurun's favorite movie is Jurassic Park. For fun, Jeshurun likes to play outside, go swimming, or play basketball. He likes spending time with his friends. Jeshurun is active, fun, and engaging!

Douglas and Jeshurun need a family that can provide, consistency, unconditional positive regard, and affection. Douglas and Jeshurun would do best in a two-parent home where the parents can balance giving both boys the individual and mutual attention they need, as well as be role models for healthy behavior. Both parents will need to understand how trauma affects children. Parents need to be advocates for Douglas and Jeshurun’s educational success.

(8581ABJS) St. Joseph County

Legan is a happy, friendly, and active nine year-old boy! He enjoys superheroes, and the Incredible Hulk is his favorite. Legan enjoys participating in Cub Scouts. Legan is creative and likes to draw. He works hard, keeps a positive attitude, and is determined to do well.

Shyann is a happy, imaginative, and bubbly eight year-old girl! She likes to sing and dance. She recently took a ballet class, and her favorite music is from the movie “Frozen.” Her favorite foods are hot dogs, pineapple, and tacos. Shyann collects dolls, plays video games, and enjoys spending time with her friends from school. Her favorite animal from a recent zoo trip was the elephant. Shyann is a loving, caring, helpful, and outgoing girl.

Legan and Shyann need a family that can provide a stable, structured, loving, and safe family that will commit to them unconditionally. As children who have experienced trauma, Legan and Shyann will need the continued support and guidance throughout their lives. They will need active parents that can keep them busy in an environment that will allow Legan and Shyann to experience new ideas, activities, and challenges. They would do well in a single-parent or two-parent home with other children and/or animals. (8583ABBS) Owen County
Faith is a polite and kind thirteen-year-old girl. She enjoys being active, and plays volleyball and enjoys horseback riding. Her favorite thing to do is show jump! Faith enjoys working with animals, especially horses. She describes herself as a "barn rat." Faith enjoys fishing, camping, hunting, kayaking, and canoeing. When she is older, she wants to become a police officer or a game warden. Faith hopes to live with a family that has lots of animals.

Jack is a kind ten-year-old boy with a good sense of humor. For fun, he enjoys playing video games on his Xbox. Jack likes to play baseball and basketball. He also collects baseball cards. If he could have three wishes, he would want a virtual reality headset, his own computer, and a Beagle. When he is older, he hopes to become an engineer. He wants to travel to Germany someday!

Faith and Jack would do best in a single or two-parent family where they are the only children. The parent(s) should be patient, nurturing, and loving. Faith and Jack would like a family that participates in activities together. It is important that any potential families have any understanding of how trauma can affect children.

(8595ABBS) Wayne County
"Give older kids a chance.
They’re individuals.
You can make a difference."

All four family members use the same words to describe each other: funny, kind, loveable, and sweet. Their foster care and adoption journey was easy to navigate, but they have plenty of advice for prospective parents.

Wilhelm’s advice is, “Be patient and give them opportunities to learn. Seeing their faces the first time they do something, seeing them excited about something new, that’s the best.”

Zanita agrees and adds, “Make sure you have support. Take lots and lots of classes. Give older kids a chance. They’re individuals. You can make a difference. Make sure it’s a forever thing. Some people might think ‘love can fix them,’ but it’s not true—you have to love them where they are.”

Zanita is an Adoption Champion with the Indiana Adoption Program. To learn more about her work, please visit: http://www.in.gov/dcs/2740.htm
Marshmallows were everywhere when Indiana Adoption Program visited 240sweet in Columbus, IN for our S’Mores + More Adoption Meet & Greet Event!

Our Meet & Greets are fun, interactive events where children in foster care have a chance to meet prospective families. Meet & Greet guests spend the day learning new skills and gaining new experiences. At this event, we made marshmallow towers, built marshmallow catapults, competed in marshmallow relay races, and enjoyed a marshmallow-making demonstration by Chef Alexa. The best part was that everyone got to take home a sample of gourmet marshmallows!

If you would like to attend one of our Meet & Greets, 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!
Everyone has a good laugh while launching marshmallows.
Jerry is an easy-going, affectionate boy who likes to give and receive hugs. Jerry has a smile and a laugh that are contagious. Jerry is very social and likes to spend time with laid-back, pleasant people. Like lots of teenagers, Jerry enjoys foods like chicken nuggets and soda. Jerry enjoys doing sensory activities, such as finger painting, swinging, and rocking in a beanbag chair. He likes music he can dance to, and sometimes he’ll hum along! Jerry does well in school, and loves the community and interaction it offers. In his downtime, Jerry enjoys listening to books on tape or being read to. For those that know Jerry, they think he is a wonderful guy!

Jerry is a wonderful boy who needs a family that is patient and loving. Jerry thrives in an environment that offers structure, routine, and stability. He requires supervision and guidance throughout the day, but he is working on his independence. Jerry does well with people who are laid-back, friendly, and affectionate. A family with an extended support system as well as knowledge and understanding of emotional and developmental needs in children would be best Jerry. (3682BD) Bartholomew County

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

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

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

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

Alan is a 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 fourteen 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 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 seventeen 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 best if potential families were active in outdoors and/or sports. Brian needs guidance and support and would benefit from having parents who can encourage him. Brian has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. (6085SG) Marion County
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 seventeen 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

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

Nate is looking forward to being adopted and is eager to have a family. He wants parents that are nice. He will do best in a stable, consistent, and caring environment with an established routine. Potential parents should be loving and patient. It would be best if there were no other children in the home. Both single and two-parent homes will be considered. (7025SG) Marion County

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

Emily is an affectionate girl who needs a family that can provide structure, consistent rules and consequences, support, and encouragement. She would like a mom and a dad and she prefers to have no animals in the home. Emily has siblings with whom she will need to maintain contact. Emily needs caregivers who can address her medical needs. (7041JS) Allen County
Damon is a thirteen-year-old boy with many interests, like being outdoors and participating in sports. He loves being active and likes to ride his bike and play baseball and basketball. He enjoys fishing and camping and prefers playing outside. Damon also likes playing video games on his tablet and is eager to show those interested how to play. His favorite video game is Minecraft. Damon likes to play by himself or one friend at a time. He excels in school and enjoys all subjects, especially math and science. Damon describes himself as "funny" and "awesome." He is driven and has a positive demeanor.

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

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

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

Avery is a very sweet little boy who needs a family that is committed to him and his many medical challenges. It would be beneficial to have a family that is familiar with parenting a child with special needs. Families with an excellent support system and knowledge of developmental delays and medical needs are preferred. It would be recommended that the family be familiar with or willing to learn sign language, as this would allow the family to communicate with Avery. (8039JS) Allen County

Kylis is a fourteen-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 that he is safe. Parents must commit to Kylis’ permanency. Kylis would benefit from a family that is patient and understanding, and able to encourage Kylis. Parents should provide Kylis with a variety of activities to offer structure. Both single-parent and two-parent families will be considered. (8060BS) Vanderburgh County

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

Caleb would like to have older siblings. He would prefer to live with a single mother who is African-American, but two-parent homes will be considered as well. He needs a patient family that understands the importance of healing and will advocate for his education. He needs love, stability, and a sense of security. He would do well in a structured environment with firm boundaries. (8070BS) Vanderburgh County

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

Briestyn will do best in a two-parent home with an extensive support system and parenting experience. His family will need to provide close supervision and plenty of one-on-one attention. He needs a family that is encouraging, strong, and patient, to help him overcome his intense emotional and behavioral needs. It would be best if Briestyn was the only or youngest child. Briestyn needs parents who will show him unconditional love. (8106BS) Vermillion County

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

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

Cordale is an intelligent, well-mannered, and creative sixteen-year-old boy. He likes to ask questions to improve his understanding of others and events. He is good at math and science and he likes to read and spell. Cordale loves art and enjoys drawing. When he grows up, he wants to work in animation making cartoons. Cordale would like to participate in extracurricular activities and he will need a home that will allow him to be active in his interests.

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

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

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Jonathan is a friendly, adventurous child who loves to play outside. He is fourteen 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

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

Charles would do well in a loving two-parent home with parents who are firm, but fair. He will need supervision and parents who can provide stability, patience, and security. Charles would thrive in a home where the parents continue to encourage him to succeed as well as advocate for his educational needs. (8161CIA) Lake County
Gregory, who prefers to be called Greg, is a bright and funny seventeen-year-old boy. He enjoys music, art, and reading. Gregory loves science fiction and fantasy books. He is a big fan of the outdoors, and enjoys swimming and fishing. He also enjoys writing and hopes to be an author someday. Greg recently took up magic and has been teaching himself various tricks! His favorite thing about himself is that he is artistic. Greg is talented at origami. He is a caring and helpful boy who is accepting of others and makes friends easily.

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

(8164ABS) Crawford County

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 thirteen and very inquisitive. He has a desire to learn more about individuals and ideas.

Jonathan would do best in an active two-parent home with no younger children. Parents should be consistent, as well as flexible to change, as Jonathan’s needs change. Jonathan will need a home that can provide structure and routine. They should also be motivated and strong with a good community of support to advocate for Jonathan’s needs. Jonathan wants a family where he feels understood and where the parents are reliable. (8181SG) Marion County

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chase would benefit from a two-parent home with no other children so the parents could give him plenty of positive attention. Families should be consistent, calm, and able to maintain a stable environment with adequate supervision. Parents should be willing to advocate for his emotional wellbeing. A slow transition into an adoptive home would be best for Chase. (8203BD) Hamilton County
Jesse is a friendly and inquisitive twelve-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 older brother who can be strong role models. Jesse needs a home that can provide safety, stability, and unconditional love. (8204HC) Jefferson County

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 sixteen 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

Elaina is a very talkative fifteen-year-old young lady who loves attention. She is very outgoing, independent, and helpful. She loves to cook and clean and play board games. She also loves music and crafts. Elaina is interested in gymnastics, swimming, and reading.

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

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

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

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

Joshua will do best in a two-parent home that can provide adequate supervision and a safe environment. Families should have a support network to help in caring for Joshua, as well as preparation to be an advocate for his emotional and educational needs. Potential parents will need to be patient, understanding, and active. (8225IA) La Porte County

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

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

Matthew 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 helps out with chores and loves to earn time on the computer.

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

Joshua is a polite, active fifteen-year-old boy who loves video games, matchbox cars, LEGO’s, 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
Mahogany is a sweet eight-year-old girl who loves to play! Mahogany makes friends easily because she is friendly and polite. She likes to have fun and be silly! Mahogany likes to play outside by riding her bike, jumping rope, going swimming, and playing catch. Mahogany is very considerate, loving, and helpful. She is also creative, and likes to make posters. Mahogany is charismatic and enjoys speaking in front of audiences. She is engaging and smiles a lot. Mahogany has participated in karate, gymnastics, and church youth activities.

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. (82341A) La Porte County

Mahogany is a very bright girl who very much wants to find a forever home. A family that would be best for her would be a two-parent, African American home that can provide stability, unconditional love, and affection. Mahogany needs parents who are consistent and will set and maintain boundaries with her. Parents who are calm, nurturing, and active would be helpful for Mahogany. If there are other children in the home, it would be best if they were older. (82521A) Lake County

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

Sean would do best in a home with two parents who have a large support network. Parents will need to be able to provide adequate supervision as well as positive redirection. Potential parents will need to advocate for Sean’s educational and emotional needs. Sean does well with other children and enjoys being around other people. (82541S) Allen County
Dallas is a friendly and smart twelve-year-old boy. Dallas is a sweet boy who likes to read and play video games. He plays a lot of sports and especially enjoys football. His favorite position to play is quarterback. His favorite sports teams are the Indiana Pacers and the Indianapolis Colts. Dallas really likes superheroes, especially Batman. He likes to build with Legos. He enjoys reading and he hopes to go to Mexico someday to learn about the culture. His favorite movie is "Toy Story." His favorite type of food is Mexican food. What's important to Dallas is to get a family he can "stay with forever" that is "nice and friendly" and takes family vacations. He wants any potential parents to know that he's friendly!

Dallas needs a family that can provide love, attention, support, and supervision. He needs one or two parents who can advocate for his emotional well-being. Dallas needs a lot of reassurance that he is loved and cared for. Dallas has a brother with whom he will need to remain in contact. (8264AHC)

Delaware County

Samuel is a bright twelve-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 LEGO$s 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 is energetic and has a great sense of humor. He is a social fourteen-year-old boy who enjoys the company of others. He enjoys watching movies, playing basketball, playing video games, and playing with LEGO$s. 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

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Zack is a creative and friendly thirteen-year-old boy. He enjoys hands-on activities, such as drawing, crafts, and putting things together. He is very personable, helpful, has a good sense of humor, and likes to make others laugh. He enjoys playing computer games and watching television. Zack likes animals, and in the future, he would like to volunteer with an organization that rescues animals. He also enjoys reading, and likes sci-fi and fantasy books. Zack likes to be outdoors and be active. In the future, he thinks he’d like to be an artist.

Zack would benefit from a two-parent family. A single mother may be considered as long as the she has a strong support system. Zack would benefit from a family that includes an adult male friend/family member who can be a role model. Zack needs an adoptive family that has a high level of patience, and can provide structure and routine. Zack wants a family that is interested in getting to know him, enjoys the outdoors, and likes to explore. He can be shy around new people, but does prefer to be around others. Zack hopes for a family that he can trust, who cares for him, and who wants to have fun. He would do best with an adoptive family who will recognize his potential and show acceptance to Zack to allow his amazing personality to flourish!

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

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

Dillon is a pleasant 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 has enjoyed participating in clubs, such as 4-H and Boy Scouts. Dillon describes himself as "funny, nice, athletic, and intelligent." Dillon likes to stay active outdoors and plays basketball. He hopes to take up fishing, hiking, and camping. Dillon loves animals, especially dogs. When he grows up, Dillon thinks he’d like to be an architect. Dillon hopes to have a family that is outdoorsy and caring.

Dillon would do best in a two-parent home with a strong male role model. He does well with positive, one-on-one attention. Dillon would thrive in a family that can provide unconditional love, structure, and stability. Potential parents should be patient and seek to continue to advocate for Dillon’s educational and emotional needs. Dillon wants a home where "people are respectful" and "help me out and listen." (8305HC) Wayne County

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos. www.adoptachild.in.gov
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. (83065G) Marion County

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

Steven would do best in a home that can provide supervision and structure. Parents will need to be able to recognize Steven's strengths and resiliency, and tend to his emotional needs. If there are children in the home, it would be best if they were older than Steven. Potential parents should have an understanding of how trauma affects children. (8314JS) Howard County
Chan is always learning! He is seventeen years old, loves to read, and collects inspirational quotes. Chan is very interested in Eastern culture, music, and religion. He would like to learn more about the martial art of Judo because it is more peaceful than other forms of martial arts. He is a vegetarian and he is also interested in learning more about Buddhism. Chan draws anime in his free time and is an excellent artist. Someday, he would like to visit Hawaii or other places that are quiet and peaceful. If he could have three wishes, they would be 1) for the world to be a good place, 2) to have a dog, preferably a Husky, and 3) for the world to be loving.

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

Katlynn is a sweet eleven year old girl who makes friends easily. She describes herself as “funny, nice, and pretty.” Katlynn loves the movie Frozen and will gladly sing you her “Let It Go.” When she is older, Katlynn wants to be a singer. For fun, Katlynn likes to play outside on the playground or play volleyball. She enjoys arts and crafts as well as journaling. Katlynn is curious, loving, and a joy to be around.

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

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

The best family for Izaak would be structured, patient, and understanding. Parents should have an in-depth understanding on how trauma can affect a child. Families should show acceptance to Izaak, and nurture him to achieve his full potential.
Indiana Adoption Program

Tasha’Na is an energetic ten-year-old girl who describes herself as “nice, good, and smart.” Her favorite subject in school is math. Tasha’Na enjoys playing outside with her friends, playing Mario Kart, and watching TV. If Tasha’Na could go anywhere in the world, she would want to go to Disney World. Her favorite Disney character is Minnie Mouse! Tasha’Na’s favorite thing about herself is that she is smart and enjoys school. When she is older, she wants to be a teacher.

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

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

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

Hannah is an upbeat and polite fourteen-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 describes herself as “fun, helpful, and creative.” In her down time, she enjoys drawing. She likes to draw portraits of her friends. Her favorite thing about herself is that she is loves to help others. Hannah wants a family that is calm and understanding with parents who enjoy 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.
Devin is an affectionate thirteen-year-old boy who enjoys helping others. He is fascinated by electronics and likes to play video games. Devin likes to stay active, and participates in track and field. His favorite event is the long jump. He describes himself as "sporty, intelligent, and helpful." Devin does well in school, and enjoys his math and science classes. When he is older, he'd like to attend Purdue University in hopes of becoming a Mechanical Engineer. Devin wants a family that will provide plenty of one-on-one time. Devin hopes to find a family that is nice and enjoys spending time together.

Devin would do best in a home with structure and supervision. He would thrive as an only child, but homes with children will be considered. Families with knowledge of how trauma affects children would be best for Devin. Two parent homes would be beneficial for Devin so he can receive plenty of attention, but single parent homes with a large support network will be considered. (8340BD) Bartholomew County

Lande'll is a friendly eleven-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 is a nice eleven-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
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 fifteen-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)

Elkhart County

Jason is a kind fifteen-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

La Porte County

Carl’liyah has a bright sixteen-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

Jason, who goes by Carly, is a bright sixteen-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

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

Faith is a caring, respectful sixteen-year-old girl who enjoys being in choir, writing stories, and watching football. She really likes history because it teaches her about the past. Faith loves the outdoors and she would be happy in a home with horses or cats. In her free time, she likes to read and listen to artists such as Adele and Jamie Grace. Someday, Faith would like to visit Hawaii or the Bahamas. She loves the color purple and camouflage. Faith is determined to make good choices. She surrounds herself with good people that encourage her.

An accepting family is important to Faith. Faith is hopeful that she will find a nice, caring, funny family who will accept her for who she is now and not who she was in the past. She would also like a family whose religion is important to them. When asked what her three wishes are, Faith said she could only think of one: “to go to a good and loving home.” (8359BS) Vanderburgh County

Savior is a sweet, outgoing, smart twelve-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

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Aaron is a friendly eighteen-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

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

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

Felix is a mature, well-mannered sixteen-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 family that would be best for Felix would be 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

Please go to www.adoptachild.in.gov to view videos.
Alex is a bright and curious thirteen-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.

Brooklyn is an energetic and charming twelve-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 loves 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.”

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.

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 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.

Darius is a very active eleven-year-old boy! He loves to play all kind of sports, especially football and basketball. He is quite the athlete! His favorite teams are the Golden State Warrior and the Carolina Panthers. His favorite athlete is Stephen Curry. Darius describes himself as "very smart and very athletic." He enjoys school, and likes P.E. the most. Darius has said that he's very interested in how things work. In his down time, Darius likes to play video games and listen to music. He enjoys racing video games the most. Darius enjoys spending time with other kids his age.

Darius would do best in a two-parent home where he receives plenty of encouragement. Parents must provide supervision and structure. Darius would benefit being in a home with a strong male role model. Parents will need to have knowledge on how trauma affects children. Darius has family with who he will need to remain in contact.
Devonte works hard at school so that he can say, "I had another great day!" when he gets off the bus. Devonte, who is twelve, has a big personality - he’s a lot of fun! Devonte is sweet, curious, and honest. He loves to talk about basketball, swimming, video games, and drawing. He loves the NBA, and his favorite team is the Indiana Pacers. If he could have three wishes, he would ask for 1. An adoptive family, 2. New shirts, and 3. A Nintendo DS. He proudly says, "I'm a good kid!" He says his favorite thing about himself is his athletic talent. Devonte is resilient and sweet, and he likes to make others proud. Someday he would like to see California.

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

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

Deshawn is hopeful about adoption and would like a mom that bakes or parents who are good cooks! He asks for "parents who can appreciate who he is." To Deshawn, adoption means "having a place to belong." Deshawn would do well in an active family that can encourage him to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities. (8399ABS) Vanderburgh County

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

Nicole could thrive in a one parent or two parent home, but at least one of the parents must be female. Nicole would like to be the only child in her pre-adoptive placement or have only one other child about her same age. Nicole enjoys one-on-one attention. Nicole will need parents that are patient and supportive in regards to assisting Nicole with school work, as well as teaching her Social skills and appropriate boundaries. Nicole wants patient parents with a large extended family that will love her unconditionally. Nicole is resilient, honest, and caring. (8406BS) Vanderburgh County
De’Ongjaquaon, who goes by Quaon, is a well-spoken and intelligent eleven-year-old boy. He does well in school, and usually makes all A’s. His favorite subject is technology because he enjoys working with tablets and computers. Quaon likes to make others laugh, and can be quite a comedian! Others describe him as a creative thinker. When asked what his favorite food is, he’s quick to say, “Hot wings!” He LOVES spicy food! Quaon likes to practice origami. He is also very active and likes playing outside. In the past, Quaon played basketball, which is his favorite sport! Quaon is a generous boy and is always willing to help others. He makes friends easily and likes to be around others.

The home that would be best for Quaon would be committed to helping him succeed. 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. (8412BD)

Vanderburgh County

De’Ongjaquaon

Jamia

Owenn

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

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

Owenn likes school and likes new things. In the classroom, Owenn will help younger students with their coursework. When he is older, he thinks he would like to work with animals. Owenn is fourteen 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.
Maliek is a personable, friendly, and easy-going sixteen-year-old boy! He enjoys puzzles, word searches, video games, and reading. He likes art such as drawing and coloring and is talented at hands-on activities. He enjoys staying active in sports, such as football. He also enjoys spending time outside either hunting or fishing. Maliek is helpful and eager to learn. Maliek’s favorite thing about himself is that he can make people laugh. He is a hard worker who sets goals for himself.

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

James is an upbeat seventeen-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

Dawn is a cheerful and polite seventeen-year-old girl. She enjoys helping others. Dawn is creative and artistic, and her favorite class in school is art. She likes to be active and plays basketball, volleyball, and football. Her favorite music is pop. She enjoys dressing fashionably, and likes to go shopping. The important thing to Dawn is to have friends and a family that care about her.

Dawn would do best in a home with two parents and lots of structure. The family will need to put in place clear boundaries. Dawn would benefit from a home that is safe and stable. Parents will need to understand how trauma can affect children. Dawn is eager to be adopted, and hopes to have an older brother and sister, and a mother and father. (8433BD) Scott County

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Dalton is a fifteen year-old boy with a great imagination! He likes to spend his time outside. He enjoys swimming, fishing, and playing sports. Dalton has participated in football, basketball, and bowling in the Special Olympics! Basketball is his favorite. He likes music and enjoys singing. Dalton enjoys playing video games and working with electronics.

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

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

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

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

Kyrie would do best in a two-parent home with older children. She would thrive in a home with parents to nurture, guide, and listen to her. Kyrie would benefit from a family where she is free to express herself, and will encourage her to open up. She would benefit from a family that is active and inclusive. Due to her love of animals, she would like a family with lots of pets, and may benefit from some sort of equine therapy. (8475HC) Decatur County

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Indiana Adoption Program

Nevin is an energetic nine-year-old boy who enjoys playing sports! He likes basketball, baseball, and football. Nevin likes to ride his bike, play outside, and when he’s at school, he enjoys recess. If he could go anywhere in the world, Nevin would want to go to Chuck E. Cheesés. Nevin responds well to structure, routine, and has been doing well in school this year.

Nevin would benefit from parents who will and encourage him to participate in sports. He needs parents who are firm in their boundaries and discipline, but also patient and nurturing. He would benefit from a home that has consistent routine and structure. Nevin does well around other children. (8479JS) Allen County

Angel is a thoughtful, imaginative fifteen year-old girl who loves caring for animals, researching dinosaurs, and listening to songs by Michael Jackson. Her favorite song is "You Are Not Alone" and her favorite movie is "Jurassic Park." Choir and orchestra are her favorite parts of the school day. She loves music and is very talented and creative. She writes children stories, likes to play baseball, and enjoys participating in church activities. If she could have three wishes, they would be: 1. to have her own island, 2. For Michael Jackson to be alive, and 3. To have a family.

Angel hopes that her home will be with a family that is, "happy, safe, and stable." She also hopes for a good school. Angel would benefit in a family that provides structure, love, and support. It is important that any potential parents have an understanding of trauma and how it affects children. (8480JS) La Grange County

Jay is an honest, caring, and friendly fifteen-year-old boy. He enjoys art and music. Jay also enjoys drawing, and likes to draw cartoons. Jay likes to watch comic book movies, especially Batman. He likes Batman because "he fights for what’s right." Jay likes animals. "I would adopt all the animals if I could!" If he could go anywhere in the world, Jay thinks he’d want to go to Georgia. He says it sounds nice! When Jay sets his mind on something, he is determined to reach that goal.

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

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

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

Stephanie is an intelligent, well-spoken, kind, funny, and compassionate thirteen year-old girl. She enjoys reading, drawing, writing poetry, and cooking. Her favorite foods are fried chicken and macaroni and cheese. She likes roller-skating, and is interested in playing basketball and cheerleading. In her down time, Stephanie enjoys reading and watching TV. Stephanie does well in school and gets along with adults and her peers. The classes she enjoys most are math and choir. Stephanie likes to try new things - food, activities, meeting new people, or going to new places!

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

Shaley is a positive seventeen-year-old girl with an outgoing personality. She is very likable, and has a contagious smile. She is also creative and an excellent artist. Shaley likes to paint, draw, and has done some sculpting in the past. She is currently in a drama program at school where she is the stage manager. She stated she likes to do the artistic effects for the play. She would like to be involved in more art-type programs. She enjoys all types of music, especially screamo and country. In the future, Shaley would like to become a social worker so she can help others. Shaley does very well with younger children and likes to be a role model and leader. Shaley describes herself as a "people person, nice, and funny." Her education and her future are important to her.

Shaley would do well in a family where the parents are supportive. She would like a family that is laid back and enjoys doing activities together. Shaley says she would like to be a part of a family with a single mother, or two moms, but she is open to all family types. Families should have an understanding of how trauma can affect a child. Parents should be patient and nurturing, while demonstrating positive relationship building skills and creating a safe environment. It would be beneficial for Shaley to have continued contact with her brother and grandmother. (8503BS) Daviess County
Isach

Isach is an outgoing and friendly fourteen-year-old boy. He is a joker, and likes to have fun with members of his foster family. He likes to work with tools and is gaining confidence in helping to fix things in the garage. Isach enjoys a challenge! When he is older, he hopes to become a carpenter or an electrician. He likes outdoor activities and has taken an interest in horseback riding, ATVs, and hunting. When he finishes his homework, he likes to play video games. His favorites TV shows are on Discovery and National Geographic. He likes going to the YMCA to play basketball with friends and loves hanging out with his foster family. Isach needs a family that has an understanding of how trauma can affect children. He would feel most comfortable in a structured home. Isach would like an active family that enjoys outdoor activities and would teach him new things. Isach is looking for a strong male figure that will teach him different life skills. He would do well in a home as an only child or as the youngest. (8530BS) Clay County

Kasia

Kasia is a funny and outgoing fourteen-year-old who is always smiling! She says she’s "good at making friends and being goofy!" Kasia likes to watch TV and movies. Her favorite TV show is Empire, and her favorite movie is Radio. Kasia enjoys reading young adult fiction books. She enjoys spending time with her friends at school and at the park. If she could go anywhere in the world, Kasia would want to go to Hawaii because it looks peaceful and beautiful. Her favorite thing about herself is that she can make others laugh. She is a natural leader! Kasia does well in a structured, consistent setting with a routine. She would benefit from a two-parent or single-parent household where she is loved and cared for. Kasia wants parents who will support and guide her, as well as listen to her. Parents should be patient, understanding of how trauma can affect a child, and willing to love Kasia unconditionally. Kasia hopes to have a family that likes to be active and likes to be involved in the community, as well as take trips together. (8527BD) Madison County

Serenity

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hailee is an eight year-old girl who has a big personality, and is a good leader to her peers. Hailee enjoys learning new things and is doing well in school. Hailee likes to play and be active. Hailee likes helping around the house!

Hailee needs a family that will give her nurture and support. She needs a family that will help her learn to express emotions in a healthy manner. A family that has had training in trauma-informed care would be best for Hailee. Potential adoptive families need to understand how trauma can affect a child. The family must be able to focus on underlying needs and Hailee’s strengths. (8545ABD) Putnam County
Indiana Adoption Program

Reanna

Reanna is a funny, caring twelve-year-old girl with lots of energy! She enjoys art - painting, drawing, or tracing. She enjoys all subjects in school. To stay active, Reanna plays volleyball and basketball. She would love to play on a team someday! Reanna likes to play video games. Her favorite video game is Super Mario. If she could go anywhere in the world, she would want to go to Paris, because she thinks it would be beautiful. Reanna adores animals, and would like to volunteer at an animal shelter. Reanna is a loving girl who makes friends easily!

Reanna wants a family with a single mom, or two moms. She describes her ideal family as caring, loving, and "will not give up on me." She would do best in a home as a single child or in a home where she is the youngest, as she would benefit from plenty of one-on-one attention. Reanna needs parents who are calm, consistent, and firm, but kind. Reanna would benefit having a family that maintains good communication with her school. (8558JS) Dekalb County

Kayden

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

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

Mikko

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

Mikko thrives on encouragement and one-on-one attention. Potential parents should enjoy being active and be affectionate. He would do best with a family that provides structure and routine. Prospective adoptive families need to have a solid understanding of the impact of trauma and its impact on children. Mikko is hopeful about being adopted. He has expressed a desire to be placed with a Caucasian family. He has also stated that his ideal adoptive father would be President Barack Obama. Mikko will need a longer transition period into an adoptive home, and needs to feel involved in that process. (8568JS) St. Joseph County
Maleki is a funny, outgoing twelve-year-old boy! He’s a sociable kid who makes friends easily. Maleki describes himself as “cool, awesome, and nice.” He enjoys playing board games and video games. Maleki likes to spend time outside, and hopes to play on a football team someday. He enjoys drawing comics and superheroes. Maleki’s favorite things about himself are that he can run fast and his sense of humor. Maleki enjoys school, and his favorite subjects are math and science.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Malachi is a hard worker who really strives to please those around him. He is a very sweet and caring child. Malachi, at age eleven, is a deep thinker. Malachi likes to color and draw, and he also likes LEGOs, Hot Wheels, country music, board games, and card games. Malachi enjoys meeting people and spending time with others. He likes sports and would like to learn a martial art or play football. Malachi loves animals and hopes to have a dog!

Malachi thrives when he knows what is expected of him and there are clear rewards and consequences. Malachi needs a lot of one-on-one attention and for a family to make him feel like he is special and belongs. Malachi also needs lots of positive reinforcement and to be told that he is doing a good job. Verbal praise and celebration is a great motivator for Malachi. He would do best in a home where he is the youngest child, and would really like to have a mother and a father. Malachi needs a caregiver that understands how trauma can affect a child. (8592BS) Owen County

Keana is a very sweet, polite sixteen-year-old girl! She enjoys playing Minecraft, board games (like Monopoly), and building Legos. Keana enjoys watching movies. Her favorite is the LEGO Batman Movie. For fun, she likes to write about movies she’s watched. She enjoys jumping on the trampoline or swimming when it’s nice out. Keana loves music, enjoys singing and dancing, and has a wonderful voice! Keana has many strengths. She is very polite, she gets along well with others, and she likes to learn new things. Those close to her admire Keana for her upbeat, positive attitude.

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

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

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

*Floyd County*
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.adoptchild.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 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.

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. 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. 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. 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.

**Employer Assistance**

Employers who offer adoption benefits may provide workers with:

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

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

**Tax Credits and Exclusions**

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

**Adoption Subsidies**

If you adopt a child who has special needs, he or she may be eligible for federal adoption assistance. Adoption assistance payments are designed to help offset the short- and long-term costs associated with adopting children who need special services. Children who are wards may be eligible for adoption assistance benefits if they meet specific eligibility guidelines.

**Indiana Adoption Subsidy**

Indiana Adoption Subsidy is determined by the Central Eligibility Unit. Please contact centralized.eligibility@dcs.in.gov or 877.265.0086 with questions.
Step 4: Select an Adoption Agency

How to Find Agencies

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

- The Indiana Adoption Program is coordinated through the County Department of Child Services (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.

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

Find out how long it will take for the agency to process your 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 attorneys from your local county Bar Association. Sometimes it is helpful for an attorney to have knowledge of the foster care system.

For a referral to an attorney trained by ACT in adoptions from foster care, or for a free consultation with an ACT-trained attorney, please view the following website for contact information at: www.adoptioninchildtime.org

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

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

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

Required Consents
The consent of the child’s mother, if she is living, is required by law to complete an adoption. The consent of a child’s father who has established paternity or signed a paternity affidavit is also required. The county Department of Child Services (DCS) may have completed a court action to terminate the parent-child relationship so that a child who is a ward can be legally free for adoption, whether the child’s parents have consented or not determines the type of court action that is necessary. You will need the consent of the DCS 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.).

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

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Youth Connections Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dave Schoening
Youth Connections Specialist for Central
938 N. 10th Street
Noblesville, IN 46060
(317) 383-1967 (Work)
Dave.Schoening@dcs.IN.gov
Thank you for your interest in Indiana’s Adoption Program.

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

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

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

Ivraline Applewhite
661 Broadway
Gary, Indiana  46402
(219) 881-2043, ext: 13280
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

DCS 07/20/16
The Indiana Adoption Program
c/o Children’s Bureau Inc.
3801 N. Temple Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46205

www.adoptachild.in.gov

1-888-25-ADOPT

Subscription information is available in this book on page 3.