November / December 2014

# adoption

## opening hearts. changing lives.

Indiana's Adoption Program

# A Perfect Fit

When Tim and Janie married and began to discuss their future as a family, they envisioned adopting one child—a little blonde boy. Little did they know, they were about to meet Leonna and John.

The first time they all met, they ate and played at Chuck E. Cheese. Leonna remembers sitting on Tim's lap and drawing a picture. "I didn't want to leave!" she says, "I was really excited because I never really had a dad." A short time later, Leonna and John were part of the family. Janie describes that time saying, "they moved in, and it seems like they were always here!"

Leonna and John love to share their story and their photo albums. They will excitedly tell anyone how much they look like their mom. John describes his parents, saying, "They're special to me and fun." Both children are so happy to be part of their family, and especially happy to be caretakers to the family dogs, cats, goats, and horses.

Tim loves being a dad. He loves coaching basketball and soccer, as well as doing all the hands-on stuff. "It's a blast watching them," he says. Janie loves being a mom. She says, "I'm thankful that I have them and that I get to do all the stuff I wanted to do. It's neat to just go to parks with them."

When asked to describe the highs and low of adoption, Tim says, "There are so many good parts," and Janie says, "but they're growing too fast!"

# *Welcome to the Indiana Adoption Program*

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

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

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

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

To mail correspondence to the Indiana Adoption program send to:

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

Mary Beth Bonaventura
Director

Protecting our Children,
Families & Future.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

The Indiana Adoption Program would like to thank Hannah for the front and back cover illustrations.

## Table of Contents

What is Adoption? ....38

How Do I Start The Adoption Process in Indiana? ....39

How to Adopt Overview ....40
- Step 1: Educate Yourself about Adoption ....40
- Step 2: Decide What Type of Adoption You Want to Pursue ....42
- Step 3: Investigate Ways to Cover Adoption Expenses ....42
- Step 4: Select an Adoption Agency ....43
- Step 5: Let Your Agency Know You Are Serious about Adopting ....43
- Step 6: Adoption Application ....43
- Step 7: Attend Adoption and Parenting Classes ....44
- Step 8: Begin the Family Preparation Process ....44
- Step 9: Begin Searching for a Child ....45
- Step 10: Considering a Child ....45
- Step 11: Prepare for Your Child's Arrival ....46
- Step 12: The Child is Placed in Your Home ....46
- Step 13: File a Petition to Adopt ....47
- Step 14: Finalize the Adoption ....47

Common Challenges of Children With Special Needs ....48

The Legal Aspects of Adoption ....50

Adoption Chart ....51

Youth Connections Program ....52

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

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

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

Therefore, adoption requires serious considerations.

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

## *Subscription Information*

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

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

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

## 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.

Ariel, Aaron, & Ladarion

Ariel is a very intelligent, well-spoken fourteen-year-old girl. She makes friends easily and likes to play with other children. She is creative and likes to draw and color. Ariel loves to sing and dance and will often make up her own songs and dance moves.

Aaron is a bright, inquisitive thirteen-year-old who likes to learn new things. His favorite subjects in school are math and science. Aaron enjoys reading and spending time with friends.

Ladarion loves to run around and has a lot of energy. He is talkative ten-year-old boy who is playful and delights in doing new activities. Although he likes to be outside, Ladarion also enjoys playing video games and watching cartoons. Ladarion enjoys school and being around other children and learning new things.

These children look forward to being in a home where their parents can be patient and supportive as well as committed to keeping the three children together. These children will thrive in a structured, peaceful, loving environment. (5058ABCIA) *Lake County*

Mercedez

Dymond

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

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

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

**Devin & Tovaris**

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

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

These boys would like to live in a home with a mom and a dad. They also want to keep contact with their sister. Their new family will need to provide a safe, consistent, and nurturing home, and they will need to encourage the boys' behavioral and emotional wellbeing. (8163ABBS) *Daviess County*

**Gregory & Michael**

Gregory, who prefers to be called Greg, is bright and funny. He enjoys music, art, and reading. Gregory, who is fourteen years old, loves science fiction and fantasy books. He is a fan of the outdoors and finds that being outdoors calms him. He likes fishing and swimming very much. He is a caring and helpful boy who is accepting of others and makes friends easily.

Michael is quiet, sweet, and playful. He is twelve years old and he loves to smile and tell jokes. He enjoys helping others. Michael also enjoys school, especially reading. He likes sports and hopes to join baseball, basketball, and football teams.

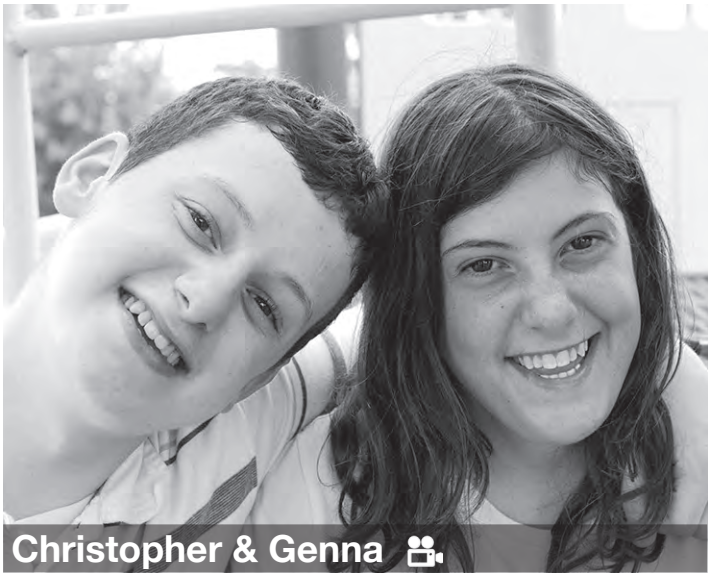
Gregory and Michael would do best in a two-parent home. They would like older siblings to look up to. They need positive, nurturing parents who can also provide appropriate structure and boundaries. They would love to have parents who can participate in activities with them. Gregory and Michael love the outdoors and would like to be in a home located in the country. (8164ABBS) *Crawford County*

## Trevor & Jacob

Trevor is a good-humored sixteen-year-old boy who is interested in reading, video games, playing with action figures, and building things. He enjoys writing, and is doing well in school and enjoys it. Trevor is curious and has a desire to try new things and interest in learning about anything and everything. Trevor likes to make friends and please others. When Trevor puts his mind to doing well, he is capable of achieving his goals. Overall, Trevor is pleasant to be around.

Jacob, who is thirteen years old, loves reading, playing outside, and fishing. He an appear shy and reserved when you first meet him, but he will open up as he gets to know you. One of his favorite cartoons on TV is "Adventure Time." He has a wonderful sense of humor. He is wonderful to be around and very resilient. Jacob has a desire to be in a family.

A home that is nurturing, consistent, and can provide stability would be best for Trevor and Jacob. The family will need to encourage them and focus on positive change so they may achieve their potential. A home with adequate supervision, guidance, and plenty of patience would be best for Trevor and Jacob. (8197ABJS) *Allen County*



## Christopher & Genna

Christopher is a funny and talkative seventeen year-old boy! He describes himself as "caring, nice, and funny." In his spare time, he likes to play with Pokemon cards and video games. Christopher is learning wood carving and how to draw. Christopher is curious and asks a lot of questions. He is polite and eager to please. Christopher does well in school and likes to set goals. When asked what is important to him, Christopher says his sister and his friends.

Genna is a sweet fifteen year-old girl who describes herself as a tomboy. She likes to stay active, go outside, and play football. She is laid-back and polite as well as easy to get along with. She is smart and doing well in school. She enjoys writing, and will proudly show off all the stories she's written. Genna and her brother, Christopher, get along well. She is very protective of him. She wants a mom and a dad who are nice and she can trust. She is helpful and caring, and hopes to be an actress or a singer someday.

A two-parent home that can provide consistent structure and routine would be best for Christopher and Genna. Potential adoptive homes should be open minded, understanding of their past experiences, and able to meet their educational and emotional needs. A home that is caring and calm would be best for these two siblings. (8212ABDH) *Boone County*



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

Miguel

Marlena

Miguel is a loving, polite child who cares very much for his siblings and wants to remain in contact with them. He is quiet and has a great smile. Miguel, who is sixteen, is also very creative with music and art. Sports and spending time outdoors are his favorite activities. Miguel has a big heart and is a very caring person. He loves to learn about Puerto Rican culture and he would be excited to have a brother or a boat. He would like to be an automotive mechanic when he grows up.

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

Family is very important to Miguel and Marlena. They wish to remain together and they hope to stay in contact with their other siblings. Single-parent and two-parent homes will be considered. Marlena and Miguel do well with other siblings, but would like a home without cats. Dogs are okay though! They would really love a home that would allow them to be active in extracurricular activities and church activities. (8221ABJS) *Allen County*

Pete

Dakota

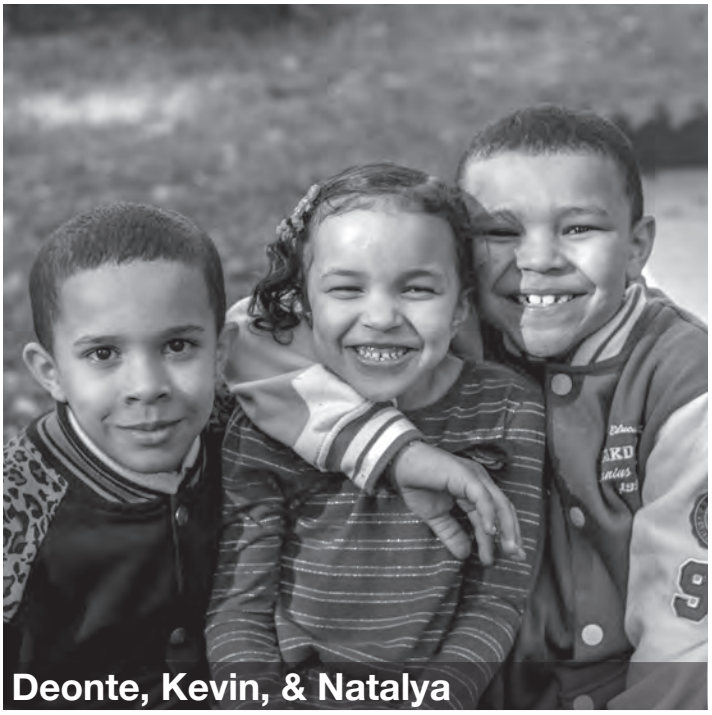
Coby

Pete is an active and outdoorsy thirteen-year-old boy. He enjoys fishing, bike riding, and playing basketball. He has a strong desire to be a part of a "nice family" that shares similar interests with him. He hopes to live in a home with a big yard where he can ride bikes and play with other children. Pete's faith is important to him and he enjoys going to church and studying his Bible. He likes to read, especially chapter books. Pete is well behaved and pleasant to be around. He loves animals and hopes to be a veterinarian someday.

Dakota is a happy-go-lucky ten-year-old boy. He likes to ride his bike and jump rope, and hopes his future home has a big yard where he can play and possibly a pool! Dakota loves animals and, when he's older, hopes to work at a zoo. He is a huge fan of the show "Wild Kratts." Dakota has a wide variety of interests, stays active, makes good grades, and is affectionate.

Coby is a sweet and funny eight-year-old boy. He enjoys going to church and reading his Bible. His faith is important to him. Coby does well in school and has excellent attendance! Coby gets along well with his brothers and likes to be active in sports like soccer and baseball. Coby is good-tempered and makes friends easily. Coby likes the outdoors and he enjoys riding his bike, fishing, and playing hide and seek.

A home that would be best for these boys would be safe, patient, kind, and nurturing. Prospective parents will need to be advocates for these boys emotional health and educational needs. These boys have a strong desire to be a part of a family. (8226ABCIA) *Lake County*



## Deonte, Kevin, & Natalya

Deonte is an energetic and happy eight-year-old boy. He gets along well with people and likes to tell jokes. Sports and staying active are two things Deonte enjoys. Deonte has been doing well in school, and is good at spelling and art.

Kevin is a fun and energetic seven year-old boy. He is eager to please others and is outgoing. Playing sports and staying active are two things Kevin enjoys. Deonte has been doing well in school, and likes math and science. Kevin is a sweet boy who looks up to his brother, Deonte.

Natalya is a sweet five year-old girl who is smart, sassy, and fun to be around! She is always happy, and likes to ask questions because she is very curious about the world around her. Natalya is very smart and assertive. She likes to sing and dance and she gets along well with people.

A home that would be best for these siblings would be a two-parent household with no other children. A home that is nurturing and patient, and can encourage these kids to achieve their potential would be ideal. Potential parents should be active and able to provide a lot attention. A stay-at-home parent or a parent that would be around regularly would be best for Deonte, Kevin, and Natalya. (8233ABC) *Allen County*



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

**Notes:**

*Christopher shows off his dance moves!*

*Blake is a great scorekeeper.*

# Celebrate Good Times!

The Indiana Adoption Program hosted an adoption celebration in September at Inman's Bowling & Fun Center to celebrate good times! Everyone enjoyed some bowling, arcade games, go-karts, and good food.

If you would like a chance to meet Indiana's waiting children at one of these events, please locate the SNAP Specialist in your area, listed on the back inside cover of this magazine. Your SNAP specialist can advise you on becoming a SNAP-recommended family and can invite you to these events.

*Joshua gets ready to roll!*

*Latorian races around a turn!*

*Chataivia tries her luck in the arcade.*

*Michael makes some cool bracelets.*

*Brianna smiles before bowling for a strike.*

*Dakota & Coby smile after a fun day.*

*Cassie celebrates after a good round.*

# Indiana Adoption Program

## Christopher

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

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

## Jerry

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

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

## Toby

Toby's favorite thing to do is to go on "tall tower adventures." He is fascinated by electrical and cell phone towers and he loves to drive to see all the different types. He can even give directions to his favorite ones. Toby, who is thirteen 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. (3716MO) *Delaware County*



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

## Justin

Justin is fascinated by electronics. He loves visiting websites on the internet and has even designed a few web pages of his own—one is about fire safety. Christmas is his favorite holiday and "Elf" is his favorite movie. He thinks he might have the whole movie memorized! Justin is a friendly, intellectual, and outgoing seventeen-year-old young man. He loves to have conversations and he is very popular among his peers and adults. He enjoys watching television, playing outside, and being on the computer. When he grows up, he would like to work in the film industry, either making films or editing them.

Justin needs a family that can provide stability, structure, and consistency. A patient, loving family with no children or older children would be ideal for Justin. Single-parent and two-parent homes will be considered. (4000IA) *Lake County*

## Kristian

Kristian is an energetic and easygoing young man who loves to jump and climb. His favorite activities are playing on the jungle gym, playing in the ball pit, and playing in the water. Kristian, who is fifteen years old, also enjoys spending quiet time cuddled in a blanket and watching a Disney video or having a bright, colorful book read to him. He is very sweet and affectionate little boy. He can feed himself and he is not a picky eater!

Kristian has been making progress with some activities of daily living and responds well to positive rewards. He will need a loving and patient family that will support his growth and provide structure, routine, and close supervision at all times. He would do well in a home that has a large yard to play in, possibly one with a fence. Two-parent homes with good support systems will be preferred. (4016JS) *Allen County*

## Sylvester

Sylvester is a very lovable, calm, and handsome thirteen-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*

# Indiana Adoption Program

Brianna is a very sweet and loving sixteen-year-old girl. She very much enjoys one-on-one attention with adults. She is caring and empathic to those she feels are less fortunate. She loves playing with baby dolls and likes to have her hair brushed and styled. Brianna's favorite activities are playing on the playground and doing arts and crafts. She is also very enthusiastic about going swimming! Uno and SKIP-BO are her favorite card games and she hopes to go to the zoo someday.

Brianna needs a family that can give her a lot of care and attention. She needs a nurturing family that will be patient and encourage her to develop to her fullest potential. She would like to have two parents and maybe live in the city. Parents with experience with special needs children are preferred. (4077JS) *St. Joseph County*

Terry is a delightful sixteen-year-old boy who is always on the move. He is friendly and talkative and loves to do outdoor activities. Terry is a NASCAR fan and likes playing with race cars and race tracks, riding quads, and fishing. He enjoys watching football and is an avid Colt's fan. Terry likes to learn new things and enjoys school. His face lights up when you ask him about his favorite food. Terry loves to eat and says his favorite dishes are chicken, mashed potatoes, and noodles.

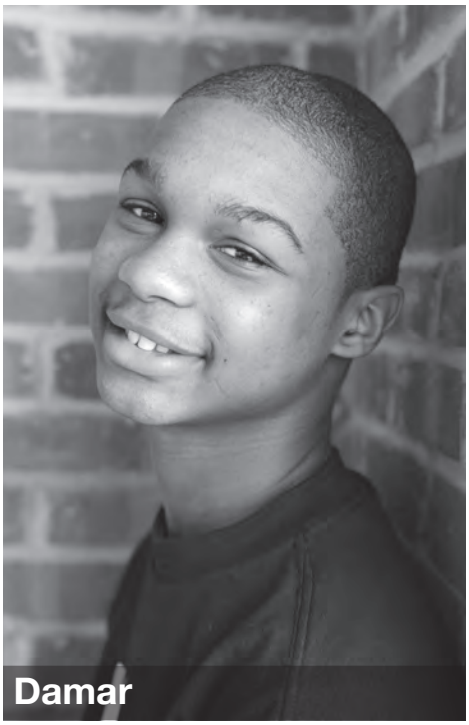
Terry would thrive in a two-parent home or with a family that is able to show him affection and patience while providing consistency and structure. Having clear expectations in a home with no other children or older children would be best for Terry. (4098MO) *Rush County*

Austin is an inquisitive and friendly little boy! He likes going to the playing ground, swimming, riding bikes, and rollerblading. He is thirteen years old and is very interested in dinosaurs, Transformers, and Spider-man. Austin is also very interested in cause-and-effect relationships and how things work. He enjoys being part of a group, but really thrives with one-on-one adult attention. He enjoys being read to and has a vivid imagination. Austin is very bright and is doing well in school. He wants to be a singer when he grows up and he describes himself as "smart, excited, and charismatic."

Austin needs a family that can give him a lot of attention while providing structure and close supervision. An adoptive family will need to be patient and committed to providing stability while he works on developing a bond with them. Austin needs to be the youngest or only child in the family. (5002SS) *Tippecanoe County*



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



## Damar

Damar is a creative, engaging young man who is eager to be adopted! He is a friendly, outgoing, and very likeable sixteen-year-old. Damar enjoys music, playing video games, doing computer searches, and shopping at gaming stores. He thinks he might like to design gaming systems and games for a living some day. Damar is looking forward to having a father who will spend time with him doing things like working on electronics, playing video games or going fishing.

Damar needs a loving family that can provide consistent rules, boundaries, and expectations. He is at his best when he has a routine in a stable environment. Damar has a brother with whom he will need to maintain contact. (6004JS) *Allen County*

## Shiare

Shiare, who goes by Shay, is an energetic self-starter. She is a fifteen-year-old who likes to listen to music and dance. Shay likes helping around the house, and would like to learn how to cook. She enjoys attending church and participating in church youth activities. Shay likes school and does well academically. She loves braiding hair and thinks she would like to be a hair stylist when she grows up. She loves to read and journal, and she hopes to see the Divergent films since she is reading the series. She hopes to go to Ball State when she graduates high school. Shay is compassionate and good with children.

Shay needs a supportive, loving family that can provide structure, consistency, as well as clear boundaries and expectations. A patient family that can offer a calm environment would allow Shay to thrive. (6022SS) *Marion County*

## Helen

Helen is a sweet, creative, bright girl. She is fifteen years old and she likes skateboarding, crocheting, working on the computer, and interacting with others. Helen has a great voice and enjoys singing. She also enjoys attending church and school and she makes good grades. Helen loves caring for animals.

Helen would like to be part of an active, fun-loving family that can give her a lot of time and attention. She relates well to older parents and she would do well with or without siblings in the home. Helen wants to be adopted and wants to be a permanent part of a family. She would do well with positive role models and parents who will encourage her and be examples of healthy relationships. Helen needs a family that can be patient and nurturing while also providing a consistent, stable environment. Helen has siblings with whom she will need to maintain contact. (6071BS) *Vanderburgh County*

# Indiana Adoption Program

## Brian

Brian is a friendly fourteen-year-old boy. He has lots of energy and likes to have fun and joke around. Brian thinks he'd like to be a singer, comedian, or actor when he grows up. His favorite comedian is Adam Sandler, and he likes the Grown Ups movies. When asked how he would describe himself, he said "funny and energetic." He likes to play baseball, and played on a team where he plays in the outfield.

Brian thinks that he would like to have both a mom and a dad. He needs loving, energetic parents who can provide plenty of patience, understanding, and a stable environment. Brian needs a family where he will feel loved and accepted. It would be bet if potential families were active in outdoors and/or sports. Brian has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. (6085SS) *Marion County*

## Paul

Paul is an honest boy with a wonderful, bright smile. He may take a while to open up to new people, but once he does, he is a lot of fun! Paul is fourteen 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 homes with structure and consistent rules and consequences would be beneficial for him. Single-parent and two-parent home will be considered. (6089BD) *Madison County*

## Andrew

Andrew, who goes by Andy, is sixteen years old and he likes to draw things and then give his drawings to others. He is a bright young man who is very creative, artistic, and athletic. He is very likable and has a good sense of humor. Andy has a great imagination. He can be very kind and giving. Andy loves animals and says his favorite animals are dogs, cats, and bunnies. He likes watching the Colts, building with Legos, and collecting Hot Wheels cars and Bakugans. Andy has an interest in the military and would like to build or design machines someday.

Andy needs a family that can provide clear boundaries and expectations as well as good supervision. He would benefit from having a strong, positive male role model. The family best suited for Andy will be able to commit to spending the time necessary to bond with him and help him feel secure while he heals from past traumas. (7004BS) *Monroe County*



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

## Amanuell

Amanuell is a very charming, funny fourteen-year-old boy who loves Halloween. He especially likes going to neighborhoods that hand out full candy bars. Amanuell is very good at math and he thinks he would like to be an engineer who designs phones when he grows up. Adventuring is his favorite activity, especially if it involves hiking. His favorite animals are tigers, lions, and sharks. Amanuell really enjoys sports and hopes to learn how to play lacrosse someday.

Amanuell would love to be part of a family that enjoys outdoor activities, sports, and traveling. He would like to have a younger brother or siblings about his age. Amanuell would benefit from being in a two-parent home that can offer him love, attention, stability, and structure. Amanuell is very loving and caring and is eager to call someone mom and dad. Single-parent families will also be considered. (7015SS) *Marion County*

## Da'Jaion

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

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

## Vincent

Vincent is a sweet 11 year-old boy who is an energetic people pleaser. He makes friends easily and enjoys church and school. Vincent is very creative and likes to design and build things. He loves LEGOs! He'll gladly tell you about the times he's been to LEGOLAND, the LEGO movie, and all the things he is building. His favorite season is summer because he likes to be outside. Vincent is a helpful and respectful boy who is polite and very loveable. He can be shy when you first meet him, but when he opens up, Vincent is a lot of fun! Vincent describes his ideal home as having two parents and a couple of older brothers. He would also like to have pets because he likes animals.

A home that would be best for Vincent would be a loving and patient family with parenting experience. A family with the knowledge on how trauma affects children would be helpful. Vincent needs parents who are nurturing and able to provide, structure, stability, and safety. Vincent does well when he has positive influences around him and would benefit from having a strong male role model. A family that will be committed to Vincent and show unconditional love towards him would allow him to thrive. (7029BBD) *Clark County*

# Indiana Adoption Program

## Emily

Emily likes to go to the park and play on the swings. Her foster mother describes her as, "the sweetest little girl in the world!" Emily is unselfish and generous and likes to help others. She likes school and says her favorite subjects are reading, math, and free time. Emily is thirteen years old and she 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 little 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. (7041JS) *Allen County*

## Joshuah

Josh is looking forward to being part of a family that will enjoy spending time with him. He likes going to new places and he wants to visit Africa someday. Josh is fifteen years old and he loves playing catch and watching television. His favorite subject in school is science "because it is so fun!" He enjoys playing video games, playing outdoors, and wrestling. He wants to be a famous wrestler when he grows up. Josh also likes drawing and playing with toy cars and action figures. He thinks he would like to take martial arts or kung fu lessons.

Although Josh would love to have a mom and a dad, he would also be open to a single-parent family. He enjoys attending church and participating in church life. Josh needs a loving family that can provide structure, clear boundaries, and close supervision. (7045JS) *Allen County*

## David

David is a high energy, delightful boy who likes to stay busy! He likes playing with his friends, riding bikes, and swimming. He loves to dress in camouflage clothing and play army with his friends, using Nerf guns, water guns or paintball guns! David is fourteen years old and he is very outgoing and makes friends easily. He is also athletic and does well in many types of sports. David likes to help others and often helps with everything from yard work to preparing simple meals.

David is looking forward to having a family of his own. He would like to have a mother and a father and would like to have at least one other child in the home. David has two sisters he is very close to and will need a family that support his ongoing relationship with them. (7052JS) *Allen County*



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

Breion would love to have a pet Komodo dragon, which he would name "Awesome." Breion has an active imagination and loves to create art and draw pictures. He is fifteen years old and he hopes to design computer games for a living when he grows up. Breion has a very strong sense of determination and likes to be able to try new things. He would love to go surfing in California someday. Breion spends his days playing basketball and paintball, swimming, and making new friends. He also really enjoys jumping on the trampoline and shopping. Chips are his favorite thing to purchase.

Breion is an easygoing child who likes to talk, be listened to, and feel as though what he says matters. Breion would benefit from a two-parent home with a strong father figure and a structured, consistent schedule. (8006IA) *Lake County*

Justin is a very sweet-natured sixteen-year-old boy. He has a great sense of humor and a great smile. He loves martial arts! "Karate Kid" is his favorite movie and he will happily show off the karate moves he learned from the movie to anyone who will watch. He hopes to one day take martial arts classes. Justin takes pride in accomplishing new things. He would like to play on a softball team during the summer and he would love to learn Chinese.

Justin enjoys activities that help him grow and develop. With assistance, he is able to identify and complete tasks that he needs to complete. Justin would like to maintain contact with his brothers and current foster parents. He is very loving and caring towards his siblings and caregivers and he has a close bond with his friends and family. He hopes to have a big brother in his new home.(8008BS) *Vanderburgh County*

Jose is polite and friendly. He describes himself as "a nice person" and "great to get along with." He is a great speller and does well in school. He is eighteen years old and he likes to play video games, construction games, and do puzzles. Jose likes to help around the house doing chores like making his bed, cleaning his room, taking out the trash, and cooking. He wants to learn more about working on cars and thinks he would like to be a mechanic when he grows up. Jose likes dogs and enjoys watching "Animal Planet." If he had a dog, he would name is Shadow. Jose's favorite book is "Romeo and Juliet" because it is romantic. His favorite foods are meatloaf and spaghetti and his favorite restaurants are Red Lobster and Golden Corral. He likes county music, fishing, and going to church.

Jose would thrive in a two-parent home that is able to provide structure, affection, and stability. The family would need to be clear with their expectations and be very consistent. It would be beneficial for Jose to be the youngest in the family or to be in a home with no other children. (8032SS) *Marion County*

# Indiana Adoption Program

## Avery

Avery is an active five-year-old with a happy disposition and a ready smile. He enjoys animals and spending time outside. Avery appears very excited to watch his foster family's chickens and their cat. He likes to put puzzles together and enjoys participating in home-based pre-school. Avery also enjoys music and watching TV programs. He especially likes to watch "Sophia the First" which is on the Disney Channel. Avery loves to interact with others. He is described as bubbly and a lot of fun.

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

## Cassie

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

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

## Kenneth

Kenneth loves to spend his time surfing the internet. He enjoys researching pizza places, stores, and games. He clips advertisements out of the Sunday paper to plan his outings and to put items on his wishlist. One item he would like is a pizza oven from Menards. Kenneth, who is seventeen years old, loves activities like going to the park, shopping, or going out to eat. He also likes to help with chores like cleaning. Transformers are his favorite action figures and he will happily tell you about the different characters. He also likes to show off his artwork. Kenneth hopes to have a PlayStation4 with Transformer and racing games on it someday.

Kenneth will need a family that is patient and willing to work with him on his behavioral issues and his struggles with communication. Kenneth does well with one-on-one attention. He will do best in a two-parent home where he can be the youngest or only child. (8068SS) *Marion County*



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

## Caleb

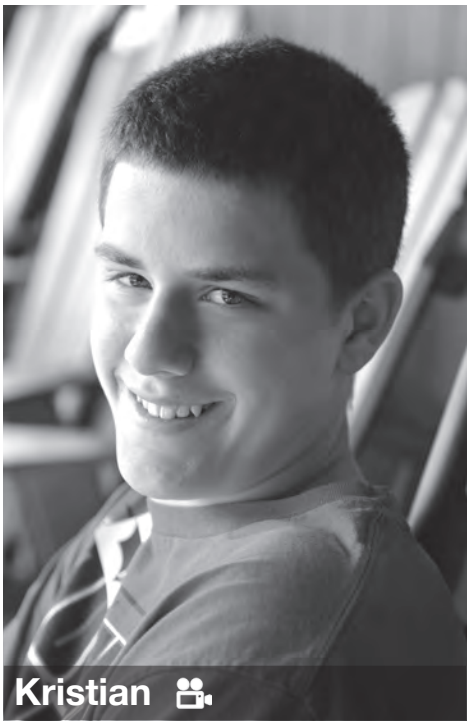
Caleb is a very loyal friend. He makes friends easily and he enjoys telling jokes and making other people laugh. He is compassionate and caring and will defend those he feels are being mistreated. Caleb is fifteen years old and he enjoys video games and watching movies. He is proud to be left-handed 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*

## Donald

Donald is very curious about the world around him. He is sensory-oriented and likes to use his sense of smell and sense of taste. He loves scented stickers! Pastries are his favorite food to eat. He is twelve years old and he likes music and he loves the busy, colorful images in books like "Where's Waldo?" and "I Spy." He also enjoys playing with LEGOs, blocks, and Play-Doh and he likes to play on the trampoline. He collects Pillow Pets and he enjoys any activity with water, especially water slides. Donald is very energetic, happy, and affectionate. He enjoys back rubs. Donald is neat and he enjoys organizing blocks by shape, color, or size.

Donald will do best in a home that can provide routine, structure, and supervision. He listens well and follows directions with prompting. He will need a family that has knowledge of developmental disabilities. Two-parent homes or single-parent homes with extended support systems would be preferred for Donald and he would thrive with a positive male role model. (8091BS) *Knox County*



## Kristian

Kristian wants to play basketball for the Miami Heat when he grows up. He is fifteen years old and he loves to play point guard and when he plays football, he likes to be the quarterback. Kristian describes himself as, "caring, loving, and athletic." He is also helpful and nice. He recently read the first book in the Hunger Games series and he would like to read the other two books. His favorite subject is math and he received an award for being the "Most Polite Student." His favorite food is pizza and he likes all toppings except anchovies. He would like to visit Miami, Florida some day because he wants to see a Heat game and also because he has never seen a beach before.

Kristian needs a home where he can have strong, positive role models. He needs a family that will encourage positive behavior and help him succeed in school. Kristian needs a family that will be strict with their supervision, but also provide him with unconditional love. His adoptive family must establish rules and implement discipline from the very beginning. Kristian says that he would like a family that is "clean and nice." He would do well in a single-parent or two-parent home with older children or no other children. He has siblings with whom he would like to remain in contact. (8095MO) *Jefferson County*

Shandalyne is a bright-eyed girl who loves to smile. Her favorite food is Honey Nut Cheerios, but cinnamon rolls, pepperoni pizza, and spaghetti rank high on her list too. Shandalyne, who is eleven years old, loves computer lab and library time at school. She would like to be a veterinarian when she grows up because she loves animals. She also loves to dig outside and collect things like bugs, worms, and "treasures." She plays with Barbies and LEGO blocks and she is involved in swimming and ballet lessons. She describes herself as friendly, outgoing, and imaginative.

Shandalyne needs a two-parent home with no other children. She would like to have a mom and a dad who are "nice" and "funny." She would like to live in the city, but she also likes being outside. Shandalyne's family will need to set strict boundaries and provide appropriate discipline, supervision, security, structure, and stability. (8105BD) *Bartholomew County*

Briestyn loves 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 is a humorous ten-year-old boy 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 ten year-old 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 were the only or youngest child. (8106DH) *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 twelve 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*



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

## Micheal

Micheal is a bright, well-spoken, and thoughtful boy. He is also energetic and athletic and he loves to play basketball. Micheal is sixteen years old and his favorite activities are reading, listening to music, and playing video games. He is often described as helpful and kind and loves to help others. He cares very much for his sister and he hopes to maintain contact with her.

Micheal needs a home where he can have a strong, positive male role model. He needs an encouraging, supportive family that can provide necessary boundaries, supervision, and educational support, as well as love and acceptance. Single-parent and two-parent homes with older or no other children will be preferred. (8109JS) *Allen County*

## Anthony

Anthony, who also goes by "Tony," is a helpful, loving boy who smiles easily and likes to be around people. He is fifteen years old and he enjoys learning and he is very curious about new things. He is sweet and compassionate and loves to make new friends. He is very interested in electronics and he is very good at playing football and playing the saxophone. He hopes to be a cook or a veterinarian when he grows up.

Anthony needs a single-parent or two-parent home with no other children in the home. His new family will need to provide supervision, structure, accountability, attention, and encouragement. Anthony will need strong male and female role models in his life. (8112JS) *Allen County*

## Chataivia

Chataivia is a thoughtful, honest, talkative, and insightful girl. She loves karaoke and she chooses "My Heart Will Go On" when it is her turn to sing. The movie "Titanic" is one of her favorites and she is saving up to buy a DVD player or a Kindle. Math is her favorite subject because she appreciates a good challenge. She is seventeen years old and she enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. Chataivia would like to visit New York City someday and she would also like to go to college or find a job.

Chataivia hopes her new family will celebrate her favorite holidays, Thanksgiving and Halloween, and accept her for who she is. She would like to be in a home without pets and she hopes to have older siblings.

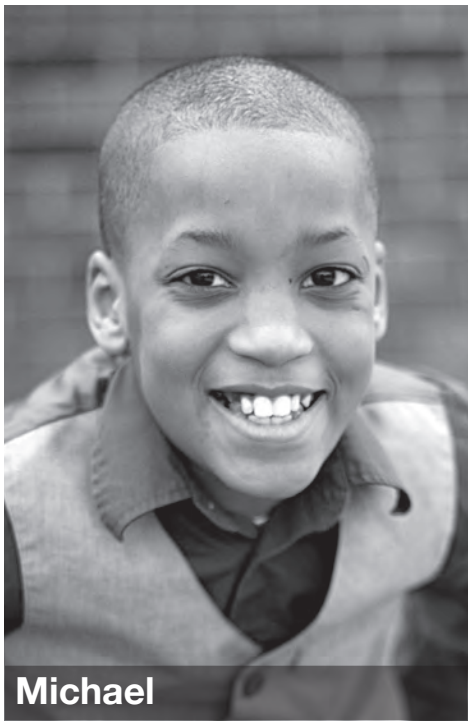
She would do well in a consistent, structured family environment with a strong, but sensitive female role model. She will need a fun, active family that can encourage her in her self-care and educational needs. (8113IA) *La Porte County*

# Indiana Adoption Program

## Jarvise

Jarvise is a humorous, athletic, and artistic fourteen-year-old boy. He has won a number of awards for his drawings. He is very smart and he does well in school; he even made the Honor Roll! Football and basketball are his favorite sports and he enjoys playing on teams. Jarvise hopes to visit a beach someday because he has never seen the ocean.

Jarvise is hopeful that his new home will be happy and fun. He would like a family that stays busy and likes activities like board games, sports, camps, and going to the park or the library. He would benefit from living in a two-parent home with a strong male role model. Jarvise has siblings with whom he would like to maintain contact. (8114JS) *St. Joseph County*



## Michael

Michael loves to try new things! He is ten 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 is very helpful.

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*

## Bryan

Bryan is a funny, pleasant boy who loves LEGOs. He likes to build spaceships and cars and he hopes to enter LEGO building competitions. He thinks he would like to do auto mechanics or racing when he grows up. Bryan loves to read fantasy books like "The Hobbit" and watch movies like "Star Wars." He also likes to ride bicycles and read books about BMX. He hopes to drive a Dodge car or truck when he gets older and he thinks he would like to go to Minnesota to see the Mall of America someday.

Bryan will need a family that can provide supervision, safety, appropriate boundaries, and a good model for behavior. He would benefit from having a family that encourages and supports him in his emotional and educational growth. Single or two-parent homes with older children or no other children will be considered. (8133BS) *Greene County*



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

## Nicole

Nicole is a very gentle and sweet young girl. Though Nicole does not speak, she does smile. She is seventeen years old and she likes to hear music, especially songs for children. She also enjoys having a roommate. She loves interactions with people and also loves objects that light up or make noise. She enjoys toys that stimulate her senses.

Nicole will need a family with an extended support system since she needs 24/7 care. She also needs parents who are willing and able to provide care for her many medical and physical needs. Families that are familiar with cerebral palsy would be preferred. Single-parent and two-parent homes will be considered. (8141BD) *Madison County*

## Jonathan

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

A family with a consistent schedule and a calm environment would be best for Jonathan. He needs a single-parent or two-parent home with a family that can provide supervision, encouragement, and attention to his medical and educational needs. Jonathan does well with other children and pets. (8149IA) *Newton County*

## Everett

Everett has a kind smile and a contagious laugh. He is sixteen years old. He is caring and he enjoys spending one-on-one time with people. He loves to play basketball and video games. Writing is his favorite subject in school. He is quiet at first, but very friendly once he opens up to a person. He is a resilient boy and he is working hard to achieve his goals. He would do well with positive role models who can encourage him to continue meeting his emotional, behavioral, and educational goals.

Everett would do well in a family where he can be an only child and where the people around him are positive, optimistic, grounded, and nurturing. He needs direction and purpose in his life. He would do best in a stable and structured environment with a family that will support him, understand him, and be patient with him. This family will need to work closely with Everett while he continues to deal with and understand his difficult past. (8151IA) *Lake County*

## Austin

Austin is a friendly, imaginative, and determined seventeen-year-old who loves all outdoor activities. He likes to work with his hands and enjoys watching motorcycle racing, learning mechanics, and working on his bike. Austin would like to attend college or vocational school to learn how to work on engines and he hopes to either drive a truck someday, become a diesel mechanic, or live on a ranch. He would love to learn how to drive. Austin would also like to learn about photography. Austin has a great sense of humor and is very personable.

Austin hopes that he will find a home with a family that wants a teenage boy. And if the home were in the country, he would be very happy. He very much wants to have a forever family. It would be beneficial for Austin to have a positive male role model. A home with a single father where Austin could be the only child would be best. (8158BS) *Owen County*

## Charles

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

Charles would do well in a loving two-parent home with parents who are firm, but fair. He will need supervision and parents who can provide stability, patience, and security. He is learning the importance of family and he wants to be adopted. He would enjoy being in a home that has a dog. (8161CIA) *Lake County*

## Brianna

Brianna loves pop music. She has never been to a concert, but she would love to go to one, especially a Lady Gaga show. Brianna is seventeen years old and she describes herself as, "a dork in a good way," because of her love for reading and history. When she grows up, she would like to be a famous singer or actress; she thinks it would be fun to have cameras follow her. Brianna is building up a collection of nail polish and she wants to visit a lot of places someday, such as Chicago, Rio De Janeiro, Greece, Italy, and Washington D.C.

Brianna would prefer to live in a home with a single mother. She needs a strong, positive, stable role model who can mentor her and help her focus on her future. She also loves animals and would like to live in a home with pets. Brianna's new family will need to provide constant encouragement and advocate for her education and emotional needs. (8162SS) *Marion County*



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

## Garrett

Garrett is intelligent and polite. He is a skilled builder and enjoys mechanics. Garrett is a very active sixteen-year-old who likes spending time outdoors. Some of the sports he enjoys are cycling and basketball, and he hopes to be on the track team someday. Garrett is positive and bright and sets goals for himself to reach his full potential.

Garrett would do best in a two-parent home with a strong male role model and no younger siblings. He would benefit the most in a home with clear boundaries, supervision, and plenty of love. (8167BD) *Scott County*

## Daniel

Daniel is good-natured and affectionate. He is personable, polite, and well-mannered, and gets along very well with adults. Daniel is fifteen years old. He has a wonderful sense of humor, and likes to tell knock-knock jokes. Daniel is athletic and competitive. He enjoys playing basketball, football, boxing, and hockey. Daniel is thoughtful and caring and yearns for love and affection from others.

Daniel would thrive in a two-parent home with parents who have experience with kids with special needs. He'll do best in a home with a calm, nurturing, and loving environment and parents that can advocate for his emotional and educational needs. (8168BD) *Clark County*

## Skyler

Skyler is likable and easy-going. She enjoys meeting new people. She is very social and enjoys the sense of satisfaction when she makes new friends. Skyler is a caring and friendly thirteen-year-old and she enjoys playing board games and sports with her friends. When she is older, she wants to help at-risk youth. In the future, she hopes to go to Disneyland and Nashville. She wishes to travel to Nashville because she likes country music.

Skyler would do best in a home with experienced parents. Skyler needs a home that can provide consistency and support with clear boundaries as well as plenty of love and attention. (8178DH) *Vigo County*

# Indiana Adoption Program

## Charles

Charles, who goes by Charlie, is a sweet, talkative young man who is fascinated by cars and racing. He enjoys playing video games like Need For Speed. His favorite car is the Dodge Charger, and his favorite NASCAR driver is Jeff Gordon. He really likes animals, especially cats and bunnies. Charlie, who is sixteen years old, likes to stay active and enjoys baseball. He describes himself as, "awesome, funny, and protective." He is caring and very helpful.

Charlie wants an active mom and dad who "like racing and don't fight." He stated that he has always wanted a little brother. He would like to be the oldest child. Charlie would benefit from calm parents who can set clear guidelines, and maintain structure and firm boundaries. He will need a lot of direct attention and guidance. Charlie is caring and energetic. Charlie desires to be in a loving home. (8183SS) *Marion County*

## Christina

Christina, who goes by Chrissy, is very hopeful that she will find a forever family. She is so excited to possibly play family games, eat dinner together, and maybe even travel with them. She is fifteen years old and she hopes to have younger siblings to play with, or to be an only child. Chrissy loves animals, especially smaller dogs, cats, and hamsters and would like to live in a home with animals. She is an active, outgoing, and friendly girl who likes the outdoors. She likes to play volleyball at school, and hopes to one day be on a gymnastics team. Chrissy's favorite subject in school is history because she likes to learn about how the past has impacted the present.

Chrissy is very eager to be adopted and would like a loving home who is caring and listens to her. Christina would do best in a patient, understanding home that can give her plenty of attention. Chrissy has some dietary limitations, so parents should take this into consideration. Chrissy is a loving child who is easy to get along with and who loves to smile. (8185DH) *Putnam County*

## Diamond

Diamond is a bright and easy-going seventeen-year-old girl who hopes to be a lawyer or an elementary school teacher someday. She loves to play chess, and participates in the school chess club. She excels at school and she is proud of her good grades. Her favorite subject is math. Diamond is determined and ambitious. She enjoys playing sports like volleyball and basketball. She is also very helpful, caring, and resourceful.

Diamond has a strong desire to be adopted. A home that is patient, understanding, secure, and trusting would be best for her. Diamond would like to live near a city. Both single and two-parent homes will be considered. (8188SS) *Marion County*



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

## Jaythan

Jaythan likes to whistle and sing! He is a happy, energetic nine-year-old boy who loves to ride his bike, and he enjoys Power Rangers. Jaythan is very loving and resilient. He has a wonderful sense of humor and an easy-going attitude. He likes to hug the family dog, a golden retriever named Jake. He has had many different obstacles throughout his short life and has been able to overcome these issues and is doing well.

Jaythan would do best in a home that is able to meet his many medical needs. Previous experience with medically fragile children would be a benefit, however, not required so long as the family is willing to work closely with Jaythan's doctors to ensure that all of his needs are met. Jaythan is comfortable with siblings and animals. Both single and two-parent homes with parenting experience will be considered. (8190DH) *Wabash County*

## Chase

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

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

## Jesse

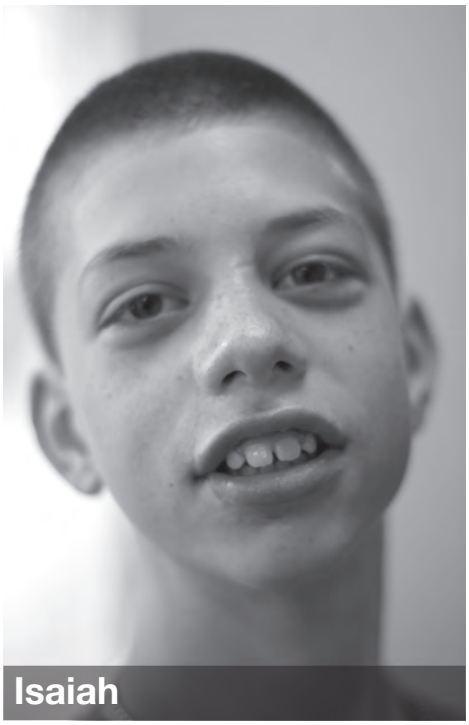
Jesse is a friendly and inquisitive nine-year-old boy who loves to be active and outdoors. When you first meet him, he is very outgoing and polite. Jesse is very helpful and takes pride in his work. Jesse is independent and likes to try new things. Jesse's favorite sport is football and he likes to play as quarterback. If the opportunity arises, Jesse has a humorous personality that can light up a room! Jesse is a happy and sweet young man who is optimistic and hopeful about the future.

Jesse is excited to be adopted and he hopes his future home has lots of animals. He would like to have older siblings—an older brother and an older sister. Jesse would do best in a two-parent home that can provide lots of attention and reassurance. He would benefit from having a father and/or and older brother who can be strong role models. Jesse needs a home that can provide safety, stability, and unconditional love. (8204MO) *Jefferson County*

## Aries

Aries is a polite boy with a great smile! He is an active ten-year-old boy who likes to play sports such as football, basketball, and running. He enjoys video games, puzzles, and board games. Aries has a big imagination and is very creative. He can be shy when you first meet him, but once he opens up, he is sociable and enjoyable to be around.

The home best for Aries would be a two-parent home with older children or no other children. Aries thrives on one-on-one attention. A home that is calm and nurturing with stability would be ideal for Aries. He will need support, structure, and guidance. Having a strong male role model in the home would be good for Aries. Aries is a resilient boy, yet will need a slow transition into an adoptive home. (8205JS) *Allen County*



## Isaiah

Isaiah is a sweet thirteen-year-old boy who loves cars! Some of his favorites are the Dodge Charger and the Chevy Camaro. He likes to go for car rides and work on cars. He is kind, polite, and affectionate. Isaiah is helpful and enjoys cleaning. Isaiah is an active boy who likes to play outside. He likes baseball and basketball. Isaiah is sociable and likes to be around people.

Isaiah would do best in a two-parent home with lots of structure and clear boundaries. It would be best if there are children in the home, that they would be older. Isaiah loves attention and will need supervision. A home with a calm environment and caring, affectionate parents would allow Isaiah to thrive. (8206JS) *Wells County*

## Randy

Randy is a shy, but personable ten-year-old boy. He loves animals, especially cats! He describes himself as happy. He really likes vegetables, so his favorite meal is a salad from Olive Garden. In his spare time, he likes to paint and draw as well as play with Legos. He really likes Marvel comics, particularly The Avengers. Randy likes to play outside. Football and basketball are the sports he enjoys best. His three wishes are to be a super hero, to have every super-power, and to have a million dollars. If he could go anywhere in the world, he would go to Hollywood or China!

Randy needs to be placed in an adoptive home that is understanding, calm, and nurturing. Positive reinforcement is best for Randy. Randy tries hard and wants to succeed, and a family that can encourage him to reach his potential would be best for him. Parents should be flexible, and able to show unconditional love. (8207DH) *Wabash County*



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

## Chloe

Chloe is a spirited, expressive, and loving girl who is can be shy when you first meet her, but will open up quickly. She describes herself as "someone who likes to have fun." She is sixteen years old and is a good helper. She enjoys one-on-one time. Chloe likes fashion and her favorite store is Rue 21 and wishes she could work there. When Chloe is older, she hopes to become a lawyer because she wants to help "good people." Chloe likes to hang out and joke around with her friends. When she and her friends get together, they play dancing games on the Wii. She is active and likes to swim and play volleyball.

A home that would be best for Chloe is a patient two-parent home with that can provide safety, appropriate boundaries, and clear rules and expectations. Chloe needs parents who will be good advocates for her emotional and educational needs. She has a strong desire to find a forever family. (8218BS) *Crawford County*

## Dylan

Dylan is a happy and energetic six-year-old. He is affectionate and enjoys time with other people. He really loves Thomas the Tank Engine, trains, cars, playing outside, swinging, and riding his bike. Dylan needs help with daily living skills and he is making progress with his communication skills.

Families for Dylan should be affectionate and dedicated to providing Dylan with positive affirmations and lots of supervision. His family must be committed to his goals and willing to help him reach them by cooperating with his support team. Families with previous experience dealing with special needs would be beneficial for Dylan. (8222BD) *Floyd County*

## Ethen

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

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

## Joshua

Joshua is a happy eleven year-old boy with a bright smile. He is sweet, affectionate, and likes being tickled and also likes to cuddle. Joshua is active enjoys swimming and he enjoys 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*

## Jaden

Jaden is a curious nine-year-old boy who likes to explore and be active. He likes to spend time outside riding his bike. When he is inside, you can find him building LEGOs, or playing a racing video game. Jaden is fascinated by how things work, so he likes to take things apart and put them back together again. Jaden is athletic, artistic, and well-mannered. Jaden is a bit of a daredevil and hopes to be a race car driver someday.

Jaden would do best in a two-parent home with no other children. He needs a home that can provide plenty of love, stability, and safety. It is important that the parents have some knowledge on how trauma affects children. Parents should be strong, showing unconditional love, encouragement, and positive redirection. (8228BS) *Perry County*

## Matthew

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

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



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

## Blake

Blake is an outgoing and intelligent thirteen year-old boy. He has a vivid imagination and loves to read. His favorite books are the Harry Potter series. He has great memory and able to recount both the films and the books. Blake excels in school, and his favorite subjects are social studies and science. Blake is an avid football fan, his favorite team being the Green Bay Packers. He loves music, and would happily tell you about his favorite bands, such as Adele and The Beatles and Fun. In the future, Blake wants to visit the Louvre to see the Mona Lisa. In his free time, Blake likes to watch movies, read books, and learn new things.

A home that would be best for Blake is one that understands his emotional needs and can provide safety, structure, and encouragement. Prospective parents ought to be patient and consistent. Blake has a great heart and is always willing to listen or lend a hand. (8231IA) *La Porte County*

## Joshua

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

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

## Aaron

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

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

# Indiana Adoption Program

## Alyssa

Alyssa is a nice fourteen-year-old girl who is fascinated by Japanese culture. She hopes to visit there someday. She loves Japanese animation. Her favorite cartoon is Pokemon, and she enjoys video games and trading cards. Alyssa describes herself as creative, and art is her favorite subject in school. Alyssa loves animals, so when she is older, she wants to be a zookeeper. Her perfect Friday night would be quiet, spent at home drawing or playing Pokemon games.

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

## Andrew

Andrew is a personable thirteen-year-old boy who is very interested in cars, especially Dodges. When he is older, he hopes to be a car salesman. Andrew likes to read and describes himself as "kind of quiet" and "nice." In his free time, he likes to play board games like Monopoly and Trouble. Andrew is friendly, loving, and affectionate and likes to please others. He likes to be helpful and work hard. He also likes to laugh and has a good sense of humor.

Andrew would do best in a home that can provide a lot of one-on-one attention. He would also do best in a home as the youngest or only child. His family would need to be able to identify his needs and remain dedicated to maintaining a calm, structured, and positive environment. Parents will need to be advocates for Andrew's educational and emotional needs. (8137JS) *Allen County*

## Latorian

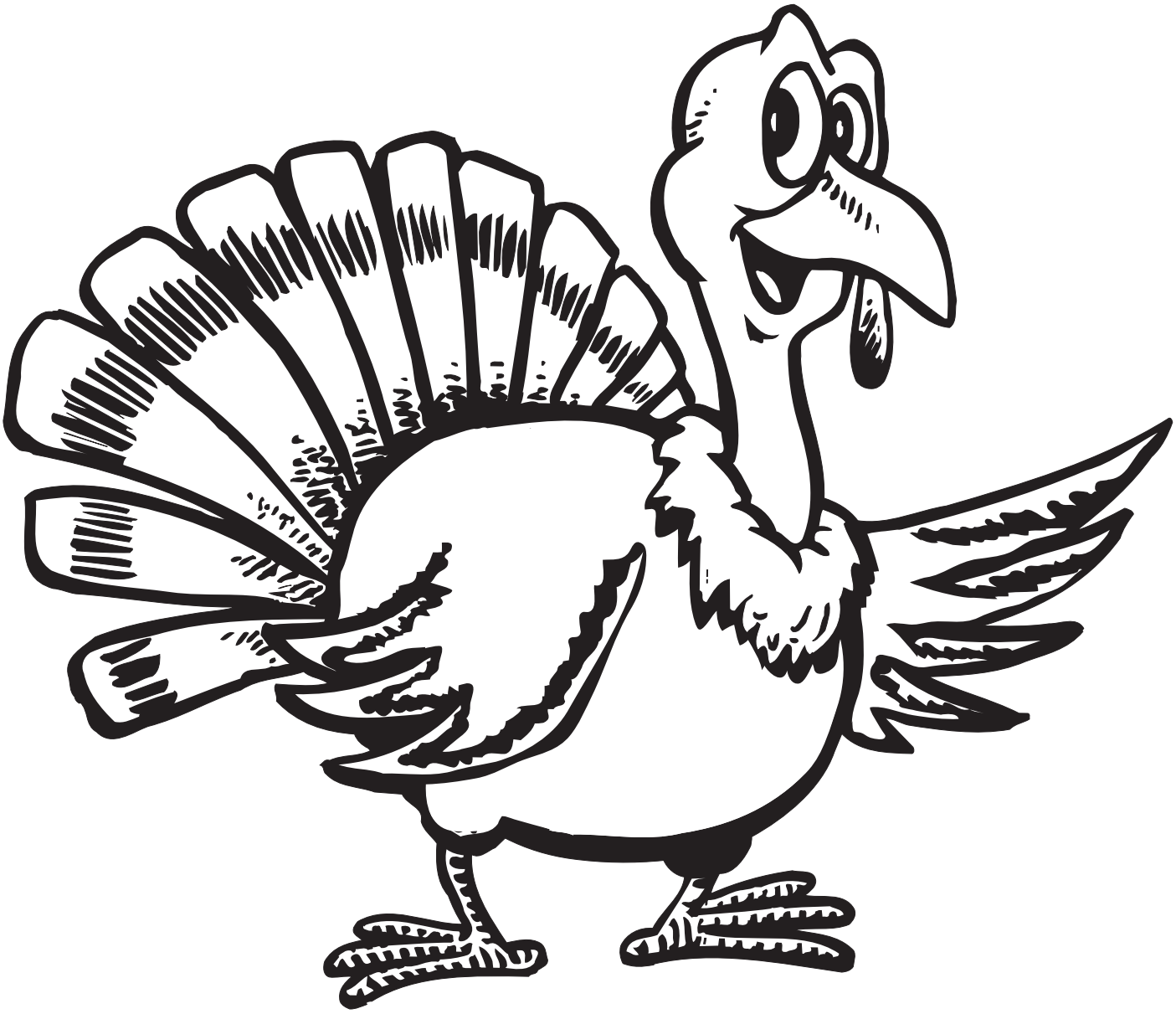
Latorian is an outgoing and friendly fifteen-year-old girl. She is very creative and writes her own poems and songs. Just ask, and she'll be happy to sing one for you! Latorian is helpful, and especially likes to help with cooking. She is active, enjoys playing basketball, and hopes to play on a team someday. In the future, Latorian would like to attend school to become a lawyer. Latorian is motivated and likes to stay positive.

A home that would be best for Latorian would be either with a single mother or in a two-parent home with no other children in the home. Parents will need to be patient, nurturing, calm, but firm in their discipline. A home where the parents can maintain a safe, encouraging environment and can show unconditional love would allow Latorian to thrive. Parents will need to advocate for Latorian's emotional and educational needs. (8239IA) *La Porte County*

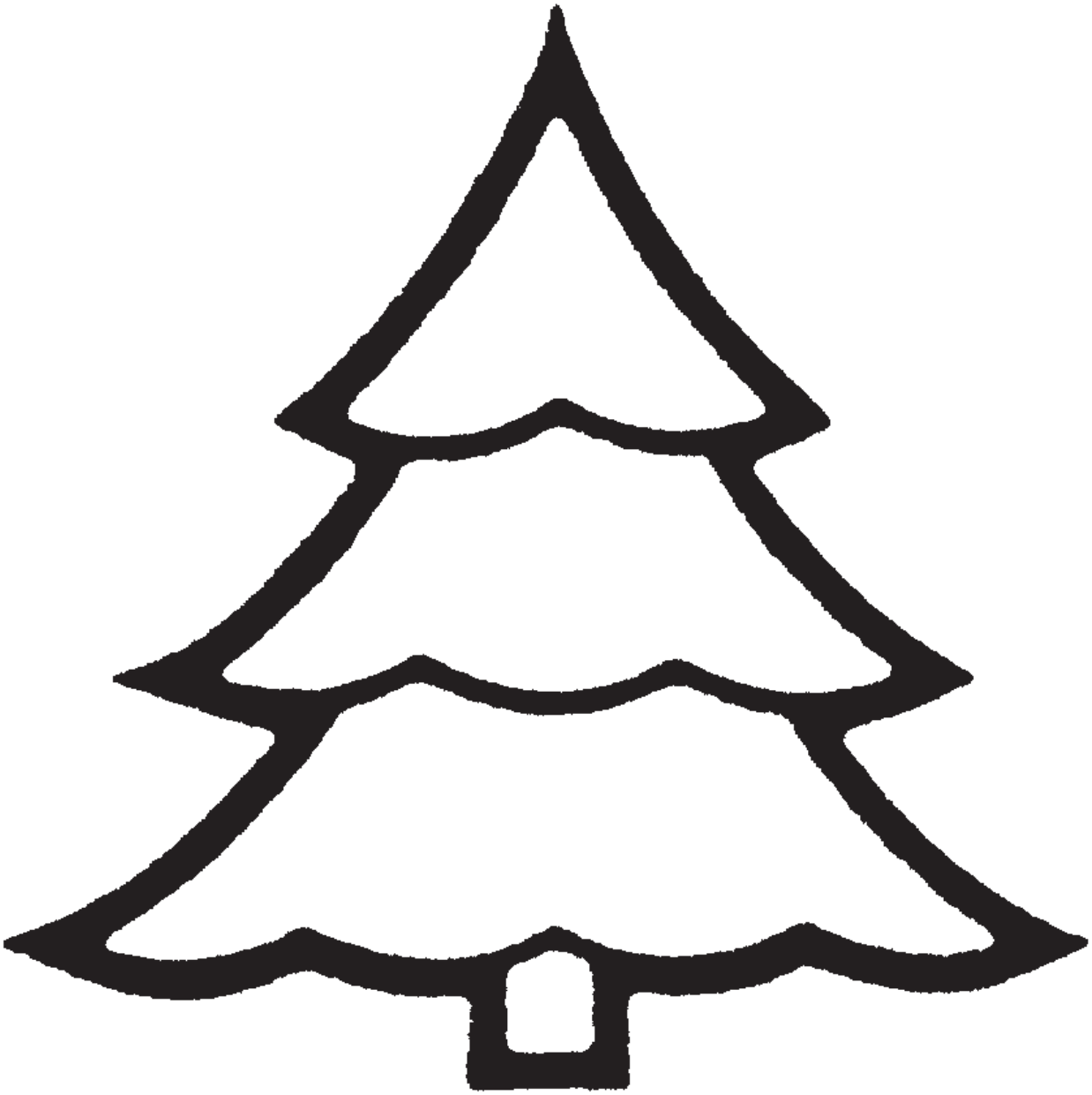


Please go to *www.adoptachild.in.gov* to view videos.

# Color Your Turkey!



# Decorate your own tree!



**Notes:**

## What is Adoption?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In a legal sense, people become a member of a family in one of three ways: by birth, by marriage or by adoption. "Family" is defined in our legal structure as two or more people who: 1)

have biological ties; or 2) make a long-term legally binding commitment to each other.

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

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

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

## How Do I Start The Adoption Process in Indiana?

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

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

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

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

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

Call 1-888-25-ADOPT or e-mail at snap@childrensbureau.org

# How to Adopt Overview

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

## Step 1: Educate Yourself about Adoption

**Where Do I Start Learning?**

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

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

**National Adoption Organizations**

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

**NAIC**
330 C St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20447
888-251-0075 or 703-352-3488
fax: 703-385-3206
e-mail: NAIC@calib.com
web: www.childwelfare.gov

**North American Council on Adoptable Children**

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

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

**Adoption Conferences**

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

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

**Written Materials**

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

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

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

## Self Assessment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Step 2: Decide What Type of AdoptionYou Want to Pursue

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

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

## Step 3: Investigate Ways to Cover Adoption Expenses

Many agencies do not charge service fees to families who adopt children from the foster care system. However, you will need a home study, and because adoption is a legal process, you may need an attorney. The cost of a home study can vary from $0 to $3,000. Attorney fees and court costs can range from $2,000 to $5,000, and special needs adoptive families often incur additional costs for medical services, counseling, etc. — costs that may continue throughout the child's lifetime. Fortunately, due to federal and employer-initiated programs, parents have several options for covering the cost of special needs adoption.

**Employer Assistance**

Employers who offer adoption benefits may provide workers with:

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

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

**Tax Credits and Exclusions**

For tax years beginning 2008–2009 the adoption or credit has increased. See form 8839, "Qualified Adoption Expenses" and its instructions for more information. Check the Internal Revenue Services website at www.irs.gov and look under Forms & Publications.

**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. Ask your child's Family Case Manager about the child eligibility for subsidies.

**Indiana Adoption Subsidy**

The new adoption subsidy guidelines can be found on the Department of Child Services website. Go to www.in.gov/dcs — when you look at the page, on the left-hand side are tabs. Go to the pull-down arrow of Policies and click on Child Welfare policies. When you get to that page you will see a list of Policy Changes via Administrative Letters. About 3/4 of the way down, you will find an Administrative Letter from Director Payne, titled "Indiana Adoption Program" and it has a January 2009 date. The letter is 15 pages long and outlines the entire subsidy program.

## Step 4: Select an Adoption Agency

**How to Find Agencies**

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

- The Indiana Adoption Program is coordinated through the County Department of Child Services (CDCS) and private Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPA) that are contracted with the local counties to provide adoption services, including Family Preparation. You can contact the Indiana Adoption Program at 1-888-25-ADOPT or view a list of SNAP Specialists at http://www.in.gov/dcs/2747.htm for agency information in your area.
- Look in the Yellow Pages under "Adoption" or "Social Services" for private adoption agencies. If you live in a small town, you may want to check in a phone book from a larger community nearby.
- Contact adoptive parent support groups or adoptive parents for suggestions. Both are a great source of information about agencies and adoption, plus they are usually eager to share what they know with prospective adopters. To find an adoptive parent support group in your area contact your local county DCS to see if they know of one or use the Internet to search. Support groups are generally very informal and you may need to ask people in your community who have adopted to find out if a group meets near you.

**Finding the Right Agency for You**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Step 6: Adoption Application

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

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

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

## Step 7: Attend Adoption and Parenting Classes

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

Prospective adoptive parents who want to be approved to adopt children through the Indiana Adoption Program must complete the Resource & Adoptive Parent Training (RAPT) sessions I-IV. Pre-Adoption Training is scheduled through your local Training Coordinator. To find out who the Training Coordinator is in your area contact the Indiana Adoption Program.

## Step 8: Begin the Family Preparation Process

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

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

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

- an autobiographical statement — a statement you create about your life history
- certified copies of birth certificates for you, your partner, and any children
- a certified copy of your marriage license
- certified copies of divorce decrees
- the death certificate of a former spouse
- certified copies of the finalization or adoption decrees for any adopted children
- child abuse and criminal record clearances, or a notarized statement from the police declaring that you and your partner have faced no felony convictions
- income verification (may include tax returns, W-2 forms, and paycheck stubs)
- a statement of health provided by a physician, which might include lab test results or a statement of infertility
- written references from friends, employers, neighbors, etc.

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

**Questions You May Be Asked**

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

- What is your family like? How will you integrate your new child into your family?
- How will your extended family treat an adopted child?
- How is your marriage? How do you make decisions,

resolve conflicts, and express your feelings?

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

The aim of any assessment or home study is to help the agency locate the best home for each child it places, and make good matches between prospective parents and children. If you have questions about the process, ask your social worker or agency.

## Step 9: Begin Searching for a Child

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

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

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

## Step 10: Considering a Child

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

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

**Questions for Prospective Adoptive Parents to Ask**

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

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

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

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

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

f. Is there a Life Book for the child?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

q. Does the child accept and give affection?

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

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

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

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

- Update the family's insurance. Adoptees can be covered under your health insurance from the date they are placed with your family. Group health insurance carriers must insure adoptees under the terms of their parents' policy and cannot deny coverage due to pre-existing conditions. Add a child to your health insurance plan within 30 days after he or she is placed in your home. If your child is eligible for an adoption subsidy, he or she may be covered through Medicaid. Also change beneficiary designations on life insurance policies and update wills as needed.
- Get and keep a copy of the adoption decree with the child's amended birth certificate. Once the adoption is finalized, that document may be sealed and neither you nor the adoptee can access it. Without it, some adoptees have had trouble getting passports and other official documents. With it, adoptees may have an easier time searching for their biological roots, if and when they decide to do so.
- Prepare to get a new social security card and birth certificate for your child that recognizes the child's new last name and family situation. To claim your child as a dependent for tax purposes, the child must have a social security number.
- Learn as much as you can about the child's habits and personality. Talk to the child's foster parents and worker so you can learn information that will help ease the child's transition into your family. What are the child's favorite foods and games? What is the best way to comfort the child?
- Keep items that tie to the child's past. Encourage the child to bring all his possessions from previous homes, and ask the foster parents and workers for copies of any pictures they have of the child. Never throw away broken toys or worn out clothes unless the child wants to. Familiar objects and smells are comforting, and the child needs you to respect that he has a past and prior attachments and loyalties.
- Make your house child-friendly. Reposition or remove household objects that could be dangerous to your new child. Prepare the child's room to make it welcoming and to signal that the area belongs to him or her.
- Inform your other children about changes that will occur. Tell your children how their roles may change when the new child arrives. Prepare them to share, adjust schedules, and withhold judgment during the transition. Include everyone in visits and trial weekends before the child is placed, and establish clear ground rules for behavior, interaction, and discipline.
- Negotiate an adoption assistance agreement. Parents who adopt an eligible child with special needs from a public or private agency can receive federal or state benefits for their child. Ask your agency what steps you must take to obtain a subsidy and negotiate an adoption assistance agreement, including any post-adoptive services and subsidies.

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

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

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

When a new child is placed in your home, you will assume

temporary legal custody. For a few months, while your family undergoes the inevitable adjustment period, your agency will monitor how the placement is proceeding.

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

## Step 13: File a Petition to Adopt

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

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

## Step 14: Finalize the Adoption

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

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

**Who Should Attend the Hearing**

The following individuals generally attend the finalization hearing:

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

**What the Hearing Involves**

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

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

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

## Common Challenges of Children With Special Needs

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

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

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### Abuse

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

### Attachment

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

### Attachment Disorder

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

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

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

### Developmental Disabilities (DD)

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

### Drug-Exposed

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

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

## Emotional Disability (ED)

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

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

## Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND)

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

## Learning Disability

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

## Mental Disability

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

## Neglect

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

# The Legal Aspects of Adoption

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

## Selecting an Attorney

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

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

## Attorney Fees

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

## Approval

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

## Agency Supervision

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

## Required Consents

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

## Adoption Petition Filing

In Indiana, an attorney needs to file the adoption petition and represent the family through the court process. A petition may be filed in the county where the pre-adoptive parent resides, or in the county where the child resides, or where the Department of Child Services (DCS) or private agency (LCPA) has custody of the child. If you are not an Indiana resident, you may petition to adopt a child who is a ward of Indiana in the county where the LCPA or DCS has custody or the county where the child resides.

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

## Adoption Filing Fees

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

## Adoption Assistance

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

## Adoption Chart

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

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

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## Youth Connections Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beth Prebeck
Youth Connections Specialist for Southern
3528 Two Mile House Rd
Columbus, IN 47201
(317)439-6599 (Work)
Beth.Prebeck@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

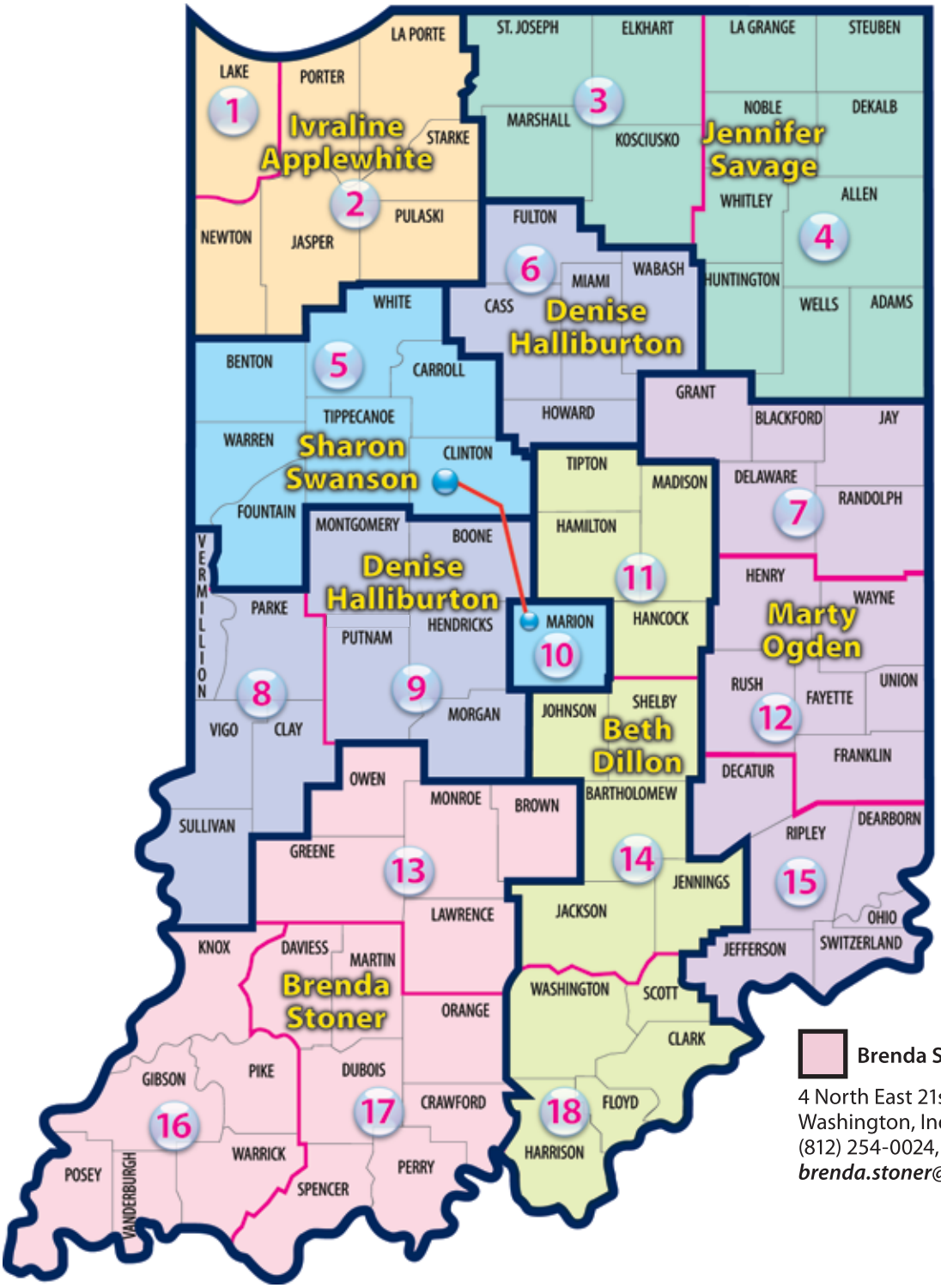
# Area Specialist Locator Map

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

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

**For more information, please call the toll-free number—**

**1-888-25-ADOPT**




**Sharon Swanson**

4150 N. Keystone Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205-2843
(317) 544-3890
*Sharon.Swanson@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*

**Denise Halliburton**

953 Monument Drive
Lebanon, Indiana 46052
(765) 482-3023, *ext:* 12862
*denise.halliburton@dcs.in.gov*

**Marty Ogden**

1025 East Freeland Road, Suite B
Greensburg, Indiana 47240
(812) 663-6768, *ext:* 12954
*marjorie.ogden@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*

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

**www.IN.gov/dcs**

DCS 06/03/14

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*Subscription information is available in this book on page 3.*