CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AUGUST 2

Jeff and Matt are waiting

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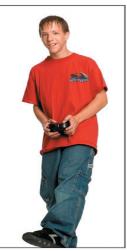
UTAH'S ADOPTION CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

QUARTERLY DCFS NEWSLETTER



Ryan, age 16 is waiting...





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If you are interested in any of the waiting children you see in this publication, please contact The Adoption Exchange for more information at 801.265.0444.

August 2007 Kathy Searle, Editor Lindsay Kaeding, Design Director

To submit articles or for a subscription, call (801) 265-0444 or toll free outside Salt Lake County call (866) 872-7212. This publication is funded by the State of Utah, Division of Child and Family Services. The Adoption Exchange prepares and prints the newsletter and the Division of Child and Family Services mails the publication. The mailing list is kept confidential. One can be removed from the mailing list by calling: (866) 872-7212 or 265-0444 within Salt Lake County.

Blood is Thicker than Water

By: Annie Cody

Frightened and shaking I walk through the door of foster family number one. Today is my birthday and I smile, but how I wish I could run.
They take me by the hands and lead me to my room. Through my eight-year-old eyes I observe my tomb.
But I am growing more comfortable as every day passes. I attend the third grade and become known as the foster child with the glasses.
They don't know that I don't sleep at night. They don't know that every breath I take requires an eternal fight.
A horrendous day comes resulting in a burn from a diabolical flame. At the ripe old age of ten I am losing the social services game.
My heart drops to the floor along with my dreams of becoming their daughter. The fact stands clearly that blood is thicker than water.

> Confused and shaking I walk through the door of foster family number two. I meet them and smile, but I am unsure of what to say and do. They take my hands and lead me to my room. Through my ten-year-old eyes I observe my tomb. I barricade myself in that cell as the sun rises and sets. I cry an endless flood of tears with my pillow soaking wet. On an unsuspecting day I hear the all too familiar phrase: "Andrea, you will be leaving in just a few days." Once again I am burned by that diabolical flame. At the ripe old age of eleven I am losing the social services game. My heart falls to the floor along with the dreams of being their daughter. I guess I forgot that blood is thicker than water.

Bitter and tired I walk through the door of foster family number three. My heart is racing as I wonder how this house will be.
They take my hands and lead me to my room. Through my eleven-year-old eyes, I observe my tomb.
I slack off in school and I hardly ever sleep. I am weighted down with the burdens of my world and the memories that I keep.
At the end of sixth grade I hear the same thing as before. I walk into the house and see my few things packed by the door.
I have another scar from the diabolical flame. At the ripe old age of twelve, I am losing the social services game.
My heart and tears fall to the floor along with my dreams of being their daughter. I guess I forgot that blood is thicker than water.

How Might Adopted Children and Adults See the World?

By Joyce Maguire Pavao

It is quite true, we adopted ones were taken, and moved, and transplanted, and given new names and new identities as if we were in the FBI witness protection program!

Of course, we do have some trauma associated with our first loss and with any other additional moves and losses. Wouldn't you?

But the thing that comes along with the loss part is our adaptive qualities. We're adopted and we're adaptive!

We can get along anywhere as a result of this transplanting and replanting. Place us in a room with high society and royaltywe're fine. Our birth parents may have been kings and queens, after all. We're actors and actresses trying on many roles because we could be anyone, couldn't we? And we often don't even know who we are under the disguise. We could have been an entirely different person with an entirely different name and life! We started out as one person, and then turned into another. Ta Dah! So we could be anyone. We instantly know how to act and how to get along just fine, thank you.

Place us in a room with derelicts and lowlife thieves and we'll be hanging out and 'talking trash' with them in no time. After all, our birth parents could have been just like this! Place us in good schools and we'll either do just fine (aiming to please), or we'll be so busy trying to get the social thing down (we have to be accepted, after all) that we'll miss our assignments and do rather poorly academically. But we'll be working on something. We just adapt and adapt and adapt.

You all ('you' being society, the adoption system, and sometimes parents and professionals) made us think that our birth parents were poor and unable to parent, and so we gravitate toward a lower sociaeconomic group of friend at certain period of our growing up, or, as adults, we may work with this population in order to give something back to 'our people.' We take what you say very seriously.

You don't even realize what you're telling us some of the time. If we're relating to what we think is our 'background' and you put it down in any way, it only adds to our losses in terms of our loss of self-esteem. So, please, love and respect our culture, our race, our religion, and our ethnicity of root family, as well as that which we gain from our family by adoption.

Some core issues:

Intimacy? It takes knowing who you are to know who you can be with. So, we either get all dependent and mushy and enmeshed and the feel rejected, or we stay in our marginal stance. After all, we are marginal people. We fit in two families (or more) while at the same time, we fit in neither of these families completely. Sometimes, we fit in two countries. We are excellent bystanders, as we can see from any angle. (We make great therapists! We make great detectives! We make great friends and family members although we can be hard to love with as we sort out our divided loyalty and loss issues.) We are eternally loyal, like a beagle.

Attachment? We were uprooted. We attach really well over and over and over, but the roots are delicate after they've been torn and the tenacity wears down. We will reattach well only once, if the people we're placed with are also good at attaching (it takes two to tango and to attach, after all and most people forget to look at the attachment styles of the parents). But don't move us too often, or we'll have no ability to 'stick to it.' Then we'll be better at moving from place to place to place, because that is what YOU will have taught us. We'll have a hard time with jobs and with career and with relationships. We learn very well and very early you know. It is YOU who teaches us all of this by taking us away and then placing us, and the taking us away and then placing us. It's your shortcoming, not ours that leads to attachment problems. We attach on the surface very quickly. It's part of how we adapt. We can't even walk into a hotel room for an overnight stay without rearranging some furniture and making the place comfortable so that we can settle. We need to bring along some transitional objects-familiar objects-when we are in strange places. After all, our first familiar object (birth mother) disappeared!

Loss? We can't find a thing! Loss is an issue that pervades. We deal with it in many different ways. We are pack rats and some of us keep everything-every shred of everything. We collect old things, 'useless' things, because this what society has often thought of us. We have to have one of every color of our favorite sweater . . . what if we lose one?

People misdiagnose some of us as having ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) but really, we all have this problem with distraction because it feels like . . . something is missing. Our rooms are cluttered and piled high with things that we can't lose, because we're trying to calm our feelings about the people that we've lost.

We misplace keys and things and joke about loss being a

huge issue for us, because we are adopted. Some of us go the other way and we KEEP nothing. We give things away. We'd rather be in control and we'd rather know where things are, even if they're with someone else.

Anger? I guess SO! How would you feel if people did things to you when you were asleep and unconscious and when you were an infant or small child? People destabilized your whole world and then, ta dah! You were a different person. It's okay. We can deal, but you bet there's going to be some anger. And not at the people (definitely our parents, birth and adoptive-they had their own problems and losses to contend with-we all did) but at the situation. We older adopted ones, form the very close era, can't stand secrecy and get very angry if people are clandestine or passive aggressive.

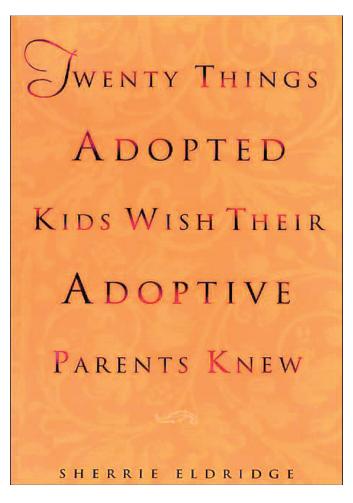
The truth is what we've always wanted. Openness and sincerity is it so hard? Our anger is dynamic. It moves us to get involved politically. To want to change the world because our world was changed so dramatically. This can be a good thing and often is! We can focus our anger and use it to challenge what is wrong and we can be agents of change, as we were infants and children of change. Change is our legacy and our strength as well as our downfall. We are changelings.

Humor? Humor is the highest defense mechanism. We were quick and early to learn whatever we needed to order to survive. We are survivors. We learned it from our birth parents and we learned it from our adoptive parents. We can laugh at ourselves (but don't YOU laugh as us, or label us, or diagnose us, when YOU are the culprit who made us who we are.) We can laugh at the world around us, and we can play. We have the gift of play and fantast because we have lived in a world of fantasy and not-knowing for oh, so long.

Spirit? We have an innate sense of spirit and spirituality. It doesn't matter what religion our birth parents had, or what religion our adoptive parents had. It is not about organized religion or disorganized religion. It is about something much deeper and more personal. It is about the archetypal themes in our lives by adoption.

It is about who we are, and where we come from, and where we are going. It is about who we are here, and what we will leave behind in the name of our fathers and in the name of mothers. Amen.

Joyce Maguire Pavao, Ed.D., LCSW, is the founder and CEO of Center For Family Connections, Inc. Adoption Resource Center, Pre/Post Adoption Consulting Team and Family Connections Training Institute all of which are in Cambridge, Massachusetts.





As a psychiatrist who has worked with dozens of adoptive families, and as an adoptive father myself, I can appreciate the sensitivity, understanding, common sense, and helpful suggestions given in this book. Sherrie has thrown the light of appreciation and understanding on the unique issues that often lie buried in the corners of adoptees' lives.

- Foster W. Cline

This remarkable book offers an unparalleled window into the heart of the adopted child, giving voice to feelings that are often too difficult to express. In powerful, poignant essays, it highlights the TWENTY THINGS ADOPTED KIDS WISH THEIR ADOPTIVE PARENTS KNEW. It also speaks to the unspoken concerns at the heart of every adoptive family, offering practical advice for addressing past issues, handling current crises, and ensuring a long, loving future for you and your children.

This excellent guide to communicating constructively about feelings of insecurity, anxiety, and curiosity gives voice to children's unspoken concerns, and shows adoptive parents how to free their kids from feelings of fear, abandon-ment, and shame.

With warmth and candor, Sherrie Eldridge reveals the twenty complex emotional issues you must understand to nurture the child you love--that he must grieve his loss now if he is to receive love fully in the future--that she needs honest information about her birth family no matter how painful the details may be--and that although he may choose to search for his birth family, he will always rely on you to be his parents.

Filled with powerful insights from children, parents, and experts in the field, plus practical strategies and case histories that will ring true for every adoptive family, Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew is an invaluable guide to the complex emotions that take up residence within the heart of the adopted child--and within the adoptive home.

(Paperback, 272 pages, 1999)

- 1. I suffered a profound loss before I was adopted. You are not responsible.
- 2. I need to be taught that I have special needs arising from adoption loss of which I need not be ashamed.
- 3. If I don't grieve my loss, my ability to receive love from you and others will be hindered.
- 4. My unresolved grief my surface in anger toward you.
- 5. I need your help in grieving my loss. Teach me to get in touch with my feelings about my adoption and then validate them.
- 6. Just because I don't talk about my birth family doesn't mean I don't think about them.
- 7. I want to take the initiative in opening conversations about my birth family.
- 8. I need to know the truth about my conception, birth, and family history, no matter how painful the details may be.
- 9. I am afraid I was given away by my birth mother because I was a bad baby. I need you to help me dump my toxic shame.
- 10. I am afraid you will abandon me.
- 11. I may appear more whole than I actually am. I need you help to uncover the parts of myself that I keep hidden, so I can integrate all the elements of my identity.
- 12. I need to gain a sense of personal power.
- 13. Please don't say I look or act just like you. I need you to acknowledge and celebrate our differences.
- 14. Let me be my own person . . . but don't let me cut myself off from you.
- 15. Please respect my privacy regarding adoption. Don't tell other people without my consent.
- 16. Birthdays may be difficult for me.
- 17. Not knowing my full medical history can be distressing at times.
- 18. I am afraid I will be too much for you to handle.
- 19. When I act out my fears in obnoxious ways, please hang in there with me, and respond wisely.
- 20. Even if I decide to search for my birth family, I will always want you to be my parents.

Utah's Adoption Connection Lending Library

Check out this book, as well as many other books, audio tapes, CD's, video's and DVD's. Service free of charge. Visit www.utdcfsadopt.org or call 801.265.0444.

Raising Children Who

Dave Ziegler, Ph.D Excerpts compiled by, Ken McCauley

Dave Ziegler is the founder and executive director of SCAR/Jasper Mountain, a nationally recognized treatment program for traumatized children. Dave is a psychologist and holds three professional licenses and has been a foster parent for many years. In addition to his work at SCAR/Jasper Mountain, he speaks throughout the country to parents and professionals and is the author of Raising Children Who Refuse To Be Raised, Traumatic Experience and the Brain, Achieving Success With Impossible Children, and his soon to be released Beyond Healing: The Path To Personal Contentment.

How abused children think:

"The time of childhood is not primarily a time of thinking, but a time of sensing and feeling.Children live in the now, and in their feelings, not their thoughts. Abused children take the childlike qualities of experiencing the world one step farther then other children. The child's survival instincts are heightened by abuse, because abuse, particularly by a care provider, tells the child that is essentially up to them to survive"

- This robs them of innocence of childhood creating anxious, moody, hypervigilant, demanding, easily irritated, controlling, rage-filled, and reactive children. (pg 29)
- Abused children get stuck in patterns and define situations as good or bad, and your love for them must be proven every day with every action(pg 30)
- Abused children do not experience their own controlling and demanding behavior as a problem and they experience any barriers to their needs and wants being met as problems. Adults who set limits are perceived as threats. (pg31)

The Building blocks of Safety, Security, Acceptance, Belonging, and Trust

Safety:

- Parents job to provide, teach, admonish, discipline, provide structure, play and have fun, and to nurture the child. Parents of an abused child have the same job as regular parenting, but under much more difficult circumstances. (pg 34)
- It is typical for an abused child to wonder when they will be abused again and to over react to limits or discipline and claim you are abusing them. (pg 34)
- Abused children may escalate their behavior until they become dangerous to others or to themselves. It is important to show the environment is safe by demonstrating an ability to contain the child's explosions or implosions.(pg 35)
- Some abused children will damage or destroy their possessions, often their favorite things, or the property of others. When this happens, demonstrate your ability maintain a safe environment while staying calm yourself. (pg 36)
- Some abused /neglected children are constantly concerned that there will be sufficient food, clothing, or other unmet needs, creating stress for the child. It is not unusual for them to hoard food.
- Consider the violence you invite into your home by the movies you watch, verbal interchanges, playful expressions, and how pets are treated. The message of safety will be communicated throughout the environment within these interactions. (pg 36)
- Avoid punishment, discipline or consequences that get too close to basic needs. To have a safe environment, all basic needs must be met unconditionally, regardless of the child's behavior, attitude, and cooperation (pg 37)

Refuse to be Raised

Security

- Structure and routine are important aspects of predictability, which translates into security. (pg 38)
- Raising a child who makes it difficult for you to parent requires more then standard skills. You must become aware and proficient at some advanced parenting skills. (pg 38)
- Manipulative children love to learn the rules of the house then use the rules for their own purposes of control. (pg 39)
- The greatest need of the child for safety and security is to have the adults in charge. (pg 39)

Acceptance

- It means little if you accept the child but he/she does not experience it. Their own parents, extended family, school, and community have rejected these children. With that past track record, most of us would not only feel unloved but unlovable. (pg 39)
- Sexually abused children not only feel what happened was very bad but also feel they are bad. (pg 40)
- For abused children who experiences life as they are bad or undeserving, parents must attempt to separate the child from their behavior. First this must happen in the mind of the adult who then must work to instill this in the mind of the child. When the child feels he/she is a bad person, they often act poorly, confirming their belief and perpetuating the cycle. In each situation work to separate the behavior from the person. Catch the child in doing something right and comment on it. Each time you do this, you are con fronting the error in their thinking that they are inherently bad.(pg 41)
- For children with a history of multiple homes, they have likely faced many adults who have eventually agreed with the child's inner assessment that they are negative, unpleasant, and a problematic child. What this child needs is patience and force of will of a parent to override this problematic behavior and teach them to be likeable and positive. (pg 42)
- It may help your persistence to consider that the child's behavior is a direct result of his past. (pg 42)

Belonging

- Abused children need to learn to feel differently in order to have a chance to act differently. Behaviors are effects, not causes. With some children it is ok to work with just behaviors, but not with children who have a traumatic past. If you are able to help them think and feel differently, then the child's behavior cannot help but change. (pg 42 –43)
- Does a child with constant problems belong in your home? You thought so in the beginning. Perhaps a good way to look at this is to say that the child's behaviors do not belong in your home, but the child does. Verbally let the child know they belong in your home, don't let them get you to reject them. Reject the problem behavior, not the child. Find ways the child fits in the family such as adding something unique or skills they add to the family. Use physical touch and affection. Make sure both parents get one on one time with the child. Give them a meaningful role in the family. (pg 43-44)

Trust

- The child's worldview is that others take rather then give, and hurt rather then help. The child must experience the fundamental building blocks of safety, security, acceptance, and belonging before the child will understand trust. (pg 45)
- How do you teach trust? Create a world that can be trusted. This is many elements already discussed., such as lack of fear of being hurt, knowing basic needs will be met, and being surrounded by a consistently

predictable world. Putting kids in situations where they must rely on others is key. Team sports, family work projects etc. (pg 46)

- Trust is bred in an environment of respect. Children learn respect from experiencing that adults are physically large and strong, particularly when this power is not used to hurt them, but to enforce the limits. (pg 47)
- Tell the truth. These children have had adults shield them from bad news believing it protects them. The child interprets this as deceitful and lying. (pg 48)

Relationships

- Do not be surprised when the abused child withdraws frequently at the first sign of anxiety. It is fine to offer verbal reassurance but remember it is your actions that will speak the loudest. (pg 48)
- When you teach a child the steps of a relationship, you are teaching them the beginning lessons of the most important skill... how to love. Do not be in a hurry! Relationships take time. They grow one step at a time. If you skip any of the steps along the way, it will feel like a game of chutes and ladders. If you are in a hurry, the child will sense that you want something from them and will instinctively resist anyone who wants something from them due to their past experiences. (pg49)
- Abused children who never reach the level of forming relationships, never trust and know that the other person cares for them., so they ignore the reflection or they see the other persons abusive intentions rather then seeing themselves. After children have learned to maintain at least some level of relationships, they can begin to look into the mirror and see themselves through the eyes of others for the first time. (pg 50)
- When reflecting to abused children, be sure to highlight strengths. Find some traits or abilities that you find impressive or amazing. Be honest but don't hold back from using a little emphasis. (pg 51)
- Expect that children that have been abused will lack empathy. Empathy is a higher order concept in moral reasoning that is often missing in adults let alone abused children. Self-understanding can provide the beginning of empathy toward the self, because how can we give some one else a break if we cut ourselves no slack? The beginning of empathy will come when the child realizes their faults and that everyone has short comings. (pg 52-53)

Personal Worth

- Abused children have a deficit balance in their personal worth bank account. Personal worth is not something you hear about but something you feel. You feel worthwhile because you succeed at something. Let them learn as soon as possible that we feel the best about ourselves when we think first of others and help someone else to feel better. Breaking the negative feelings about self/ behavior cycle is the only way personal worth becomes a possibility. (pg 53-54)
- Children communicate their truth in symbols and codes. Once you know the language, the child will be unable to deceive you except with words. Learn to translate their code. (pg 55)

Other Thoughts

- Successful parenting with abused children requires the "Beginners Mind". It is as if you are having the experience for the first time, and you are fully open to learning from it. This attitude eliminates prejudice and preconceptions. The parents who fail at working with abused children are generally those parents who view themselves as experts. Experienced adoptive parents who adopt a child with an emotional disturbance often struggle because their previous experiences falls short and they fail to have the beginners mind. (pg 56-57)
- Avoid frustration. Frustration is the opposite of the beginners mind. It says I know what I want, and this is not it. We just want things to change in a direction that will please us.(pg 57)
- An abused child will not respond positively to expressions of frustration. They will misread the message and believe that you are rejecting them. (pg 58)
- I would caution that you will feel much better about the process if you ask for help before you really need it. It is almost always easier to fix a problem before it has become a crisis. (pg 58)

Jacob and Jazmen are waiting ...



This friendly 8 year old boy enjoys reading, playing board and video games, and shooting hoops (basketball). He is also interested in magic and likes music.

Jacob is currently in the 3rd grade where he is above grade level in reading and reading comprehension! Jacob also does well in math, science, and history and has a high IQ in planning. He has really enjoyed tutoring some of the younger children in his school this year.

Jacob is currently in individual and group therapy where is working through some personal challenges.

Jacob's caseworker feels that he would benefit most from a two-parent home but all inquiries will be considered. Jacob and his maternal grandparents would like to continue contact with one another.

If you feel that your family could provide the love and support that Jacob needs, please inquire for more information. Financial assistance may be available for therapy, medical care, and adoption related services.

If you are interested in Jacob, please contact The Adoption Exchange at 801-265-0444.



American Idol may be in Jazmen's future, as she has a beautiful singing voice and loves to use it. She also enjoys dancing, art and jumping on the trampoline. Jazmen is outgoing and energetic and can also be very endearing in her relationships.

School is a challenge for Jazmen but she is trying very hard to catch up to grade level performance.

Jazmen can be oppositional, angry and aggressive. At times, she may hit, bite and kick. She has difficulty sleeping. Jazmen is working hard in weekly therapy to change her behaviors and use more appropriate means to express her feelings.

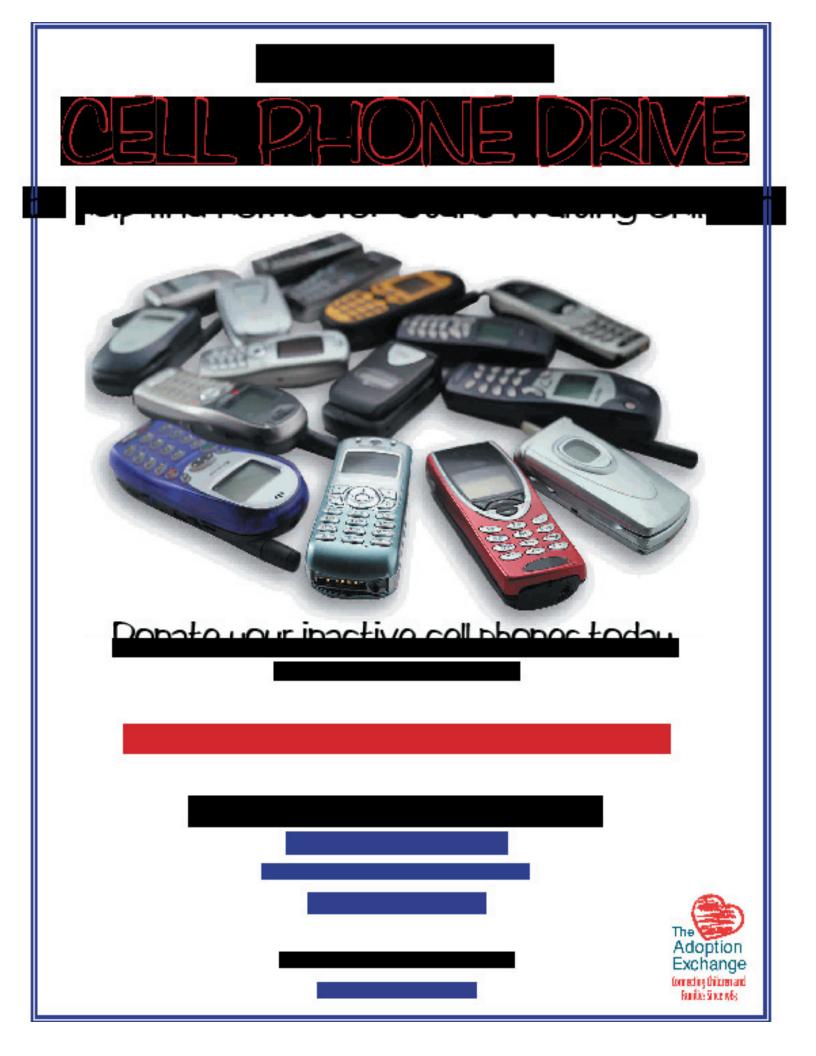
Jazmen wants a family who will love and take care of her.Anytwo-parent family where she can be the youngest or have female siblings only is urged to inquire.

Financial assistance for medical care, therapy and some adoption assistance are available.

If you are interested in Jazmen, please contact The Adoption Exchange at 801-265-0444.



omas Foundation for Adoption



SAVE THE DATE

The Adoption Exchange

November 1, 2007 6:30-10:00 p.m. Discovery Gateway

> Featuring The Heart Gallery

Please call 801.265.0444 for sponsorship and ticket information

november adoption celebration

november 3, 2007

boondocks fun center

11:00-1:00



food • fun • free minature golf



When I was little, I lived in many foster homes. I was in my last foster home for a year. Even though I was four years old, that's the place where I was finally taught how to eat solid food, how to speak, and where I was potty trained. My other foster homes weren't very good and teaching me those things wasn't very important to my other foster parents.

But, in my last foster home, we used to have so much fun. I lived in Florida and we used to go outside and find lizards and stuff. My best friends, when I

lived there, were my foster brothers, Randy and Colton. Randy was adopted by my foster parents because he did really badly when they took him out of our home and tried to place him with another family. My foster parents were really old and weren't really fostering to adopt kids, but they adopted Randy because he really needed them. When I was living in that foster home, the case workers at the state were trying to find me a permanent family. They had a hard time because I had a lot of developmental delays that made people think that I would be too hard to take care of. (Little did they know, I would turn into a kid that gets really good grades in school!) So, when I was 3 or 4, they took me to one of those play places where kids jump in the balls, to film me for the news. They interviewed me about being adopted and then filmed me playing. They played it for Wednesday's Child in Orlando. I was placed with a single father, but then they took me back out of that home because of something that they learned about him and they decided that it wasn't a good place for me to live. So, I went back to my foster home.

The people who would later adopt me were looking for a little boy about my age. They were searching the internet and calling on kids all over the country. Most of the time, those kids were already adopted. Then a social worker in Florida heard about my future mom's phone calls and thought that I was kind of like the kids that they were calling about. So, that social worker, Michelle, called my future mom and told her about me. She sent them pictures and let her call my foster mom to learn more about me. Before long, they decided that they thought we would be a good match. When they told me I was going to be adopted, I didn't know what to do, but Randy was sad and so was Colton.

I was four when I flew, with the social worker, Michelle, on an airplane from Florida to Utah. I met my whole family at the airport. They already had six kids, but one had passed away, so I was met by my new parents and five kids. I was shy when I first met them. I was the only black person in the family, except for Shelby, my new sister, who is half black. There have been times that that has been hard, but my family has tried to learn as much as they can to help me to feel good about the things that make me different and special, and to help me be prepared for people in the world who aren't so nice. There have been times that I have encountered racism. My family

sticks up for me, but they teach me that you can't change everyone and you have to keep on being the best person you can be, no matter what other people think.

Four years after I came, my parents adopted a four year old girl and a one year old boy, who were a brother and a sister. A year later, they adopted their little brother, when he was born, and three years later, they adopted their little sister, when the state took her into custody. None of those kids was in a safe place due to their birthparents using drugs and making decisions that didn't protect their kids. That's the same reason that I ended up in foster care. I also have two birth sisters that I know about. One is older than me and her name is Anastasia, and one is younger than me, and her name is Victoria. They were also taken away from our birthparents. They both live in Florida, and I haven't met them yet, but I would like to someday. I really want to visit Florida and see where I was born.

Last month, my oldest sister, Alyssa, died in a car accident. So, we have eleven kids, but only nine of them are living now. All of the kids are: Alyssa (17, deceased), Jordan (15), me (14), Carson (deceased as a baby), Ashton (12), Shelby (11), Lateesha (11), Kennedee (10), Trae (7), Marcus (5), and Daysha (3). There have been fun times and not so fun times. We have a big family and its interesting how much it can change when you lose one of them. But, we have a lot of family traditions that keep us close and that my parents want to try to keep doing even after we grow up, to help us stay close. In a big family, you usually have someone to play with, no matter what. I'm a good big brother and I love my little brothers and sisters a lot. Even though its hard to share with so many kids sometimes, I really like having all of the little kids around. Our whole family plays basketball and that is one thing that keeps all of the kids really close. We have basketball tournaments in our backyard all the time. We also like to run in races as a family. We cheer each other on, and compete tough against each other. It's always fun when one of us wins each age division!

I wish that all kids could be raised by their birth parents and be safe and happy. But, since that can't happen all of the time, when birth parents make bad choices, I'm really glad that people adopt kids. I'm glad to be part of my family and I'm happy that my parents love me so much.





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CALL YOUR POST- ADOPTION SPECIALIST

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Brigham Young University Transracial Adoption Study Participants Needed African American Transracial Adoptees over the age of 18 and transracial adoptive parents. If you are interested contact Darron Smith at 801-209-0116 email darronsmith@mac.com