

Families Through Hope



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**A MARE
NEWSLETTER
FOR FAMILIES
ON THEIR
ADOPTION
JOURNEY**

Winter 2025

FEATURED MARE YOUTH



"Destiny is a fantastic artist and loves to draw and color her own creations."

DESTINY C09820

First it was creepy crawlies – as in bugs, especially spiders – that piqued Destiny's interest; now it's space invaders. In fact, she wants to take a rocket ship to the stars and perhaps beyond our galaxy so she can shake hands with the characters of The Avatar movies or any other amiable aliens. Once she returns to Earth, Destiny will refocus on the things she loves the most such as building things with Legos and coloring and drawing animals and landscapes.

BRAYDON (SCOTT) C010509

If he could be a superhero, Braydon, who goes by Scott, likely would become Megamind. OK, the animated superhero voiced by Will Ferrell might stretch the definition of superhero, but we think Scott fits the attributes of the character just the same. First of all, he's got the mega mind and isn't afraid to flaunt its powers. And although he's not faster than a speeding bullet like Superman or an expert at deducing like Batman, Scott still has plenty to boast about during show and tell at school.



"Scott enjoys activities that activate his 'brain power' and give him a chance to shine."

HOW PARENTS CAN BUILD TRUST:

WHAT 3 FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES HAVE FOUND

This article was originally published on AdoptUSKids.org on December 1, 2023.

As a parent, you likely understand how important a trusting relationship with your child is. For children in foster care, trauma experiences make building a trusting relationship even more vital.

As [adoptee Catherine Monet shares](#), “Kids in care have experienced trauma. They’ll be standoffish. I was like that.

Don’t push yourself on them or demand that they share details about their emotions and experiences.

Because they probably won’t trust you with their feelings at first. You need to demonstrate that you are trustworthy.”

How can you demonstrate your trustworthiness? Here’s what three sets of foster and adoptive parents have told us.

BE INCLUSIVE

Nikki and Mike adopted their daughter when she was 14. They built trust by “including her in everything we did, even the decisions we made. It was important to make sure she felt part of the family. That took a while, understandably, but over time the walls came down. We showed her that if we said we were going to do something, it actually got done. And we expected the same from her.” [Hear more from Nikki and Mike.](#)



Rebecca and her husband, John, adopted their teenage daughter from foster care.

HOW PARENTS CAN BUILD TRUST:

WHAT 3 FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES HAVE FOUND

DO NOT REACT

Rebecca Lahue adopted her daughter when she was a teen. Rebecca advises, "For kids in care, so much of the attention they've received has been negative, so that can be what they are looking for. I've had kids try to shock me by telling me about bad things they've done or asking off-the-wall questions they think I won't answer. When I don't get flustered, and I offer an age-appropriate response, it makes them take a step back. And, ultimately, I think it builds trust, so that when they truly do have an uncomfortable question or situation to share, they come to me." [Hear more from Rebecca.](#)

LEARN THEIR BEHAVIORS AND ROUTINES

Foster and adoptive parent Steve Combs has found that, "Children may tell you everything is fine when in fact they are struggling with something. You need to learn their behaviors and routines to get insights into what really is going on inside their heads until they feel safe enough to talk about it." [Hear more from Steve.](#)

To read this article in its entirety, visit AdoptUSKids.org or scan the QR code below.



SCAN ME

JORDEN'S *IDP*

Jorden just completed an In-Depth Profile and you should check it out! Jorden hopes to be a rapper one day and chose to share some of his skills with potential families. He has an impressive catalog of raps that he has written exploring topics from his history, love, and loss.

Jorden's In-Depth Profile and many more are live on indepthprofiles.mare.org now! In-Depth Profiles are a personalized way for you to share your story in your way with potential families. If you're interested in working with MARE on an In-Depth Profile, have your adoption worker contact Jennifer Brooks at jennifer_brooks@judsoncenter.org.



Scan me

EASY CROCKPOT RECIPE

White Chicken Chili

By Robyn Conley Downs

Chilly winter nights are a good time for family togetherness. We found a yummy white chicken chili recipe that you can have simmering in the crockpot while you help your kids with their homework. After you and your family enjoy this warming dish for dinner, pull out some board games or snuggle up on the couch and watch a movie together. It sounds like the perfect winter night to us!



Waiting Family Forum

Keep checking the MARE website for upcoming Waiting Family Forums and follow our social medias to notify you when registration is open.



For a complete list of events and resources, visit www.mare.org

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MARE Events



MEET & GREET
VIRTUAL

March 15th

TEEN SPOTLIGHT
VIRTUAL

April 2nd

MEET & GREET
HOLLAND

April 26th

Registration will be available on
www.mare.org

For more information,
contact jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org or call
734-528-2070.



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