



Newsletter

November 2013

A Publication of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

Celebrating Foster Care and Adoption



NOVEMBER IS

National Adoption Month

www.afapa.org • www.nacac.org

www.nfpaonline.com • www.walkhome.org





A message from the President

Greetings to all,

Celebrate National Adoption Month this month and National Adoption Day November 23rd. A very good way to do this is to come to Gardendale, AL and celebrate with lots of foster and adoptive parents and friends and families. We want to invite each of you to attend this event. This is an Event much more than a Walk. There will be games for the kids and fun for Adults. Gardendale is hosting their first Tailgate Festival at the Civic Center which is very close to where the Walk will take place. So you can come make a day of it if you choose to. When this is over we want to say that this was an awesome day that saw hundreds of people show up to celebrate adoption day. You do not have to Walk to attend and have fun. If you do choose to walk it is only \$10 for adults and all children are free. Everyone gets a tee shirt as long as they last. First to get shirts will be those who register online before the walk.

Just for your information please put May 8th, 9th, and 10th on your Calendar for the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Annual Conference at Shocco Springs.

I felt that it would be good to have the article on Adoption Tax credit in the newsletter again since some of you may file your taxes before we get out another newsletter.

Buddy Hooper
President AFAPA



NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY WITH WALK ME HOME ... TO THE PLACE WHERE I BELONG 5K FUNDRAISING WALK And fun run/walk

NOVEMBER 23rd EVENT IN GARDENDALE, AL

Location: Buffalo Wild Wings
250 Caufield Dr • Gardendale, AL
9:00 am - Registration
10:00 am - Walk Begins

There are multiple ways to get involved in this event including creating a team and working collectively on a fundraising goal, donate to a team that is already registered and make a one time donation. Individuals and businesses interested in joining the fundraising efforts can sign up at <http://www.firstgiving.com/walkmehome/alabama2013>

Incentives for individual Fundraisers:

Raise at least \$250
get a sweat shirt with Walk Me Home logo

Raise at least \$500
get a sweat jacket with Walk Me Home logo

Individual raising the most in donations get \$50 in Gift Cards

Everyone raising at least \$250
gets a free 2 night 3 day stay at Shocco Springs
Conference Center for May 8th to 10th, 2014

Team raising most in donations get \$100 in gift cards and up to 5 free registrations to Annual conference at Shocco Springs May 8th to 10th, 2014.

AFAPA Board members are not eligible for prizes.
Prize would go to next person on list.

About Walk Me Home .. to the place I belong fundraising 5k

Walk Me Home... to the place I belong is the signature fundraising and awareness event for foster care in America.

Everyone can't be a foster parent, but everyone can help support the over 500,000 children in foster care by participating in the 5k. The fundraising event is happening in multiple locations across the country to raise funds necessary to support the life changing programs and activities of foster care associations throughout the United States. For more information, visit <http://nfpaonline.org/wmh>. To view a special video dedicated to the walk, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4qnZxfkG38#t=71>

AFAPA \$1000 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT AFAPA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Who's eligible?

All graduating seniors & college-age (21 years old or less) children in care as well as birth and adopted children of foster parents or be adopted from Alabama DHR system are eligible to apply for an AFAPA scholarship.

Could the scholarship be used for trade school?

Most definitely!

Can the funds be used for books?

Yes, the scholarship funds can be used for tuition, books, lab fees, or supplies purchased thorough the school account.

When should I apply?

The deadline for applications is March 1st each year. Please check afapa.org web site or call 1-888-545-2372

Do my grades matter?

AFAPA scholarships are not based on academic achievement. Rather, our review committee will be looking at each individual's needs and goals.

What if I decide not to attend school this year after I am granted the scholarship?

You would not be able to use the scholarship, you would be able to apply for another scholarship when you did start back to school if you are under age 22.

Where can I get an application?

Call the AFAPA office to have one mailed to you 1-888-545-2372. The applications are also on the www.afapa.org web site.

How long has AFAPA been awarding scholarships?

The AFPA awarded its first two scholarships in the spring of 1999.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT AFAPA SCHOLARSHIPS

If chosen to receive scholarship, provide proof of acceptance into a college/university/trade or vocational school is required along with student ID#

Submit application with (3) three letters of recommendation. Letters can be from foster parents, case workers, teachers, principals, guidance counselors, employers, pastors ect.

Please include a letter giving permission to publish name and photo if chosen for scholarship submitted with application.

On a separate sheet of paper include a brief statement of why you are applying for this scholarship. Include your hopes for the future and what you expect to contribute to society.

Be no older than 22 years of age at time of application deadline.

Unused portion or appropriate percentage of funds must be returned if recipient withdraws or does not report to school as scheduled. Applies also if student does not maintain grade point average required by institution to remain in school.

Scholarships funds are paid directly to the college/university or vocational school and are deposited into students account. Funds are not paid directly to student and may not be used for personal items.

Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, maintenance fees, books, and or school supplies.

POLICY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Information should be place in Connections Newsletter closest to the beginning of the New Year. Deadline to be set by Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship Committee will collect applications and check for correct information. Attempts will be documented to contact students with missing or incorrect information .

A review committee reflecting diversity will be selected by the Scholarship Committee. Committee will use scoring sheets supplied by the Scholarship Committee to judge each application.

Scholarship Committee will then select winners.

All applicant names and contact information will be given to AFAPA Secretary. Secretary will send letter of congratulations or regrets to each applicant.

Time permitting winners names and pictures will be printed in the AFAPA conference brochure and Connections Newsletter.

Treasurer will send checks to appropriate schools after receiving information from students.

MEET JAMARCUS



Jamarcus, born in January 2000, loves sports. He has a contagious smile and personality. Jamarcus likes baseball, football, and basketball. It is football season so he is fired up about Alabama football. Jamarcus is doing well in school at this time. He is looking forward to attending public school in January 2014, as his behavior and grades have been great at his group home's on campus school.

Jamarcus enjoys attending church and age appropriate church activities. Although he enjoys attending church activities, he will not turn away an adoptive family that does not attend church. Jamarcus has some friends at his group home that he would like to maintain contact when he is adopted.

Jamarcus would be better matched with a two parent family. Jamarcus struggles with male authority figures. While Jamarcus needs a strong male authority figure in his life, he also needs a mother figure.

Jamarcus likes material things and sometimes confuses his love of things with love of people. Jamarcus is learning to love people for who they are and not for what they have. It is best if people allow Jamarcus to get to know them on a personal level before giving him gifts or small tokens of affection.

Photo provided courtesy of www.heartgalleryalabama.com

MEET ALEX

Alex, born in October 1996, is an extremely intelligent young man. He enjoys reading and does math problems for fun. Alex wants a family that is active and likes doing things together. He loves Alabama football but has never had the opportunity to go to a game.

Alex is interested in possibly becoming a chef when he grows up. He likes to watch the Food Network cooking shows and tries to come up with his own recipes.

While Alex is above average academically he has problems socializing with his peers. Alex needs a family that will be able to devote a lot of time helping him understand social norms and improving his socialization skills. Alex understands what it means to be adopted and is looking for his forever family

Photo provided courtesy of www.heartgalleryalabama.com



BILLS WOULD MAKE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT REFUNDABLE AGAIN

Since 2003, families who adopted a child with special needs from foster care could claim a federal adoption tax credit *even if they had no adoption expenses*. Children who receive adoption assistance/subsidy benefits are considered children with special needs. Other adoptive families are also eligible for the credit, but must have (and be able to document, if requested by the IRS) qualified adoption expenses.

The tax credit was refundable for 2010 and 2011, but is not for 2012 or 2013 or beyond. A refundable tax credit is one you get back regardless of what you owe or paid in taxes for the year. When the credit is not refundable, you receive only what you have in federal income tax liability.

In late May, bills to make the adoption tax credit refundable were introduced in both the Senate and the House. In the Senate, the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act (S.

1056) was introduced and the House Bill, H.R. 2144 was introduced. The adoption tax credit was refundable in tax years 2010 and 2011, which meant that many more adoptive families were able to take advantage of it. If passed into law the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act would make the adoption tax credit an aid to lower and moderate income families as Congress originally intended when it created the credit.

We encourage you to ask your Representative and both of your Senators to become co-sponsors of this Act. We also suggest you share this information with others in the adoption community.

For more information visit adoptiontaxcredit.org.

"From Adoptalk, published by the North American Council on Adoptable Children, 970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106, St. Paul, MN 55114; 651-644-3036; www.nacac.org."

AFAPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

I. Personal Information

Last four Social Security Number: _____

Mark one Foster Child Adopted Child of Alabama Foster Parents

Biological Child of Alabama Foster Parents Child adopted through Alabama DHR

Name (last, first, middle): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

High School: _____ Years Attended: _____

Have you been notified that you will receive any other financial aid? _____

If so, please detail: _____

II. Family & Worker Information

Foster Parent's or Guardian's Name: _____

County or agency approve with _____

Address (if different from above): _____

Case Worker: _____ Phone: _____

III. Academic Record (to be completed by counselor or principal)

High School GPA: _____ Date of Graduation (or GED): _____

Course of study (college prep, vocational): _____

IV. Leadership Activities (please use extra sheet if needed)

V. Applying for (circle one) College, University, or Vocational School

Name: _____

If chosen for Scholarship must send acceptance letter of School you will be attending with address where check should be sent.

VI. Consideration for Scholarship - Requirements a,c,d and e must be completed for application to be considered.

- Be a child in the state custody whether living in a foster home, group home, independent living placement, etc. Birth and/or adoptive children of foster parents and children adopted through Alabama DHR system are also eligible.
- If chosen to receive scholarship, provide proof of acceptance into a college/university/trade or vocational school.
- Fill out all the questions on this application.
- Submit with this application three (3) letters of recommendation. Letters can be from foster parents, case workers, teachers, principals, guidance counselors, employers, pastors, etc.).
- On a separate sheet of paper and in your own handwriting, make a brief statement of why you are applying for this scholarship. Include your hopes for the future and what you expect to contribute to society.
- Be no older than 22 years of age as of deadline to apply.

VII. For Your Information

- Unused portion or appropriate percentage of funds must be returned if recipient withdraws from school or does not maintain grade point average required by institution to remain in school.
- Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, maintenance fees, books, and/or school supplies.
- Funds will be paid directly to the college/university or vocational school -- not to recipient.

All information contained in the above application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Date

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION HOME REQUIREMENTS

Features in this newsletter are only a portion of the children that are available for adoption from Alabama's foster care system. You can see more children by visiting the following web sites www.heartgalleryalabama.com and www.dhr.alabama.gov (once on this page, click on "adoption", and go to the bottom of the page and click on "waiting children" and then click on "browse".) From the child or sib group's profile on these sites you can complete and submit an inquiry form. The inquiry forms are electronically transmitted to the staff with the recruitment response team that will respond and follow-up on the inquiries as indicated by your current home study/approval status. If you don't have access to the Internet, you may call 1-866-4AL-Kids (1-866-425-5437) and talk to a member of the recruitment response team.

We want you to know that these children are available for what is typically referred to as a "state-placed" adoption. Although changes to the foster family home approval policies this past year created a "foster family/adoptive resource home" dual-approval status, families wishing to be considered for children not already placed in their home as foster children must have their home studies complete, current and approved by the State DHR Office of Permanency. If you are not sure if you have an approved adoptive home study on file with State DHR, you can call 1-866-4AL-Kids (1-866-425-5437) or send and e-mail to Familie4AKids@dhr.alabama.gov and ask a member of the recruitment response team to check on this for you.

FOSTER PARENT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

- You must be 19 or older
- Criminal background checks are required for all household members 19 and older
- Clearance of State Central Registry on Child Abuse and Neglect for all household members 14 and older
- You must have family stability
- Statement from physician stating physically able to care for children
- Character references
- Regular source of income that meets your family's financial needs
- Successful completion of a home safety inspection
- Preparation training with homestudy and family assessment
- First Aid and CPR for adults, infants, and children
- If married, must be married at least one year (you do not have to be married)

ADOPTION LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

The State Office of Adoption may approve a policy exception to facilitate adoption in some cases.

- You must be 19 or older
- Criminal background checks are required for all household members 19 and older
- Clearance of State Central Registry on Child Abuse and Neglect for all household members 14 and older
- You must have family stability
- At least one parent must be United States citizen
- Reasonable good health as verified through completed medical forms;
- Character references
- Regular source of income that meets your family's financial needs
- Successful completion of a home safety inspection
- Preparation training with homestudy and family assessment
- First Aid and CPR for adults, infants, and children (for some kinds of adoption only)
- If married, applicants must be married for at least three years (you do not have to be married)
- Costs to Foster and Adopt**
- Foster Families**
- Assessment of a family's capacity to meet their own financial needs is a part of the homestudy process. The family will incur costs of medical examinations. Additionally, there may be a time, especially at the beginning of the foster process, when the foster family will have to spend their money to meet the needs of the child.
- Adoptive Families**
- If a family is licensed to adopt through the Alabama Department of Human Resources, no fees are charged to parents who wish to adopt a child who is in foster care in Alabama or another State's foster care.
- Private agencies are also available to license families to adopt. Private agencies will probably charge fees. Please ask each individual agency if they charge fees.
- Fees are usual and customary for legal and court costs. These fees are assessed by the court and attorney.
- Families adopting children who qualify for a subsidy and are in foster care may be eligible for reimbursement of limited nonrecurring adoption-related costs, including legal and court costs. This would be available through the child's state or federal options.
- If your health plan or doctor charges you a fee when you receive the mandatory medical examination from your doctor, you will have to pay that fee to your health plan or doctor.

MEET MONIKA

Monika, born September 1996, is very outgoing and loves to be the center of attention. Monika enjoys singing, dancing and playing basketball and volleyball. Monika listens to all types of music and loves to playing video games. Monika loves going to church.



Monika wants to be a Pediatrician when she grows up and wants to help children. She receives special education services and requires extra help in reading, comprehension and developing language skills. Monika would really thrive in a two parent household who could provide her with a lot of love and attention.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

MEET WILLIAM

William J, born in November of 1998, is a brown-haired, brown-eyed, very loving child always ready to give a hug and meet new friends. He is very friendly and will often introduce himself to strangers he encounters while out in the community. William has a beautiful smile and is always ready to have his picture taken.



William J has a very active imagination and loves to play pretend. He loves magic and Super heroes. William J also likes maps and treasure maps. He talks about Alaska and going on adventures. William also loves "Land Before Time", Spiderman, and Balto movies.

William J. has some emotional and mental health challenges that will require a loving, energetic, and patient family to be able to understand his unique learning and communication needs. It is expected that as an adult, William will need some level of support, through vocational rehabilitation or other agencies serving adults with developmental disabilities.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

FOSTER CARE BOARD PAYMENT RATES.. TIME FOR AN INCREASE?

Comparing Foster Care Board Payments with Neighboring States

Foster Care board payments vary from state to state. In the year 2000 board payments in Alabama were one of the lowest in the nation at around \$240 a month. Though advocacy and working with State DHR, the legislature, and other child placing agencies board payments increased to more than \$400 a month over the next 2 years. In 2007 board payments increased by 75 cents per day to the current rates which are \$432 to \$468 a month depending on the age of the child. There has not been any type increase for the past 6 years.

The following are rates in effect for 2010 in some of the surrounding states.

Florida \$429 to \$515

Georgia \$438 to \$564

Mississippi \$665 to \$837

Tennessee \$697 to \$818

Kentucky \$681 to \$741

Texas \$664 to \$1495 depending on difficulty of care

As you can see Alabama does rank at the bottom compared to our neighboring States. The big difference is the rate for caring for teenagers. So how much should the board payments be for Alabama? That is a hard question and depends on who you ask. We do hope that the Legislature will consider including an increase this year. It is time to let your senator or legislator know how you feel about this. Call or email them and I hope a few of them see this newsletter.

LOCAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS

Current Chapter members as of 10/28/2013 are Cullman, Cleburne, Chambers, St. Clair FAPA, and Houston.

(C) Chapter Membership will be available to any foster and adoptive parent association in Alabama, approved by the Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association board of directors. An association receiving chapter membership must operate in a consistent manner with the by-laws and constitution of the state association. Benefits to local associations receiving chapter membership include attending meetings, receiving all mailings, and the state association accepting tax-deductible contributions for the local association. All monetary contributions will go through the state association treasurer and ninety percent (90%) of the funds returning to the local association. The retained funds will be used for the purposes of the association as set forth in the by-laws and constitution of the Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Inc. Guidelines and procedures will be provided to any qualified local association chapter membership. Chapter members do not have voting rights.

(D) Chapter membership shall be a minimum of \$150.00 per twelve (12) consecutive months.

Section 3. Membership Year

The membership year shall be for a period of twelve (12) months concurrent with the accounting year.

All money that AFAPA receives from Chapter members is deposited in Scholarship fund and used for that purpose.

The renewal for Chapter members is October 1st each year and runs through September 30th of the following year. Chapter members are asked to submit a list of current officers, a budget, and current by laws for local association. If you have questions about becoming a chapter member or renewing your chapter membership please contact the AFAPA Secretary at 256-735-9090.

A Special Thank You to our friends at Heart Gallery for suppling us with photos of the children in need of adoption.



MEET KAIDEN



Kaiden, born November 2002, comes from a sibling group of six. He was only raised with three of these siblings. Kaiden is the second oldest of six children. He is academically successful in his 5th grade class (school year 2013-2014). Kaiden is an outgoing child, who enjoys outside activities including riding his bike and skateboard. He also enjoys extra-curricular activities such as football and basketball. Kaiden thrives

on attention and affection from others, especially adult figures. Kaiden enjoys helping the adults in his life and receiving one-on-one attention. Although Kaiden is 10 years old, his insight is more of an older child, which causes him problems with children younger than he. Kaiden is in need of a strong male figure in his life and continued extra-curricular activities. Kaiden also needs to maintain some communication and physical contact with his two younger siblings. Kaiden needs assistance with staying on task and focused as he is easily distracted. Kaiden also tends to have difficulty accepting responsibility. Kaiden will need a family who is willing to maintain his therapy and medications to help control his attention deficit and impulsivity. Kaiden desires and deserves a "forever family" that will be committed to him and love him unconditionally.

MEET MORGAN



Morgan born August 1999 is very intelligent and always performs above average academically. She loves to swim, play volleyball and soccer. She also loves to shop and have her hair done.

She has a dream of owning her own business in the fashion industry. She loves to experiment with hair and makeup.

Morgan loves animals and would like a home with pets. She would also like to have a home with other children. The most important thing Morgan wants from an adoptive home is "to feel safe".

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

My name is Josh and I grew up in foster care from the age of 10 years old. I bounced around for many years to group homes and foster homes until I was 16 years old. That is when I met my forever family and my life changed. Having a forever family for me meant never being alone, having a place to call home and knowing I was loved and accepted for who I was.

Within a few months of being placed with my forever family, I got a job, got my driver's license and even a car. I finished high school three years later and went on to attend college. I received my certificate and am gainfully employed with a great company. My foster parents were active in the Local Foster Adoptive Parent Association and my foster mom encouraged me to apply for a scholarship sponsored by the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association. This scholarship helped me to be able to stay in the dorms at college, pay for books, and attend a certificate program. This was like a dream come true because I never knew I would be able to attend college. I really am appreciative of the opportunity this scholarship provided for me.

Today I am 24 years old, working a full time job, and in the process of buying a home. My success is due to having wonderful foster parents who loved me, encouraged me, and kept me even when I did not want them too. In April I will marry a wonderful young lady and hope one day I will be able to return the generosity I received from my family to another child in care like me. I know I am a fortunate young man to have received such wonderful support thanks to my parents.

In Him always,

Josh



Heart Gallery Alabama, is a statewide non profit whose mission is to promote adoption of Alabama's foster children. We fulfill our mission by recruiting professional photographers to take unique portraits of each child who is waiting for their forever family. We also create short videos for each child to place on our website. Heart Gallery AL partnership with the State Office of Adoption, Children's Aid Society's APAC program and AFAPA allows us to be successful in fulfilling our mission. Heart Gallery was started by a group of local child advocates in 2005 and has blossomed to a small staff and large group of dedicated volunteers. We have photographed close to 600 available children and have had over 60% of those children placed in adoptive homes.

Heart Gallery is located in Birmingham and has recently moved to a new location to accommodate our growing agency. We have a permanent exhibit at our office location (716 37th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35222). Please take a minute to visit our website at www.HeartGalleryAlabama.com to learn more about the Heart Gallery and our children. The exhibit travels the state of Alabama. If you are interested in having it visit your community, please contact us at 205.445.1293 or info@heartgalleryalabama.com.

Michelle Bearman-Wolnek, LCSW, PIP
Heart Gallery Alabama Executive Director



There are more than 400,000 children in foster care across the country. Approximately 5,000 of these children reside in the State of Alabama. For many years, the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association has been the voice for foster & adoptive families in Alabama.

There will be face painting and games for kids to play. Books from other foster and adoptive agencies will be on hand also. Lots of fun for both young and old. You do not have to participate in the walk to attend, and all are welcome to come out join the fun and celebration.

The Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association invites you to join us in the 6th annual nationwide walk for foster children and youth. The Walk Me Home 5K walk will take place on Saturday, November 23, 2013 at Buffalo Wild Wings, Gardendale, Alabama.

The Alabama Walk Me Home 5k event was developed in order to bring awareness to foster care, promote fostering, and most importantly, raise funds, which directly benefit Alabama foster children and youth through the AFAPA Scholarship fund and other programs to support foster and adoptive children and families.

This is the sixth year in which a nationwide event of this magnitude has been organized with specific focus on foster care. There are more communities and states participating in Walk Me Home. Please join us in Gardendale and walk for a terrific cause. With your help we can make a lasting, positive impact in the lives of Alabama's foster kids.

Date: Saturday, November 23

Time: 9:00 AM - Registration
10:00 AM – Walk Begins

***Rain or Shine**

Location: Buffalo Wild Wings
2505 Caufield Drive
Gardendale, Alabama

Come join the fun
and participate in the
Celebration of
National Adoption
Day
and the
3rd Annual Alabama "Walk
Me Hometo the place
I belong" 5K Walk

There are numerous ways to participate:

- Register as an individual and raise funds solely.
- Form a team and work collectively on a fundraising goal.
- Join an existing team
- Donate to a team or individual that is already registered.
- Make a one time donation.

Registration:

Participants can register online at :
www.firstgiving/walkmehome/Alabama2013
or in person.

All adults are asked to pay a \$10 registration fee or collect at least \$10 in pledge contributions.

All pledges need to be turned in on the day of the event. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted.

Please make checks payable to:

AFAPA
1091 County Road
Cullman, AL 35058

Children:

Children are encouraged and welcome to attend the walk. Event is free for children 18 and under. Strollers are allowed during the walk. Participants guardians are responsible for their children's safety.

Contact Buddy Hooper for more
information at 256-507-3273 or
email buddy@afapa.org
Visit www.walkmehome.org
for more information.



Walk for Foster Care and Adoption

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013
Gardendale, AL
9 - 11 AM

Registration begins at 9:00 AM

Rain or Shine

Walk Me Home 5k Presented by:

- The Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association
- The National Foster Parent Association
- The Alabama Department of Human Resources

FUNDRAISING GOAL:

\$20,000

PLATINUM SPONSOR

\$2,000 +

(Includes waived registration for 20 walkers; listed as a sponsor on marketing materials)*

GOLD SPONSOR

\$1,000 +

(Includes waived registration for 10 walkers; listed as a sponsor on marketing materials)*

SILVER SPONSOR

\$500 +

(Includes waived registration for 5 walkers; listed as a sponsor on marketing materials)*

BRONZE SPONSOR

\$100 - \$250 +

(Includes waived registration for 2 walkers; listed as a sponsor on marketing materials)*

*Additional walkers must pay a \$10 registration fee or have a minimum of \$10 in pledge contributions.

Visit www.walkmehome.org for more information.

AMOUNT RECEIVED	PLEDGE	ADDRESS	NAME

Walk Me Home Pledge Form

Walkers are asked to collect at least \$10 pledges to receive free registration. If you choose not to ask for pledges, the registration fee is \$10 per walker.



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Huntsville, Alabama
Permit #780

1091 County Road 1659
Cullman, AL 35058
1-888-545-2372
www.afapa.org

AFAPA NEWSLETTER INFO:

Articles can be submitted to Buddy Hooper, Editor. E-mail submissions should be addressed to afapa@afapa.org. Otherwise, mail to AFAPA 1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058. Deadline dates fall the first of the month in February, May, August, & November.

MEET AMBER



Amber, born in August 1997 is turning into quite the young girl. She has adjusted to a new home and school. She is tall and thin. She likes wearing high heels, and the current craze - boots. She is beginning to explore make-up and dancing. She will play games on the computer for hours. She receives help at school with interpretation of the material she's given while in a self-contained school setting.

She likes to put puzzles together and will work on difficult ones especially with encouragement. She will also help clean but needs guidance and is anxious to learn to cook. Amber needs a family that can provide her love and guidance as she becomes a young lady. She wants to have a mother and a family to love and care for her plus teach her daily living skills she will need in order to be independent and productive as an adult.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

MEET KAYLA

Kayla, born in February 2001 is a cute girl who is energetic and enjoys sports, playing the Wii, swimming and school. She makes excellent grades. Kayla has a great sense of humor and is very clever. She likes fashionable clothes and shoes. Although she is a tomboy at times, she likes to wear make-up and she has been noticed to have a great like for cooking and is always willing to help prepare meals. Kayla enjoys Christian music on her MP3 player and likes to go to church.

Any time Kayla is in a bad mood, she can recover if you make her laugh, so she does not stay in a bad mood for long. Kayla needs a family that is loving and patient and who is supportive and provides structure for any "impulsive" behaviors she may exhibit. She has a great personality.



Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com