



# Newsletter

August 2013




*A Publication of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association*

## Walk Me Home....to the place I belong

is the signature fund-raising and awareness event for foster care in America. We know not everyone can be a foster parent, but Walk Me Home is a great way to support the over 400,000 children in foster care. This year thousands and thousands of walkers will participate in Walk Me Home events across the country, raising funds to support the life changing programs and activities of foster care associations throughout the United States.



**Walk Me Home is a 5K (3.1 mile) walk that almost everyone can do.**

	<b>Mobile County 5Walk for Foster Care</b>
	<b>Cullman County Walk/Run for Foster Care</b>
	<b>AFAPA 5K Walk Me Home State Event to Celebrate National Adoption day.</b>

### How do I get started?

It takes volunteers and supporters to put on a walk. Talk to your local or state foster care association or agency to recruit the help and support that will be needed. Someone needs to take the responsibility of being the coordinator of the walk. This person would recruit volunteers for other functions of the walk.

Rule of thumb is you need to start planning soon as possible, 3 months before the walk is to take place would be good.

Obtain place for the Walk. Since this is also for Foster Care Awareness the more public the better, 2nd choice would be a college campus or park. These are easier but not as much exposure.

Choose a date. May is National Foster Care month and is a great month to get lots of publicity for your Walk. Walks can be done any month weather permits.

Once place and date are chosen, promoting the walk on the [www.firstgiving.com/walkmehome](http://www.firstgiving.com/walkmehome) web site begins. Someone from NFPA will work with you to get your fundraising page up and running. Individuals can donate, register, and create own fundraising pages. Teams can be formed to compete against each other to raise even more money for you organization and cause.

**Go to [www.firstgiving.com/walkmehome](http://www.firstgiving.com/walkmehome) to get current information about each walk and how to register. Please support these events.**



## *A message from the President*

*Greetings to all,*

I hope you all have had a good Summer. Things have been busy as usual for AFAPA. It has been my pleasure to attend many GPS panel night meetings this year. There is still a great need for more foster parents around the state. The total number of foster parents keeps dropping even though we have many new foster parents. Foster parents are the best recruiters for foster and adoptive parents. If you know someone who is interested in becoming a foster parent please have them give us a call. I'm looking for volunteers to assist with submitting articles for this newsletter, the AFAPA website, and the AFAPA facebook page.

Buddy Hooper  
*President AFAPA*

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 held a ceremonial bill signing for Senate Bill 307, a measure that helps expedite the process for children to be adopted into permanent homes.

“This bill cuts down on the time it takes to move children out of foster care and into permanent, loving homes,” Governor Bentley said. “Dianne and I are the parents of two adopted sons, and we know the love and joy that adopted children bring to families. All children deserve a safe and stable home environment, and this legislation will make that available to more children.”

The legislation requires the Department of Human Resources to file a petition to terminate the parental rights of a parent (or parents) of a child who has been in the foster care system for 12 of the most recent 22 months. Prior to the passage of SB307, filing a petition to terminate parental rights was based on 15 of the most recent 22 months.

SB307 also requires the completion of a termination of parental rights trial within 90 days after the petition has been served and requires the trial court judge to enter a final order within 30 days of the completion of the termination of parental rights trial.

## LETTER FROM A FOSTER PARENT TO THE COMMUNITY

- **We're not Freakin' Saints.** We are doing this because it needs doing, we love kids, this is our thing. Some of us hope to expand our families this way, some of us do it for the pleasure of having laughing young voices around, some of us are pushed into it by the children of family or friends needing care, some of us grew up around formal or informal fostering – but all of us are doing it for our own reasons BECAUSE WE LOVE IT and/or LOVE THE KIDS and WE ARE THE LUCKY ONES – we get to have these great kids in our lives.
- We hate being told we must be saints or angels, because we're doing something really ordinary and normal – that is, taking care of kids in need. If some children showed up dirty and hungry and needing a safe place on your doorstep, you'd care for them too – we just signed up to be the doorstep they arrive at. The idea of sainthood makes it impossible for ordinary people to do this – and the truth is the world needs more ordinary, human foster parents. This also stinks because if we're saints and angels, we can't ever be jerks or human or need help, and that's bad, because sometimes this is hard.
- Reminder if you know of anyone who might be interested in Fostering or Adopting please give them the AFAPA contact information or SDHR contact information so they can get started on the journey.

## CHANGES TO SDHR POLICY

Family Services has revised policy to clarify Guardians-ad Litem shall be invited to the Individualized Service Planning meeting. Policy has been changed to provide consistency across the state in inviting Guardians-ad Litem to the ISP team meetings. Guardians-ad Litem shall receive notice of the ISP meeting. It is not a requirement that the Guardians-ad Litem attend but they must have an opportunity to be involved and provide feedback around the planning for the child they represent.

### Foster Care Payments for IV-E Eligible Children

The Department has made an enhancement to FACTS (SACWIS) that will allow a child to remain IV-E eligible after the age of 18 if the child meets one of the criteria below.

- Currently enrolled in high school; or
- Participating in classes in preparation for their GED; or
- Currently enrolled in college or university, full-time or part-time; or
- Enrolled in a vocational or trade school; or
- Participating in Job Corps; or
- Participating in classes on resume writing and interview skills; or
- Employed at least 80 hours per month. (youth could be employed part time or full time, at one or more places of employment); or
- Youth is incapable of participating in any of the above described education or employment activities due to a medical condition; or
- Other is included as a means of capturing exactly what activity the child may be involved in within the federal requirements pertaining to education and employment [SS Act §475 (8)]. When selected in FACTS, a text box is provided for explaining the activity.

### Adoption Subsidy Payments for IV-E Eligible Children Age 18 up to 21 Years of Age

Alabama has elected to continue adoption subsidy payments for certain IV-E eligible children after age 18 and up to 21 years of age whose adoption subsidy agreement was entered into after the child reached the age of 16 and the child meets certain other criteria as outlined in *Adoption Policies and Procedures*, Adoption Subsidy. SDHR, Office of Permanency, is responsible for working with adoptive parents to determine whether federal IV-E adoption subsidy will continue after age 18 and up to 21 years of age.

## MEET ALEXIS AND AALIYAH

Alexis and Aaliyah are sisters who have a lot of potential. They have overcome a difficult past, and they are working toward being the best versions of themselves. Alexis, born in July 1998 and is going into the 7th grade. She enjoys playing on the computer and spending time with her friends. Aaliyah, born December 2000 is very athletic and she especially likes playing basketball. Alexis and Aaliyah would love to have family who stays busy with activities and likes to take them places. They have a great sibling bond and they need to be placed in a home together.



*Photograph provided courtesy of  
www.heartgalleryalabama.com*

## MEET SHYANN



Shyann was born in January 2000. She was in the 5th grade for the 2012-2013 school year. She receives special education services for Math and Reading. She is a cute, active and vibrant young lady. She enjoys taking etiquette classes to learn how a lady should act. Her ideal birthday party would be at a skating rink.

She loves to sing and be in the choir at church. She likes basketball and animals. She is very talkative and enjoys the company of others. She enjoys playing with her friends and going bowling and skating. Her idea of a perfect family includes a family that would get you anything that you NEED. She would like a home with a mom and siblings. Shyann would like to have a mom and dad if possible but must have a mom. Shyann loves animals and would like for her new family to have animals. Shyann forms strong attachments to her care givers and is a team player.

*Photograph provided courtesy of  
www.heartgalleryalabama.com*

## MEET ANTONIO



**Antonio**, born June 2002, is a very intelligent, talkative child. He enjoys drawing, reading and riding his bike. He makes excellent grades in school. He receives special education services due to behavioral issues. He also requires assistance staying on task and staying focused as he is easily distracted. His social skills are somewhat limited and he becomes agitated when he has to interact with a lot of people.

Antonio would do best in a two-parent home with no other children. He needs a family that can provide structure and consistency. He has three siblings he needs to be able to maintain contact with.

*Photograph provided courtesy of  
[www.heartgalleryalabama.com](http://www.heartgalleryalabama.com)*

## MEET JOEY



George "Joey" was born in December 2002. He is a loving and caring child. Joey is a very bright young man who is looking for a forever family. Joey has three adoptive sisters who he would like to maintain relationships with. Joey enjoys making paper boats and airplanes. He enjoys anything that has to do with nature, hiking and even collecting bugs. Joey's other interests are doing art work, playing with his toy cars, and of course playing video games. Joey is an honest young man; will tell you what he did, why he did it, and the consequences for those actions.

Joey would do best in a two parent household. Joey does well academically and states that his favorite subject is Math. Joey does receive special services in school to help with his academics and behaviors. Joey is receiving reading and math intervention following all new skills taught to reinforce the lessons. Joey has been provided with many positive activities including church and community activities. Joey wants to be accepted and is very pleased when he excels.

*Photograph provided courtesy of  
[www.heartgalleryalabama.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.nacac.org)."

## AFAPA SPECIAL "WAITING CHILD" EDITION

*As you will notice this edition of The AFAPA newsletter focuses on Alabama's Waiting Children. The 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](http://www.heartgalleryalabama.com) and [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://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 an e-mail to [Familie4AKids@dhr.alabama.gov](mailto: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.

## ISP

### What is an individualized service plan?

DHR must develop ISPs for all children and families for whom it is providing on-going child welfare services and foster care.

#### Individualized:

The ISP builds on the family's strengths and addresses the family's unique needs.

#### Service:

The ISP identifies specific services that will be provided to the child and family so the safety and well-being can be achieved.

#### Plan:

The ISP identifies the goals for the family, identifies the steps to be taken, and identifies who is responsible for each step or service.

### Who writes an ISP and who attends?

The ISP is written at an ISP team meeting. The ISP team members should be partners in developing the ISP. The ISP team should include the child if age appropriate usually 10 years old or older, the birth family, foster parents, DHR worker. Others who may be included in an ISP meeting are the child's teacher, family pastor, relatives, therapists, attorneys for the child or family, another DHR staff involved with the child or family, and an advocate requested by the foster parent.

### What does the ISP contain?

1. The child's physical and mental health, safety, education, and social needs.
2. Additional assessments needed to help identify the strengths and needs and time frames for obtaining those assessments
3. Immediate steps that are going to be taken to meet the child's safety needs.
4. Visitation for child
5. Outcomes or permanency goals for the child and when it's expected these outcomes will be achieved.
6. Steps to promote a timely return home or placement with relatives, if this is the child's permanency goal.

### When is the ISP Written?

An initial ISP meeting must be held within 30 days of when DHR determines that a case will be opened for the child for on-going child welfare services. An ISP must be held within 72 hours of removal from the home followed by an update within the next 30 days.

### Where are ISPs held?

Any mutually agreed upon location.

### Will I be notified about the ISP meeting?

All team members should be notified of the date, time and location of each ISP meeting to allow time to prepare for and participate in the meeting. Parents, foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers must be provided written notice about any ISP meeting. The remaining team members may receive either verbal or written notice.

### What if there are problems with the ISP?

The DHR worker is responsible for addressing concerns about how well the ISP is being implemented. Minor issues that can be resolved without the full team involvement may be dealt with informally. Any issues that are controversial or complex should be handled in a team meeting.

### Will I receive a copy of the ISP?

You must be given a written copy of the plan at the end of the meeting. If this is not possible, then you should receive a copy at least within 10 days of the date the meeting was held.

### When will the ISP be reviewed?

#### Can you call an ISP?

An initial ISP must be reviewed within 30 days of the date it was developed. After that, the team must review ISP's at least every 6 months from the date of the initial ISP and more frequently as needed. Any team member can call for a meeting to review and revise the ISP. Contact the DHR caseworker if you want to have an ISP meeting. ISP's must be reviewed and revised when any of the following occur:

- At your request or at request of other team members
- When there are changes in the families circumstances
- Prior to the decision to remove a child from home
- After an emergency change in a child's out-of-home placement
- When a change in an out-of-home placement is anticipated
- When the ISP is not adequately managing risks or new risks are identified
- When you or another team member feels that the child or family is making little or no progress toward the established goals
- When any judicial or administrative review recommends or direct that changes be made to the ISP
- Within 30 days of the case being closed
- When Medicaid rehabilitation services have been authorized and a treatment plan review is required.

**The DHR caseworker and other team members must make good faith efforts to achieve the goals and objectives of the ISP**

**The ISP must be realistic and appropriate, with goal and steps that fit the child's present placement and level of functioning.**

## REMINDERS FROM STATE DHR

Foster Parents filing for mileage reimbursement for foster children are requested to turn this in on a monthly basis to avoid delays in payment. Please check with your worker for more information about what is covered for mileage reimbursement. If you have any questions you may call AFAPA.

Foster Parents are reminded that they should not disclose or post information and or photos of foster children on social networking websites such as facebook or twitter, ect.

## MEET SAVANNAH



Savannah who was born in March 2000. She is tall and thin in stature and her skin is dark complexion. She has beautiful blue eyes and dark brown hair. Savannah is a

friendly, very playful, and a pleasant child. She enjoys playing with children younger than her, Barbie dolls, swimming, and going to the beach. She also enjoys family time and watching movies or TV shows. She enjoys playing outside functions academically below grade level and requires extra services at school through an IEP. Savannah wants and needs a home that is loving and nurturing to her. She needs parents that can help her with daily basic living skills. Savannah is very artistic and hopes to become an artist when she grows up. Savannah's favorite restaurant is McDonald's and her favorite food is chicken nuggets. Savannah's favorite holiday is Halloween because she loves to dress up. Savannah's favorite band is Big Time Rush. Savannah describes her hair to be her favorite feature. Savannah is very excited about the possibility of being adopted, and she welcomes the idea of meeting new people and having a safe and stable home.

*Photograph provided courtesy of  
www.heartgalleryalabama.com*

## MEET JOSHUA

Joshua was born in August, 2001. He is tall and slightly overweight in stature and his skin is pale complexion. He has beautiful blue eyes and blonde hair. Joshua is a friendly, very playful, and pleasant child with a gigantic heart. He loves playing with peer, sports, and going to church. He also enjoys family time and watching movies or TV shows. He enjoys playing outside in open fields. He functions academically on grade level. Joshua wants and needs a home that is loving and nurturing to him. He needs parents that can help him to be honest and respectful of other people. He also needs someone who is patient and understanding of his behavioral and mood problems related to his anger. Joshua is very excited about the possibility of being adopted, and he welcomes the idea of meeting new people and having a safe and stable home.



*Photograph provided courtesy of  
www.heartgalleryalabama.com*

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



# GOOD TIMES AT THE CONFERENCE





**Recent Changes to the Conflict Resolution Process.**  
**Visit the [www.afapa.org](http://www.afapa.org) website for complete policy on the**  
**Conflict Resolution Process. If you have one of the Foster Parent Journals that are**  
**given out by AFAPA the policy is in there also.**

**D. Cases Involving Immediate State Referral**

Foster parents may request an immediate State CRT referral if a child (ren) is removed from their home without an appropriate ISP. The requirement for 30-day review at county level shall be waived in situations involving the closure of a foster home or removal of a child from a foster home outside of a planned ISP move, court order or CA/N. If the request is made by the foster parent, the referral should be sent to State Department of Human Resources – Family Services Division within seven (7) business days. The CRT referral shall be reviewed within seven (7) days from receipt of the referral. Family Services Director or his/her designee shall review and submit to Commissioner for signature within five (5) business days.

- Closing a foster family home by DHR. This process will serve as the appeals right referred to in the Foster Parent Bill of Rights Act for foster parents whose foster home is closed by DHR. This process does not serve as an appeal for foster families approved by agencies other than DHR. Note: The requirement for 30-day review at county level may be waived in situations involving closure of a foster home.
- Failing to abide by the provisions of the Foster Parent Bill of Rights.

The guidelines specified herein do not apply if the party filing the CRT referral considers a report urgent. This includes concerns that involve safety of a child. In these situations, the party with the concern can make immediate contact with the individual(s) that he/she feels will provide timely response to the situation. This may include local DHR staff (see chain of command), foster parent or staff liaison(s), Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association (AFAPA) Advocates or Regional Representatives or State DHR personnel (i.e., State liaison or the program manager of the Office of Permanency). If the resolution in this manner is not acceptable to the individual making contact, the appropriate referral should be made to the Conflict Resolution Team in such situations to ensure that this process is initiated.

## AFAPA BOARD

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## PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

**APAC** works with a sense of urgency to locate prospective "forever families" for Alabama's foster children that have no identified adoptive family. APAC (Alabama Pre/Post Adoption Connections) is a program of **Children's Aid Society**, working in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Human Resources. The APAC Pre-Adoption Services team holds adoption orientations and training classes statewide throughout the year to make getting information and getting started on the adoption journey easier. What makes the APAC services so unique is its ability to follow a family throughout their adoption journey as long as the family desires support. To find out when the next orientation for your area will be, contact us via email at [families4alkids@dhr.alabama.gov](mailto:families4alkids@dhr.alabama.gov) or through the toll-free phone line **(866)4AL-KIDS**.

Because APAC understands that the journey does not end at adoption finalization, the APAC Post Adoption Support team are dedicated to supporting adoptive families for life. Unique services such as free adoption family counseling, adoption support groups, lending library, and educational trainings on adoption related topics are just a few of the services provided to adoptive families, as well as foster families and prospective adoptive families. All services are free. If you would like more information on APAC's post adoption support services, call 1-866-803-2722.

Children's Aid Society also partners with the Department of Human Resources to provide certain **Independent Living Services** for foster teens and social service staff that work with these youth. This last year, 3 one day youth conferences were provided across the state, and a 3 day camp was enjoyed by 14 and 15 year old foster teens. This year it is anticipated that all older teens (14-21) will be able to attend a 3 day camp to supplement their independent living skills and also develop a network of friends and communication with other foster teens! If you have foster teens in your home, stay tuned to Children's Aid website ([www.childrensaid.org](http://www.childrensaid.org)) for future independent living activities and resources!

## MEET BERNARD



**Bernard**, born September 1998 is a sweet child that loves hugs. He enjoys playing outside and playing with the foster family's pet, Max. Bernard also enjoys video games and TV shows that have a lot of action. He presents himself in a charming manner when speaking with new acquaintances and friends.

He enjoys going fishing with his foster father and helping him in the yard.

In the home, community and school settings, Bernard requires constant supervision and intervention in the management of his aggressive outburst. At times when responding to the foster mother, Bernard becomes argumentative. In relations to the foster father he tends to be more cautious and responds more favorable.

In the school setting Bernard's educational needs are met in a special classroom setting based on his education and behavioral challenges. In effort to achieve normalcy for Bernard, he requires ongoing supervision and intervention.

Bernard needs a two parent family with a strong male figure that is patient and will provide him with lots of love and attention and continue to provide periodic management planning with guidance and support of professional staff

*Photograph provided courtesy of  
[www.heartgalleryalabama.com](http://www.heartgalleryalabama.com)*





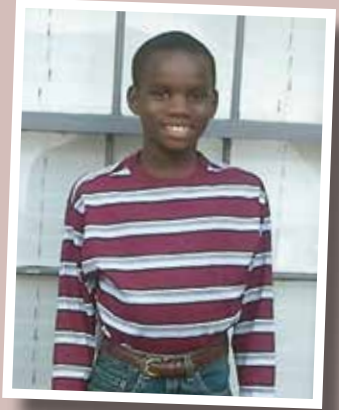
Heart Gallery Alabama, is a statewide non profit whose mission is to promote adoption of Alabama's foster children. We fulfill our mission by recruiting professional photographers to take unique portraits of each child who is waiting for their forever family. We also create short videos for each child 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 37<sup>th</sup> Street South, Birmingham, AL 35222). Please take a minute to visit our website at [www.HeartGalleryAlabama.com](http://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](mailto:info@heartgalleryalabama.com).

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

## MEET DARRYL

**Darryl** is a happy child with a great smile. He has many friends and enjoys being around older kids as he says they are more fun. He enjoys playing video games and being outside with friends playing basketball and football. He seems proud when he talks about being a greeter at church and assisting with the offering. His favorite foods are pancakes, pizza, and French fries.



Darryl receives special education services and needs additional help in math and reading. He has an IEP. He enjoys school but can be disruptive at times. He receives medication to help control his behavior. During times of change in his life he will regress until he adjusts to the changes in routine. He has made progress and continues to reside in the same foster home he has been in for many years.

Darryl wants a family that will keep him safe and will play games with him. He would like to have other children in the home and wants a family that is active. He enjoys being around animals and says that he would love to have a pet.

## MEET DEVIN



**Devin**, born November 1999, is a sweet and intelligent child. Devin enjoys doing his own thing and tends to be a loner. Devin is a very good reader. He does not watch much television and prefers to play video games. His social skills are somewhat limited and he becomes anxious when he has to interact with a lot of people. He does not like noisy situations. However, Devin is adaptable for the most part and requires quite a bit of redirection.

He is not really that interested in sports but has participated in playing soccer and volleyball. Devin enjoys the outdoors and likes to look for bugs. He also likes to go hiking. Devin is not a very affectionate child, but he does feel emotion for others. He has stated that he wants to be adopted. He desires to be part of a family again and he feels there is a family out there for him.

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## AFAPA NEWSLETTER INFO:

Articles can be submitted to Buddy Hooper, Editor. E-mail submissions should be addressed to [afapa@afapa.org](mailto: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 DUSTIN, RICKY & DANIEL

Dustin is the oldest of this sibling group of three boys. He was born in February, 1999. He has an open IEP in place for academics if needed. Dustin's grade are average and he maintains passing grades. Dustin enjoys watching TV, playing video games and reading. He likes the Harry Potter Books. He prefers the indoors and enjoys playing by himself. Dustin is physically healthy. He does wear glasses to help him see the black board in the classroom. He takes medication for ADD,ADHD and Depression.

Rickey is the twin brother of Daniel. He and Daniel like to play outside. They both enjoy watching TV, playing Video games and playing with others. Both Rickey and Daniel have an open IEP for Speical Education if needed for academics. Daniel receives services for speech. He has a severe speech empediement. Rickey's grades in school are average. Daniel is a straight A student. The boys are both physically healthy. They were born in February, 2003. Daniel and Rickey are very energetic. The twins both take medication for ADD and ADHD.

These boys all have current therapeutic needs and are placed together in a therapeutic foster home. They are very close and supportive to one another. They look forward to being placed together in a permanent adoptive home.



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