



FOSTERING ILLINOIS

Linking Families Together for Children's Futures

Financial Aid for DCFS Youth

While DCFS scholarships are limited in number, any ward can and should complete the Financial Aid Form. DCFS youth are eligible for the maximum award amount of the PELL grant and the maximum for the MAP grant.

MAP grants generally cover full tuition at any state-supported university, junior or community college. The PELL grant should cover most of the housing and other expenses.

Students can use their ward status in completing the financial aid form through age 23, if he or she was a ward at 18.

TIPS:

- ✓ As a high school junior, explore colleges of interest and visit campuses.
- ✓ Take the ACT as a junior, and the SAT if required by the colleges of interest.
- ✓ In September of your senior year, begin to apply to colleges.
- ✓ In January complete the Financial Aid Form and remember to check the box marked "orphan of the state".
- ✓ Check with your caseworker to find out the deadline for the DCFS scholarship program.
- ✓ Apply for scholarships from all possible sources.

DCFS Awards Student Scholarships

This fall, 82 foster children are attending college with DCFS scholarships. The scholarship program is open to youth under the guardianship of DCFS or those who have left the system through adoption or private guardianship. The scholarship winners receive up to four consecutive years of tuition and academic fee waivers to be used at participating state universities. The awardees also receive a monthly maintenance stipend and a medical card.

At the Illinois State Fair in August, the Department recognized the 48 DCFS scholarship winners and the students who filled 31 alternate slots. Additionally, Sen. Debbie Halvorson, Rep. Gwenn Klingler and Rep. William Black donated their allotted legislative scholarships to DCFS wards.



The DCFS scholarship winners were required to submit transcripts of their grades, ACT or SAT scores and three letters of recommendation. A selection committee of high-level child welfare experts appointed by Director Jess McDonald evaluated the applications before the winners were selected.

Once on campus, students must carry a full-time course load and maintain at least a C average. While in school, students must provide their caseworkers and DCFS Division of Education and Transition Services with grade reports.

The scholarships do not cover living expenses, but those may be met with the DCFS monthly stipend and federal financial aid programs.

It is never too early to start planning for college and all the associated costs. By February, your caseworkers should have information on the application process and deadlines. For more information about the DCFS Scholarship program, contact Dwight Lambert, statewide education coordinator at (217) 524-2030.

EDITOR'S CORNER



I am thrilled to serve as the new editor for Fostering Illinois. When I began receiving this publication as a foster parent, I never dreamed I would be writing it some day. Some might say it is coincidence or luck, but I know it was part of a plan that began unfolding even before the first child walked through our door.

Five years ago, my husband and I started the licensing process, and before we knew it, we got "The Call". Since that first placement call, six children have joined our family, along with our two birth daughters. We have worked through adoption, reunification, independent living and relative placement issues—and we lived to tell the tale. Currently, our family roster is made up of our three foster daughters ages 16, 15 and 15; our 12-year-old adopted son and our birth daughters at ages five and six months.

My goal is to share the successes, mistakes and questions from our family to help your family. I pledge to bring the thousands of faithful Fostering Illinois readers timely, useful news and information to help make foster parenting a fulfilling experience for you and your children.

Please feel free to contact me with ideas, recommendations, critiques and questions. I am looking forward to building on the foundation set by my predecessors and continuing to meet the needs of Illinois foster parents.

Editor

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DCFS Educational Scholarship Recipients (2000)

Arlington Heights
Shammah Timms

Bellwood
Quincy Maxwell

Brighton
Erica Figge

Canton
Sally Pierce

Carbondale
Serena Burns
Lisa Bhatnagar
Lakeisha Hayes
Andre Hughes
Ricco Mimms
Tina Miller

Carlyle
Princeton Lewis

Champaign
Ahkla Broadway

Charleston
Sharona Price

Chicago
Gina Aalders
Charlotte Adams
Alishea Armstrong
Maxwell Caples
April Curtis
Berneice Cruz
Kenneth Davis
Shakesha Dye
Marvin Ellzey
Danielle Franklin
Jemima Gardner
Damon Gary
Crystal Gregory
Latoyia Hayes
Tijani Iman
Patrice Jarrett
Ali Malik
Kashanti Mangun
Kasheima McDaniel
Jose O'Campo
Onie Riley
Samantha Sanders

Chicago (con't.)
Latoya Smith
James Snider
Raijean Stroud
Juntyna Wilson
Tremont Wright

Chicago Heights
Ellen Mitchell
Tamika Robinson

Christopher
Starlet Bowlin

Clinton
Amanda Joyce

Country Club Hills
Tisheia Harding

Darien
Tobias Unterfranz

DeKalb
Lakeisha Cameron
Quineska Colbert
Ja Juana Hawkins
Tina Hopkins
Maria Jamerson
Maurice Montgomery
Rachel Nealey
Niqua Wilbon

Dolton
April Johnson

Edwardsville
Travis Evans

Evanston
Latisha Stensrud

Flossmoor
Shallahda Liddel

Forrest Park
Falon Lenoir

Fox Lake
Leonard Hill
Helen Lilly

Hebron
Geno Helmick

Jacksonville
Shawn Weeks

Lake Forest
Jason Dour

Lisle
Matthew Ehrich

Macomb
Latoya Dudley

Naperville
Sarah Jurgens
Sarah Pape

Normal
Camille Barton
Terence White

Oak Park
Nicole Bonoan

Sandwich
Becky Cunz

Sherman
Alison Harrison

South Holland
Dorene Fulks
Marcus Thigpen
Nakeesha Semmons

St. Anne
Roy Marin

Urbana
Geneka Sanders

Waukegan
Christina Bertram

Wheaton
Matthew Brdecka
Steven Szukala

Woodstock
Marjorie Zaranto

Trials and Triumphs of Fostering Teens

Parenting teenagers can be traumatic, tumultuous and downright tricky. Yet Jerry and Mary Maxwell are committed to fostering teens. In 30 years of foster parenting they have had more than 35 children in their home. Currently they are focusing on teenage boys.

“We concentrate on teens because they need it the most,” is Mary’s simple answer to the inevitable question, “why *teenagers*?”.

As of August, there were 8,900 children between 13 and 17 years old in substitute homes, representing one fourth of the total number of DCFS wards.

Realizing there was such a critical need for older children, the Maxwells began inviting teenagers into their family. They have found that one advantage of fostering older children is a stronger sense of bonding.

“I like teens because they are mine. As kids get older and they realize that they are not going home, it is easier for them to give their hearts to our family,” said Mary.

Easy is not a word normally used when talking about teens. However, when the stakes are high, the rewards can be great. Through the years, Mary has seen teens become more street-savvy, independent and hardened. Yet, she and her husband remain hopeful and dedicated.

“You can’t save them all because they won’t let you. But sometimes you get through, and that feels great,” she said. “We have one child in college now. You learn to take your rewards when you can and keep trying.”

Even when teens grow up and leave the Maxwell home, they remain part of the family fabric. Kids come back as adults and, with the wisdom that comes with age, they often acknowledge the lessons they fought so hard in their youth.

The Maxwells’ promise to other foster parents is that it may take more time for teens to come around, but once they do, they become family in the truest sense.



Mary and Jerry Maxwell

Universal Laws for Parents of Teens

Law of Belonging: The greatest need of teenagers is a strong sense of belonging. They can fill that need through healthy means — with family, worthwhile friends, clubs or sports. Or they will get it in an unhealthy place with inappropriate friends, drugs, gangs or cults.

Law of Power: Once you enter a power struggle with a teen, you have already lost. Remember the line from the movie *War Games* ... “Interesting game, the only winning move is not to play.”

Law of Management: A management approach to raising teens puts the parents clearly in charge. The goal is to manage them eventually out of your lives — and into their own. Parenting is one of those jobs in which the goal is to eliminate the need for your job.

Law of Voice: In a well-functioning family, teens almost always get a voice. They just don’t always get a vote.

Law of Modeling: If you don’t want your teen doing something, make sure you are not doing it yourself. Teens have very strong and sensitive “hypocrisy meters” and are eager to use them.

Law of Structure: Parents need to set boundaries and structure from Day One. If you don’t do this while they are young, what makes you think they will obey a curfew once they have a car?

Law of 20 feet: At a certain age, you must walk at least 20 feet away from your teen if you are in a public place—30 feet if you are in the mall.

Law of the W’s: When teens are away from home, parents need to know whom they are with, where they are, what they are doing and what time they will be back.

Adapted from “The Connection”, newsletter of the Family Source of Florida, 1998.

Foster Parents, Children and AIDS

Key Definitions

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a medical diagnosis for people with HIV where their T-Cells are below 200 and they are susceptible to rare opportunistic infections. This disease may still be manageable with medications at this stage.

HIV Exposed: A baby born to a woman with HIV is exposed to HIV, but may not have been infected. The baby may have a positive HIV antibody test, but these may be the mother's antibodies.

HIV Indeterminate: If a newborn was exposed to HIV, the baby is considered HIV Indeterminate for a period up to 18 months of age. Special testing from an HIV clinic will help determine the diagnosis.

HIV Infected: This person has been exposed to HIV and is definitely infected. They may stay healthy and have a low viral load, but they still have HIV and could transmit the infection.

HIV Positive: A person who has a positive HIV antibody test. If the person is over 18 months of age, they definitely have the HIV infection and should seek specialized HIV medical care.

Seroreverted: This means that a baby who was born exposed to HIV has had special testing to determine that the baby is not, never was and never will be HIV infected (unless they are later exposed through unprotected sex or drug abuse).

Universal Precautions: Basic good hygiene techniques that protect all persons from any kind of germs or disease.

Foster parents know that when you take a child into your home, often aspects of his or her medical background can be unclear or unknown. As foster children grow in age and experience, the potential of HIV could become a reality for them and for their foster parents. For families affected by HIV or AIDS, DCFS has developed specific policies to address testing, confidentiality and treatment. Additionally, the DCFS AIDS Project is a resource to provide families with information about AIDS and HIV, and can offer support services to help meet children's and families' needs.

HIV Testing

AIDS and HIV continue to rise among adolescents and women of childbearing age. Foster parents may ask their caseworkers or doctors to get a child an HIV test if they believe there are risk factors. The primary risk factors for transmission are drug abuse or having unprotected sex. Children born to parents with a history of drug abuse should get an HIV test. Substance Exposed Infants (SEI) should also have an HIV test. Infants born to a mother with HIV infection require follow-up testing and intervention.

If there is a risk factor, the standard Consent for Ordinary and Routine Medical and Dental Care form, which should already be signed by DCFS for all wards, does cover HIV testing. Youth 12 or older should co-consent to testing. Pre and post-testing counseling should be provided.

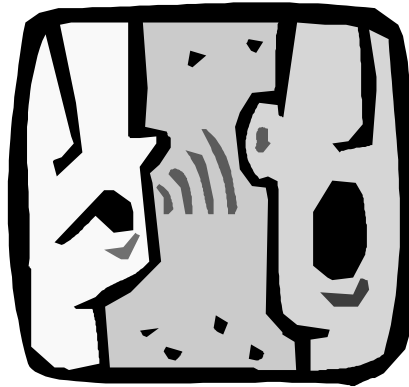
If the child does test positive, foster parents are required to notify the DCFS AIDS Project at (312) 328-2284 or 2285. The purpose is to get the child linked with specialized HIV clinics and to provide training about the care of a HIV-infected child, confidentiality policies and other resources.

Call the DCFS AIDS Project at (312) 328-2284 or 2285 with any questions or problems concerning HIV tests.



Confidentiality

Persons affected or infected with HIV are protected under the AIDS Confidentiality Act and the Americans for Disabilities Act, as disabled individuals and have the right to equal access and opportunity without discrimination. Release of information about HIV status is based on a “need to know” in order to provide services. Persons with a need to know may include: foster parents, birth parents, relative caregiver, prospective adoptive parents, director of a child care facility or staff who provide direct care.



Foster parents are included in those who have a “need to know” about a child’s HIV status in order to provide services. But they also have a responsibility to keep this information confidential unless there is consent to release it to others who have a need to know.

Keep in mind the following important matters regarding confidentiality:

- ✓ Ensure as few people as necessary know about the HIV status of the child.
- ✓ The Illinois Department of Public Health has the responsibility to inform school principals.
- ✓ Re-disclosure of information should involve a signed consent and is bound by the rules of confidentiality.
- ✓ HIV status should not be written where it can be seen by people who do not have a need to know.
- ✓ DCFS is not authorized to release information about the birth parent’s HIV status.



Infectious Body Fluids

Blood and blood products
Semen
Vaginal fluids
Breast milk

Non-infectious Body Fluids

Saliva
Tears
Perspiration
Urine
Feces
Sputum
Nasal secretions
Vomitus

Routes of Transmission

Sexual intercourse
anal, vaginal or oral sex

Exposure to blood
transfusion of blood or blood products

sharing injection needles, syringes or “works”

occupational needle stick or mucous membrane exposure

Perinatal
from mother to child during pregnancy, intrapartum and postpartum (via breast feeding)

Activities That DO NOT Transmit HIV

Casual contact
Coughing/sneezing
Touching/shaking hands
Hugging/kissing
Insect bites
Donating blood
Swimming/bathing
Sharing clothing/towels
Sharing bathroom facilities

Foster and Adoptive Families Have Fun at the State Fair

Illinois foster and adoptive parents streamed into the DCFS tent during the 2000 Illinois State Fair. Beyond a bit of shade from the 90 degree temperatures, families also found information on DCFS programs, updates on permanency efforts and a tireless group of volunteers on hand to answer questions.

This year more than 2,000 families took DCFS Director Jess McDonald up on his special invitation to explore the fair's 300 acres of entertainment, agricultural exhibits, grandstand events and carnival rides. Licensed foster families and adoptive families were eligible for reduced admission and free parking at the fair and food coupons. Carnival operator Thebault-Blomsness donated unlimited rides at half price to foster families during designated times.



The Reechia Family of Joliet takes a break to pose for a family photo. John and Theresa; Emily, 13; Lisa, 5; Westin, 3; and Phillip 9.



Lisa McCabe and her three children: Breena, 4; Andrea, 5; and Jamey, 4 make memories at the fair.

“It’s a real nice benefit for foster families to be able to come here for the fair,” said Mike Corley, a foster dad from Lincoln. “Our son is having a lot of fun on the rides.”

Corley’s only warning was to be careful on some of the more hair-raising rides. With all the confidence of a nine-year-old, the youngster assured his father that he was “really good at not puking”.

Along with the fun of the rides and the exhibits, families were able to capture memories of their time at the fair with a free family photo taken by DCFS staff.

The DCFS tent was a partnership with the Illinois Foster Parent Association and the Child Care Association. DCFS and IFPA volunteers worked long (and hot) days to meet the foster and adoptive families and add to their fun at the fair.

Health Update

With the medical histories of foster children often unknown, it is important to be aware of inherited diseases that could affect a large number of children, particularly African-American youth. Following is an article on sickle cell disease submitted by La Rabida Children's Hospital.

Sickle cell disease is a global health problem affecting an estimated 70,000 persons in the United States. Despite this high prevalence, many people do not know what the disease is or its consequences if left untreated.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder affecting red blood cells. Persons with the disease have red blood cells that take on a crescent shape as opposed to the normal doughnut shape. This odd shape causes the cells to block blood vessels, thus allowing less blood to reach various parts of the body. This is what causes complications including, lung and tissue damage (acute chest syndrome), pain episodes (arms, legs, chest and abdomen), stroke and priapism (painful prolonged erection). It also causes damage to most organs, including the spleen, kidneys and liver.

If untreated, persons afflicted with sickle cell disease become excessively tired and/or experience severe pain crises. Maintaining control of the

condition through a comprehensive multi-disciplinary program of care will help decrease the incidence and severity of episodes.

Because sickle cell disease is an inherited condition, the only form of testing is by looking at a person's genes. All this requires is a simple blood test that goes through some special laboratory testing. Early diagnosis is key to ensuring a long and healthier life through proper disease management.

An interdisciplinary team approach to providing care is an important factor in successfully treating children with sickle cell disease. This approach provides for an individualized care plan for each patient and treatment from a multidisciplinary team of specialists including a pediatrician who specializes in the disorder, a clinical nurse specialist, nutritionist,



psychologist, developmental and rehabilitative therapists and social workers. The ultimate goal of the team is to provide high quality, efficient, ongoing care to patients and assistance to families to ensure effective management of the condition so that children with sickle cell disease can lead lives that are as active and fulfilling as possible. If you would like more information, please call LaRabida Children's Hospital at 1-800-616-2273.

November is National Adoption Month.

For more information on adoption contact the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at (800) 572-2390 (within Illinois) or 800-TO-ADOPT (outside Illinois).

Advocacy Office for Children and Families

HOT TOPIC: RUNAWAYS

It could be a missed curfew, heated threat or an angry, door-slamming departure. When a child's whereabouts are unknown a runaway situation is a real and potentially dangerous circumstance. Foster parents must be prepared to use all available resources to resolve the situation and help bring the child back home safely.

At the beginning of this year, DCFS issued new procedures to improve the way the Department reports and attempts to locate missing, runaway and abducted children. Due to the potential dangers to the child, the child's worker is to consider a missing, runaway or abducted child as a **major crisis** requiring intensive intervention.

- 1) Workers shall report a missing, runaway or abducted child to local law enforcement as soon as the worker becomes aware of the incident. **NO LONGER IS THERE TO BE A 24-HOUR WAITING PERIOD.**
- 2) Information given to law enforcement shall include information about the child that has been compiled on the new CFS 680, Child Identification Form, a current photo of the child and fingerprints of the child.
- 3) In Cook County, new procedures are included for obtaining Child Protection Warrants for runaway children.
- 4) Following the police report, an unusual incident report (UIR) must be filed.
- 5) Notification must also be given to: the child's parent, guardian or custodian; the juvenile court of jurisdiction; The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Child Find of America.



NEW Policy for Foster Child Identification

With the new procedures, all DCFS wards must be fingerprinted and photographed so this information can be readily available in the case of a runaway.

Child welfare staff is responsible for identifying children and youth on their caseload who require fingerprinting and photographs. Notice has been provided to foster parents regarding the need to cooperate with this requirement.

Child welfare staff will arrange a fingerprinting/photographing appointment with Sylvan/Identix Fingerprinting Centers by calling the vendor's toll-free phone number, 1-800-377-2080. Caseworkers shall be responsible for updating the youth's photograph annually according to Department procedures.

Q: Who do I call if my foster child runs away, and when do I make the call?

A: You should notify the child’s caseworker or casework supervisor immediately after discovering the child is missing. If circumstances are such that you are unable to contact the caseworker, local law enforcement should be contacted. Be prepared to give the child’s full name, gender, race, date of birth, height, weight, eye and hair color, any identifying characteristics, tattoos, etc., as well as the location, date and time you last saw the child.

Any additional information you are able to provide to the caseworker/police is very useful to the recovery of your foster child. If you are able to provide the names, addresses, telephone numbers of friends, boyfriends, girlfriends or family members, etc., please do so. If possible, include the locations of favorite “hang-outs”. If the child is on medication, has a disability or is pregnant, please include that information.

If you are aware of circumstances that might have led to the child’s disappearance, please share that information with the caseworker/police. For instance, the child had a “bad” day, was ”grounded”, has a history of attempted suicide, etc.



Q: What is my responsibility if a child decides to run away?

A: If the child threatens to run away or you suspect that the child is planning to runaway, attempt to discover what is prompting the behavior. Please contact the caseworker to discuss your concerns and request immediate intervention. ALWAYS REPORT THREATS TO RUNAWAY TO THE CASEWORKER.

Q: What can I do to make the search go smoothly and bring the child back safely?

A: Once again, provide detailed information related to the child’s physical description, likes, dislikes, friends, former foster parents, birth family and state of mind prior to the disappearance.

Q: How should foster parents handle things when the child comes back?

A: Fear of the consequences of returning home might contribute to a reluctance to return. Although your first tendency might be to discuss consequences, you are encouraged to take the opportunity to ask about the child’s experiences and to refrain from confrontation. Instead of talking about how the child *caused you* to worry and *caused difficulty* in the family, focus on the child’s welfare/feelings. For example:

“I’m so relieved to see you are well.”

“It is such a relief to have you home.”

“I hope you had enough to eat, are you hungry now?”

“Why don’t we talk after you’ve had time to take a shower and put on fresh clothes?”

“I’m going to sleep better tonight, just knowing you’re back in your own bed.”

Try to reinforce the fact that the child has great value – the time to discuss consequences, if there are any, is later – and with the input from the caseworker.

Fostering Illinois would appreciate your input on other “hot topics” to explore with the Office of Child and Family Advocacy. Please direct suggestions or questions to Vanessa James by e-mail at foster@chicagonet.net or by phone at 773/548-3888.

DCFS Issues New Wallet ID for Foster Parents



Foster parents now have an official wallet-sized identification card to show they are licensed by the state as foster parents. The Department of Children and Family Services acted on the suggestion of the Statewide Foster Care Parent Advisory Council to create a card that foster parents could carry with them. The cards can serve as validation for discount programs and other offerings that foster families may be able to use. They can also come in handy when dealing with schools or medical providers.

DCFS began sending the cards, which are attached to a letter from DCFS Director Jess McDonald, to the more than 30,000 currently licensed foster families this fall. The ID is valid during the current fostering license period. Upon license renewal, or a change in the license, new cards will be mailed.

This new card could be a valuable tool for families as more retailers are offering discounts and services to support the foster care effort. Look in future issues of *Fostering Illinois* for periodic updates on locations and retailers that support foster care.

Helpful Homework Websites for Students



StudyWeb: A resource for students doing research. It has a directory broken into general categories, such as geography, literature and computer science. Reference materials, such as calculators and dictionaries, are also available. www.studyweb.com

Chicago Public Schools Student Zone: A collection of resources for help with homework and projects. The resources are divided by grade and topic. zone.cps.k12.il.us/library/

Big Chalk: Students in elementary school through high school can get help with homework, take practice tests and browse for information in various subjects, from arts to economics. www.bigchalk.com

DiscoverySchool.com: Explore the Galapagos Islands, design a crossword puzzle, take a tour of the universe or find solutions to math problems on this site. school.discovery.com

The Math Forum: An on-line community of teachers, students, researchers, parents and others. It offers one-stop shopping for math help for almost all grades. forum.swarthmore.edu

The Ultimate Science Fair Resource: This comprehensive guide to preparing a science fair project includes an idea bank, links to a variety of science websites and a bulletin board where readers can share science fair ideas. www.scifair.org

Source: *Chicago Sun-Times*

Seven Steps to Motivate Children

- 1 Rule out any underlying problem
- 2 Be realistic
- 3 Let your child have a say
- 4 Explain your motives
- 5 Pour on the positives
- 6 Reward wisely
- 7 Talk about how much you enjoy your own work

Worst ways to motivate

- Forcing or punishment
- Comparing
- Reasoning or lecturing
- Criticizing

Fostering ILLINOIS

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Purpose: To help busy families handle fostering children more effectively. To bring them the best information from the most knowledgeable sources. To promote statewide teamwork in finding permanency for children.

Address Changes: Foster parents must notify their agency, who will notify DCFS. Agencies should change addresses of office locations or request staff copies through the Editor.

Fostering Illinois is published six times a year, bi-monthly, and mailed to licensed foster parents, unlicensed relatives caring for children under DCFS care, all DCFS staff and private agency staff as ordered.

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Opinions expressed by experts writing articles are no substitute for professional answers or opinions about a family's or child's specific situation.

Consult a competent professional for answers to your specific questions.

Do You Know A Family For Me?

Steven

This outgoing boy likes to play with action figures, ride his bike and watch videos. Steven frequently has a big smile on his face. He is full of energy and will keep you on your toes. Steven has a good memory and a terrific sense of humor. He is twelve years old. His foster parents said that they see marked improvement in his behavior. They appreciate his genuine response to attention and his good sense of humor. His teacher likes Steven's willingness to try in all of his subjects.

Tykee

Make sure your VCR is in working order because Tykee loves to watch videos. Some of his favorites are Sesame Street, Elmo and Barney. Tykee's favorite toys vibrate and make noise. He is three years old. Tykee is a happy and cheerful little guy who loves to interact with people. His foster parents described him as "a very happy, content and social child. People love to hold, interact and play with Tykee".

If you are interested in adopting any of these children or learning about other children waiting to be adopted, please call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at 800/572-2390 (within Illinois) or 800-TO-ADOPT (outside Illinois).

Melvin and Bobby

Melvin is a neat young man who always keeps his room clean. He enjoys listening to his stereo, watching movies, playing basketball and skating. He is eleven years old. Bobby is an active and affectionate seven-year-old young man who loves going to church. He likes to play outside, ride his bike, watch movies and play with his cat.

Melvin's teachers describe him as a great student. He is well liked, a good worker and very polite. He plays well with younger children and is a good helper. Bobby is also well liked at school. He is polite and willing to help.

Takasha

Takasha is an outgoing young lady who enjoys jumping rope and watching TV. She likes to play with other children her age. She is twelve years old. Her foster parents describe Takasha as a "good kid".

DCFS De-coded

Do you know the meaning of these acronyms?

| | |
|-------------|---|
| ACR | Administrative Case Review |
| FHS | Foster Home Specialized |
| GAL | Guardian ad Litem |
| CWS | Child Welfare Specialist |
| YES | Youth Emergency Shelter |
| SACY | Sexually Aggressive Children and Youth |
| TANF | Temporary Assistance for Needy Families |
| MRAI | Minors Requiring Authoritative Intervention |
| PD | Public Defender |

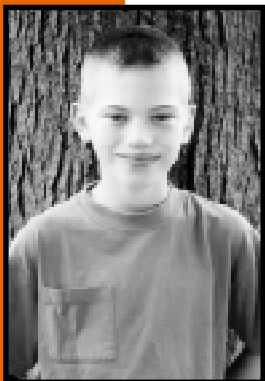
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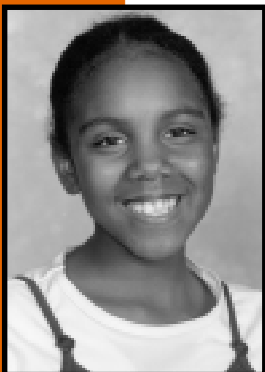
DO YOU KNOW A FAMILY FOR ME?



Tykee (C6094)



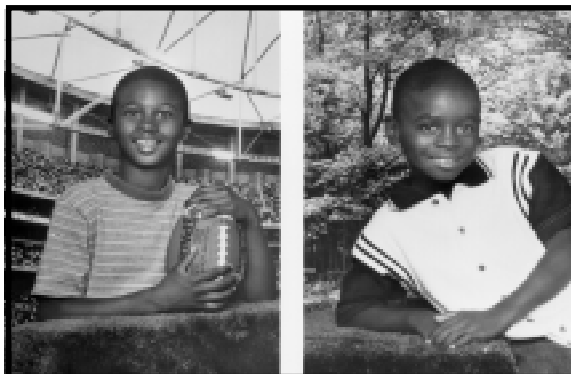
Steven (C4666A)



Takasha (C6504)

Inside:

**DCFS Scholarship Winners
Tips on Fostering Teens
Foster Children and AIDS
When A Child Runs Away**



Melvin (C6376) and Bobby (C6377)

Call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois 800-572-2390.