



FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILY NEWS

FOSTER FAMILY FEATURE

Belle and Eli have been licensed since July, 2006. They originally had gone through training to care for a relative who resided in Florida via the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC). This did not work out and the child was placed with siblings there and adopted by another party. While this door closed for the Troyers, it opened the opportunity to foster children in their own community.

Belle and Eli have accepted eight placements of a few days to two years. The children's ages range between six months and 13 years. They have also helped with many respite for other foster families. They adopted their son, Marquel, in February, 2008.

Eli retired from the City of Orrville in 2003. He enjoys fishing and has a large collection of Hot Wheels cars. Belle is the owner/operator of Classic Tux. Belle enjoys scrap-booking and sewing. They have four adult children and 11 grandchildren who all live in Wayne County. The Troyers enjoy activities where they spend a lot of time with family.



Belle & Eli Troyer with Marquel

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Clothing & School Supplies for Foster Children



Foster Parents wanting to take part in the People-to-People Ministries Back to School program need to sign up at the People-to-People office located at 454 E. Bowman Street, Wooster.

Sign up is at the following times: July 28, 29, August 3, 4, 5 from 9:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. On July 28th and August 4th the sign up times are extended in the afternoon until 5:45 p.m.

Foster parents need to bring the Individual Child Care Agreement that places the child into their home and their foster parent ID. Foster Parents also need to know the child's age, grade, birth date, and social security number.



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Adoption Journey Ends in Success

By: Regina Schwartz, Foster/Adoptive Home Recruiter

Adoption can be an arduous process, but it can also change lives in amazing ways. Just ask Christopher and his adoptive dad, Jeff.

When 10 year-old Christopher became available for adoption a year and a half ago he said he didn't want to talk about adoption, didn't want to be adopted, and stated that he planned to stay in foster care for the rest of his life. He literally refused to even speak to his adoption caseworker for a period of time after the case transferred to her.

As most of us know, however, social work is not for the faint of heart and caseworker Amy Rice didn't give up. She placed Christopher's profile on the Ohio Adoption Website (OAPL) and continued trying to talk to Chris. After about two weeks Christopher finally began to open up to Amy.

Amy learned that Chris was a very bright, helpful boy who liked sports and video games. She also learned that he enjoyed riding his bike, being outside, and making people laugh. On a more somber note, she discovered that Christopher felt hopeless and filled with anger, that he was destructive, seemingly always in trouble, and had never had a true friend.

During the time Amy was getting to know Chris, Jeff was 400 miles away looking for a child to adopt when he saw Christopher on the OAPL website. Jeff was a teacher who loved children and wanted very much to be a dad. He sent his homestudy to CSB and Amy decided to set up a visit. After some cajoling, Christopher finally agreed to meet Jeff and even made a special craft for him at school.

Jeff made the long drive from out-of-state and stayed for the weekend. After that visit, both Chris and Jeff wanted to continue getting to know each other and to consider adoption. Chris and Jeff had several visits in Ohio and out-of-state, then six months later Christopher was placed with Jeff.

Chris has adjusted wonderfully to his new home, neighborhood, school, and family. Since he was placed in October of 2008, he has played intramural basketball, he's participated in group therapy as a leader and motivation to other kids, and has joined a swim club with Jeff. He's also been receiving guitar instruction, practices almost daily, and has become quite accomplished.

Most importantly, though, Christopher and his adoptive dad have become very bonded to one another and Christopher has formed several friendships and one very close friend. Chris was adopted on July 8, 2009, and recently called Amy to tell her he is "happy and jolly and all that good stuff."

Please join us in congratulating Jeff and Christopher!



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2009 FOSTER/ADOPTIVE CAREGIVER TRAINING SCHEDULE

Speaking the Truth in Love

Friday, October 23 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Trainer: John Ward

Re-Parenting the Wounded Child

Saturday, October 24 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Trainer: John Ward

Play with a Purpose

Friday, November 6 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Trainer: Bert Nero

Child Development

Saturday, November 7 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Trainer: David Zidar

Chemically Dependent Parents

Saturday, November 7 - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Trainer: David Zidar

Computer Safety

Saturday, November 7 - 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Trainer: Pieri Levandofsky

Coaching & Mentoring for Foster Parents

Sunday, November 8 - 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Trainer: Mel Gravely

NOTE:

*All adoptive parents are
also welcome to attend
these trainings.*

**To register for any of the trainings listed, please call a
foster care specialist at 330-345-5340.**

****Please remember to pre-register at least five days prior to the training. If we do not have ten people registered by that deadline, the training will be cancelled.****