



How adoption will change your life forever

By **Paul Batura**

Since receiving the privilege of adopting our three sons, my wife, Julie, and I have allowed ourselves to ponder the “What ifs?” surrounding their lives and adoptions. What if their birth mothers had not chosen to courageously carry them to term? What if they had chosen someone else to adopt them? What if they had decided not to make an adoption plan at all?

All of these questions, some admittedly haunting ones at that, led me to start pondering the “What ifs?” of other well-known adoptees.

For example, what if John Hancock had become a pastor instead of a politician? What if Nelson Mandela’s adoptive father didn’t have deft leadership skills that rubbed off on his son? What if Steve Jobs had been adopted by a couple in Florida instead of one in Silicon Valley?



With these “what ifs” in mind, I tried to investigate the circumstances surrounding the providential adoptions of men and women who grew up to change the world. Unfortunately, most of the information about their adoptions was limited to a single sentence in their biographies.

But there had to be more. How could such an emotional, monumental, and transformational moment be reduced to a passing reference? Was their

adoption a mere factual footnote in their lives, like their birth date or hometown, or was it one of the driving forces behind the stories of their successes?

This is what led me to write *Chosen For Greatness: How Adoption Changes the World*. In it, you’ll see that every single one of the individuals profiled didn’t succeed in spite of being adopted or intimately cared for by someone other than their biological parent; they rose to their level of accomplishment in no

small part because of their adoption and relationship with their new parent or parents.

In fact, their adoption didn’t just change the course of their lives and the families who embraced and loved them. Instead, you’ll see their adoption has changed—and is changing—the course of your life and mine.

You’ll also see, I hope, that adoption, like life itself, is a gritty and an often imperfect process. It’s nothing like you see

in the movies, watch on television, or even read in a bestselling novel.

Indeed, it’s far more dramatic—because the stories you’re about to read are true and involve real people who made and are making a significant difference in the world.

—Paul Batura’s *Chosen For Greatness: How Adoption Changes the World* is in bookstores now.

God helped our family grow overnight

In 2003 I married my best friend. We tried to get pregnant, but it never happened. We went to several doctors who said we couldn’t get pregnant due to infertility issues I was having.

Finally in 2012, we listened to what we felt God was telling us we needed to do: Foster care. I called KCSL and asked how we could become foster parents. We were looking to adopt from foster care and prayed it wouldn’t take long. We had a few kids placed with us who were able to return to their family and then finally November



14, 2012, we received a phone call asking us to take in two sisters. Of course

we said yes. Over the next three years we cared for and loved these two precious girls as if they were our own. Finally in the beginning of July 2015 we were approved to adopt Sumaya and Sanaa. Two weeks later we found out I was pregnant. The adoption was finalized November 21, 2015, and we gave birth to our son March 4, 2016. Our family practically grew over night, but we couldn’t be happier. This is our first family photo taken July 2016.

—Ronmel, Heather, Sumaya, Sanaa, & Jay-Shaun Gilbert

From Heart to Home Infant Adoption Program

An adoption agency you can trust.

For over 120 years, adoption has been a core service throughout KCSL’s history. Let us help fulfill your dream of having a child.



**Kansas Children's
Service League**

877-581-5437 • www.kcsl.org

Considering adoption?

It’s a big decision, making a lifetime commitment to a child. Beginning or expanding your family through adoption can be both exhilarating and terrifying at the same time. And the process can seem more than a little overwhelming.

At Saint Francis Community Services, we’ll help you get started on the right track with you to the end.



There are hundreds of children waiting for a loving family like yours. Let us help you find the best possible match. We’ll be here to guide you every step of the way.

www.st-francis.org/adoption | 800-423-1342



**Saint Francis
Community Services®**
Serving Children and Families Since 1945

Make a Mommy Bag!

Encourage a young woman
with a positive pregnancy test.



Find out more at
RachelHouseFriends.org/News

These Kansas kids need forever homes

Do you know what aged-out means? It's when a child turns 18 and enters adulthood still in foster care, never having found a forever family. While many young couples choose to adopt infants, there are hundreds of children who are older but have never known a loving home. Metro Voice seeks to assist these children find a forever family before they enter adulthood. Here are the kids who just may be a perfect addition to YOUR family. These children are from Kansas.

For information on any of these great kids, call 1-877-457-5430.

Sheila

Sheila is 16 and is a delightful girl with a beautiful smile! She enjoys playing with animals, listening to music and going for walks. She is a great singer and is most proud of her writing. Sheila's favorite class in school is baking and pastry. She enjoys interacting with people who have a sense of humor and is happy to just hang out and talk. Sheila needs a family who can keep her smiling and meet her needs now and in the future. Case number CH-5241



Deacon

Sixteen-year-old sports fan Deacon is a smart and resilient teen who enjoys staying active. Football, basketball and baseball are among Deacon's favorite sports. Football is his favorite sport to participate in, but Deacon believes he's best at playing basketball. When he's not participating in sports Deacon enjoys going to the YMCA. Deacon's fa-



vorite class in school is his math class. After high school he would like to attend college to study genetics. Deacon is a great kid who deserves a family that will love and care for him unconditionally. Case number 101440

Juan

Juan is 15 and loves when others read to him! Juan enjoys anything that makes music or sounds; his Elmo toy that sings and dances is his favorite. Juan is most happy when he is around other people; he shows that he is happy by smiling. Juan is home schooled and has a very special relationship with his teacher. He is learning to communicate his needs and wants by using "eye gazes". He is also learning to stamp on paper. Juan has skilled nurses that care for him around the clock. Juan needs a family that can physically commit to caring for Juan's multiple needs for many years to come. He deserves a family that can provide unconditional love, patience, and help support him throughout his life. He needs a forever family that will advocate for him and that is knowledgeable about medical services in their community. Only families in Kansas will be considered for Juan at this time. Case number 101453.



Shawn and Dorothy

Shawn, 12, and Dorothy, 11, would like a forever family to call their own. Shawn loves trains, cars and anything that has to do with Thomas the Tank Engine. He prefers to play with younger children instead of same aged peers. Shawn gets extremely anxious during times of transition. He will need to have an adjustment period to get settled in. Shawn will need a lot of one-on-one attention to guide him through those transitions and in the



classroom. Shawn continues to work on how to better manage his behaviors in the classroom. Shawn does better when things are structured and a solid routine is in place.

Dorothy is a loving child that enjoys coloring, dancing and having tea parties! She likes going on evening walks to help burn off some energy. Her favorite time at school is art and she likes being able to share her art projects with others. Dorothy continues to make improvements in school. She will need school professionals that are willing to work with Dorothy and understand her special needs. Dorothy continues to work on improving her interactions with her peers and expressing herself through words instead of actions. Like her brother, she does better with a strict routine in place. Dorothy will need to have her own room in her forever home. At this time, only families living in Kansas will be considered for these children. Case number CH-5852

Ryan

Fresh air, sunshine, and wide-open spaces bring a smile to Ryan's face. Ryan is 15 and has a huge love for the outdoors! He enjoys fishing, riding four wheelers, camping, and taking care of horses. He states that "being outside helps keep me calm." Ryan enjoys staying active both outside and inside. He also enjoys football, soccer, and wrestling.



When asked what Ryan's favorite class is at school he answers, "PE for the exercise" and science class because he enjoys the experiments, stating, "it's fun to learn about new things and see what happens during the experiment." Ryan currently has educational supports in place and is attending an online school where he is doing very well.

Ryan is overcoming past trauma, but is making great strides in his progress. Ryan's social worker states that he is "kind and cares about others." Ryan would benefit from a patient, supportive fam-

ily that will encourage and guide him as he continues to grow. Family that will always stick by his side and continue to help him grow and thrive. When asked what kind of a family Ryan would like to have, he answers, "I would like to have a mother and father." Case number CH-5068

Megan

Megan is 9 and is a happy and friendly young lady. She is very good at games and enjoys playing games with her friends, and also playing with her dolls. Her favorite class in school is music class because she gets to sing and dance, both of which she loves doing. She likes to laugh, and Disney movies are the best at making her laugh. She wants to be a Disney princess when she grows up. Megan works hard at picking up toys and following the rules. Megan is friendly and funny and looks forward to finding a forever family who can help her grow and thrive. Only families living in Kansas will be considered at this time. Case number CH-6114



Nicholas's Siblings

Energetic, sporty and super smart describes these three siblings! They all agree that they love country living, pets, and each other. They would enjoy an active family who would keep them involved in school, sports and art. Nicholas is the big brother. He excels in art and in sports and he's a valuable asset to his high school football team. Nicholas enjoys joking around with friends, playing video games and he has a close bond with his younger sisters. The middle sibling, Demetria loves to be the center of attention! Like her older brother, she loves sports, especially soccer and softball. She



■ See KANSAS page 10

Alpha Christian Children's Home & School
www.alphachristianchildrenshome.com

WHAT WE DO:

1. Share Christ to offer hope and healing
2. Provide a Christian family safe haven
3. Help the kids get caught up in school

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. Pray
2. Volunteer
3. Refer Children In Need To Us
4. Monetary & Food Donations

Find out more by calling
785-597-5235
Located an Hour W of KC
15017 27th Street
PO Box 727
Perry, Kansas 66073

In His Hands
Alpha Christian Children's Home

Because your mom chose life, you are able to read this. Life, the first unalienable right.

YWA of Missouri, standing for life from conception until natural death.

YWAofMO@hotmail.com

Missouri Right to Life Western Region

Our Mission is to protect life from conception until natural death. We do this by education and legislation.

9504 E. 63rd St. Suite 103
Kansas City, MO 64133
816-353-4113
www.mrlWesternRegion.org

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017
Life Banquet
Adam's Mark Convention Center

January 19th, 2018
March for Life Washington, DC
Local KCMO Prayer Vigil
Noon to 1:00 pm
Federal Courthouse, KCMO

Alternatives Clinic

Providing compassionate support and assistance to individuals facing unplanned pregnancy since 1992

Our Confidential Services Include:

- Free Pregnancy Testing
- Free Limited OB Ultrasounds
- Confidential Peer Counseling
- Baby Food Pantry
- Maternity and Baby Clothing
- Prenatal and Parenting Classes

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ♥ Part-Time Receptionist
- ♥ Board Members

For more info call Carol at 816-380-4885

816-380-4885
307 W. Washington St.
Harrisonville, MO
www.alternativesclinic.org

2017 RESOURCE LIST

ADOPT KANSAS KIDS

3545 SW 5th St.
Topeka, KS 66601
877-457-5430
customercare@adoptkaskids.org
www.adoptkaskids.org

ALLIANCE FOR LIFE

106B 5th Ave. S
P.O. Box 65
Greenwood, MO 64034
Marsha Middleton
816-806-4168
marsha@allianceforlifemissouri.com
www.allianceforlifemissouri.com

ALPHA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

15017 27th Street
PO Box 727
Perry, Kansas 66073-0727
Michelle Kincaid | 785-597-5235
office@alphachristianchildrenshome.com
www.alphachristianchildrenshome.com

ALTERNATIVES CLINIC

307 W. Washington St
Harrisonville, MO 64701
Carol Thompson | 816-380-4885
director@lifechoicecenter.org
www.alternativesclinic.org

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES OF THE MIDWEST, INC.

8249 W. 95th St., Ste. 107
Overland Park, KS 66212
Susan K. Timmons, LSCSW
913-383-3337 x102
susan@cfsc.org
www.cfsc.org

IF NOT FOR GRACE MINISTRIES

PO Box 836
Grain Valley, MO 64029
Lori Drieggs
816-847-2911
info@infgr.org
www.infgr.org

KANSAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEAGUE

650 Minnesota Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66101
877-581-5437 or 913-371-2220
tklaus@kcsk.org
www.kcsk.org

KVC KANSAS

21344 W. 153rd Street
Olathe, KS 66061
Campbell Vobach
913-956-5326
1-888-655-5500
www.kvc.org

MISSOURI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

20509 S State Route J
PO Box 447
Peculiar, MO 64078
Dawn Hensley
816-616-3303
Dawn.Hensley@mbch.org
www.mbch.org

MOTHER'S REFUGE

14400 E. 42nd St. South, Suite 220
Independence, MO 64055
Robert Zornes | 816-353-8070
office@mothersrefuge.org
www.mothersrefuge.org

PARKVILLE WOMEN'S CLINIC

6326 N. Lucerne Ave.
Kansas City Mo 64151
Sonya Rice
816 746 4855
info@parkvillewomensclinic.com
www.PWC4life.us

RACHEL HOUSE

1260 NE Windsor Drive
Lee's Summit, MO
Kathy Edwards
816-921-5059
info@rachelhouse.org
www.rachelhousefriends.org

SAINT FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES

509 E Elm Street
Salina, KS
Karen Wahlmeier
316.831.0330 ext. 3046
karen.wahlmeier@st-francis.org
www.st-francis.org/Adoption

SHOW-ME CHRISTIAN YOUTH HOME

Main Campus, 24302 Mahin Rd.
La Monte, MO 65337
Chris Ruhnke
660-347-5982
info@showmekids.org
www.showmehelpingkids.com

CONSIDERING ADOPTION?

- Learn your options from a trusted source
- Supportive services for both birth parents and adoptive parents
- Licensed and Hague accredited for those needing home studies—both domestic and international

Serving Kansas and Missouri for over 35 years



Christian Family Services
“Helping Children and Families Find a Better Life”

913-383-3337 ♦ www.cfskc.org
susan@cfskc.org

How do you really feel about a woman who has had an abortion?



1 in 3 women have had an abortion.

Therefore, there are millions of wounded mothers, fathers and families already.

A grace-filled environment starts with you.

#prograce

Together we can be the change.

If Not For Grace
www.infg.org



Committed to an abortion free Missouri.
Standing for life in Missouri – on the sidewalk, at the Capitol and in the local churches.

Concerned Women for America of Missouri
www.cwfa.org/states/missouri
314-608-0168 • cwaofmo@hotmail.com

CFS: An adoption agency to be trusted

“Trustworthy: able to be relied on to do or provide what is needed or right, dependable, reliable.” For 35 years CFS has been

that trustworthy resource for both birth and adoptive families. Adoption is a life-changing event and often a frightening prospect when not much is known about it. Expectant parents are always treated in a non-pressured, warm and supportive manner that respects the tough decisions they are facing and honors their commitment to make a good plan for their baby. If adoption is the choice they believe is best, they can choose and meet the adoptive parents and decide what type of ongoing rela-

tionship they want. Caring support to birthparents doesn't end at placement but continues long after if desired.



To adopt a child also requires much consideration. Fears are normal but with education and support and reminders that God is ultimately the designer of their family, adoptive parents can safely navigate their journey to parenthood as well.

CFS received Hague accreditation in 2012, and this allows us to provide home studies and post-placement supervision for international adoptions as well. Many families have listened to the call to care for the orphan and have seen God enrich their families with children from the United

States but also all over the world.

What is God calling your heart to do? We strive to keep our fees low and rely on the generosity of Christians to keep our ministry funded.

We have tax credits available to Missouri taxpayers and all donations are tax deductible. Your donation blesses our ministry and allows us to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we strive to show His love to those in need.

Our annual fundraising dinner is November 2nd at 6 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel in Overland Park. Please RSVP to Shelley@cfskc.org or call 913-383-3337. Donations can be mailed to 8249 W. 95th St., Ste 107, Overland Park, KS 66212.

Saint Francis partners with churches to pray for kids

Kevin, 13, would like to become a professional chef when he grows up and has been apprenticing at a local soul food restaurant. He also likes to play guitar, swim, watch movies, ride his bike, and visit the library. Eager and enthusiastic, Kevin makes friends easily and performs well in school – although he sometimes gets in trouble for talking

too much. Friendly and polite, with a beautiful smile and an easy sense of humor, he gets along with just about everybody.

Several of his siblings have already been adopted, and Kevin would like a forever family of his own. He needs a loving family that understands his unique situation and parents to guide

and support him.

Kevin is just one of the hundreds of children awaiting adoption in Kansas. He's also one of the children featured in Saint Francis Community Services' Fostering in Faith program. As a ministry, Saint Francis believes that one of the most powerful acts we can perform on

■ See Saint FRANCIS page 11

Missouri Right to Life State Political Action Committee proudly announces the *single* endorsement of



Mike Cierpiot
for Missouri Senate District 8
(in Jackson County)

in the Special Election
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

A proven pro-life leader!

- Mike has worked to protect babies and women as a State Representative, and he has been winning! Your vote will help Mike continue that work in the Missouri Senate.
- In this race, the Democrat is a fierce abortion supporter. The independent candidate has little chance of winning.
- Don't split the pro-life vote! Vote for Mike Cierpiot! Let your vote make a difference for moms and babies!



P.O. Box 651
Jefferson City MO 65102
www.missourilifepac.org

Paid for by Missouri Right to Life State PAC, Patricia Skain Treasurer.
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.

LIKE US! FACEBOOK.COM/METRO VOICE

Missouri kids looking for their forever homes

Just like in Kansas, many Missouri children turn 18 and enter adulthood having grown up in foster care. While many young couples choose to adopt infants, there are hundreds of children who are older but have never known a loving home. Metro Voice seeks to assist these children find a forever family before they enter adulthood. Here are the kids who just may be a perfect addition to YOUR family. These children are from Missouri.

For info on any of these great kids, email moheartgallery@adoptex.org

James S.

Activity is the name of the game for James. Swimming, basketball, being outdoors, you name it, he loves it! When he gets to choose his meal at the end of the day, pizza or hamburgers are definitely on the menu. James is a resilient and kind teen who interacts positively with others.



This honor roll student is currently in the eighth grade.

A Christian family is preferred; however, his caseworker will consider all family types. James would like to maintain a relationship with his sibling following placement. Financial assistance may be provided for adoption-related services.

Shaniah and Shanae

Shaniah and Shanae have talents to share with the world, and are ready to sing and dance right into your heart!

Anything and everything to do with dancing is

right up Shaniah's alley! When not dancing, she loves to channel her energy into cheerleading. Though Shaniah can be described as shy, she is also a very positive and upbeat person. Her favorite food is fried chicken and best-loved color is green. Shaniah does very well in school as a seventh grader and currently receives A's and B's. She looks forward to going away to college in the future and becoming a scientist.

Shanae's favorite hobby is singing, and she would love to be a famous singer some day! She does great with younger children and is very nurturing. If Shanae is planning dinner, fried chicken will definitely grace the menu. This great girl's favorite color is pink, and dancing is a big part of her life. As a seventh grader, Shanae gets along with a variety of people and makes friends easily.

A two-parent Christian family is preferred for Shaniah and Shanae; however, their caseworker will consider all family types. Shanae has expressed that she would like older parents, as she feels that they are more nurturing. Shaniah and Shanae would benefit from being able to have their own bedrooms. They would like to maintain contact with their aunt following placement. We only accept inquiries on the sibling pair, who will be placed together. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services.



Chase B.

Chase is a 10-year-old boy that is quick to attach and gets along well with others. He is determined, witty and has a great sense of humor. Chase has made great strides at school academically and interacts positively with his peers. He enjoys reading,

playing cards and board games. He is an accomplished gamer and would enjoy being in a family that can match his competitive nature. Chase wouldn't mind being a big or little brother. He would do best in a structured home with adults that can model top notch resolution skills.

Raquelle and Darius S.

Raquelle and Darius are packed with personality!

Raquelle is a bubbly, talkative, and smiley girl. She describes herself as a picky eater who would be aghast to find a pickle on her cheeseburger, but she absolutely loves sweets. Raquelle adores music, so be prepared if you ask about her favorite artist, as her list of "favorites" includes at least a dozen! Hobbies that top her list are cheerleading, playing outside, and reading. Black, white, silver, and gold are Raquelle's best-loved colors. As a fifth grader, she takes pride in her academics and enjoys science class and experiments. Raquelle receives above average grades and reads at an eighth-grade level. She aspires to become a college professor when she grows up.

Get to know gregarious Darius, whose favorite color isn't just blue, but specifically royal blue! Darius loves helping others and it isn't unusual for him to be the first to jump in and help with chores. He is a bright third grader who is friendly to others. Darius has high hopes for his future and is considering a profession as a police officer.

Their caseworker prefers a family in an urban



■ See MISSOURI page 10

Parkville Women's Clinic exists to provide hope to expectant moms

Sarah came to Parkville Women's Clinic for a pregnancy test and information about abortion. Sarah's pregnancy test was positive. The nurse discussed options with Sarah and offered her an ultrasound. During the ultrasound the nurse pointed out a 7 week and 5 day baby with a strong heartbeat. Sarah was tearful at seeing this new life. After the ultrasound the nurse asked Sarah what was keeping her from continuing with her pregnancy. Sarah told her she was no longer with the father of the baby and has not told him about the pregnancy. When discussing abortion information, Sarah was extremely tearful and could not look the nurse in the eye. Sarah states she does not know what to do but does not think she can have this baby or carry it and give it up for adoption. The nurse offered Sarah ultrasound pictures but she did not want to take them. The nurse let her know that if she changed her mind they would be at the clinic. A few days later the nurse followed up with Sarah. Sarah stated she is "doing much better and that I have decided to keep it. I couldn't have it any other way. Thank you so much for your support in a time when I was so confused and felt hopeless. Can I swing by and get those ultrasound pictures?"



At Parkville Women's Clinic we are here to provide support and give hope to those facing an unplanned pregnancy. Our mission is to empower and equip individuals to make healthy life choices. We want to see a world where every child is valued and mothers and fathers are equipped to build strong families that positively impact our community through all our services. We offer pregnancy tests, life affirming ultrasounds, adoption information, prenatal vitamins, Smart Steps parenting and mentoring classes, Fatherhood programs and community referrals. All our services are free.



To unify
and
champion
LIFE
ministries

Equipping

- Annual statewide conference
- State and regional training events
- On-site consulting/training
- New director consulting/training
- New ministry development consulting

Empowering

- Provides contracted funding through the Missouri Alternatives to Abortion program for our affiliates
- Maintains awareness with legislators at the State Capitol
- Development of statewide advancement strategies
- Development of collaborative partnerships to benefit our affiliates

Engaging

- Regional networking with ministry leaders
- Coordination of a prayer network
- Compiling of affiliate data to raise awareness of the ministries impact through annual report
- Research of new ministry work opportunities
- Connecting affiliates with new program/partnership potential

P.O. Box 65
Greenwood, MO 64034
816-806-4168

www.allianceforlifemissouri.com

Families Make the Difference

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment. When a child's family is not able to provide for that child, a foster or adoptive family can. You can make a difference by becoming a "family" for a hurting child. You can also make a difference by providing support for foster or adoptive families.

MBCH Children and Family Ministries and its affiliate The LIGHT House offer a variety of Christian foster care and adoption services.



For information
call 800.264.6224
or visit us at
www.mbchcfm.org



The Villages at
Burlington Creek
6326 N. Lucerne Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64151

Call: 816-746-4855 ■ www.pwc4life.us

KANSAS

continued from page 7

is a hard worker who expresses pride in being on the honor roll at her school. She does especially well in math and science classes because they are her favorite and will help her achieve her dream of becoming a doctor. She gets along well with others and truly enjoys giggling at her younger sister, Kylie. Kylie is a Straight A student who says

she loves all of her classes so much that she couldn't pick just one favorite. She likes to play soccer and softball and is also quite a gymnast. She is witty and smart and has a great sense of humor. She enjoys making her older siblings laugh but says she cracks up the most when her older brother tickles her. They need a family who enjoys attending sporting events, helping with homework and has the energy to keep up with this fun loving bunch! Case number CH-6068

SAVE THE DATE!

The NATIONAL Right to Life Convention is Coming to Overland Park!

JUNE 28, 29 & 30, 2018 (Thur/Fri/Sat)

Hosted by Kansans for Life (1st time in Kansas!)

■ 60+ Workshops ■ 5 General Sessions ■ Prayer Breakfast ■ Banquet ■ Nationally Known Experts ■ Inspirational Speakers ■ Designed for adults but with a special teen track! Attend 1, 2 or all 3 days!

Stay tuned for details.

MISSOURI

continued from page 9

location, with pets in the home, in which Darius can be the youngest child; however, all family types will be considered. These children would love to be part of a family with a dad. Raquelle and Darius would benefit from remaining in contact with their grandmother and foster mother following placement. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services.

Alluriana

Alluriana, age 10, understands that knowledge unlocks the door to many opportunities and is always looking for ways to learn new things! Educational activities are important to this wise soul. Alluriana loves to read everything and anything about Harry Potter! Alluriana is a gifted student who takes pride in earning good grades. She truly enjoys learning and aspires to become an editor or author someday.



Haylee R.

Haylee, age 12, is a wonderful and caring young woman who loves to make others smile. She has a knack for design and enjoys shopping and decorating her surroundings. Haylee enjoys being around other kids at school and at home. This honor roll student loves school and is looking forward to her bright future. Haylee talks about attending college or becoming involved in the military. Haylee looks forward to her life with her forever family.



Keith W.

Keith, age 11, prefers to be called K.C. He is an outgoing humorous young man who likes to not only hear jokes, but tell them, too. K.C.'s sense of humor and bright personality is evident by the light in his eyes and his smile. K.C. enjoys reading, going to the pool, riding bikes, and playing with friends. At home, he cares daily for the family pet. K.C. is extremely interested in playing sports, especially baseball, and looks forward to playing catch with his forever family.



Marissa D.

Marissa, age 5, is a sweet, loving and fun little girl. She is a happy and curious child that loves to laugh. Marissa is able to express her likes and dislikes and reaches for things she wants. Marissa is working on building her vowel and consonant sounds as well as her sign language vocabulary. Marissa can be slow to warm up to unfamiliar faces, but once she gets used to someone, she will smile and sometimes vocalize her happiness! An adoptive family for Marissa will need to be available to ensure Marissa's medical and developmental needs are met. Marissa's beautiful smile and spunky attitude is sure to melt the heart of her future forever family!



Markayla N.

Markayla, age 15, is an active young woman with a mega-watt smile and sparkling eyes. She can be very shy at times and at other times outspoken. Markayla loves writing in her journal, drawing, and listening to music. Markayla takes great pride in her personal appearance and she is interested in

fashion and likes to look her best. She hopes to have a career in the fashion industry when she gets older. Markayla would like to be adopted by a family that would allow her to have ongoing contact with her biological family members. She would thrive in a structured, consistent home with a family who has a positive outlook where she is the youngest or only child.



Ragain R.

Ragain, age 13, is a huge science fiction fan and he will happily update you on the latest trends in science fiction films! He is passionate about building things and may be a future architect. Ragain is a child of many passions. A bridge straight to his heart is through anything Star Wars related. Ragain likes to go fishing or exploring around the pond. He is social and enjoys being with other children, but he also enjoys solitary time where he can let his imagination take him to other worlds. Ragain loves reading, and he enjoys going to the library and reading about the vast world available to him through books - especially super heroes!



Dominique and Aiden B.

Dominique and Aiden are siblings who enjoy being on the go, whether it be with dancing or sports. Dominique, age 10, has a laidback and bubbly personality. She loves to dance and enjoys being active in Girl Scouts. She also loves coloring pictures and listening to her favorite music, especially Taylor Swift.



Aiden, age 9, has a sweet disposition.

■ See MISSOURI page 11

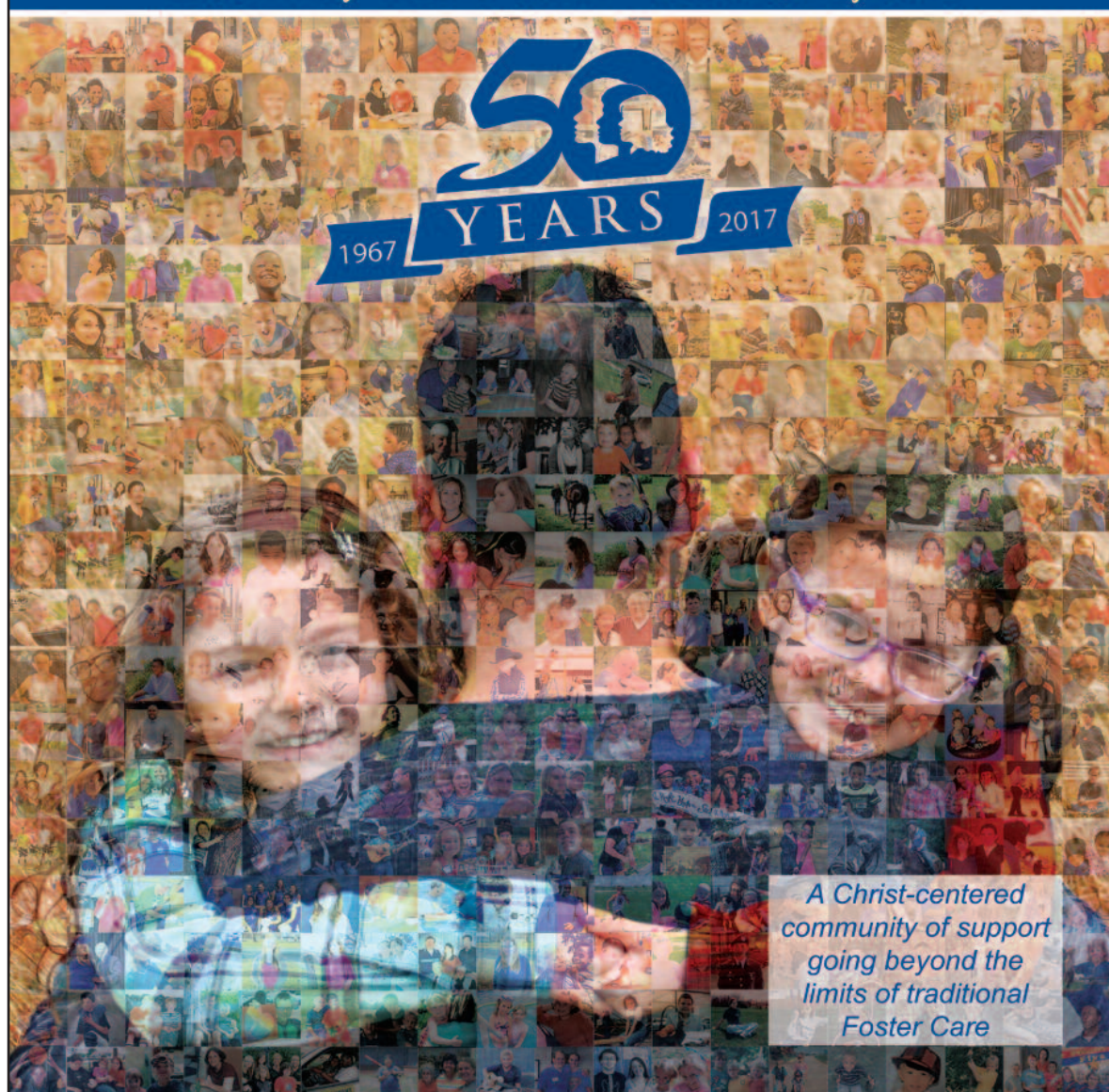
Missouri Baptists.
Partnering with you...
for *life*.



THE PATHWAY

The Missouri Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission and *The Pathway*, the official newspaper of the Convention, are proud to work side-by-side other Missourians in the effort to promote adoption and foster parenting.

Compelled by Christ to Rescue & Restore Young Lives



A Christ-centered community of support going beyond the limits of traditional Foster Care

Show-Me Christian Youth Home
660-347-5982 | www.ShowMeHelpingKids.com

Rachel House provides God-centered environment

We see a lot of women for pregnancy tests at Rachel House. In fact, we expect to see 3,500 women this year! Some of these women we only see once and it's difficult to tell what impact we have had on their decisions and their lives. Some we are fortunate enough to serve through our education program. These women we get know better – we get to hear their stories.

We come to understand their fears, their unique challenges, and their hopes for the future. And we get to tell them about Jesus, who is the one who gives a hope for the future to those who love Him.

Recently, we received an email from one of these women. "Ruth" wanted to

share with us a little of her journey. She said, "Rachel House helped me so much!... I

learned things I never knew I didn't know." Ruth struggled early in her pregnancy with the father of her baby showing no interest in her or her baby, and she had conflict with her parents over her pregnancy.

She tells us, "Rachel House supported me when my family didn't. My parents eventually accepted and supported me. But Rachel House was there for me the entire time."

Our focus at Rachel House is to protect the unborn and provide spiritual



guidance in a Christ-centered" environment. We believe this makes all the difference in the way we serve our clients and, many times, in the way our clients respond. "...Honestly my son is the greatest thing that's happened to me," Ruth says.

"I can't imagine my life without him. I can't thank all the girls at Rachel House enough, for helping me through my journey, supporting me, and shaping me into the best mom I can be." Partners and Friends, Rachel House can't thank you enough for helping us through our journey and supporting us. Because of you, we can continue to support women like Ruth and her baby, Chase.

MISSOURI

continued from page 10

tion and is loving, caring and eager to please. Aiden loves playing sports, especially flag football and swimming. Aiden is also quite the gamer on his Nintendo DS. Dominique and Aiden are looking for a

home that is structured, loving, and can keep up with their active lifestyle.

Brandon H.

Brandon is an adorable, loving, 9 year old who likes to smile and giggle. He loves to play games, and LEGO sets are his favorite toy. Brandon also

loves to run outside, climb and jump! He is learning to snuggle, give and provide hugs. Just give him a little time and he will warm up. Brandon is a very sweet child who is looking for a stable family who can offer him commitment and patience.



SAINT FRANCIS

continued from page 8

behalf of children is to hold them in our prayers. In our own families, we pray for our children all the time - but sadly, many children have no family and no one to pray for them.

Fostering in Faith arose from that realization. We know that most congregations and religious organizations have within their fellowship groups of people to whom God has given a spirit of in-

tercessory prayer. Fostering in Faith ensures that children desperate for "forever families" are remembered and held in prayer by our faith communities.

Each month, Saint Francis sends participating congregations a photo and brief biography of a child who needs faithful, caring people to pray for him or her.

The biography includes a prayer composed specifically for that child to help guide you in prayer. Congregations typically include the material in their

Sunday bulletin or distribute it to their members so they can pray for the child at home if they wish.

Your prayers can transform the lives of these beloved children of God and bless the lives of the families who adopt them.

To learn more, visit www.fosteringin-faith.org.

To meet Saint Francis children in need of a permanent, loving family, visit www.st-francis.org/adoption.

LIKE US! FACEBOOK.COM/METRO VOICE NEWS

Over **7000** Kansas Children in Foster Care

Each child needs a safe, stable, loving home like yours

Churches in Kansas
What are you being called to do?

Please sponsor a child in foster care during this holiday season by donating gifts and gift cards.

Contact: Campbell Vobach
Phone: 913-956-5326



Become a KVC Foster Parent
1.888.655.5500 | www.kvc.org

KDHE License #773

discover
BETHANY Adoption

Considering
Adoption?

We've been helping families like yours adopt since 1944 and we'll be there to support you every step of the way.



© 2017 Bethany Christian Services BHH-310-AD-17558

BETHANY
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

connect with us to discover more



For more information visit
bethany.org/St-Louis or
call 314.781.6363