

YOU CAN TRANSFORM A LIFE TODAY!



A family where they can be

KIDS

I have always loved being surrounded by children and wanted a large family. I had 3 birth children, then adopted a fourth. In December 2007, after most of them grew older and moved on to tackle life on their own, I added Richard, Arthur, and Joshua, then ages 11, 9 and 8, to our family.

In foster care almost 5 years, Richard, Arthur and Joshua were eligible for adoption for 2 years. They have 2 older siblings living on their own and 2 younger siblings who were adopted separately. We maintain contact with all of them as much as possible.

Richard was always hesitant about being adopted and afraid to betray his birth family. He was shy, quiet and reserved. Arthur lived separately from all the others and moved through various homes and programs over the years. He was excited to be adopted and to be back with his brothers. Joshua, who is developmentally delayed, was excited to meet his "new mom and dad."

Initially, the behaviors listed in their histories scared me. I was also apprehensive about how a trans-racial placement would impact everyone. Once they arrived, none of those things seemed to matter at all.

My other children were apprehensive about adding to the family, as well. After very tumultuous years with 5 teenagers, they were reluctant to add anymore personalities to the mix. However, my youngest birth son, after years of being the baby in a house full of older teenagers, always wanted younger brothers. He finally got his wish.

The boys have been here 9 months now. They have changed in so many ways. Now they take much less to none of the medications that they "required" in the past.

Richard is talkative and outgoing and often a big jokester. Last fall

when we met, he got Fs in school because he didn't do homework. This spring, there were no Fs on his grade card. He won an award for being the "most friendly". He also has stopped parenting his brothers and now feels free to go out and enjoy his childhood without worrying about them.

Arthur is sweet with drive, determination, perseverance and, yes, inner anger and frustration. He went from being unable to spell his own name correctly to reading and writing at first and second grade levels. He has won several awards for citizenship.

Joshua is so very proud of himself each time he learns to do something new. He learned to write his name, buckle his own seat belt, ride a bike without training wheels, play soccer, eat without wearing his food, and even to read and count. I was told when I met him that he was not able to handle traditional academics. He can handle traditional academics; it just

takes a little longer. He loves to help and always gives a 'thumbs up' after a job well done.

All three boys work hard to get caught up in academics and life skills. They display none of the behaviors of their past.

They all have many friends and love to be in the community and helping at church. Both Richard and Arthur play

a sport every season. They joke and giggle all day long and, just when it starts to get on my nerves, I smile and remember what they could be doing instead.

These boys give my life meaning and add so much joy. AAN helped me find three awesome boys to add to my family and also helped three awesome boys find a forever family they love, a family where they feel loved and accepted, a family where they can succeed and reach their full potential, a family where they can giggle and laugh, a family where they can be kids.

"I love working with AAN. I recommend them to everyone I come across who has questions about adoption and I look forward to working with them in the future. The people are friendly, knowledgeable, helpful, and honest. They helped me find answers to my questions very quickly and kept in touch throughout the entire adoption process. This was not my first placement but it was my first placement through AAN and it was the smoothest one I've ever had. AAN helped by offering me a home study grant. It helped tremendously with the adoption expenses and allowed me to complete the adoption process." - Alison

How You Can Help

Adopt America Network has helped place over 3,400 children with loving families in the last 24 years – 909 in the last 4 years without charging fees to families. You can help in two ways:

- Share your love, talents and time by adopting a child and giving them a family of their own to whom they belong.
- Donate to Adopt America Network so that we may help more waiting children find their forever family that they deserve.

**Adopt
America
Network**
Special Children Deserve Special Families



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Please visit www.adoptamericanetwork.org to learn more about the 129,000 children who through no fault of their own have been abused, abandoned or neglected. They wait on average over 3 years in the U.S. foster care system for someone to pick them out and cherish them.