

YOU CAN TRANSFORM A LIFE TODAY!



Would you consider adopting two boys who at age 4 and 5 were not potty trained, one of which had 9 to 10 screaming and crying fits a day – each lasting 30-45 minutes and the other boy having major behavioral problems? While it might have scared off the average person, Aaron and his mother, Kirstina, connected right away with Elijah and Ethan.

As they drove home after meeting the boys for the first time, neither one wanted to leave them. Kirstina turned to her biological son Aaron (then ten years old) and asked, “What do you think? Do you still want to adopt?” Aaron said, “They feel like they are already my brothers.” Both felt like they connected right away with the siblings and tried to visit the boys as much as they could while they were being considered as an adoptive family.

Elijah was three and Ethan five years old when they became eligible for adoption. The boys had stayed two years in the foster care system at four different foster homes.

When they first were placed with Kirstina and Aaron in August, 2007 both boys acted like they were starved and would eat so much that they would get sick.

At almost four years old, Elijah was still in diapers. His multiple, long screaming fits were really out of control.

At five years old Ethan was still in pull ups at night because the foster family did not want him to get out of bed during the night. He fibbed all the time and had severe behavioral problems. He also had Poland Syndrome (he is missing chest muscle, has one webbed finger and one smaller hand/arm). Ethan could not count, had no letter knowledge and could not write his name.

Now after being with Kirstina and Aaron for just ten months, “the changes are unbelievable.” Both boys are potty trained and Ethan has been dry for 90 days! Ethan does not lie anymore.

While he did test his limits at first, his mother feels that he truly does not have major behavioral issues at all. He now counts to 29, recognizes all letters of the alphabet and can sound them out, can write his first and last name and tie his shoes.

Kirstina feels that both boys are very bright. She says, “If you take the time to talk about something with them, they remember and want to learn more. They will both sit in their beds at night and read for 30 minutes. Amazing!!!” She feels that the best change is that they both know the Lord now and daily read their bibles. Before being adopted, they had never been to a church or known anything about Christ.

Kirstina and Aaron also both have changed. Kirstina says, “I have always been very patient, but now I am even more patient. I am tired, but it is a different and good type of tired. I feel like the boys have always been part of our family.” Aaron always said to his mother, “I want someone like me.” Now, he feels like he does have someone like him in his new brother, Elijah.

Kirstina sums it up: “I feel that God lead this whole event. I felt like I tried so long as a single mother to adopt. I had called about Elijah as soon as he was put into foster care and because I was not related, they would not consider me. I then searched out other children. I was one of five chosen as a match for a little boy in Cleveland and when that did not work out, I was very angry. I did not understand why we were not chosen until I got the call about these two boys. God knew all along that they were part of our family. I would tell other adopting parents to really trust in God and let him lead the adoption.”

After the adoption was finalized, Kirstina gave Ethan and Elijah watches to always remind them that she and Aaron would “love each of them until the end of time.”

### 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.

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Please visit [www.adoptamericanetwork.org](http://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.