

# FAMILY CONNECTIONS



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## WITH LOVE, FOSTER KIDS GROW UP TO BE ‘AMAZING’

The sound of a crying baby can be one of the most difficult things to hear, even for a brief time. But imagine hearing a baby cry for almost an entire day. Chris and Dorothy Botzum discovered what that was like when they welcomed a 10-day-old, drug-addicted, foster child into their home.

“We had to put hallucinogenic drugs in her baby bottle and when we weaned her, she cried for 22 hours straight,” says Dorothy Botzum. “We got her through.”

Dorothy and her husband, Chris, did more than get the child through; they’ve seen her, plus six other children, grow up to become “amazing.”

Without the love and compassion of foster families such as the Botzums, many children in the system might never experience a loving, happy home.

“Foster care requires special people. The Botzums have a natural ability to cherish each child who comes into their home,” says Kathy Roach, director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania office of Diakon Adoption & Foster Care.

Ironically, the Botzums didn’t start out to become foster parents. They contacted Diakon as well as several

other agencies, intending to adopt—not foster parent—a child.

“Most of the agencies said, ‘We have this child and this is how much it will cost you to adopt,’” says Dorothy. “When a Diakon person came to speak to us, we were so amazed. They said, ‘We have a lot of children who need someone like you.’”

That was all they needed to hear—they became foster parents soon thereafter.

Diakon Adoption & Foster Care has helped thousands of children and youths of all ages gain permanency with loving adoptive and foster families. By offering a full range of adoption, foster-to-adopt, and foster care services, Diakon works to bring permanency to the lives of waiting children.

More than 20,000 children are currently in the foster care system in Pennsylvania, says Roach, so the need for families remains as great as ever.

The Botzums have enjoyed their experience with Diakon and serve as advocates for foster care whenever they have the opportunity.

“We talk about our experiences



The Botzum family today, from left to right, consists of foster-daughter Jessie, Dorothy, son John, adopted-son Benjamin, and Christopher.

with anyone we can,” says Dorothy. “Diakon is a wonderful organization. Everyone is committed and compassionate. They’ve cried with us many times.” ❖

<p><b>4005</b> Waiting children have been permanently placed by Diakon Adoption &amp; Foster Care ... so far!</p>	<p><b>INSIDE</b></p>
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# HELP US FIND FOREVER FAMILIES

## Amber, 16

Amber is a beautiful, insightful young woman. She is charismatic and loves to talk. Amber is very nurturing and enjoys caring for younger children. She has many goals and will undoubtedly go far with a strong family behind her.

Because of her experiences in life, Amber has decided that she would like to go to college for counseling in order to help other children deal with situations she has faced.

Amber has a great desire to have normalcy in her life and obtain her driver's license, hang out with friends, and date before she goes off to college in a few short years. She is a self-proclaimed "neat freak" and would be more than happy to help keep her home clean.

Amber has a good relationship with her younger siblings and it is very important to her that a family help her maintain these connections.

For more information about Amber, please contact Russ McCurdy, permanency specialist, at (412) 244-3083, or [rum@the-institute.org](mailto:rum@the-institute.org).



## Andrew, 16

Andrew is an extremely intelligent young man. He has the ability to read very quickly, often reading two large books in an eight-hour time period. He is in the gifted program at school and although he is in 10th grade, he can complete the work of a twelfth-grader. When he graduates from high school he may want to attend Pittsburgh Technical Institute.

Andrew prefers to spend most of his time indoors, on the computer, watching television, playing video games, or reading. He is very personable and easy to talk to. It is important to Andrew that he be able to maintain contact with his current foster family.

For more information about Andrew, please contact Russ McCurdy, permanency specialist, at (412) 244-3083, or [rum@the-institute.org](mailto:rum@the-institute.org).

**If you are interested in learning more about any of these children, please contact Elisa Esh, director of recruitment and family development at Diakon Adoption & Foster Care, (717) 724-7979 or [eshe@diakon.org](mailto:eshe@diakon.org).**

## Brandon, 12

Brandon, a child on the Baltimore Wendy's Wonderful Kids caseload, is a good-humored adolescent who likes to have a good time and make others laugh. He enjoys a variety of outdoor sports such as dirt-bike riding, skateboarding, and basketball. Brandon enjoys hip-hop and rap; writing rhymes and freestyle-rapping have become ways for Brandon to express his thoughts and feelings in a constructive manner. And if his dream of one day becoming a professional rapper falls through, he would like to become a CEO of a large company and make big bucks.

Finding a family tops Brandon's list of the most important steps to be taken next in his life. He is looking for an ambitious family whose members take care of one another, have fun together, and work together to get through any hard times. He feels that adoption is an opportunity to start over and will provide a chance for him to feel loved and be part of his own family.

For more information on Brandon, contact Matthew Shaffer, recruiter, by telephone at (717) 795-0363 or via e-mail at [shafferma@diakon.org](mailto:shafferma@diakon.org).





## Casey, 10 & Crosby, 12

Casey and Crosby are active boys who enjoy being around others and are excited to live together again. They both want to be a part of an African American family who will love and support them.

Crosby's interests include watching Saturday morning cartoons, particularly those that make him laugh. Playing video games and board games is another favorite pastime. He also likes playing football and basketball, skateboarding, riding his scooter, and sometimes doing gymnastics.

Crosby also has a taste for the culinary arts and really enjoys eating his creations. He has a great sense of humor and is often joking around and having a good time. However, he understands that there also is a time to be serious.

Crosby likes to help around the house and completes daily chores that include cleaning the bathroom and kitchen, straightening up the living room, and keeping his bedroom neat. Although he doesn't have any favorite classes at school, Crosby loves recess and gets good grades. When Crosby is

older, he would like to be a video game designer or a scientist.

Casey is active and likes to play outdoor games such as basketball, tag, and ghosts in the graveyard. Like his brother, Casey also enjoys watching cartoon movies and television shows. Casey especially likes Pokeman and Spongebob Squarepants.

Casey attends special education classes and has an IEP for educational and behavioral purposes. His favorite classes in school are cooking and art, in which he receives As and Bs for his hard work. Casey has a healthy appetite and likes every kind of food, but really enjoys broccoli and French toast.

Crosby and Casey are not concerned with family make-up but would like to have African American parents. They would do better in a home where there are no children or children who are older than they. A family with patience and a structured home life would suit their needs perfectly.

For more information on Casey and Crosby, contact Matthew Shaffer, recruiter, by telephone at (717) 795-0363 or via e-mail at [shafferma@diakon.org](mailto:shafferma@diakon.org).

## Chad, 14

Chad, a friendly and personable 14-year-old boy, is hoping for his own forever family. He loves to laugh and have fun and would like his family to be nice, friendly, and give him plenty of attention. He hopes to have a family that enjoys doing things together, and although Chad likes to be active, he also would love to spend family-time at home just hanging out and watching movies.

Chad's favorite activities include going to parks, fishing, playing and watching football, camping, going to the mall, playing basketball, and watching movies. Chad is a big fan of Spongebob Squarepants, as well as hip-hop and rap music.

Chad will need a patient and calm family to provide him with structure and supervision.

To learn more about Chad, please contact Elisa Esh, director of recruitment and family development at Diakon Adoption & Foster Care, (717) 724-7979 or [eshe@diakon.org](mailto:eshe@diakon.org).



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# HELP US FIND FOREVER FAMILIES

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## Dovid, 4

Dovid is a very special child who brightens everyone's day. He is extremely medically fragile but will bring joy to any home that would consider making him part of their family.

Dovid's diagnoses consist of cortical blindness, seizure disorder, hydrocephaly, anoxic encephalopathy, temperature instability, and chronic ventilator dependence.

Although Dovid is in a persistent vegetative state and is non-verbal, he is semi-aware of his surroundings and does respond to physical touch. He requires medical supervision for his ventilator, and heart and body temperature monitors.

A family who has experience working with needs similar to his and can give him a lot of attention and love would be great for Dovid. Families of any make-up will be considered.

For more information on Dovid, contact Matthew Shaffer, recruiter, by telephone at (717) 795-0363 or via e-mail at [shafferma@diakon.org](mailto:shafferma@diakon.org).

## Franklin, 11

Franklin, a sweet and friendly boy, would do well in a family that has a quiet lifestyle and is able to keep him safe and secure. He has an MR diagnosis and prefers adults who clearly let him know what he can expect. Safety, security, and familiarity are important to Franklin, who can sometimes be fearful and prone to worry.

Some of Franklin's favorite things to do are puzzles, playing with toy cars, and building with Legos and K'NEX. He has great patience and concentration when building and has built some very creative and amazing structures and vehicles. He also loves swimming.

It is very important that the right forever family for Franklin come forward soon so that he can have every possible opportunity to reach his full potential. Franklin continues to maintain contact with a member of his birth family and ideally his forever family will continue this contact on an appropriate level.

To learn more about Franklin, please contact Elisa Esh, director of recruitment and family development at Diakon Adoption & Foster Care, (717) 724-7979 or [eshe@diakon.org](mailto:eshe@diakon.org).



## Michael, 16

Michael loves to meet new people and considers himself very friendly. He does his chores so he can play outside.

Michael likes to watch television programs with superheroes, often pretending that he is Superman. He likes music, especially rap (but, says Michael, only songs without curse words in them). One day, he hopes to be a rapper. Another dream of Michael's is to be part of a band, possibly as a conductor.

Michael likes learning and has a good imagination. He enjoys roller coasters, swimming, cooking, roller skating, bowling, playing video games, fishing, and going to the beach.

Michael hopes to one day fall in love and get married. And for his next birthday he hopes to get a car.

Michael's ideal family would live in Pennsylvania near a park, have additional children, and maybe dogs or cats, and would go to church with him.

For more information about Michael, please contact Karen Knodel, MSW, LSW at (215) 355-6500, ext. 193, or [kknodel@bethanna.org](mailto:kknodel@bethanna.org).

## Robby, 12

Robby is a quiet boy who likes to help others and likes to clean. He is smart and referred to as a “good kid.”

Robby likes to ride his bike, play with mini-skateboards, and play PlayStation PSP; his favorite games are Madden Football and Smack Down versus Raw 2009. He likes to listen to music including oldies, classical, R & B, rap, and hip-hop. He likes to play football and basketball, and cards.

Robby hasn't decided yet what he wants to be when he grows up, but maybe a banker or a police officer. If he could have three wishes, he would like a family, a dog, and to have a good life and be happy.

If Robby could choose his own family he would like a mom and a dad, but he is willing to have just a mom or a dad. He would prefer to be an only child, but one brother or sister would be fine also. Robby would prefer to stay in the Philadelphia area.

Robby would love if his family has pets, especially a dog. He wants a family that will play with him and maybe take him camping.

For more information on Robby, please contact Karen Knodel, MSW, LSW at (215) 355-6500, ext. 193, or email her at [kknodel@bethanna.org](mailto:kknodel@bethanna.org).



## Jamar, 14 & Jasma, 11

Jasma and Jamar are a great set of brothers who get along well together except for the occasional sibling squabble. Both boys enjoy being outside playing sports, skating, and riding their bikes. They also share an interest in law enforcement and hope to pursue police work when they are older.

Jamar is the strong, silent type and is very intelligent. He enjoys school and loves learning new languages; he can even speak a little Spanish. Jamar doesn't use facial expressions very often to show his feelings but he is more than willing to talk once he warms up to you.

Jasma, on the other hand, is very talkative and outgoing. He is very curious and likes to ask questions and share his thoughts. He is so full of energy that sometimes it can be hard to keep his attention.

The boys would do very well with a family that can provide structure but also give them time to relax and be themselves.



## COLLEGE HOSTS ADOPTION PARTY

In December, 24 families from Diakon Adoption & Foster Care's Northeastern Pennsylvania office in Topton attended a Christmas party sponsored by the Muhlenberg College community and members of its board of associates. Families enjoyed food and fun.

Each year the college invites children and families from Diakon Adoption & Foster Care, Pinebrook Services for Children, and Lehigh County Children & Youth to the college for games, face-painting, crafts, stories, songs, and a visit from Santa.





## MORE YOUTHS AND FAMILIES SERVED IN 2009; YEAR ENDS ON POSITIVE NOTE

BY: **LAUREN CONZAMAN, MSW, LSW**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIAKON ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE

We ended 2009 on a positive note, considering the tentative market and financial outlook of the nation. We were able to serve more youths and families while also minimizing the subsidy needed for program operations. Although significant dollars were still required to maintain operations and offset the budgeted program deficit, we remained at a deficit of less than \$500,000. This is significantly better than the \$900,000 loss incurred in 2008.

### Annual comparison:

- Referred 631 SWAN units of service in 2009, significantly higher than the 464 units referred in 2008.
- Completed 590 SWAN units of service in 2009, compared to 397 in 2008.
- There were 73 adoption finalizations in 2009, higher than the 62 that occurred in 2008.
- While foster care referrals across sites dropped by more than 30% last year, in 2009 we placed 112 children into foster care, higher than the 96 children in 2008.
- The number of discharges from out-of-home foster care was a little lower in 2009 than 2008, with 93 children compared to 104, respectively.
- The average daily population in 2008 was approximately 123 youths in foster children, dropping to 114 in 2009.
- The length of stay in foster care remained about the same as the prior year, with about 72% of the youths in foster care less than 24 months and more than 50% in care less than 12 months.
- Similar to 2008, more than 70% of the youths discharged from our foster care program had a positive permanency disposition, either returning home, to a relative's care, or being adopted.

### Accomplishments:

- Successfully implemented the Older Child Matching Initiative (OCMI) grant program, well exceeding the deliverables set within the program. More older youths, at risk of aging out of the foster care system without a permanent family resource, were matched with prospective families than expected.
- Awarded for the third year in a row two Child-Specific Recruitment Grants through Wendy's Wonderful Kids - Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. The grants enable us to search for and identify an adoptive family resource for older youths with special needs.
- We held several successful events across the state, creating more awareness of the need for resource families and family connections for youths in the foster care system.

Thanks to the hard work of our staff and the flexibility and dedication of our families, we were able to achieve great things in 2009. We're looking forward to a great 2010 as well.

## 2010 COMING EVENTS

**May 23:** Diakon Adoption & Foster Care Night with the Reading Phillies

**June 12:** Topton Resource Families Reunion Picnic

**Aug. 19:** Diakon Adoption & Foster Care Night with the Harrisburg Senators

**Oct. 27:** Dining With Diakon - Eastern Pennsylvania

For information on these events, or to volunteer your time and/or resources, please contact Kathy Roach, director of permanency services, at (610) 682-1504, or roachk@diakon.org.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MENTOR OLDER CHILDREN

One issue with which the child welfare system struggles is the “aging out” of youths. This situation refers to teens who have been in foster placement and do not have a permanent family resource when they leave foster care, either at the age of 18 or when they finish their formal education.

These youths are among those who have the highest school dropout rates, future homelessness, and criminal system involvement. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is developing services to help these youths make the “connections” that can help prevent such problems.

One new service involves finding mentors for these youth. Diakon Adoption & Foster Care is looking for adults who are interested in volunteering their time to be a

connection for young people. Mentoring is one of the most significant ways an individual can affect the life of a young person. No special skills are needed, just the willingness to care about and spend time with someone who needs you.

The type of connection required can vary greatly. Some youths are looking for a home where they can stay during breaks from college. Others are looking for a relationship with someone they can call when they need some support. Yet others are looking for a mentor who might have them over for dinner once a month, in a “Big Brother/Big Sister” capacity. The possibilities are endless.



Diakon is currently seeking such connections for our first group of adolescents, ages 15 to 20. Please consider contacting Diakon today to investigate this possibility for you and your family. For more information, contact Joyce Riche, supervisor of permanency services, (610) 682-1552.

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## NEW LEGISLATION AFFECTS ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

Recently passed legislation called Fostering Connections is designed to help children remain with their birth families and prevent them from entering the foster care system. As a result, services are being targeted toward “at-risk” families to help prevent issues of abuse and neglect, which can lead to placement. In addition, Fostering Connections is designed to help keep siblings together in their same school and with relatives if placement is needed.

While these services are designed to prevent placements, the need for foster and adoptive families continues to be high. Children placed with foster families, however, may stay for shorter periods as counties search for “fit and willing” kin able to raise these children until they are either reunified with their birth family or until the children become legally free for adoption.

There are many children in Pennsylvania who are currently legally free for adoption and who have no family or adoptive resources. Many of these children are over age 10 and/or may have behavioral or emotional challenges that require special parenting and interventions to help them adjust to their new families. In addition, there continues to be a great need for families to foster and adopt teens, and to accept larger sibling groups. If you are interested in being a resource for these children, please contact Diakon Adoption and Foster Care for more information.

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## ADOPTION TAX CREDIT EXPANDED, EXTENDED

On March 23, President Barack Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Prior to this law, the adoption tax credit was set to expire Dec. 31, 2010. Section 10909 of this bill addresses the adoption tax credit in the following ways:

- The amount has been increased by \$1,000, bringing the amount to \$13,170 for tax year 2010.
- The credit was made refundable for all types of adoptions, allowing families with small tax liabilities to better access the credit (adoptions finalized in 2010 and 2011).
- The credit will be extended through Dec. 31, 2011.

# FINALIZATIONS

**Eric**  
November 9, 2009  
Philip & Verna,  
Dauphin, Pa.

**Julie, Lilly,  
Michael, & Katelyn**  
November 12, 2009  
Kay & Gail,  
York, Pa.

**Steven**  
November 18, 2009  
Jeff & Christine,  
York, Pa.

**Calissa & Charisma**  
November 18, 2009  
Wilford & Kristine,  
Ephrata, Pa.

**Amaris**  
November 24, 2009  
Samuel & Donnae,  
Bethlehem, Pa.

**Jasmine**  
November 25, 2009  
Edward & Michelle,  
Birdsboro, Pa.

**Julian & Frederick**  
December 16, 2009  
Walter & Karen,  
Fleetwood, Pa.

**Kayla**  
December 16, 2009  
David & Marla,  
Willow Street, Pa.

**Raquel**  
December 16, 2009  
John & Michelle,  
Harrisburg, Pa.

**Daniel**  
December 16, 2009  
Kirk & Trish,  
Lebanon, Pa.

**Raine**  
December 21, 2009  
Joe & Ed,  
Camp Hill, Pa.

**Joshua & Jacob**  
December 22, 2009  
Mark & Frederic,  
Harrisburg, Pa.

**Aubree**  
December 23, 2009  
Andrew & Janalee,  
Fleetwood, Pa.

**Jilissa**  
December 23, 2009  
Francisco & Sally,  
New Tripoli, Pa.

**Tyson**  
December 29, 2009  
Chad & Jennifer,  
Newport, Pa.

**Thor**  
January 6, 2010  
Dan & Cathleen,  
Allentown, Pa.

**Owen**  
January 6, 2010  
Greg & Bobbi Jo,  
Fleetwood, Pa.

**Emma Christine**  
January 13, 2010  
Lawrence & Patricia,  
Sinking Spring, Pa.

**Madeline**  
January 13, 2010  
William & Karyn,  
Hamburg, Pa.

**Ezekiel**  
January 27, 2010  
Kyle & Angelique,  
Reading, Pa.

**Sole**  
February 2, 2010  
Justin & Charise,  
York, Pa.

**Alicia**  
February 16, 2010  
Gary & Cathy,  
Bethlehem, Pa.

**Jenna**  
February 22, 2010  
Michael & Cheryl,  
Mohrsville, Pa.

**Kai**  
February 22, 2010  
Erin & Tiffany,  
York, Pa.



Kay and Gail of York County increased their family greatly on Nov. 12 with the adoption of Julie, Lilly, Michael, and Katelyn.



Julian and Freddy were adopted by Walter and Karen of Berks County on Dec. 16.



Jeff and Christine of Erie County proudly display Steven's adoption certificate after his finalization on Nov. 18.



Thor bashfully poses with his new family after he was adopted by Dan and Cathy of Allentown on Jan. 6.





Happy parents Greg and Bobbi Jo of Berks County pose with their new son, Owen, after his adoption was final on Jan. 6.



Emma and her new parents, Lawrence and Patricia of Sinking Spring, come together with family and friends after a finalization ceremony on Jan. 13.



On Feb. 2, Sole was adopted by Justin and Charise of York.



On Jan. 27, Kyle and Angelique of Reading adopted Ezekiel.



William and Karyn of Hamburg celebrate the adoption of Madeline on Jan. 13.



Jenna receives a warm welcome when she is adopted by Michael and Cheryl of Mohrsville on Feb. 22.



Gary and Cathy of Bethlehem adopted Alicia on Feb. 16.



## SPECIAL THANKS

### *Church holds baby shower for children in foster care*

In March, Jordan Lutheran Church in Orefield, Pa., held a “baby shower” to benefit Diakon Adoption & Foster Care. The purpose of the shower was to collect and distribute basic needs-type items for children in foster care. The inspiration for the shower came from a church member who is also a foster parent.



### *Local family donates toys*

The Byczynski family of York, Pa., donated boxes of toys no longer used by their children to Diakon Adoption & Foster Care. In addition to the toys given directly to children, many of the toys will be used in the visitation room where birth families go to spend time with their children.



*Shelly, Meagan, and Matthew Byczynski.*

### *Eagle Scout collects items for Diakon's children*

Eagle Scout Jared Radcliffe of Longswamp Troop 575 completed his Eagle Scout project by asking his local community to donate new items, such as school supplies, backpacks, baby items, diapers, gloves, hats, and scarves, for children served by Diakon Adoption & Foster Care's office in Topton. He collected the items by placing a bin at Radcliffe's Great Value supermarket. Although Jared's goal was to collect 150 items, he greatly surpassed it and presented more than 400 items to the Diakon program.



## *We're thankful for your generosity*

Your financial support helps to bring together more families through adoption and foster care.

Through your support, you can help Diakon Adoption & Foster Care touch the lives of children and youths in need. From donating books for our resource libraries to offering financial assistance to help subsidize adoption fees, or providing items for foster children, your support is vital. Over the years, generous donations have helped our mission become a reality in so many young lives.

You, too, can make a difference! Simply use the envelope in this issue of *Family Connections* or log onto our Web site's convenient and secure donation form to make your gift.

*For more information on how you can support Diakon Adoption & Foster Care, please call our Office of Advancement at 1-877-DIAKON-7, option 2, extension 21219. Thank you!*



## THE PORCH LIGHT PROJECT: FOREVER FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD

It is commonly known, even to those outside of child welfare, that when children are adopted from Pennsylvania's foster care system their birth relatives no longer have any legal standing, and children have no guarantee of ever seeing birth relatives again. Why not change this?

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC), a statewide independent, non-partisan child advocacy organization began a child welfare public policy initiative: *The Porch Light Project: Forever Family for Every Child* nearly two years ago. The effort is in collaboration with Casey Family Programs, the largest foundation committed to safely reducing the number of children in foster care. The Porch Light Project has set a child welfare public policy reform agenda to promote permanency; and establishing voluntary and enforceable post-adoption contact agreements by amending the state's Adoption Act is a top legislative priority in 2010.

*Please consider joining the Porch Light Project to help advance this and other*

*important child welfare public policy reforms – [www.porchlightproject.org](http://www.porchlightproject.org).*

Even though our state has a “closed” adoption process many of us can point to examples when post-adoption contact between adoptive families and birth relatives continues informally. These informal post-adoption contact arrangements can offer numerous life-long benefits to children when the relationships assure child safety and well-being—and formalizing these efforts could benefit many more children in our Commonwealth.

What if we could help more youth in foster care, who have torn family loyalties, consider being adopted instead of them remaining in foster care with a non-permanency goal of APPLA? What if Pennsylvania had a more cooperative adoption process?

For these and other good reasons PPC is working to advance legislation that would allow for voluntary and enforceable post adoption-contact agreements for children being adopted from foster care.

This public policy change would facilitate the adoption process being more cooperative, efficient, and better for children.

Twenty-three states have already established policies that allow for voluntary post-adoption contact agreements. These voluntary agreements are made between adoptive and birth families, but are then made formal by the courts at the time of the adoption finalization. These agreements are enforceable, similar to a visitation agreement that would be part of a custody order.

PPC needs your help to communicate the importance of voluntary post adoption contact agreements. Join the Porch Light Project so that your voice is heard by policymakers in Harrisburg – [www.porchlightproject.org](http://www.porchlightproject.org).

*Reprinted with permission. Written by Todd Lloyd, child welfare director, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children.*



## AIR PRODUCTS DELIVERS GIFTS TO ADOPTION, FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Air Products, a specialty gases company in Trexlertown, Pa., made a special annual delivery to Diakon Adoption & Foster Care in December. For more than 10 years, employees from the company have delivered boxes full of presents for children in the Diakon program. More than 100 gifts were donated for Christmas 2009.



## PLACEMENTS

### Antoinette

October 10, 2009  
Brian & Sam,  
Lancaster, Pa.

### Madison

November 14, 2009  
Chad & Diana,  
Andreas, Pa.

### Rylee

December 1, 2009  
Dawn & Joanne,  
Zieglerstown, Pa.



**FAMILY CONNECTIONS**

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 Topton, PA 19562-1399  
 610-682-1504

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Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries offers a range of specialized programs for children, individuals, families, and senior adults.

**Lauren Conzaman**, Executive Director  
**Kathy Roach**, Director, Topton office  
**Craig Gehosky**, Director, Mechanicsburg and York offices  
**Elisa Esh**, Director, resource family recruitment  
**Carolyn Doerr**, Editor

Visit our website at [www.diakon.org](http://www.diakon.org)

***A wish from us to you***

A few dollars can go a long way to help the children and youths served by Diakon Adoption & Foster Care. Won't you consider giving an amount capable of providing one or more of the following items for them?

**Books (\$12 to \$15 each):**

Anne Braff Brodzinsky - *The Mulberry Bird*  
 Dr. Seuss - *Oh, The Places You'll Go*  
 Dr. Seuss - *All About Me*

**Clothing:**

Pajamas or new outfit - \$25  
 Winter Coat - \$35

**Arts & Crafts items:**

11 x 18 drawing pads - \$5  
 Glue sticks - \$10  
 Sand of various colors and bottles for sand art - \$10

**Miscellaneous:**

All-occasion gift wrap and bags - \$10  
 Department store gift cards of any amount



*Please use the enclosed envelope to give generously.*