

FAMILY CONNECTIONS



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Two ... plus two ... plus one more Ten years of growth turns a house into a home

Approximately 15,000 Pennsylvania children and youths are in foster care, awaiting a permanence that, for some, never comes.

Marvin and Beverly Smith have helped to put a small dent in that number.

Ten years ago, the New Tripoli couple decided to investigate adoption. Now, with five children in their home, including four adopted, they say they could not be happier with their decision.

“We had friends at church who went through Diakon Adoption & Foster Care to adopt two children and they had a happy ending,” says Beverly Smith. “So we decided to go to Diakon’s information night and see what they had to offer.”

Following the meeting, the Smiths began the necessary paperwork. “It really made us think about who we were ... things that we had never even given thought to,” explains Marvin Smith. “It was a long process for us, but we felt very strongly that God was guiding us through it.”

The Smiths’ first child, Jonathan, was placed with them in foster care in March 1999, legally becoming their son four years later. Meanwhile, Sarah had joined the family in 2001; she, too, was adopted four years following placement.

While the Smiths considered their family complete, they had told their caseworker “that if Sarah’s biological sister came into care, we would consider adopting her to keep the siblings together,” says Mrs. Smith. “We were in for a surprise!”

The couple learned that Sarah’s birth mom had had another child, a boy. Before long, they received a call that the siblings were available for foster care.

“We took some time to pray, asking God to guide us. We talked to friends that have four children and our parents to see what they thought we should do,” adds Marvin. “A week later, we contacted Diakon and said we wanted to go ahead with the placement. We were afraid Sarah would not know her

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The Smith family, from left: (back row) Sarah, Faith, Marvin, and Jonathan; (front row) Malachi, Beverly, and Hannah.

<p>4019 Waiting children have been permanently placed by Diakon Adoption & Foster Care ... so far!</p>	<p>INSIDE</p>
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A look back at 2010

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

We have a lot to celebrate!

Despite significant funding challenges, declining markets, a decrease in out-of-home placement referrals, and additional unfunded mandates placed on program staff to meet the increased demands of those we serve, we had a successful 2010 by the most important yardstick of all—we were able to serve more people than in 2009, and with fewer staff

members and less funding!

Of particular importance was the fact the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption approved continuation of our programming under the Wendy's Wonderful Kids initiative, with two child-specific recruiters in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Additionally, Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network renewed grant funding for 2011 to continue our Older Child Matching Initiative Program.

And there were a lot of other things to celebrate:

- Nearly 100 adoptions were finalized in 2010, compared with 73 in 2009.
- We received referrals for more than 670 SWAN units of service and completed a total of 737 services, nearly 150 more than completed in 2009.
- We completed 180 child preparation and 215 child profile units of service in 2010, approximately 100 more than 2009.
- We had more than 420 families express an interest in becoming a resource family, while we also approved and licensed more than 100 new families.
- Similar to 2009, we daily served an average of 115 children in foster care, placing 91 new children into one of our resource family homes during 2010.
- Based on our efforts to achieve timely permanence for children in our program, 62% of children moved to adoption upon discharge and 16% returned home. Moreover, 60% of children in out-of-home care remained in placement for less than 12 months and 21% for less than 24 months. Those statistics mean that 71% of children remained in temporary foster care less than 2 years and 78% were discharged to a permanent placement setting.

Such progress is indeed cause to celebrate 2010, despite its challenges.

I want to extend special thanks to the staff, families, and children touched by our programs for their role in making 2010 another successful year. You are among the most important of our Many Hands, guided by One Heart, that continue to make an amazing difference in the lives of waiting children and youths.

2011 COMING EVENTS

May 22: Third Annual Diakon Adoption & Foster Care Night with the Reading Phillies.

For more information, contact Angela Sirak at (610) 682-1502 or siraka@diakon.org.

June 11: Resource Family Reunion Picnic-Topton office.

For more information, contact Patti Menow at (610) 682-1586 or menowp@diakon.org.

Aug. 11: Adoption and foster care night with the Harrisburg Senators.

For more information, contact Elisa Esh at (717) 724-7979 or eshe@diakon.org.

Help us find forever families



Cheilin, 17

Cheilin is Hispanic and has brown eyes and brown hair. She describes herself as funny, bossy, pretty, caring, and helpful. If she could change something about herself, she would change the fact that she uses a wheelchair and has medical challenges, which can make her sad. When asked if there are any positives to using a wheelchair, she said it can be fun because she can go fast. Cheilin also believes that using a wheelchair has made her stronger.

Cheilin does not like being rushed, disturbed, or excluded, and dislikes cold weather and cold water at bath time. She is considered girly and has been called a social butterfly. She enjoys taking walks outside, and swinging on the wheelchair swing in the yard. She also participates in arts and crafts and baking, and loves being pampered with a manicure, pedicure, or having her hair done. She also enjoys playing board games with her friends and trips to the mall. She has even been said to be a little bit "boy crazy!"

Cheilin uses an electric wheelchair because of spinal muscular atrophy type II and severe scoliosis; however she is able to maneuver her wheelchair inside and out without assistance.

Cheilin also has respiratory difficulties and developmental delays, requiring nursing assistance at most times.

Cheilin stated she is open to any type of family, but would like to remain in Pennsylvania. She would enjoy a family that has dogs and cats; however, due to her respiratory difficulties, she would do better in a family with no pets. She wants her family to attend church, spend time at the mall, cook at home, and give hugs and kisses. She also wants a family who understands that she may need some space. She does not have a lot of strength in her hands and needs a family who can help her. She loves talking on the phone and wants her family to allow her to have a cell phone.

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



Jacen, 13

Jacen is an outgoing young man with a bright smile. He enjoys watching NASCAR, looking at muscle cars, and playing with Legos and Transformers.

Jacen does well in school, especially when provided with extra motivation throughout the day. He wants to do something great with his life!

Jacen dreams of having a forever family with a mother, father, and pets to care for. He would enjoy having older siblings to look up to and play with. He needs a supportive and loving family who will understand his feelings.

All families will be considered for Jacen. He is legally free for adoption.

If you are interested in learning more about Jacen, please contact Kristen Jacobs at (717) 795-0343 or jacobsk@diakon.org



Josh, 20

Josh is a personable, sensitive young man who is searching for a forever family to be there for him throughout his future. He loves to listen to music and sing along, laugh and have a good time. He likes building things and working with his hands. He is very good at bowling, and can be very helpful with younger children.

Josh has a very caring heart and shows genuine concern for those who

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Help us find forever families Continued from Page 3

matter to him. He can be very helpful and is generally a pleasure to be around. Josh does well in school and wants many things for his future. He is very much in need of a forever family that will help him to make positive plans for adulthood and motivate him to accomplish his goals. It is important to Josh that his forever family be kind to him and allow him to maintain contact with his brother, who has been adopted.

For more information on Josh, contact Lydia Lee at (610) 682-1257 or leel@diakon.org.



Madeline, 16

Madeline is a petite, soft-spoken, sophisticated young lady. She is a prolific writer. A line from her favorite poem states, "Know you'll always find a way."

Madeline enjoys reading mystery novels, and listening to rock music by "Korn" and "Broken Cyde." She likes to spend time with her friends, and loves animals.

Madeline does well in school and is currently attending Vo-Tech for law enforcement. She hopes to be a forensic anthropologist eventually.

Madeline would like a family that keeps busy; she enjoys participating in family activities. She is easygoing and understanding.

Madeline is open to all families, both traditional and non-traditional.

For more information on Madeline, contact Marian Kolcun, child focused recruiter, at (570) 825-6425, ext. 653, or MKolcun@e-csc.org.



Michael, 18

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

Michael likes to watch television programs with superheroes. He likes to pretend that he is Superman. He really likes music and rap is his favorite (but, says Michael, only songs without curse words in them). One day, he hopes to be a rapper so he can wear dark glasses, a tie, and a chain. He also wants to carry a suitcase and a cane, because he likes canes. 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 arcade and video games, fishing, and going to the beach, even though he doesn't like sharks.

If he could have three wishes, Michael would like to kiss a girl, have someone to love, and one day get married. And for his next birthday he hopes to get a car!

The ideal family, says Michael, would live in Pennsylvania near a park with play equipment, 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.



Sasha, 13

Sasha is a quiet and personable young lady who loves to go shopping and to the movies (especially comedies). Her favorite movie is Matilda and her favorite color is pink.

Sasha enjoys reading, doing her nails, and listening to music, particularly hip-hop. She enjoys wrestling, basketball, and volleyball.

Sasha likes school and is well-liked by her teachers. She is a spirited child, shy at first but becoming more talkative and outgoing as she becomes comfortable.

Sasha is in need of a permanent home with a family that can provide her access to mental health services

as needed. Sasha currently visits with her siblings in Altoona, Pa., and would like to continue visitation. Parental rights are terminated and all families will be considered.

For more information on Sasha, contact Russ McCurdy at (412) 244-3083 or 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.

Kenny, 16

Finding help from the Philadelphia Flyers

Kenny is a high-school junior who loves sports, especially hockey and the Philadelphia Flyers. In January, his dream of seeing them and meeting a Flyer came true. Kenny was able to watch them at their practice facility in Voorhees, N.J., and meet Scott Hartnell, a forward for the team.

Kenny was part of Wednesday's Child, an NBC 10 weekly television feature about adoption that helps to find permanent, loving, adoptive families for children in foster care. Former Philadelphia Eagle and sports reporter Vai Sikahema, hosts this program and helped to make Kenny's dream a reality. Kenny also took to the ice with Sikahema and was interviewed regarding his hopes of finding an adoptive home.

To learn more about Kenny, please contact Christine Smith Hoh at (610) 682-1510, or smith-hohc@diakon.org. You can view Kenny's Wednesday's Child segment, which aired on Jan. 26, on the NBC 10 website.



From left, Scott Hartnell, forward for the Philadelphia Flyers, Kenny, and Vai Sikahema, host of the Wednesday's Child program.

Christmas gifts from the

For Diakon Adoption & Foster Care, Christmas is a time when members of the community want to share what they have with children who don't have families to call their own. It is only with their gifts, and the financial support of all donors throughout the year, that Diakon can serve the number of people it does.



Julia Boscia, a Diakon adoptive parent, and her sons, Alex and Michael, deliver a load of presents on behalf of the parishioners of Jordan Lutheran Church in Orefield.



Staff and family of Concordia Preschool bring their annual donation to Diakon Adoption & Foster Care in Tipton.

**Local groups and
Christmas gifts for
Diakon Adoption &**



Staff from Buckeye Partners, L.P. in Breinigsville, Pa., stand among a mountain of gifts donated by employees of their company.

community



A group of employees from Air Products in Allentown delivers its annual gifts for children served by Diakon Adoption & Foster Care.

businesses deliver children served by Foster Care, Topton



Diakon Adoption & Foster Care staff unload a truck with gifts for foster children from the Lehigh Mission District ingathering. O'Brien Moving & Storage Company assisted by providing a truck and a staff person to help. The mission district is a local Lutheran church jurisdiction.



FINALIZATIONS

Shirley

September 21, 2010

Jason and Lori,
Catasauqua, Pa.

Camry, Isiah, & Jayden

September 28, 2010

James and Donna,
Allentown, Pa.

Samantha

October 12, 2010

Mark and Amy,
Easton, Pa.

Devon

October 25, 2010

Eileen,
Nazareth, Pa.

Kenzie

October 27, 2010

Troy and Britta,
Sinking Spring, Pa.

Joshua

October 27, 2010

Karen and Doreen,
Temple, Pa.

Savannah & Gabriel

November 3, 2010

Barry and Lori,
Fleetwood, Pa.

Kyle

November 5, 2010

Jennifer and Paul,
Northampton, Pa.

Eric & Nathan

November 5, 2010

Tim and Lyn,
Mohrsville, Pa.

Blake

November 17, 2010

Matthew and Rayn,
Sinking Springs, Pa.

Shawn

December 1, 2010

Barry and Cyndi,
Fleetwood, Pa.

Zachary

December 17, 2010

Kenneth and Mae,
Wescosville, Pa.

Joshua

December 29, 2010

William and Karyn,
Hamburg, Pa.

Wesley

December 29, 2010

Waylan and Erla,
Kutztown, Pa.

Marcquel

January 4, 2011

Jonathan and Vicki,
York, Pa.

Charlie

January 5, 2011

Donald and Antoinette,
Douglasville, Pa.

Wilson

January 19, 2011

Jessica and Allan,
Reading, Pa.

Jayden & Joseph

January 19, 2011

Jeff and Jamie,
Hamburg, Pa.

Darlene & Jorge

February 22, 2011

Jeff and Shelly,
Nazareth, Pa.



Brothers Eric and Nathan are adopted by Tim and Lyn of Mohrsville on Nov. 5, 2010.



Kyle poses with his new, extended family on Nov. 5, 2010, as he is adopted by Jennifer and Paul of Northampton.



Jason and Lori of Catsauqua adopt Shirley on Sept. 21, 2010.



Ken and Mae of Wescosville adopt Zachary on Dec. 17, 2010.



Bill and Karyn of Hamburg adopt Joshua on Dec. 29, 2010.



Savannah and Gabriel with their new family on Nov. 3, 2010, as they are adopted by Barry and Lori of Fleetwood.



Blake is adopted by Matt and Rayn of Sinking Spring on Nov. 17, 2010.

PLACEMENTS

Kahmorah

July 1, 2010
Lavelle and Rhonda,
Harrisburg, Pa.

Marquel

Aug. 5, 2010
Jonathan and Vicki,
York, Pa.

Eliana

Sept. 24, 2010
Christopher and Amber,
York, Pa.

Jayna

Oct. 16, 2010
Michael and Lisa,
Richlandtown, Pa.

Michael

Nov. 30, 2010
Edward and Mary,
Laureldale, Pa.

Iris & Ada

Dec. 9, 2010
Donald and Mary,
West Pittston, Pa.

Jett

Dec. 29, 2010
Michael and Stefani,
Bernville, Pa.

Dynola

Feb. 22, 2011
Steven and Trudy,
York, Pa.



Jessica and Allan of Reading pose with the judge on Jan. 19, 2011, as they adopt Wilson.



Marcquel's year starts off right as he is adopted by Jonathan and Vicki of York on Jan. 4, 2011.



Judge Sprecher poses with Jeff and Jamie of Hamburg on Jan. 19, 2011, as they adopt Jayden and Joey.

Program helps to answer questions for youths in foster care

Youths in the custody of a county often find it difficult to understand why they aren't living in warm and loving homes with their parents.

To help them answer this difficult question, a unique program called Crossroads helps them to understand who they are, what happened to them, where they are going, and how they will finally know they belong somewhere.

The Tipton office of Diakon Adoption & Foster Care recently began its third Crossroads group with Berks County Children and Youth Services, as a unique way to provide the SWAN Child Preparation unit to youths, especially those who are older, in county custody.

"Several years ago, Diakon began providing this service in a group atmosphere, initially in our York office, with counties in the central region of Pennsylvania," says Joyce Riche, permanency services supervisor. "Starting in the fall of 2009, the Tipton office began to provide this service, specifically to older youths who are probably aging out of the system without a permanency resource. We work with the Berks County Placement and Independent Living unit to identify youths who will most benefit from this service."

Typically, the process involves a minimum of 10 individual sessions with an adoption professional, during which the child or youth can explore his or her personal history and the difficulties encountered, in a safe environment and in a developmentally appropriate way.

"By helping the child make sense of a hurtful past, we equip the child to be better prepared to look toward the future," Riche says.

By having the youths meet in a group with peers who have had similar experiences, Diakon staff members are able to help the children address questions, discuss birth families and the youth's connections, the child welfare system and the youth's involvement with it, and the future. Activities and discussions are geared toward youths ages 16 to 19.

"Unfortunately, our youths very often feel powerless, after having been moved throughout the system, possibly for years, without having any say in the matter," says Riche. "The youths in the Crossroads program are educated about their rights as a person in foster care, so that they can begin to feel a sense of power."

Because of their frequent moves through the foster-care system, the youths often have lost many connections. "But by joining with other youths who have had similar experiences, the Crossroads youths make new connections. By the end of the group process, there is a sharing of e-mail addresses and phone numbers, as well as much laughing and hugging, as the youths solidify their newfound connections."

Crossroads, she says, helps to enhance the youths' preparation for having a permanent outcome. "By helping more youths, especially those older kids who have had so many negative experiences, gain a sense of themselves, we can help them be much better prepared for their future. The power of working through their issues with peers in such a setting is truly wonderful to see."

Riche says Diakon continues to be very concerned about youths who "age out" of the system without finding a permanent resource. "Crossroads and similar programs help us work with these kids in an effort to reduce such chronic problems as homelessness, dropping out of school, and possible incarceration, all of which are strongly related to 'aging out.' It remains our intention to continue to provide innovative programs for children and youths of all ages."





Cherished Children donates gifts

Kathy Roach, left, director of the Topton office of Diakon Adoption & Foster Care, along with Cheryl Heim, center, and Karen Gibson, display items donated by Cherished Children. Heim, the founder of Cherished Children—which collects donated items such as baby blankets, coloring books, and gift cards—saw Diakon Adoption & Foster Care’s “wish list” on the program’s website and arranged to make the donation.

Bounce U hosts evening for foster children, families

In January, Bounce U in Allentown, Pa., hosted a free evening of fun in its bounce stadium for Diakon Adoption & Foster Care’s foster children and their families. Everyone had a great time jumping, crawling, and sliding through the many inflatable bounce structures at Bounce U.



Two ... plus two ... plus one more *Continued from Page 1*

siblings if they were placed elsewhere.”

Hannah and Malachi joined the family and were adopted by the Smiths two years later. At the same time, Beverly learned she was pregnant. Faith was born in December 2008.

Mrs. Smith says that the children, for the most part, get along terrifically. “They do have their sibling rivalries, but they love and care for one another.

Each child is an individual with his or her own personality and qualities.”

In the more than three decades since Diakon Adoption & Foster Care was established, the program—which has offices in Berks, Cumberland, and York counties—has placed more than 4,000 children and youths with adoptive families such as the Smiths.

“We are always looking for families to foster or adopt,” says

Kathleen Roach, director of Diakon’s Topton adoption and foster care office. “If children have the opportunity for a stable, loving family, they have a better chance of growing up to be successful adults and less likely to be homeless, unemployed, or involved with the law. The

love the Smiths provide their children is remarkable. And they are open with their children about adoption,” says Roach.

“Of course, our ultimate goal is to make sure all the children we serve have a permanent resource or connection in their lives.”

The Smiths note that “there may be trials and tribulations along the way, but the same thing can happen” with families in which all children are born to them. “The Diakon caseworkers were so understanding and patient with us and are still there when we have questions or concerns. We appreciate all the support, knowledge, and love they have given us over our long journey with them. We must give God and Diakon the credit for creating our beautiful forever family.”



The Smith children, from left: (back row) Malachi, Faith, Hannah, and Sarah; (front row) Jonathan.

In husband's honor, she helps children smile

Dorothy Mueller smiles easily and often, especially when she shares stories of her late husband, Bill.

As she was searching for a special way to honor him, the idea that she also could bring smiles to children's faces seemed perfect. From that desire, a dedicated fund to help pay for necessary dental care for children served by Diakon Adoption & Foster Care was born.

"I wanted it to be something personal and meaningful," says Mueller, a resident of Cumberland Crossings, a Diakon Senior Living Community in Carlisle, Pa.

Mueller worked with John Allison, major gifts and planned giving officer, to establish the fund. He identified the very specific need for children in Diakon's programs to have financial support for dental and orthodontic care.

"For these children, some expenses are not covered by medical assistance," Allison explains. "There also are challenges with access and transportation to providers. Dorothy's desire to help in this way is a blessing."

Poor dental care presents a host of problems for children, including possible health and self-respect issues.

As Mueller sees it, smiling comes naturally to children—unless they are embarrassed by bad teeth.

"I've seen how children can be bothered by that," she says. "I know how costly and important the care is."

Adoption close to her heart

Mueller's family includes two adopted grandchildren. Her connection to the adoption process is "very personal," she explains, and she sponsored an adoption with a past donation to Diakon. Not only does adoption and foster care need support, she says, but helping others also represents many of the things her husband stood for.

"He was a wonderful engineer," she says, "and a man of real integrity."

Mueller and her husband-to-be met in 6th grade, when both joined the school band. Both valued education and Mueller earned an engineering degree as well as a degree in music education. Bill had a distinguished military career and then headed engineering projects at Amherst



College in Massachusetts. Mueller says they were "professional gypsies," living in many different locales and enjoying "a wonderful life." She settled in at Cumberland Crossings to be close to her daughter and grandchildren, and continues to enjoy a busy life.

"Supporting Diakon Adoption & Foster Care bespeaks well of Bill and his family," she says. "Helping children is a very personal commitment for me."



Family donates pajamas

Sharon Seritsky and her son show off some of the pajamas donated by their family to Diakon Adoption & Foster Care. More than 60 pairs of pajamas and some books were donated in response to the "Be An Angel" program through the *Morning Call* newspaper in Allentown, Pa. As part of Christmas activities, Sharon asked her family to donate pajamas to the drive.

Family spreads Christmas magic at Diakon

It was Christmas and one family wanted to do something special for children in need. Rick and Lisa Ice had recently had a magician perform for a family celebration and they decided to arrange the same entertainment, along with food and presents, for foster and adoptive children.

Once the event was scheduled to coincide with Diakon Adoption & Foster Care's December Family Support Group meeting, everything fell into place. Gifts from donors were received for inclusion with the gifts Rick and Lisa were to provide. A staff member loaned a Santa suit to a volunteer who had agreed to act as Santa.

On the day of the event, which was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in York, Pa., Rick and Lisa arrived with presents for the

children, donations from Rick's employer, and pizza for everyone. The couple also made a personal contribution to Diakon from money they had saved throughout the year to give to a worthy cause.

The magician was wonderful, the food was great, and Santa's debut was magical as wide-eyed children were amazed that Santa knew all their names and had gifts for everyone, say adoption staff.

As Rick and Lisa watched how their generosity touched everyone, their act of support became even more meaningful for them.

A magician performs for foster children and families at the Diakon Adoption & Foster Care Christmas event.



Rick and Lisa Ice



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 at www.diakon.org 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, ext. 21219. Thank you!



Mother-daughter team donates blankets

For the second year in a row, mother and daughter Marcy and Sadie Reichgott delivered handmade blankets to Diakon Adoption & Foster Care. Spearheaded by the Reichgotts, much of the work was done by the third- and fourth-grade Sunday school classes from Congregation Keneseth Israel in Allentown, Pa. The brightly colored fleece blankets will be given to children as their adoptions are finalized, as a warm reminder of Diakon and their adoption. Sadie, 12, was adopted through Diakon Adoption & Foster Care.



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DIAKON *Adoption & Foster Care Forum* www.DiakonFamilies.org *An online community*



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- Share stories and ideas.
- It's secure & easy to use.

Begin connecting with other families now! Go to www.diakonfamilies.org to start connecting with other A&FC participants, click the "register" button and complete a short form.



FAMILY CONNECTIONS

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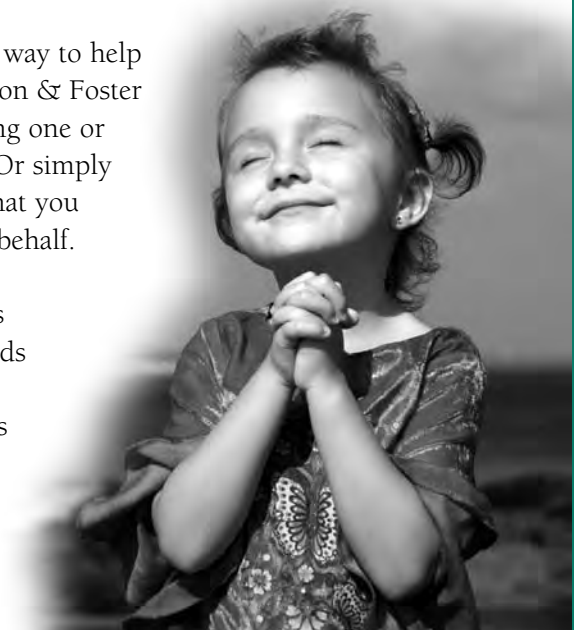
Carolyn Doerr, Editor

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A wish list from the staff and children at Diakon Adoption & Foster Care

A few dollars can go a long way to help the children of Diakon Adoption & Foster Care. Won't you consider giving one or more of these items to them? Or simply send us a check and tell us what you would like us to buy on your behalf.

- Gift cards for book stores
- Department store gift cards
- Fast food gift cards
- New, compact duffle bags
- Wal-mart gift cards



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