



# Post Adoption Resource Center Newsletter Oakland & Macomb Counties

## November is National Adoption Month!

In November 1995, President William J. Clinton proclaimed that the entire month of November should be observed for National Adoption Month, where before only a week had been observed. President Clinton wrote in his proclamation, "...adoption provides a means for building and strengthening families. It places children into loving, permanent homes where they can flourish and grow up to become happy, healthy, productive members of our national community. Adoption also enables adults to experience the unique joys of parenthood." He goes on in the proclamation to urge the people of the United States to observe this month with activities and programs that will renew the commitment of communities to find permanent homes for waiting children. We, at PARC are so grateful for the opportunity to be on this journey with your families as you navigate life post adoption. We have gathered some spotlights on some of our families, asking them what adoption has meant to their lives. Please enjoy this spotlight on your community members. You are in the community every day helping to demonstrate all of the amazing ways that adoption can benefit the youth waiting for a permanent home, and the ways it can enrich the communities we all live and work in.



Information adapted from: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=50721>

Orchards Children's Services

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For more information on the Post Adoption Resource Center please contact us at

**313-530-9746**

Or visit our website at

**PARC-orchards.org**

## Did you know?

Adopted children make up roughly

**2%** of the child population.

Michigan families adopted **2000** children in 2016.

More than **3000** children in Michigan are waiting for a permanent home.



The Post Adoption Resource Center is operated by Orchards Children's Services and funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Sources: [childwelfare.gov](http://childwelfare.gov), [mare.org](http://mare.org), MDHHS



# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR FAMILIES



## Meet the Poeder Family...

When Mr. and Mrs. Poeder decided it was time for them to grow their family, they decided that adoption was the way they wanted to do it. Mrs. Poeder said that she knew right away they wanted kids—not babies. They were told after getting licensed it might be a while before they got a call. They were pleasantly surprised when it only took two weeks! Amaryah was 5 and Taegan was 8 when the Poeder's adopted them. When I asked Mrs. Poeder what adoption meant to her, she said that, **"Adoption made our family, made us who we are."** The Poeder family enjoys spending time together. The kids are now teenagers, Amaryah is 12 and Taegan is 15. When the family needs to get centered coming together to do something special usually helps them. Mrs. Poeder says that going out for a hike, volunteering, or taking their dogs for a walk helps them when things get overwhelming or hard. She also says, **"A good dance party never hurts."** Something that makes their family unique is that every year on their 'adoption day' the family celebrates by going to Chili's for lunch. It's a tradition that started when the parents told Amaryah and Taegan they would officially be adopted there. Mrs. Poeder home schools her kids, and does what she needs to in order to be an advocate for them. She wishes more people would consider adoption- and not always as a second option. She also encourages other parents that have adopted to utilize support groups because they are very helpful for her.



## Meet the Estes Family...

Mr. and Mrs. Estes came to foster care looking for a playmate for their biological son, Malcolm Xavier. They say that with a laugh, because they didn't realize then how much their lives would change once they became foster parents. After fostering for 20 years, and having 24 different children in their home the Estes family adopted 3 boys, Roy, age 19, Jeremiah, age 16 and Omarion, age 14. They also have guardianship for Malik, age 19. Mr. and Mrs. Estes are passionate about being involved in the community. They have had many trying times throughout the journey of adopting Jeremiah and Omarion who were adopted as siblings, but through it all they remain advocates for working with older children, especially boys. Both Mr. and Mrs. Estes have made being advocates as foster/adoptive parents a priority in their lives. They encourage other parents to take advantage of trainings offered in the community to understand the issues their kids might have. They also encourage family meetings and working together as a team, which they seem to have down to a science. When we asked them how they have stayed such a strong couple throughout the years, Mrs. Estes remarked, **"Pray a lot. Thank god when he's level 10 I'm not."** They give each other a lot of support. Mrs. Estes calls Mr. Estes, "Zman the superhero." In the end the Estes' are grateful for the children they have had in their home and even through the struggles and hard times, Mrs. Estes says, **"I will never say that I wouldn't consider adopting again."**

## Meet the Baumann Family...

The Baumann family fostered children for 12 years before adopting 3 children, Kenny in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Jaden in 6<sup>th</sup> and Matt in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We sat down with Mr. and Mrs. Baumann to discuss how adoption has changed their lives and what it means to them. Mr. Baumann smiled and said that adoption means they, “got to have kids!” Mrs. Baumann said, “**As a couple it made us stronger.**” Both parents agreed that the paperwork was not their favorite part of the process, but they love their unique family. One thing they love about their family is the diversity. Mr. and Mrs. Baumann are both Caucasian and raising children of three different races. The Baumann’s discussed challenges and past hurts they have felt as they went through the process of foster care and eventually adoption. What they do want people to know is that in the end it’s worth it. Mrs. Baumann said it best, “**There will be bad I’m sure with the good.-That’s life.**” Mrs. Baumann commented on how she, Jaden and Kenny were all in the same hospital at the same time, long before they were brought together as a family. Jaden was in the NICU at the same time that Mrs. Baumann’s mother was in the same hospital passing away. Mrs. Baumann says, “**It’s just too much of a coincidence.**” Neither of them could imagine their life without their 3 beautiful children. Both parents beam with pride when they talk about their children, and say, “**That’s my kid.**”

## ADOPTION WORDSEARCH



I R B N U P H K E F H S B R W O X G E L  
Z E C I E F L E S D I W P G W P J F L X  
W V U R Q R T R Q A Q J V W D H B E L Z  
G E A J A P D Y O Y V A Y H R C P I O D  
U R M B O G G L C N J W U J N O N M F F  
W O J D H C C J I F R P L V H S E Q L L  
H F A S L H T V T H Q F H S X D B S G B  
K M M V C T D A M D C A S K E Q U N V A  
Q B H S R Y V E Q P L M U P N N I U L L  
S O Z U H I F V L K B I B C B N P V Z H  
T C B Q K T V O S J K L H G C G B J I D  
U Q C H R B B L B L Q Y Y Q G E Y A O D  
K X S R F E H R K O H M X Y J M I P B Y  
U F M U O I T J O E U Q I N U Y X F E I  
Q O S Z C K G S W T X I P R P M W X D L  
R X D R M O R G I H H I J S L J Y E T Q  
X L U F T L F Q P S T E H O M E H V C H  
K G T C G N I D N A T S R E D N U U Z R  
D V H P A R E N T S J E W I E A W Y W T  
I A P U N S R E Q W D P K Q U Q F S J S

**ADOPTEE**  
**BROTHER**  
**CHILDREN**  
**FAMILY**  
**FOREVER**  
**GOTCHA**  
**HOME**  
**HOPE**  
**JOY**  
**LOVE**  
**PARENTS**  
**SISTER**  
**UNDERSTANDING**  
**UNIQUE**

# ADOPTION AT THE MOVIES



**FINDING DORY** Friendly and forgetful Dory goes on a journey to find her parents. She goes on an exciting adventure as she remembers more and more about who her family is and where they might be.



**MARTIAN CHILD** David, a science-fiction author whose wife has recently died before they were able to adopt a child. David decides to foster Dennis, a six year old boy that believes he is from mars and is living in a group home.



**THE BOXTROLLS** Eggs is a human boy being raised by Boxtrolls, a group of trolls that live underground and tinker. An exterminator convinces the town that the Boxtrolls are dangerous and hunts them for the honor of wearing one of the white hats of the elite.



**LION** Saroo is a six year old boy that gets lost from his poor family in a small city in India. He tries to find them but is unable to and is eventually adopted by a family in Australia. This movie follows Saroo's search for his biological family as a grown man.



For more great movie ideas and discussion prompts on the movies listed above, please visit: [www.adoptionlcsw.com](http://www.adoptionlcsw.com)

## UPCOMING PARC EVENTS



### When Medication is Necessary: Managing and Understanding Your Child's Psychotropic Meds

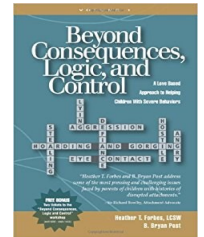


Conference held on: **March 9 & 10 (2018)**  
 Dr. Barbara Walters will be facilitating. Dr. Walters will assist parents in understanding the uses of psychotropic meds, their side effects, support parents in understanding how to advocate for their children during meetings with psychiatrists, and the necessity of taking medication as prescribed. With so many of our children being prescribed psychotropic meds, education of parents is such a necessity to ensure children's needs are being properly met.

Contact Jennifer Harmon with any questions at 248-530-7540

## Therapeutic Parenting Training

Trainings based on the book 'Beyond Consequences'



- Session 1-** Intro to child trauma, Stress Model, chronological vs. emotional age  
**OAKLAND Session 1-** 03/06/18 5:30pm-7:30pm  
**MACOMB Session 1-** 07/10/18 6:00pm-8:00pm
- Session 2-** Negative and positive repetitious conditioning, positive and negative feedback loops  
**OAKLAND Session 2-** 03/20/18 5:30pm-7:30pm  
**MACOMB Session 2-** 07/24/18 6:00pm-8:00pm
- Session 3-** How trauma memories are stored; Change from reactivity to responsibility.  
**OAKLAND Session 3-** 04/03/18 5:30pm-7:30pm  
**MACOMB Session 3-** 08/07/18 6:00pm-8:00pm
- Session 4-** Mind/body connection, improving regulation  
**OAKLAND Session 4-** 04/17/18 5:30pm-7:30pm  
**MACOMB Session 4-** 08/21/18 6:00pm-8:00pm
- Session 5-** How the brain impacts stress and behaviors; Integrating the whole brain for healing.  
**OAKLAND Session 5-** 05/01/18 5:30pm-7:30pm