



Adopt America Network (AAN) believes every child should have a safe, loving, permanent home. We work to place children in United States foster care, who have had parental rights terminated, with forever families. Our focus is on placing children with special needs, such as sibling groups, older children, and those with medical, physical, and emotional challenges. We provide a range of services to bring and keep families and children together.

The Lucky Ones

In 2006, I found myself with an empty nest, my three bio-children having moved out to pursue their professional and academic goals. The time was right to fulfill a long-held ambition to become a foster parent. After completing a home study, our worker called us up and asked if we were interested in meeting 6-year-old twin boys who were waiting to be adopted. We took them for ice cream at our local Coldstone Creamery, which definitely broke the ice and erased all nervousness. By the time we were dropping them off, I knew they were meant to be our sons. Soon the boys moved in, and six months later, on August 7, 2007, Richard and I became the proud parents of Tony and Michael Gill.

Two years later Richard received a job opportunity in Toledo. We found a house with plenty of room to expand our family and began our home study with Adopt America. This time, we decided we were going to focus on older children. Not long after our search started, I saw a profile for Oved and Omar, in Alabama. They were 14 and 16 and looked like they could be Mike's and Tony's bio-brothers.



There are differences between adopting children at the tender age of 6 and bringing teens into the family. Omar and Oved had already experienced two disappointments with families who had said they were going to adopt them and didn't; they were hesitant about saying "yes" to yet another pre-adoptive home. Richard and I knew that winning their trust was going to take time...a happy trip to the ice-cream shop wasn't going to do it. Despite their fears, Omar and Oved agreed to leave Alabama behind, move to Ohio, and give it, and us, a try. I am in awe of their courage.



Adopt America has given us encouragement and support every step of the way; prayer has helped, and so has asking for patience each day as we allow the boys to integrate into the family on their timetable rather than our own. We love our boys and love our life with them. People are constantly saying to us, "Oh, those kids are so lucky you adopted them!". I always smile and reply, "No, we're the lucky ones!". While adoption comes with special challenges, it also brings incredible rewards. Richard and I are enjoying it so much that we plan to work with Adopt America again in the future to add to our family one more time.

Charity Impact

4,100 Children Placed with Permanent Families since organization was established in 1983