

Meet One of Our Waiting Children

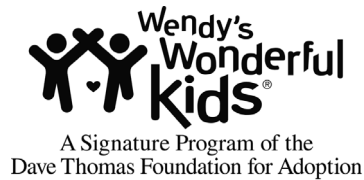


Photo by Rachel Gracie,
Rachel Gracie Photography

Thomas is an energetic teen who loves to be outside! Some of his favorite things to do include working outside with the guys, doing things like yard work and tinkering on cars. He also enjoys bike riding, watching sports and playing video games. Thomas is in 11th grade and is enrolled in special education classes, where his academic needs are met. Due to mild cognitive delays, he struggles academically. He works hard though, and enjoys math. Thomas loves the opportunity to participate in work skills classes including car mechanics, electricity and plumbing. He needs a loving, permanent family that can provide him with a safe and stable environment where he can thrive and pursue his many interests. Thomas has a younger brother whom he loves very much and would like to maintain contact.

If you are interested in adopting Thomas, please contact:

Melanie Schmidt
Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter
Children Awaiting Parents, Inc.
585.232.5110 or melanie@capbook.org



Family Walk

September 26, 2010



Please plan to join us on Saturday, September 25th for our fabulous Family Walk at Ontario Beach Park in Rochester, New York! If you do not live in the Rochester area, do not fret, you can still help.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Family Walk by visiting www.ChildrenAwaitingParents.org and clicking on the Family Walk information to register for the event. Make your pledge in support of finding families for waiting foster children.

If you do live in the Rochester, NY area, please create your own fundraising page, gather your friends and family to form a team and compete to raise the most money to help children that have been waiting too long for a home of their own. This is a terrific day filled with food and fun right on the shore of Lake Ontario.

If you would like more information on the Family Walk, please visit www.ChildrenAwaitingParents.org. We are currently seeking sponsors for this popular event as well. For more information contact Gretchen Wood at gretchen@capbook.org. We hope to see you there!



Matt, James & Jamie led the 2009 family walk.

2010 Friendship Contest Winner

Children Awaiting Parents is proud to announce the winner of the 2010 Friendship Contest.

The contest was open to all individuals, age 21 and under, who are currently, or have previously been in foster care, and those who have been adopted. Individuals who entered were asked to reflect on what friendship means to them.

We are happy to announce that **Courtney P.** from Florida has won the 2010 Friendship Contest. The judges selected her drawing and poem which they felt expressed the diversity of our interpretation of the contest theme. She will receive a pizza party for her and four of her friends and her work is featured on our website.

Congratulations Courtney on a job well done!

To view the full version of the poem and artwork check out the website at <http://www.ChildrenAwaitingParents.org/Contest.asp>



HandsOn Hearts Mentoring Program

"All kids need is a little help, a little hope, and someone who believes in them." Earvin "Magic" Johnson

In October of 2009 Children Awaiting Parents and Successful Pathways made the decision to collaborate to provide mentors for children in the foster care system and children at risk. Since we have joined resources the mentoring program has matched children in the foster care system with caring adults. Twelve have completed the required training and two very special children in the foster care system have been matched.

Many opportunities are put in place for the adults and youth to interact with each other. Through attending "mingle mixers," adult and youth can have fun in a non-threatening environment. Adults receive training (full day) on how to best interact with the youth and learn what to expect from the experience. Children and adults commit to participate in the program for at least one year.

If you are thinking of a way to give back to the community and help children, please consider becoming a mentor with the CAP's HandsOn Hearts program. For more information and details for the training, please contact Patricia Burks at 585.232.5110 or patb@capbook.org.

Children Awaiting Parents wants to connect with you! We invite you to befriend us on Facebook or Twitter.
Call or e-mail us with feedback or questions at 888.835.8802 or news@capbook.org

Help children for decades to come



Royce & Noah

Every day Children Awaiting Parents strives to find homes for the thousands of children that wait in foster care for a loving and supportive family of their own. This is possible due to your support. While we wish that we could see an end to the need for our services, this is simply not the case. In our thirty-seven years of existence, we have helped bring together more than 6,000 children and families.

You can help to ensure that we are here to help lonely, abandoned children by including Children Awaiting Parents in your estate planning. By including Children Awaiting Parents in your will, you can make a true difference in the lives of future generations of children in need. For more information on including Children Awaiting Parents in your estate planning, please consult your attorney or financial advisor.

If you do consider including Children Awaiting Parents in your estate planning and would be willing to share that information with us, we would welcome the opportunity to acknowledge your commitment to the organization.

The following are testimonials from people who have contacted Children Awaiting Parents. If you would like to share your experience, please e-mail info@capbook.org.

"You guys really are awesome - a true encouragement during a difficult process. I really am thankful for you all. Your group does really seem to have the child's best interests at heart." ~ Eileen M., Parent

"We got so many great families from your website...thanks!" ~ Kristen R., Caseworker

A Family to Celebrate Continued

considering adoption is simple, “love your kids and treat them as your own.” He is happy and thanks God that his father did just that.

To Michael, family is first. He wishes more people considering adoption would look at the 120,000 children waiting in foster care as an option. “You don’t need a lot of money - you need love and a patience.”

The love that the Whitney family has for each other is inspiring. We at Children Awaiting Parents cannot thank Michael and his sons enough for sharing their story with us. We cherish the opportunity to celebrate families like theirs and wish them every happiness in the next chapter of their lives together.

Executive Director’s Message



Dear Friends:

2009 was a challenging year for many of us, regardless of our field of work. At Children Awaiting Parents we are proud to have had the opportunity to help more than 200 children connect with their forever family over the past year. Thank you for helping to make that happen.

One of the stories that has touched us all at Children Awaiting Parents is that of a young man named John. He is an outgoing, 20-year-old young man who has longed for a permanent family for over 10 years. Melanie Schmidt, our Wendy’s Wonderful Kids (WWK) Recruiter, advocated for John by re-reading his case file and re-writing an extended summary detailing his strengths, challenges and risk factors. When all resources were exhausted Melanie sent John’s Friday’s Child (a feature done with WHAM-TV 13 in Rochester, NY) video and his picture profile to many different agencies and certified families in New York State.

As a result, a couple from an agency in New York City expressed strong interest in him. Despite having a family identified, his story does not end there. With so many people involved in John’s case, Melanie had to advocate on John’s behalf and remind everyone involved that John’s needs come first. We are thrilled to report that John has been visiting his family on what appears to be a permanent adoptive placement. John’s story is a true testament to the success of the WWK program, as many obstacles have been overcome to reach this point.

The premise of Children Awaiting Parents is that visible children stand a better chance of finding homes than invisible ones. Our focus continues to be on raising awareness of these children waiting in foster care to prevent them getting lost in the system and “aging out” of foster care. With your commitment, we can help children find the love and stability of a forever family, like John has found.

Sincerely,

Mark Soule, Executive Director



595 Blossom Road, Suite 306
Rochester, NY 14610

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AdoptionLINK

Spring 2010



A Family to Celebrate

In the field of adoption there are no Emmys, Grammys or Nobel prizes. What generates Oscar-like buzz in our small office are phone calls like the one we received last fall from Michael Whitney. Michael called to inquire about children he had seen on our website. When we asked him more about where he was in the adoption process, he shared that he had, in fact, used our services before...15 years ago.

Michael and his wife at the time were in their early twenties and ready to start a family. In their effort to have children they spent approximately \$250,000 on surrogates, private and international adoption, and still had no children in their home. Then they found CAP, and in turn, found two little boys that they wished to adopt. About 50 days later, the boys moved in.

Michael shares that there was resistance to the adoption at first. There were concerns expressed regarding race and geography. Michael lives in New Hampshire. Garon and Antwun, aged five and seven at the time, are biological brothers who were living in a foster home in Texas. Michael simply convinced all parties involved that he was the right person to parent these kids, and he was right.



Antwun & Garon in 1995.

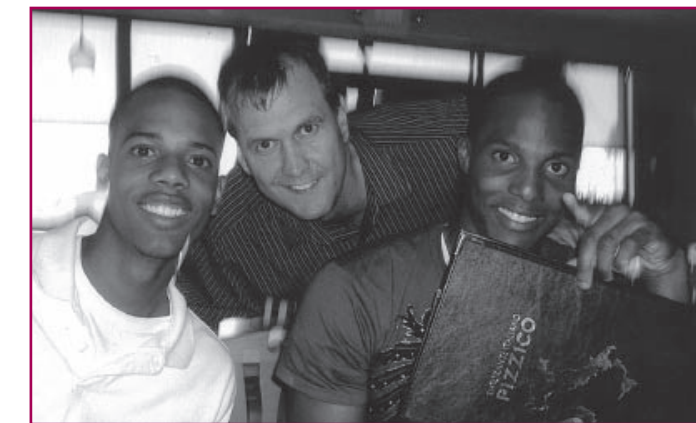
Garon and Antwun are now in their early twenties and both an obvious source of great pride to their father. Michael tells us that he had his challenges but wouldn’t take back a thing. “Adopting these boys exceeded all my expectations. The experience was incredible and I look forward to doing it again.”

Garon is now a marketing major at Riviere College and an avid

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basketball player. He talks about his memory of coming from urban Texas to rural New Hampshire (he and his brother had never seen snow!) and about what a big change it was. It is heartwarming to hear him talk about his father and how he was always there to take care of him. They bonded over basketball, a sport Michael introduced them to, and Garon shares that it was sports that helped him through challenging times.



Garon, Michael & Antwun today.

When asked what advice Garon might give to those considering adoption, he offered that “it’s important for families to know that kids have been through tough times and that bonding is the most important things. Kids might want to isolate themselves but you need to show them what real love is.”

Twenty-two-year-old Antwun recently won his first modeling competition during Charleston Fashion Week, and is pursuing a career in acting and modeling. He also plays the saxophone. Antwun echoes his brother’s sentiments about how his father was always there to encourage him to pursue his interests; they were supported in whatever they showed interest in, from sports to the arts – they just needed to finish what they started.

Antwun looks back fondly on his life-changing move to New Hampshire, on meeting his new family and seeing his new house. “It’s when I saw what a new life would look like.” Antwun savored his first home-cooked meals and formed a tight bond with his first pet “Joe”, the family’s dog who played an instrumental part in helping Antwun transition into his new home. His advice to those