



THANK YOU

Your generous support makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission to find safe, permanent adoptive homes for children of all ages. Highlights of our successes in 2012-13 include:

30 FOSTER CHILDREN were adopted by their new forever families, some after spending more than 5 years in the foster care system

19 INFANTS were placed and are now thriving in their new adoptive families

624 DAYS OF TEMPORARY CARE were provided to 7 at-risk infants who were born to mothers in crisis

83 BIRTH PARENTS were offered free, unbiased pregnancy counseling

154 CHILDREN & PARENTS benefitted from supportive post-adoptive counseling

MICHAEL'S HOPE: LOST AND FOUND

At age 9, Michael was desperate for a new hope. He was living in atrocious conditions—a home littered with garbage, without reliable electricity or heat, and often without enough food to eat. His father was a bully who severely abused and sexually molested him. Every day was a nightmare, from which it seemed there was no hope of escape.

Once rescued from his abusive home and placed in foster care, Michael thought he would get the second chance he was hoping for.

Unfortunately, his hopes continued to fade. As is common, his traumatic background prompted challenging behaviors foster families found difficult to manage. He was shuffled to four homes over the next three years. And in one of those homes, old nightmares returned—he was again victimized by his foster parents. They withheld food. They degraded him. They put up Christmas stockings for their biological children, but not for him.

When CHS met 13-year-old Michael, he had lost hope—his hope of finding a safe, loving family. It was devastating. He didn't bother with hygiene. He didn't care about school. He didn't believe he had a future.

Luckily for Michael, CHS had an adoptive family who was waiting just for him, or so it would seem. Curtis and Michelle were empty-nesters who had time and love to give. They had been through the tough teenage years with three sons, and were ready to commit their strength and patience to getting Michael through those years. They accepted the challenge in hopes of giving this boy the family—and the future—he deserved.

With Curtis and Michelle, and support from CHS, Michael began to blossom. They parented through his trauma. They parented through his behaviors. They parented through to that place in his heart where hope still lived—and he learned to believe in it once again.

Today Michael is a healthy, active 16-year-old who loves being a “typical” teenager. He plays football. He does well in school. And he has dreams for his future—a future with the family he always hoped for.

