



November 2020

Open Arms Connection

Keeping You Informed



Open Arms
PO Box 271
Switz City, IN 47465

YOU GAVE THESE CHILDREN A FOREVER HOME!!



We became foster parents through Open Arms in 2016. We originally became foster parents because we felt called to adopt a sibling group, and knew that siblings had a hard time staying together. Being foster parents was an unexpected blessing; caring for children temporarily while their parents worked on what they needed to work on. What a joy to watch so many of our children be reunited with their families, going back to a healthier and safer environment. We were also blessed to get to know some of the parents of our foster children. I always made sure that the mothers knew that I was rooting for them.

In 2018, we had 6 children altogether: our 6 year old son, a sibling group of 6 months, 1, and 2, and another sibling group of 2 and 3-year-old brothers. The months that we had those children seemed to have flown by! Finally our 2 brothers were able to return home to their mother. Shortly after they went home,

the DCS worker for the other group mentioned that she had 2 siblings in another home, but that home didn't want to adopt both siblings. She felt they would fit in well in our home. We talked about it and decided we'd like to meet them. The DCS worker arranged the placement through Open Arms. The two children came over for weekend visits twice before they officially moved in with us. Yonnie was a shy, quiet 6 year old, only 3 months older than our son. We were surprised that they almost looked like twins! Meniyah was a friendly, energetic 3 year old. She immediately became friends with our other toddler foster children. We agreed that they would be a good fit with our family, and they became our foster children in December 2018.

Over the next year, Meniyah became my little mini-me. She loves to follow me around and help with whatever I'm doing. She even likes exercising with me and doing obstacle courses! Yonatan has opened up a lot. He's become more comfortable playing with other kids and talking to other people. When he first came, he was diagnosed on the autism spectrum, but I asked the school to reevaluate him last year, and they decided that he was not actually autistic. He was just working through an adjustment disorder from all of the upheaval he had experienced. I'm thankful to report that we've seen a lot of progress with the adjustment disorder as well. By December 2019, we had started the adoption process. Once again, Open Arms came through with support for us to get our pre-adoptive training. During that time, we also had baby Zayla, who was born in May 2020. Meniyah loves to sing to her little sister. After a couple of rescheduled court dates, we were blessed to legally become Yonnie and Meniyah's parents on October 13, 2020. God had worked as only He can to answer our prayers and expand our family. Open Arms gave us encouragement, and they were there for us so we never felt alone in our foster parenting journey.



NEEDS



- ♥ **Foster Care - Boots:** all sizes boy and girl, hats and gloves (boy and girl, toddler and children) and diapers of all sizes. Nit shampoo and spray.
- ♥ **Turning Point -** hygiene products, 2" binders (they do not have to be the hard cover ones), copy paper and toilet paper.
- ♥ **Miriam Girls Home -** Hygiene products, mainly deodorant and conditioner, toilet paper and cleaning supplies.
- ♥ **HEbron Boys Home -** White copy paper, card stock paper, toilet paper and paper towels, toilet bowl cleaner, paper plates, hand sanitizer, binder clips, paper clips, white out dry and liquid, 9x13 clasp envelopes, black sharpies, cleaning supplies, regular scotch tape. paper shredder (Doesn't have to be new as long as it is working).
- ♥ **Lyons Office -** Hygiene products, 2" binders (they do not have to be the hard cover ones), copy paper and toilet paper.



PRAYERS/PRAISES



PRAYERS

- † For all staff and future residents as HEbron home opens this month. (November)
- † Contract process of Hebron Home—anticipated to finalize in early November.
- † Former Foster Family who adopted a teen boy who is currently struggling.

PRAISES:

- ☺ The adoption of 2 children after 1145 days in foster care!!!
- ☺ Anticipated opening of Hebron to boys on November 16th.

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