

Jackson family grows from zero to three with no looking back

The home of Jack and Trisha Jackson is quite a bit louder than what it used to be — and the couple is a lot busier. They were accustomed to their routine of farming and working on the rural roads surrounding Ridgway. Jack is the township road superintendent there.

They were working on a new house while living in the double-wide trailer with their adopted son, Taylor, who is now eight years old and who is Jack's biological grandson. The couple of 11 years did not plan on having any other kids. But then in March of 2002, the family of three became five when the couple adopted two more of Jack's grandchildren, Bailey, now age four, and Chloe, two. The two blonde-headed girls now pretty much rule the house, laughing, squealing and rolling around the living room floor.

"They are active little girls, very happy," Trisha said.

Bailey spends her day in pre-Kindergarten then comes home to join Chloe in watching TV, dancing along to songs and playing in the basement playroom. Chloe likes to watch "Wizard of Oz" about every day and "Babe the Pig."

"They are just very active. There are not too many dull moments," Jack said.

Though Taylor is older, he gets a kick out of his sisters, and "bugs" them every chance he gets. But while the girls like romping around inside, Taylor most often is outdoors with Jack.



Taylor, Jack, Chloe, Trisha and Bailey Jackson

"He hangs out with me a lot when we're farming and stuff like that," Jack said.

The Jacksons adopted the children with the help of Lutheran Social Services, an agency that tries to keep families together. The girls were wards of the state and were not able to return to their parents. The adoption was sort of an emergency situation, and the Jacksons had to learn quickly how to raise the then six-month-old and two-year-old.

"Usually the parents have nine months to prepare. We didn't have nine months to prepare for two," Trisha said.

Now the girls are in a loving home with family, and the couple is happy to have them.

Photo and story courtesy of Brian DeNeal, staff writer, Daily Register. Reprinted with permission from the November 19, 2003 edition

News from the Southern Region

Foster Parents on Parade!

The “Twin Counties” foster parent support group just loves a parade. Last fall these dedicated foster parents from Marion and Clay counties participated in three parades. They received first place in Flora, and second place for the second year in a row in Louisville with their “foster pride” float.



This active group has regular monthly meetings with guest speakers providing opportunities for training hours. Bake sales, yard sales and raffles are all part of their agenda with the proceeds being spent on foster children. Group president Willie Miller has also started a food bank. If you want to participate, please call Willie Miller at 678-2837.

Thanks for Helping



Foster parent David Paulding really knows how to throw a party. To show his appreciation to the dedicated workers in the Effingham office and to all the wonderful foster parents in that area, he decided to host a picnic. He pulled up his carnival trailer and provided corn dogs and funnel cakes for all. Contests were held for the children and everyone was

a winner. Thank you Mr. Paulding for a wonderful day. Your generosity was appreciated.

And the Survey Says...

Master adoptive parent Debi Morgan recently mailed surveys to families who are receiving adoption assistance. The anonymous surveys were reviewed and the results for DCFS were an A+. One family commented, “We give the Agency an A+. We have had excellent caseworkers and we are currently getting help with some relationship issues. Our experience has been nothing but good.”

A second family responded, “I don’t find any barriers, everyone works so well together.”

Encouraged by the positive feedback, Debi and the adoption unit launched an adoption recruitment campaign. Adoptive parents were featured on local television spots. The mayors of Mt. Vernon, Marion, Carbondale, and Centralia signed proclamations, which made front-page news. Mailings were sent to churches, informing them of the need for adoptive homes.

The campaign was very successful, but one piece still needs to be added to the pie, according to Debi. “Please let families know that they are our best recruiters, and we continue to need adoptive families for our children over age six.” For more information, please call Debi at 1-866-258-9225.

What are your favorite spring/summer family activities?

Camping, fishing, bike riding and cookouts

Evelyn and Willie Miller

Swimming

Eva and Rex Claussen

Gardening and fishing

James and Lee Ann Frederick

Fishing, picnics and boating

Marilyn and Jerry Albert

Camping, basketball and trips

Teresa Brown

Camping

Bill and Jessie Brown

Swimming

Julia Kemper-Attaway

Camping and boating

Russell and Tami Hodges

Bowling

Chandra and Matt Donaldson

Camping and visiting

Nick and Ruth Zwilling



Famous individuals know foster care firsthand

Tough times as a child did not keep these individuals from success. In some ways time in foster care taught them valuable lessons that helped them later. You can read more about the lives of these famous individuals who know life in foster care first hand at the website fosterclub.com.

Cher

Cher, Cheryl Sarkasian LaPiere was born on May 20, 1946 in El Centro, California. She was an only child to an aspiring actress. When Cher was two years old, her mother was overcome by illness. At the time, she was a single mother, so Cher was sent to spend time in an orphanage. After she was able to return home, Cher spent a lot of time with her grandmother while her mother worked.

Watching her mother work instilled a love of performance in Cher. As a teen she dreamed of being a star. Her dream continues with a career in music and film.

Eddie Murphy

Comedian and actor Eddie Murphy was just eight years old when he and his brother were sent to a foster home because of his mother's illness. Although he stayed in foster care for just about one year, he credits the experience with helping him develop a sense of humor and making him realize how important it is to find something to laugh about in every situation.

Daunte Culpepper

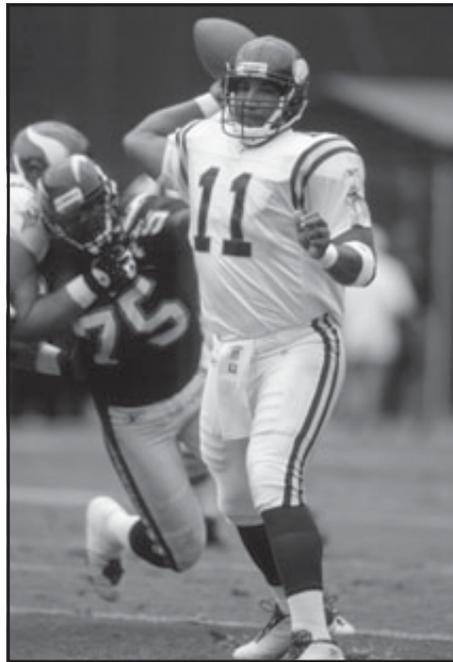


Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Vikings

As quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings, Daunte Culpepper makes quite an impact. He stands 6'4" and weighs 265 pounds. He runs a 4.6 second 40-yard dash and can jump 36 inches into the air and can throw the ball 80 yards. In 2003, Daunte signed a ten year \$102 million dollar contract with the team, the highest paying contract in team history and one of the highest in NFL history.

Culpepper gives much of the credit for his football success to his foster mother, Emma Culpepper. She raised him (and 14 other foster children) while his birth mother was imprisoned. Even after being reunified with his mom, Culpepper asked to move back to his foster mother.

Other famous foster kids

- Alonzo Mourning, NBA all star
- Anthony DiCosmo, pro football player
- Charlotte Ayanna, Miss Teen USA 1993 and actress
- Dan O'Brien, 1996 Olympic Gold Medal winner
- Esai Morales, actor
- Ice-T, rap artist and actor
- James Dean, actor
- John Lennon, musician
- Marilyn Monroe, actress
- Ruth Westheimer, psychologist and writer
- Superman, superhero
- Tom Monaghan, Domino's Pizza founder
- Tommy Davidson, comedian and actor
- Victoria Rowell, actress and dancer

OUR KIDS

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Call with foster parent association news and schedules; local training; features on foster families and community members working for children; photos; and news articles and support all foster families can use.

Southern Region Training

FosterPRIDE In-Service Training

All licensed foster parents and adoptive parents are welcome to attend any or all of the PRIDE In-Service Trainings to enhance their skills and meet yearly training requirements.

Module 1 - *The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children* (Four 3-hour sessions = 12 training hours)

Module 2 - *Using Discipline to Protect and Nurture* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 3 - *Child Development - New module being written*

Module 4 - *Child Sexual Development and Sexual Abuse* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 5 - *Supporting Relationships Between Children and Their Families* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 6 - *Working as a Professional Team Member* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 7 - *Promoting Children's Personal & Cultural Identity* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 8 - *Promoting Permanency Outcomes* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 9 - *Managing the Fostering Experience* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 10 - *Understanding the Effects of Chemical Dependency on Children & Families* (Five 3-hour sessions = 15 training hours)

Marion
618-536-7751

East St. Louis
618-650-3213

Module

Module

ULLIN - Shawnee Community Coll.
May 1 (Sat) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 9

Please call the number listed above for upcoming training dates.

Pre-registration is required for all classes!
Call the number listed for your area.

Educational Advocacy

Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training

It is mandatory for one foster parent in each family to attend Educational Advocacy Training in order to be re-licensed. Educational Advocacy Training is offered following each Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE training and many additional times. This six hour course covers information foster parents need to know so that they can advocate for their foster children's educational rights and needs.

Marion
618-536-7751

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MARION *Comfort Inn*
June 12 (Sat) 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

BELLEVILLE *Catholic Social Service*
May 22 & 29 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
(Sat)

ULLIN *Shawnee Community Coll.*
May 15 (Sat) 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

EDWARDSVILLE *Comfort Inn*
June 16 & 23 (Wed) 6:30-9:30 p.m.

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS *DCFS Office*
May 3 & 10 (Mon) 6:30-9:30 p.m.
June 3 & 10 (Thu) 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Understanding risks in the community

Children in placement may become targets because:

- They are in a new environment and they want to belong.
- They may not have had consistent behavioral limits set by the adults in their lives.
- They may go through a period of testing the new foster parents or adoptive parents.

The adults in the child's life need to anticipate hazards. They must try to protect the child from situations that call for a level of behavior or maturity beyond his or her abilities.

Remember that children can be one age in years, and a much different age emotionally and sexually. Foster and adoptive parents must regard each child's strengths and needs individually.