



Permanency Opportunities Project

“ The greatest need is for parents who will adopt an older child before he or she becomes too old to remain in foster care. Foster children who ‘age out’ of the system without a permanent family face an uphill battle. Three in 10 of the nation’s homeless are former foster children. Within 18 months after aging out of foster care, 27% of males and 10% of females end up incarcerated, 37% do not finish high school, and 50% are unemployed.



The Permanency Opportunities Project (POP) was created to achieve permanency for children and older youth in foster care by removing some of the common barriers to adoption. Adoption is more accessible than ever, and there are children and youth waiting right here in Washington, DC who can change your life forever!

Children in foster care need YOU.

We will help you every step of the way!

Not ready to adopt? Looking for more ways to help?

- **Become a mentor.** We can connect you to the programs that serve our youth. Spending just a few hours of your time each month with a young person can make a big difference!
- **Become a respite provider.** You can give children and foster parents a break by providing a weekend of care—we train you for free!
- **Invite us to your office, community organization or house of worship.** We are always looking for locations where we can talk about our services, show short videos, or set up an information booth in your lobby. Help us spread the word!



Fact Sheet for Families

Find out more:

Visit us at www.permanencyopportunitiesproject.org

Call us at 301-422-5115 or 202-705-8014

In partnership with:



What are the steps to adoption?

- Contact us Contact us (see below) to attend an information night or to meet with our staff. You will actually be able to see short videos of children who need a family.
- Training Enroll in the 27-hr training at one of our locations that is closest to you.
- Home Study Participate in a home study, a process that involves visits from a social worker, providing references, doing a background check and other paperwork.
- Matching Become matched with a child and start the interview/meeting process.
- Interviews Proceed through the interview/meeting process and start visiting with the child.
- Placement A child must be placed in your home for 6 months before the adoption can be finalized.
- Support Participating in free, ongoing therapy will help keep your family strong.

We'll be there every step of the way!

Sam was 11 years old when we met him. He had a previous adoption fall through, so it was hard for him to trust adults or believe that he would be adopted. After several visits from the permanency workers, spent mostly playing sports and taping segments for his Digital Me video, he started to open up. His worker talked to him about permanency in sports terms—she asked him about players who might join the Redskins who were “free agents” and what that meant. “They don’t have a team yet,” Sam responded “but their agent is helping them find the best one.” That was all the opening the permanency specialist needed. From that point on, she told Sam, she would be his agent.

When we began to show his recruitment flyer and Digital Me video to parents, two families stepped up immediately. When a family was chosen for Sam, the permanency workers talked with him about meeting the family. Sam had previously said he only wanted to be adopted by an African-American family. When he heard that a family was interested in adopting him, he became very excited. The fact that the family was Caucasian did not dampen his enthusiasm. The first day that he met his new parents, the family sent us a picture of Sam with his new father. In all of the visits we had with him previously, we had never seen him smile that big. Sam’s adoption finalized in May 2010 and he is thriving.



Mission:

Adoptions Together builds healthy lifelong connections for every child and advocates for continuous improvement of systems that promote the well-being of children.



Find out more:

Visit us at www.adoptionsstogether.org
Or call us at 301.439.2900

Silver Spring, Baltimore, Herndon, and DC

Every Child, Every Family,
Every Step of the Way

**ADOPTIONS
TOGETHER**