

FEBRUARY 28, 2017

## Artistic Boy Needs a Family to Help Him Paint a Bright Future

Brandon, age 15, is a talkative, creative boy who excels at both math and art.

He enjoys card games, swimming, playing outside, video games, Legos and making artwork.

Brandon enjoys farms and would love to live in the country or help with animals.

Brandon is doing great academically and works on staying focused with occasional prompts. Brandon's DHS worker will consider adoptive families from Iowa and other states. Brandon would do best in a smoke-free home with two parents or a single male parent. Brandon should be the youngest child in his adoptive home. In the past, he had to take care of his younger siblings, and he would like a break from this role.

Brandon would love to be adopted by a family with older brothers he could look up to as positive role models. Brandon's potential adoptive family should have patience, a willingness to talk with Brandon and follow through to meet his needs through therapy services. Brandon will need reminders to be accountable for his actions, manage anger and take time outs when needed.

Brandon values relationships, and he needs to continue his relationships with his brothers and his grandparents.

Most of all, this artistic boy needs a great family to help him paint a bright future.

Could you be the one to provide a loving, forever home for Brandon? [REQUEST MORE INFORMATION](#)



**EQUIP...LAUNCH...SUCCESS!**  
**PREPARING YOUR TEEN FOR A SECURE JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD**  
 FREE EVENT FOR YOUTH (AGE 14+) AND FOSTER PARENTS TO ATTEND TOGETHER

This event is free for youth (age 14+) and foster parents. Participants will learn about **HUMAN TRAFFICKING** and how to **HELP TEENS SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD**. Each event is 9am to 4:30pm and a free breakfast and lunch will be provided. Every youth who attends will receive giveaways.

- OFFERED IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**
- FORT DODGE** Sat., March 11
  - BETTENDORF** Sat., April 22
  - ANKENY** Sat., April 29
  - OTTUMWA** Sat., June 24

For additional details see our [TRAINING PAGE](#).  
[REGISTER ONLINE](#) OR CALL 800.277.8145 - BE SURE TO RSVP FOR YOUR TEEN TOO.

## A Decade Later: More Kids Living in Low-Income Families

The number of children living in low-income families has grown by more than 2 million kids in the past decade, according to the KIDS COUNT Data Center. In total, 31 million kids — 43% of the nation's children — now live in families that are considered low income. Black, American Indian and Latino kids are more likely to live in low-income families compared with their white and Asian peers. Young children are also more likely to live in low-income families. [CONTINUE READING](#)

# What I Want You to Know About Helping My Son Find Purpose and an Identity Beyond the Word “Adopted”

Written by Julie Barclay

"Looking back, I shake my head on how much I didn't get when we added a six year old boy from Ethiopia to our family five years ago. On the outside, we foolishly convinced ourselves that everything was fine but on the inside, our son was broken. A year or so into his new life in our family, debilitating survivor's guilt and anger reared its ugly head and flowed into our everyday world. On some days it paralyzed the entire family. By the book we did everything we possibly could for him. Grief counseling. Family counseling. Love. But this tiny eight-year-old Ethiopian was breaking apart and he was taking us down with him.

It was during this time I sat at my counter, beside myself and drained, after yet another rough morning and my heart ached. Yes, it literally ached for his torment and grief. And then it dawned on me, an epiphany of extreme proportions, that my son needed a purpose and an identity beyond the word adopted. We needed to strip away the title and we needed to find him. And then, out of the blue, like Emerson's Law of Spiritual Gravitation (people destined to meet will do so apparently by chance, at precisely the right moment) a seventeen year old Ethiopian adoptee walked into Noah's life and changed everything. [CONTINUE READING](#)

## 26 PHRASES TO CALM AN ANGRY CHILD

Written by Renee Jain, Chief Storyteller at GoZen! Anxiety Relief for Kids

Whether your child has a slow-burning fuse or explodes like a firecracker at the slightest provocation, every child can benefit from anger management skills. As parents, we lay the foundation for this skill set by governing our own emotions in the face an angry outburst. Next time you are dealing with a tantrum from a toddler, or cold shoulder from a teen, put your best foot forward by trying one of these 26 phrases:

**INSTEAD OF: DON'T YOU DARE HIT!**

**TRY THIS: It's OK to be angry, but I won't let you hit. We need to keep everyone safe.** This gets the message firmly across that the emotion is okay, but the action is not. Separating the two will help your child learn to do likewise. [READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

## PARENTING TRAUMA REQUIRES A MAJOR EXPECTATION OVERHAUL...IN OURSELVES

Written by EmergingMama.com

- » "When will she stop behaving like this?"
- » "When will he start following the rules?"
- » "Will things ever be normal in our home?"
- » "Do I have what it takes to help get him to adulthood?"
- » "Will she become a successful adult?"
- » "I wonder if anyone else feels this alone, isolated, and broken down?"

If you have ever asked yourself any of those questions, or many other perhaps more colorful, laced with expletives questions, you are definitely not alone. Parenting trauma throws nearly every strategy, tactic, and tool that we and society at large often use with much success, out the window. And then mockingly laughs at us while metaphorically lighting those strategies on fire on our front lawn.

And all we can really do is watch it all go up in smoke. What we used to know. How we used to do things. The plans we had. The life we thought we were going to live.

Gone.

This can leave us feeling exhausted, confused, inadequate, and sometimes, even, like a failure. The smoke and ashes can have us questioning everything from our sanity to our ability to meet the challenges.

For kids who have experienced trauma, it is important to remember that their world is not your world or my world. The eyes through which they look at the world have seen things no human being should ever see. The body that now appears healed and whole, may have been malnourished, abused, neglected, or worse. Even if our children consciously forget the trauma they have endured, their bodies and brains remember. Even if they look perfectly healthy on the outside, there are scars on the inside. [CONTINUE READING](#)