



The Mini Page

Issue 46, 2015

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Talking turkey

Finding a Way Home



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Did your family have a birthday party for you this year? Will you share a big dinner or other traditions with grandparents and other relatives on Thanksgiving?

Kids in foster care miss out on some of these family events that may seem normal to you.

November is National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is Nov. 21 this year.



The Mini Page learned more about foster care and adoption by speaking with experts at the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

All about adoption

Some children are **adopted**, or welcomed into a new family, when they are just babies. They may have been born in another country or state, or near where their adoptive family lives.

Other kids may become available for adoption because of something that happens in their birth family. For example, a parent may die or be in trouble with the law. Police might remove kids from a home that they believe is unsafe or where the parents aren't taking good care of them.

In these types of cases, children enter **foster care**. This means that while they're waiting for their home situation to improve or for a family to adopt them, kids temporarily stay with a foster family.

Foster families promise to take care of a child until he or she can move back home or be permanently adopted.

Dave's story

If you've ever eaten at a Wendy's restaurant, you've helped foster kids. That's because the founder of Wendy's, Dave Thomas, started the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in 1992.



Dave Thomas

Dave was adopted as a baby, but his mom died when he was just 2 years old. He grew up with his adopted dad, who moved around a lot. Dave grew to understand how foster kids can feel like they don't have any roots. He said, "Children waiting in foster care are *our* responsibility."

Be a good friend

Imagine how you might feel if you suddenly couldn't live with your family. Even if life at home had been upsetting, it would be hard to adjust to being away from parents and siblings.

You may know kids who are living with a foster family. Some children don't tell their friends that they are in foster care. They might feel ashamed or afraid to share that information.

If you have a friend who's in foster care and doesn't want to talk about it, be kind. Don't tease a classmate or announce private information about him or her. Experts say foster children will share their stories with others when they feel safe.

Helping kids

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption works to find loving homes for children waiting in foster care.

Wendy's raises money and awareness through programs in its restaurants. For example, First Moment cups from Wendy's tell powerful stories about foster care adoption. People can also buy a Frosty key tag for \$1 to get free junior Frostys for a year. The money from the key tags also goes to the foundation.

Olivia's story

Olivia had been in seven foster homes before she was adopted by Lorie and Dwain. She is a child who has special needs, and she was 10 years old when she found her forever family.



photos courtesy Wendy's

"She doesn't have to worry about moving again, what school she will attend, or even who loves her most. Now, there is no question who she belongs to," her mom says.

Olivia's First Moment cup tells about her first vacation to the ocean with her forever family.

Resources



On the Web:

- wendys.com/adoption
- davethomasfoundation.org

At the library:

- "Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care" by Jennifer Wilgocki
- "What's a Foster Family" by Anne Evans

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of adoption are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ADJUST, ADOPTION, CARE, CHANGE, CHILD, DAVE, FAMILY, FOSTER, FRIEND, HOME, LOVE, MONTH, PROMISE, ROOTS, SAFE, TEMPORARY, THOMAS, TRADITIONS, WENDYS.

G	B	T	S	U	J	D	A	M	S	Y	D	N	E	W
S	A	F	E	D	D	F	E	J	R	L	N	V	Q	R
B	V	D	A	L	O	G	L	A	X	O	O	C	C	M
Y	T	V	I	S	N	W	R	V	I	L	G	S	A	D
L	E	H	T	A	R	O	O	T	S	G	A	H	R	N
I	C	E	H	Z	P	H	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	E
M	R	C	I	M	Q	O	E	M	O	H	T	V	B	I
A	L	D	E	C	D	M	N	H	T	N	O	M	E	R
F	G	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	S	J	H	F

Cook's Corner

Pumped-Up Pumpkin

You'll need:

- 1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin
- 1 (12-ounce) can fat-free evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup sugar or granulated sugar substitute

- 1/2 cup liquid egg substitute
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tablespoon honey
- whipped topping



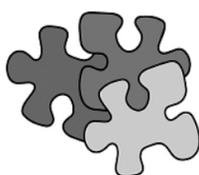
What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Combine all ingredients except whipped topping in a large bowl. Stir to mix well.
3. Pour into a medium-sized baking dish.
4. Bake for 45 minutes until set.
5. Spoon on whipped topping as desired. Makes 8 servings.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of giving to others.



ihacrty _____
isornleipsiby _____
ynome _____
nadtoe _____

Answers: charity, responsibility, money, donate.

Mini Jokes



Thomas: Where can you find a lot of dancing turkeys?
Terry: At the "fowl" ball!

Eco Note



The things we use are all made from materials that come from the Earth. Even if you don't need them anymore, someone else might. Go through your stuff and find things to donate to local hospitals, libraries or homeless shelters. Pass it on!

adapted with permission from "The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by The Earthworks Group, Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com)

Thank You



The Mini Page thanks Rita Soronen, president and CEO of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and Liz Geraghty, Wendy's vice president of brand marketing, for help with this issue.

Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html

The **Mini Spy Booklet** features 48 of your favorite puzzles from The Mini Page! Help Mini Spy and other classic characters from The Mini Page find hidden objects from a list of clues. The 8.5x11-inch booklet is just \$4, plus \$1 shipping and handling.

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