



The Joy of Adopting an Older Child

We are Andrew and Michelle and we are blessed to have seven incredible children. Six of our children are adopted. We have traveled to China, Ethiopia and the Philippines to find our sons and daughters. Our latest addition, Julie, seemed to find us. Michelle saw a post about an eleven-year-old girl with Down syndrome who needed a forever family on social media. She “followed” the post, hoping to see the “Child has found her family!” update, but it never came. We were not thinking of expanding our family again at the time but from the moment we inquired about this little girl, we knew she was meant to be our daughter. Julie

was placed with our family in June 2018 and she became officially ours in January 2019. Julie came to us barely able to express a single thought or



feeling clearly. Being that five of our children are deaf and use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate, Julie started to pick up signs in order to communicate with her new forever siblings. Now, nine months later she is fully communicating in ASL- she has even interpreted for her deaf siblings! We know what Julie is thinking and feeling. She has a freedom to express herself that she never knew before. Watching her interact with our family and others is a joy unlike any other. We cannot imagine our family without her and are so blessed to have Julie as our daughter and sister. She is incredibly loved.

Fun Fact

Most people know that the National Down Syndrome Adoption Network (NDSAN) assists with the private adoptions of newborns with Down syndrome. But did you know that the NDSAN also helps children with Down syndrome who are in foster care find their forever family? The NDSAN is currently supporting 5 children and teens who are in foster care and in desperate need of a home. [Click here](#) to learn more about them.

Adoption 101

How much does an adoption cost? Adoption costs can range from no fee to more than \$20,000. Most private, domestic, special needs adoptions range from \$12,-15,000. However, adopting a child in foster care often requires little to no fee. In addition, the adopting family may receive a monthly stipend/subsidy to help care for the child.



New Way to Support Adopting Families

To better support adoptive families and lessen the financial burden of adoption, the NDSAN is now able to provide adoptive family grants. Families who adopt a child with the assistance of the NDSAN are eligible to apply after they receive a placement of child. The grant fund will pay up to 50% of a family's placement fees, with a maximum grant of \$2500. If you would like to donate to the Adoptive Family Grants program, click here (www.ndsan.org/donate) and select the NDSAN Family Adoption Grant Fund option. *We are incredibly grateful to the many donors who make this possible.*

follow us

donate

our work

National Down Syndrome Adoption Network

a program provided by the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati

4623 Wesley Avenue, Suite A Cincinnati, Ohio 45212

513-709-1751 • stephanie@ndsan.org