

Adoption Services is a child-focused service based on the philosophy that every child has the right to a loving, nurturing, and safe family.

Resource Exchange for Adoptable Children in Tennessee (REACT)

The Resource Exchange for Adoptable Children in

Joyce was born with a genetic disease neurofibromatosis (commonly known as the Elephant Man's disease). From this disease, Joyce suffered many learning disorders and her IQ was just 68. Her birth father died when Joyce was nine. Joyce's mother's parental rights were terminated in 1998. Joyce came into custody desperately wanting a home. She was alone on her 15th birthday, so the DCS regional office had an office party to help her celebrate. It seemed hopeless because of the many things going against her, but a wonderful couple from East Tennessee who, like Joyce, had also had many tragic events happen in their lives, seemed to be empathetic and understanding of the challenge that Joyce presented. They saw her picture in the newspaper one Sunday, and quickly completed all the required work to adopt her. Joyce celebrated her 16th birthday with the family and was placed for adoption with them in June 1999.

Tennessee (REACT) is operated through a contract with Family and Children's Services. The goal of REACT is to bring children and families together through adoption.

In order to accomplish this goal, REACT maintains a statewide computerized listing of: 1) all children awaiting families by adoption; and 2) all families with approved home studies who are available to parent. REACT uses the computerized information to generate adoptive placement suggestions based on the specific needs of individual children.

REACT publishes a newsletter, Adoption Connections, three times yearly, featuring waiting children and successful adoptive families, as well as issues of interest in adoption. The TAP (Tennessee Adoption Profiles) book, featuring the photos and profiles of children shown on this website, is also published by REACT. It is made available to all DCS offices and offered to other agencies, organizations or interested persons for a fee of \$15.

In November 1998, the Department began featuring waiting children on the Department website, "Tennessee Adoption Profiles." Pictures and profile information of children are available by visiting www.state.tn.us/youth/adoption. Included in the profile information is a contact person for the adoption team serving the child. Children remain featured on the profiles photo listing until they receive placement. Information about these children is