



MAP Family Newsletter March 2018

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Adoption Tax Credit Link

**Article: "There are families, but not enough want to take
a risk on a wounded child"**

**These Two Amazing Girls are searching for
their Forever Family - Is is YOU?**

Meet Corie!

Meet Delilah!



Adoption Tax Credit for 2017 Taxes

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What Adoption Is When You Parent Kids From Hard Places

By Erin J (<https://themighty.com/author/erin-j/>)

Adoption is the seed planted in your heart the first time you hear of children without a home. It's the moment seared into your heart when you saw the face of a child and you knew they were yours.

Adoption is love at first sight, and scared to death. It's wanting to run away and never say goodbye all at once.

Adoption is coming home with your new child for the first time. Its surreal and amazing. Your world collided with theirs and now you are forever intertwined.

Adoption is the late night researching of attachment disorders, trauma, fetal alcohol syndrome and pouring your worries out in online support groups so you can have the strength to get up in the morning and try again.

Adoption is having your eyes forever opened to the fact that this world is full of pain, suffering and injustice. This precious child you love so much is now safe, wanted and loved, but you know now there are millions who are not. Their sad faces and hollow eyes haunt you. "Can you find us a family?" will echo in your memory forever because you once thought adoption was like a puzzle with each child fitting into a family. Now you know it's not true. There are families, but not enough want to take a risk on a wounded child.

Adoption is having the rose colored glasses ripped from your face because you thought adoption was a fairy tale, but instead, you have realized its a battlefield. Not everyone can do this. It's hard. It's messy. It will require things from you that you could never have imagined.

Adoption is knowing that children are not "lucky." Losing their first family is not lucky; it's unimaginable, heart wrenching loss that never, ever goes away. It's knowing they may call someone else mom, and being OK with it.

Adoption is worrying about your child until 2am, wondering if you've tried hard enough, second guessing everything. It's worrying you

aren't spending enough time worrying about your other kids because you are so worried about the one. It's wondering if things will ever get better. Will any of us actually be OK?

Adoption is advocating for your child to receive therapies, special education evaluations and medical treatment. It's sitting stoic and strong in IEP meetings, then crying all the way home. It's emails and phone calls to advocates and social workers, begging for help. It's watching time tick away from a child who already started behind the clock. It's feeling like you are failing, and hating how broken the system is.

Adoption is entering a world so different from the one you lived in before that it's hard to relate to anyone anymore. People talk about being upset their favorite show got cancelled while you are re-reading a 35 page neuropsychological evaluation through tear filled eyes. Adoption is feeling misunderstood. People wonder why you are so edgy, defensive and unavailable these days. They don't see the late nights, the trauma behaviors, the crying every day over school, endless meetings, judgmental teachers and never ending therapies.

Adoption is feeling as if you can never ask for help. After all, you wanted this, and people warned you it would be hard. Admitting that some days it's just too much would be admitting you're feeling like a failure — wouldn't it? Or even worse, would you be admitting you can't parent this child?

Adoption is joy. It's the first time your child draws a picture of your family with themselves in it. It's that first little note that says, "I love you, mom."

Adoption is finding out who your real friends are and being indescribably grateful for them while being far too busy to show it.

Adoption is finding a whole new tribe of people to connect with. They may be online, but adoptive moms have your back like no one else in this world. They will fundraise for you, cheer for you, send your kids gifts from states away, call in pizza to your house and give you a safe space to vent without judgement. They *get it* like no one else and they understand why we all choose to do it again, and again and again.

Adoption will expose the worst parts of you that you never wanted anyone to see. You will be forced to deal with past hurts in your own life so you can help your kids deal with theirs.

Adoption is pain and loss mixed with healing and redemption. It's the best and the worst of humanity at the same time. It's wishing a person you may never meet would have had enough support in their life to lovingly parent the child you now call yours.

Adoption is knowing you are not a "special person." You learn something new every day you wish you had known years ago. You cry, research, cry, advocate, cry, go to therapy, cry, and try, try again tomorrow! You are a mom, and moms do anything for their kids.

Adoption is making it through the adjustment period and coming out on the other side. Maybe years have passed full of days that felt like they'd never end, but you can finally see your child is healing. Hope turns to excitement as the good days begin to outweigh the bad. Eventually a feeling of normalcy is reached, and you remember what it feels like to breathe again.

Adoption is knowing love doesn't care what color your skin is or if your eyes match. Love opens its doors, its heart and its arms. Love says, "I want you for who you are now and whatever you will become." Love sees past the behavior and says, "I hear you." Love sees the worst, but never gives up.

Adoption is love.



Corie is looking for her Mom! Is it You?



Corie is a beautiful 12 year old girl with eyes that sparkle!

Though she is sometimes shy when meeting new people, once she is comfortable you will get to see that she is intelligent, thoughtful, artistic, and loves to play practical jokes on people.

A girl who can easily entertain herself with reading or craft projects, Corie also loves to ride her bike and go swimming.

Corie dreams of being adopted by a single, African American mom and is ready and waiting to be part of a Forever Family!

Please send your home study submissions for Corie to:

Shawn White, LSW
ICWRTC
Wednesday's Child Recruitment Coordinator

Swhite52@ewu.edu



Family is Important to Delilah!



Delilah is a tall and beautiful teen who is ready for a forever family. The first thing people notice when they meet Delilah is her big bright smile that is contagious. Delilah is a girlie-girl. She likes to wear lip-gloss, nail polish, headbands and

jewelry with her matching outfits. Delilah is outgoing and fun to be around. When you are around her, she likes to say things that will make you laugh. She said some of her favorite things to do are dancing, drawing and polishing her fingernails. Delilah is very helpful around the house. She likes to wash dishes, vacuum, sweep, mop and even clean her room. If she is not doing her chores, she is helping in the kitchen. Delilah said she can make pancakes, eggs, cookies, cupcakes, and grilled cheese sandwiches. She loves eating what she cooks. Hot wings, pizza and macaroni are some other things she loves to eat, but has not learned to cook them yet. When you ask Delilah about school, she will tell you she likes school. She said Science is her favorite class. Delilah said she makes her highest grade in Gym. She said she loves playing volleyball in gym class. Delilah is a loving and caring child that likes to bring joy to everyone.

Delilah will do well in a home that will provide love, structure, consistency and a sense of belonging. Being a part of a family is very important for Delilah.

Please send your home study submissions for Delilah to:

Edna Green
