

Children's Home Society Looks For Black Parents

For many children, life is a series of revolving doors -- in and out of foster homes without a sense of belonging to a family. The Children's Home Society works to find homes for black children because there are so many waiting for adoptive homes.

Forty-five percent of the children in foster care awaiting adoption in North Carolina are black. Children available for adoption range in age from infancy to about age 14. These children have "special needs" because some of them have emotional or physical handicaps that require special atten-

tion. Some have several brothers and sisters who must be kept together when placed in an adoptive home and others are all alone.

Often, the greatest handicap is the child's age. It is not always easy to find homes for children after age 14, although they still need the support and love a family can offer. Through adoption, these children can learn to feel the pride of family membership, the security of a permanent family and the love that is only possible when a family feels commitment to a child.

The Children's Home Society of North Carolina

cooperates with other agencies through an Inter-Agency Placement Program (IAPP) to find adoptive homes for the many black children across the state, who now live in foster care. In the IAPP, the agency works with departments of social services and other private groups to find homes from a wide range of sources.

No matter where you live in North Carolina, The Children's Home Society can help you increase the size of your family through adoption. For most families, there is not a long waiting period to adopt

black infants and children. Caseworkers at the agency will begin work immediately with couples who wish to adopt.

Couples do not have to be rich or live in a large house. Some guidelines used by the agency for couples to adopt a black child are: have sufficient income to support another child, room enough in their home for another child and to be young enough to see the child grow up.

Last year, The Children's

Home Society placed 45 children with "special needs" in adoptive homes through the IAPP. Since The Children's Home Society began working with the IAPP in 1950, 731 children have been placed in adoptive homes.

At The Children's Home Society, there are no adoption fees for couples who adopt a black child. The Children's Home Society is supported through the United Way, grants, foundations and individual con-

tributions.

The Children's Home Society is North Carolina's oldest statewide adoption agency. It has offices in Asheville, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Jacksonville, Raleigh and Wilmington.

Persons interested in adopting a black child should contact The Children's Home Society in Greensboro at 274-1538 or write them at P.O. Box 6587, Greensboro, N.C. 27405.

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