

Wanted: Loving, Adoptive Families To Open Their Hearts To Older Black Boys

By Loretta Manago
Post Managing Editor

For Reggie, Omar, Dwayne and brothers Cory and Allen, there is no warm, loving, home for them to come to when school is over. There is no mother who greets them with fresh baked cookies nor a caring father who will take the time to throw some balls with them.

Being orphans, Reggie, Omar, Dwayne, Cory, and Allen can only dream about a stable home life. And more realistically, being older, black boys, the chance of their dreams becoming a reality are even bleaker.

Unfortunately, when couples or single adults begin thinking of adoption, they think of babies. Many people don't want to deal with the "already formed personalities" of an older child. By taking the option of adopting a younger child, a prospective parent may find himself or herself on a waiting list for quite some time. And while they're waiting for that cute little bundle of joy, they may be missing out on a larger bundle of joy that a older child could bring.

Take Reggie for example. At age 10 Reggie is described as bright, healthy and active. Already he has received an award in school.

What Reggie needs most is a sense of stability. Too many times in his short life he has had to move and has been disappointed when the prospects of becoming adopted did not work out. Anyone interested in adopting Reggie should be patient and understanding. Trust does not come easy to a child who has been abused by his mother. Reggie needs parents who will take pride in his strengths and help him to take pride in himself.

Then there's Omar. His big, wide, beaming smile should be enough to



Dwayne

capture anyone's heart. Healthy and active, Omar has no problems in getting along with other children, nor does he mind playing by himself.

Like any child his age, Omar loves to watch tv and playing with toys. But his biggest thrill is getting attention from his foster father. Unlike most children his age, Omar loves doing chores and keeping his room clean.

In school, Omar's teacher says that he does well when he receives a great deal of attention and praise. He is currently repeating the first grade and psychological testing show that Omar may have some learning difficulties.

His adoptive parents should be able to give Omar a much needed sense of security and love. Also, they will have to read to him, seeing that being read to aloud is something that Omar really enjoys.

While most boys at 14 begin to wish for driving license Dwayne's



Cory

greatest wish is to have a dad. Anyone fitting that bill would have to be a patient person who could give Dwayne plenty of time.

A high-spirited, attractive, well-mannered youngster, Dwayne enjoys baseball and track. He also likes video games, movies and hanging out with his friends.

Although Dwayne has been suspended twice from schools, he responds well to firm, consistent rules and discipline. Even his grades have begun to improve since his foster parent started helping him with his school work.

Aside from a mild, nerve disorder that leaves warts on his back and face, Dwayne is as normal as



Allen

any other teenager. He just needs a home.

Last, there are Cory and Allen. These two brothers have lived in foster homes for several years.

Cory who is seven lists, the color red, his best friend, Joe, pepperoni pizza and his brother Allen as his favorite things. A second grader Cory is a good student and is well-behaved and friendly.

Four year old Allen is enrolled in day care. His teacher reports that this year Allen has "blossomed," learning many new things and coming to school eagerly.

Both boys are bright, healthy and active. They need an adoptive family who can adopt both of them



Omar

love them and enjoy them. For more information on any of these children call the Children's Home Society of North Carolina at 334-2854. Your life will be the richer for it.

"Hands Across Charlotte" To Raise Money For Food Bank

On May 25 at 3 p.m., five million people will hold "Hands Across America" to raise up to \$100 million to combat the problems of hunger and homelessness in our country.

Charlotte, NC, is proud to announce "Hands Across Charlotte," which will also take place on May 25 at 3 p.m. approximately 13,000 people will join hands from Eastland Mall to Discovery Place to raise money for the Metrolina Food Bank in support of the agency's efforts to relieve hunger in our area.

The event is being sponsored by Eastland Mall, the Record Bar, and Entertainers of America on behalf of Metrolina Food Bank. Tickets to participate in the event will be on sale at all area Record Bar locations for \$2. The route will begin at Eastland Mall, follow Central Ave. to Seventh St., and turn right, continue past the Food Bank at 300 E. Seventh, and end at Discovery Place on N. Tryon. A color-coded

system is being used to assign spaces on the route. Commemorative T-shirts will also be available for \$5. A grand finale event will feature special musical entertainment and refreshments in the parking lot at Eastland Mall.

All Food Bank supporters and those who are concerned about the plight of the needy in our community are encouraged to join this special event to symbolically reach out to help by uniting with many others in the spirit of caring.

Brookhill Hosts Gospel Fundraiser

A Gospel Music fundraiser will be sponsored by the Brookhill Community Organization on Sunday, May 18, beginning at 8 p.m. at the Bethlehem Center.

This fundraiser will benefit the Southside Washerette which is in need of community support. The Washerette is in debt to the City of Charlotte. All concerned individuals and organizations are asked to help in this endeavor.

Tickets to this event are \$2. For more information, contact Linda Geiger at 377-4202.


Efficient Eyesight

"Efficient Eyesight Made Easy," a free one-hour overview session that is open to the public, will be held Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. at Mutual Savings & Loan, 4735 Sharon Rd., Charlotte, (next door to Bennigan's).

Dr. Sally Kochendofer will share information on "Efficient Eyesight Made Easy," giving some practical ways to use eyes more effectively for better eyesight. She will also preview the day-long seminar being held Saturday, May 17.

Dr. Kochendofer has practiced holistic counseling in Charlotte for the past several years and conducts stress management seminars as well. She was able to give up her glasses in 1990 after working intensely with means to create better eyesight. Dr. Kochendofer had worn glasses for about half her life up to that time.

For details or more information, call Anne Harrell at 333-9915, or Dr. Kochendofer, 365-3987.



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