

March / April 2015

adoption

opening hearts. changing lives.

INDIANA'S ADOPTION PROGRAM





Hubert



Michael



Alex



Dalton



Julie



Chadrick



Shannon

Expect Great Things

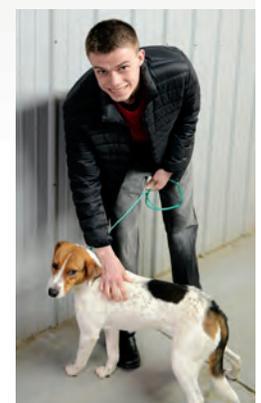
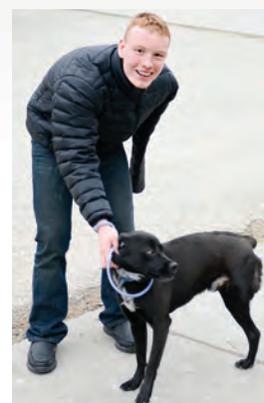
When Shannon and Hubert Schulz adopted from the Special Needs Adoption Program, multiple healthcare professionals told them, “Don’t expect anything from these children.” Their children faced a wide range of challenges and diagnoses, including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder, and Shaken Baby Syndrome, and doctors predicted that they would never be independent. But the Schulz family refused to accept that mindset. “They’re going to be heroes!” says Shannon.

Shannon and Hubert’s adoption story started with a phone call from the Department of Child Services, asking if they would take two very challenging boys. Shannon and Hubert’s response: “Bring it on!” Since the day that they became foster parents, and eventually adoptive parents, they have done everything in their power to help their kids overcome odds and be independent. Their advice to parents is:

1. Show the children how much you care. They will not care about what you are trying to teach them until they know that you really care about them.
2. Make sure every child knows that he or she is worth fighting for, and that you will fight for them even when they don’t feel like fighting for themselves. Giving up is not an option.
3. Each child is an individual, special and unique, so you must formulate solutions to their problems and help them overcome their obstacles individually and uniquely.
4. Set them up to succeed. Create situations and opportunities for a child to achieve and succeed academically, socially, recreationally, etc. Start with things you know they can achieve, and then move to more challenging things.

The Schulz children are very successful and active in their community. They participate in Tae Kwon Do and swimming. They play musical instruments. They volunteer at the local animal shelter. Two of the Schulz boys, Alex and Chadrick, recently received Youth Volunteer of the Year awards at the Humane Society, and they are excited at the possibility of maybe working at an animal shelter someday.

The Schulz family cites their faith, their amazing support system, persistent optimism, and the children’s hard work as the main reasons for their children’s success. One thing is for sure: you can expect great things from these kids.



Alex’s favorite part about volunteering: “I get to help dogs be prepared for adoption.”