



## A Love So Much Deeper than the Ocean: An Adoption Story

By [Mike Heath](#), Lead Resource Specialist

I had the distinct privilege of meeting an incredible family! I would like to introduce you to Dale and Chris and their delightful children, Miriah, age 11, Chelly, age 6, and D.J., age 2. Dale and Chris invited me to their home in order to share their story of how adoption has enriched (and continues to enrich) their lives each day.

Dale and Chris said that they would hear stories of children who were not being treated well, stories of children whose needs were not being met. They would read about the needs of children in Adoption Magazine and they were motivated by the placemats at Wendy's restaurant; through the Wendy's Wonderful Kids campaign. Dale and Chris were also influenced by family members who would bring magazines about adoption and the need for loving parents to their house during visits with one another.

Dale and Chris were driven to make a lifelong difference in the lives of children and were able to fulfill their dreams by adopting three children: Miriah, Chelly, and D.J. One of the first observations I made was the undeniable devotion that Dale and Chris have for their children and also the same devotion that the children have for their parents. Their love and devotion for their children was exemplified when Chris said proudly that they "would take a dozen more!"

Not only has adoption enriched their personal lives but this wonderful family is devoted to enriching the lives of other children throughout the year. Around Christmas time, the children put together beautiful gift baskets for foster children filled with cookies, popcorn, chocolate, books,

blanket, teddy bears and backpacks full of school supplies.

When Easter arrives, they are busy once again, hard at work putting to-

gether gift baskets for foster youth in need.

They also send out gift packages to children in Africa; filled with books, personal hygiene products, DVD's and other items that they feel will put a smile on the faces of children who are in need of so much more than any of us can hardly imagine.

Miriah explained their compassionate spirit in this eloquent manner, "It makes us feel warm inside... we are able to give them a boost. Some people do not have anything and we can help them."

Their whole family feels compelled to reach out to others in need and make their lives a little brighter. This generous desire to help others is truly inspirational.

The children shared story after story of favorite childhood memories. Chelly revealed how funny her dad is all the time and how he is always joking around. Miriah and Chelly talked about going on

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—Miriah, age 11

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a special trip to Chicago where they ate at a “fancy McDonalds” and took a tour of the Underground Railroad Museum with their parents, uncle and cousins. Miriah and Chelly also talked about cruising on their 4-Wheelers in their pajamas!

On a more somber note, Miriah talked about a difficult time when she was in the hospital. She sang the praises of her mother by saying, “I am so happy I have my mom because she took care of me in the hospital.”

This family continues to take care of one another, and they also are reaching to others in need and supplying them with gifts filled with love throughout the year.

Dale and Chris advise prospective adoptive parents to take a lot of time and effort into thinking about adoption because adoption is a lifetime decision and a decision that can enrich your lives and your children’s lives forever. It is important to be patient and work with the social workers who are there to provide you with assistance and support throughout the adoption process.

The whole family would like to express their appreciation to all of the social workers who made their adoption dreams come true. They wanted to express a special appreciation to social worker Julie Glynn from Sawyer County for everything that she did and continues to do for their family. I would also like to express my appreciation to Julie Glynn for introducing me to this amazing family and thereby providing me with the opportunity to share this heart warming story of adoption with you.

Adoption brought this family together and unconditional love is the glue that connects them. Miriah wanted to reassure other children who are awaiting their forever family by saying, “Someone is out there, waiting for them; someone who is meant to change their lives.”

When asked about her love and appreciation for her parents, Miriah said, “My love is so much deeper than the ocean.” What a profound and powerful statement, indeed.

