



Building Brighter Tomorrows for Families and Children

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## **Family Matters**

State wide, Kansas, November 17, 2008 – November is National Adoption Month. On Monday, November 17, TFI Family Services held nine different receptions to celebrate adoptions that have taken place through their agency. Twenty-seven families and 93 children joined together state wide to celebrate! Cake and punch was served, along with goodie bags for the children and a certificate for a family portrait sitting was given to the parents. The focus of the event for TFI was recognizing the families' love and dedication to children who needed a forever family to call their own.

One family's love and dedication broke through all odds. Steve and Maggie Belk became licensed resource foster care parents with TFI Family Services in June 2003. Within two weeks they had accepted the first of over 20 placements in the five years they were a resource foster care home. In 2008, the Belks opened their arms and home permanently for three little boys, Devin, Johnny, and Christopher.

While still a resource foster care family with TFI Family Services, the Belks chose to become adoptive parents when Devin, Johnny, and Christopher came into their lives. What makes this story special are that the boys were not siblings, but three children from different backgrounds needing a home. Each child unique - one with special needs, one who is African American and one, Bi-Racial. Both Steve and Maggie are Caucasian. With each child, they celebrated the day of his adoption, but that wasn't enough when you have so much love to give! The Belks then hosted a large adoption

celebration party for all three boys to include all of their family, friends, and neighbors this past month.

The Belks have a very close-knit family and to know them is to feel as though you are a part of that family. They are patient, kind, and tolerant. As resource foster care parents they have been extremely open-minded and have discovered the joy of using humor in their parenting experience. They are creative in their parenting and feel that they now have “the most beautiful family in the world,” which is true!

The Belks decided to close their home temporarily as a resource foster care home in the fall of 2008 after their boys asked to have some time to grow up in a “home” rather than a “foster home” and the Belk’s gladly obliged. The Belks have been an amazing asset to TFI Family Services and to the children of Kansas.

To learn more about resource foster care parenting and/or to become adoptive parents, please visit our website at [www.the-farm.org](http://www.the-farm.org) . At TFI Family Services, we can provide the guidance and support to walk through resource foster care parenting and the adoption process.

**ABOUT TFI Family Services** – TFI Family Services is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for youth and families through Behavioral Health and Child Welfare Services. Their goal is always to build brighter tomorrows for families and children together.

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