

# Adoption



Hundreds of thousands of children in the foster care system across the U.S.—including 2,500 here in Michigan—are waiting to know the love of a forever family. Through **Samaritas' Adoption program**, you can help a child find a loving forever family.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Children age out of foster care at the age of 18



Foster care is meant to be temporary—reuniting the child and their birth family is Samaritas' first priority



Adoptive placement is meant to be permanent, where people can become the child's legal parents



Nearly 14,000 young people in Michigan need temporary foster homes where they can feel safe, secure and loved

*Every child needs **love, shelter and guidance**. These basic needs are missing for some children, and the older the child, the more **dire** the circumstances, especially when they come from an abusive or neglectful situation.*

Last year throughout Michigan,

**908**

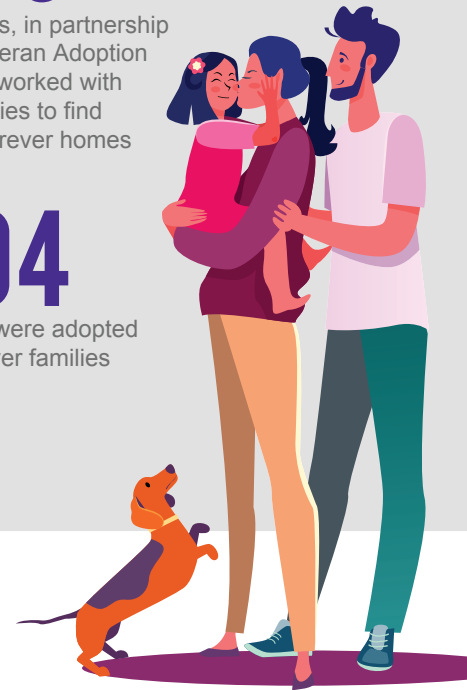
children were in need of adoption

**293**

Samaritas, in partnership with Lutheran Adoption Service, worked with 293 families to find loving, forever homes

**394**

children were adopted into forever families



## THE PROCESS

Adopting a child is certainly a life-changing experience and the process can vary from one organization to another. Samaritas works with Lutheran Adoption Services to help children find their forever homes.

### 1 Adoption Orientation

Adoption orientation typically provides a broad overview of the adoption process, with a family services staff member available to answer any questions you may have

### 2 Intake interviews with family specialist

The intake interview is a one-on-one meeting with family specialist from Samaritas

### 3 Complete adoption application

The adoption application helps evaluate what additional paperwork may be needed for the Family Assessment

### 4 Family Assessment

By law, families must participate in a family assessment process before a child can be placed in their home for adoption. This process can take anywhere between 3-6 months to complete

This process consists of personal interviews and meetings at home. You will be asked about your...



#### Social history

Your current family and past experiences



#### Health statements

Medical history and a recent physical



#### Criminal background checks and fingerprinting

Must complete state police check, protective service clearance, fingerprinting, and a local police clearance



#### Income statement

Proof of income—such as a copy of an income tax form, paycheck stub, or W-2 form



#### Personal references

Names, addresses and phone numbers of three unrelated individuals who can share their knowledge about your experience with children and motivation to adopt



#### Legal documents

Birth certificates, social security cards, marriage certificates, etc.

## GET STARTED

Samaritas' foster care team encourages both current and potential foster parents to communicate with one another and to help those seeking guidance in navigating through the Michigan foster care process. Visit [Samaritas.org](https://www.samaritas.org) for more information or call (248) 663-0697 to find out how you can become an adoptive parent.

*"It's funny, this bumpy road has led me to the family of my dreams. This isn't the way I thought I would create my family, but I wouldn't change anything."*

– Kyle, Nicole, Henry and Sofia Michaels

*"Sometimes people think you can only love your biological child, but I don't see a difference between my kids—they are all my kids. Your heart opens up."*

– Latricia Trice