You Gotta Believe!
The Older Child Adoption & Permanency Movement, Inc.

MAILING ADDRESS:
1728 Mermaid Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11224
(800) 601-1779
ygbpat@msn.com
www.yougottabelieve.org

LOCATIONS:
1728 Mermaid Avenue
(at West 19th Street)
Coney Island, N.Y. 11224
(718) 372-3003
Fax: (718) 372-3033

150A Long Island Avenue
Holtsville, N.Y. 11742
(631) 654-7970
Fax: (631) 654-7980

BROADCASTS:

"The Adopting Teens & 'Tweens TV Show"
Watch online at
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Check out our website www.yougottabelieve.org for date and time of programs and how you can watch or listen locally.

A FAMILY IS NOW HERE

You Gotta Believe!

FUNFORMATION!

Attached is my gift to you to help you lighten your load by lightening up your life.

Use these items in the spirit that it was given to you: in love, laughter, and total & complete silliness.

Consider what is included in this packet as your good humor tools to start up your very own SNACK (Silly {yet} Nurturing Acting Childlike Kit) Pack.

Utilized in the right way, the items in this packet are bound to add smiles to your life & life to your smiles and add more laughter to your life and to those people around you.

Always remember the greatest bonding experience you can have with any other individual is the bond of shared laughter. Share these tools willingly and freely, especially with your children.

And always remember to never forget: *Life is too short to be taken seriously.*

Anyone interested in inviting Pat O'Brien, Executive Director of *You Gotta Believe* to your City, Town, or Community to help you learn more about the application of good humor and laughter in your everyday home life and work life should feel free to contact him at 1-800-601-1779 or e-mail him at ygbpat@msn.com.

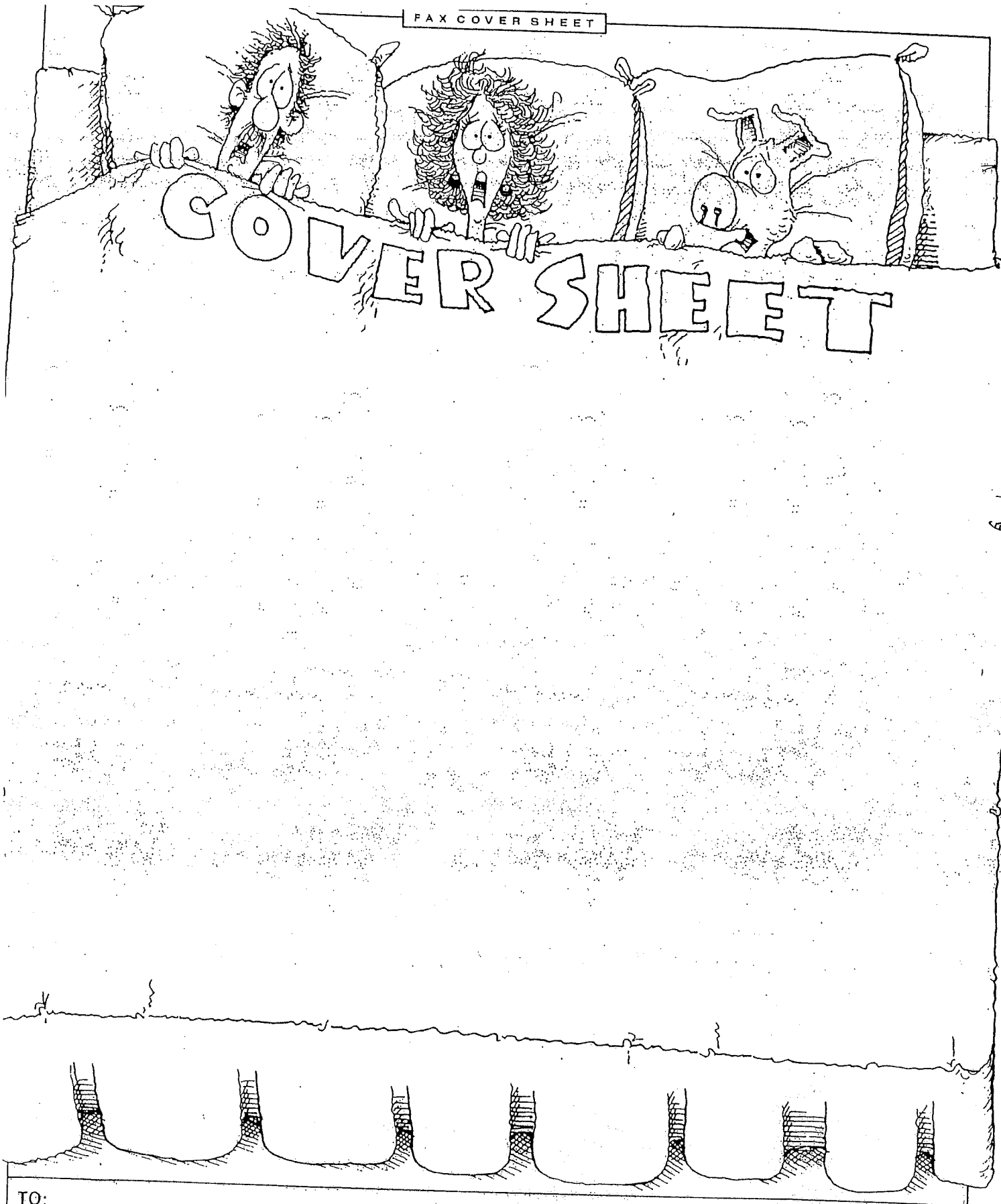
Mr. O'Brien is also available to do workshops, all day Institutes, and Keynotes in the area of helping you recruit, retain, prepare, and properly support permanent homes for teens and pre-teens who are currently residing in the foster care system.

The fees raised by his speaking engagements go right to this wonderful movement that helps place teens and pre-teens into permanent families. So, feel free to invite Pat to your State, City, Hometown, or Community. You will learn a lot, laugh a lot, and you will be helping a wonderful service to find permanent homes for teens and pre-teens in foster care.

Adopting Older Kids And Youth is A-OKAY. You Gotta Believe!

c drive: Funformation

FAX COVER SHEET



TO:	FOR INFORMATION, CALL:
FROM:	AT:
PAGES (including cover sheet):	FAX NUMBER:

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A FAXABLE GREETING

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

1. By the dog's foggy expression, it's plain to see he doesn't know what day it is. I do.
2. It's obvious that the guy in the suit isn't going to bend over backwards to send you a birthday card. Thank goodness for friends like me.
3. No matter how many legs she has to stand on, this woman has no excuse for forgetting your birthday. And neither do I.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To:

From:

01-5

Guide to Safe Fax

Q. Do I have to be married to have safe fax?

A. Although married people fax quite often, there are many single people who fax complete strangers every day.

Q. My parents say they never had fax when they were young & were only allowed to write memos to each other until they were 21. How old do you think someone should be before they can fax?

A. Faxing can be performed at any age, once you can learn the correct procedures.

Q. If I fax something to myself, will I go blind?

A. Certainly not, as far as we can see.

Q. There is a place down the street where I can go and pay for fax. Is this legal?

A. Yes, many people have no other outlet for fax and must pay a "professional" when their need to fax becomes too great.

Q. Should a cover always be used for faxing?

A. Unless your are really sure of the one you are faxing, a cover should be used to insure safe fax.

Q. What happens when I incorrectly do the procedure and I fax prematurely?

A. Don't Panic. Many people prematurely fax when they haven't faxed in a while. Just start over. Most people won't mind if you try again.

Q. I have a personal and a business fax. Can transmissions become mixed?

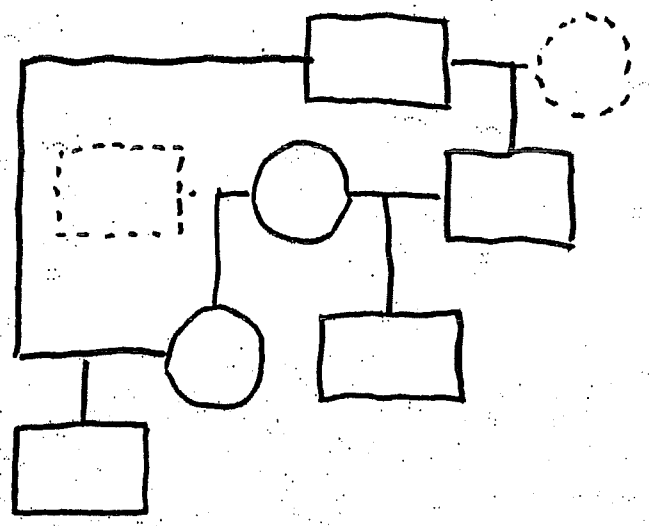
A. Being bi-faxual can be confusing, but as long as you use a cover with each one, you won't transmit anything you are not supposed to.

I'm My Own Grandpaw

by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffe

Many, many years ago when I was twenty-three
I was married to a widow who was pretty as could be.
This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red.
My father fell in love with her and soon they, too, were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law and changed my very life
For my daughter was my mother, 'cause she was my father's wife.
To complicate the matter, even though it brought me joy
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.



My little baby then became a brother-in-law to dad
And so became my uncle, though it made me very sad
For if he was my uncle, then that also made him brother
To the widow's grown-up daughter, who, of course, was my step-mother.

My father's wife then had a son who kept them on the run
And he became my grand-child, 'cause he was my daughter's son.
My wife is now my mother's mother, and it makes me blue
Because, although she is my wife, she's my grandmother too.

If my wife is my grandmother, then I am her grandchild
And every time I think of it, it nearly drives me wild
For now I have become the strangest case you ever saw
(This has got to be the strangest thing I ever saw)
As husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpaw.

Chorus
I'm my own grandpaw
I'm my own grandpaw
It sounds funny I know
but it really is so
Oh, I'm my own grandpaw.

In the '30s, Latham had a group, the Jesters, on network radio; their specialties were bits of spoken humor and novelty songs. While reading a book of Mark Twain anecdotes, he once found a paragraph in which Twain proved it would be possible for a man to become his own grandfather. In 1947, Latham and Jaffe expanded the idea into a song, which became a hit for Lonzo and Oscar. It's also one of the songs on Michael Cooney's album of songs for children. The published words located and shown below do not exactly match those sung in the .wav file.

Gift Certificate

for the office of

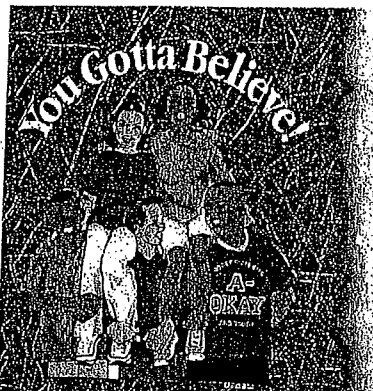
Jack Kivorkian, M.D.

To _____

Good For One Visit

From _____

HEP



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A FAMILY IS NOWHERE

To My Loving Wife ...

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address, and without realizing his error, sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who was called home to glory following a heart attack. The widow decided to check her e-mail expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message she screamed and fainted.

The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

* *

To: *My Loving Wife*
Subject: *I've arrived*
Date: *April 13, 2007*

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

Your Loving Husband

P.S. It sure is freaking hot down here.

Listen to the "Adopting Teens & 'Tweens Radio Forum" every Sunday night from 8-9pm on WGBB, Long Island's Oldest Radio Station, 1240 on your AM dial. If reception is not good, please listen on-line by logging on to www.am1240wgbb.com..

Watch our flagship cable access show "The Adopting Teens & 'Tweens Show" on Brooklyn Community Access Television, every Thursday at noon and 8pm on Cablevision's Channel 68 and Time Warner's Channel 35. You can also watch a live stream of this show by logging on to www.bcat.tv/bcat and click on Television #2 under the words "Watch BCAT Live."

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A FAMILY IS NOWHERE

Count the F's

FEATURE FILMS ARE THE RE-
SULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTI-
FIC STUDY COMBINED WITH
THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.

Laughter for the soul

"W.C."

An English lady, while visiting Switzerland, was looking for a room and asked a local schoolmaster if he could recommend one. He took her to several rooms, and when everything was settled, she returned home to make final arrangements for moving. When she arrived home, the thought occurred to her that she had not seen a W.C. (water closet or bathroom) around the place. She immediately wrote to the schoolmaster asking him where the W.C. was. The schoolmaster didn't know the meaning of "W.C." so with a priest's assistance, he came to the conclusion that it meant "Wayside Chapel" (a small building beside the road where travellers could rest or pray). He sent a letter back to the English lady, which read as follows:

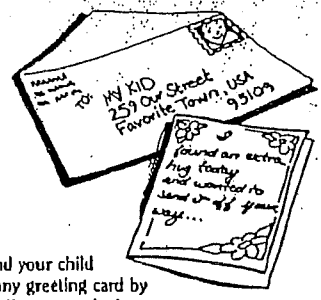
Dear Madam:
I take great pleasure in informing you that the nearest W.C. is situated only nine miles from the house in a beautilul grove of trees. It is capable of holding 32 people. It is open only on Mondays and Thursdays.
There are a great number of people expected during the summer months, so I would suggest that you come early, although there is usually plenty of standing room.
This is an unfortunate situation, especially if you are in the habit of going regularly.
You will, no doubt, be glad to hear that a number of people bring their lunch and make a day of it, while others who can't afford it, arrive just in time. I would recommend Thursdays because, on that day, there is an organ accompanist. The acoustics are excellent and even the slightest sound can be heard anywhere.
It may interest you to know that my daughter met her husband in the W.C., and they were married there. I can still vividly remember the rush for seats. Seven people crowded into seats for four. It was wonderful to see the expressions on their faces.
Unfortunately, my wife is rather delicate, so she has not attended in over a year. Naturally, it pains her very much--not to be able to go more often. I shall be delighted to reserve a seat for you if you wish, where you can be seen by all.
Hoping to be of assistance, I am,
Sincerely Yours,

Pat O'Brien's

8 FUN, SILLY, & PLAYFUL WAYS TO PROMOTE BONDING WITH YOUR CHILD

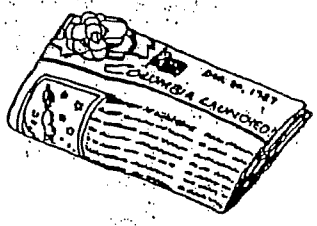
Let your child plan an "unbirthday" party, inviting a group of friends—a silly idea that all the kids will enjoy and remember your child for.

19



Send your child a funny greeting card by mail. You can make it, or you can buy one especially designed for kids.

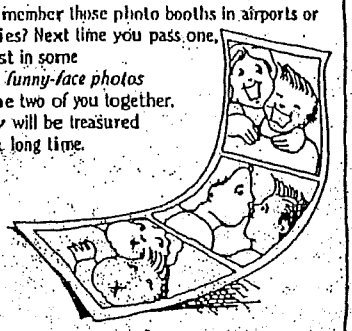
28



Order a copy of the newspaper that was published on your child's birth date the next time you see one advertised in a catalog or magazine, and give it as a special birthday gift.

39

Remember those photo booths in airports or lobbies? Next time you pass one, invest in some *funny-face photos* of the two of you together. They will be treasured for a long time.

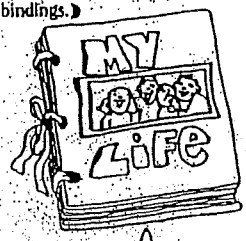


9

When you find a comic strip or cartoon that is relevant to your child in some way, photocopy it with a cut-out picture of your child's head placed over that favorite comic character's head.

62

Help your child write and illustrate a story, fanciful or autobiographical, that you bind into a book with stiff front and back covers. (You can also check your local print shop for plastic comb bindings.)



35

Teach your child a few simple riddles and jokes to tell friends so that she or he can get a good laugh. Creating a laugh gives kids a powerful and wonderful feeling.

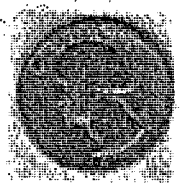
58

Designate one special frame for a permanent, prominent display of the current school photo of your child. (Keep putting the new one on top of the old and let the frame serve as storage for those pictures of past years.)

34

Brain Teasers:

Listening Test:



You need a penny, a nickel and a quarter.

Displaying the coins, say, "I have three coins - a penny, a nic-kel and quarter."

Hold up the penny and say, "Bobby's mother had three children. She named the first child Penny."

Hold up the nickel and say, "She named the second child Nic-holas."

Hold up the quarter and ask, "Who can tell me the name of the third child?"

Someone will answer "Quinten" or "George."

Then say,"I gave you all the information you need to solve the puzzle. Were you listening? I'll repeat it." Repeat the puzzle. The second time someone usually catches it."

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulaclty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmnea l pweor of the hmuan mnid. Aoccdrnig to rscheearch taem at Cmabridge Uinervtisy, it doesn't mttaer in waht oredr the ltters in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a hlohe. Such a cdonition is arppoiately clla ed Typoglycemia. :-)

Amzanig huh? And yuo awlyas thought slpeling was ipmorantt.

John L.

"The dieffercne beewetn genuis and syipiutdt, is taht gniues has lmtiis." - Ablert Ensei tin

A nurse walks into a bank.

Preparing to write a check she pulls a rectal thermometer out of her Purse and tries to write with it. She looks at the flabbergasted teller and without missing a beat says:

"Well that's great... that's really great... some asshole's got my pen!"

This past Wednesday was Groundhog Day and the day of the State of the Union Address: 2006

One event involved a meaningless ritual in which we looked to a creature of little intelligence for important prognostication...

The New York NETWORKER

THE INDEPENDENT LIVER

by Pat Dudley

I used to know a teenager by the name of Foster Childs. He was a child who seemed to be doomed by his very existence. A product of poverty and a victim of a system that purported to always keep his best interest in mind. He was a special child who never seemed to have his needs met. Passed from one home to the next, he never was given the opportunity to form attachments.

By the time he was 14 the system allowed him to declare his "independence." Hence, no more effort to identify long lasting relationships for Foster Childs. He was trained and certified to take care of himself. Everyone assumed he could because, after all, he had the knowledge. He could write a check, balance a check book, do his laundry and food shopping, and cook and clean as well.

With this false sense of security, Foster Childs was sent out into the cold cruel world to find a job, get an apartment, and at the ripe old age of 18 be an independent survivor. These were the words he heard. These were the dreams he had.

But Foster Childs didn't make it. No one taught him about trust or loyalty to himself or others that you or I would learn in the context of a family relationship. He had no sense of safety net of family where he could make mistakes and learn from them. Chronologically an adult, but in reality still a child, Foster Childs had the hardest time making the simplest of decisions.

Instead, he learned how to steal, how to lie, and how to manipulate. He got a job pushing drugs and selling his body. His home was from one shelter to another when there was room, or his home was a park bench somewhere when there wasn't. His food was the waste of society. His clothes the discard of others.

Just before he turned 21 Foster Childs was murdered. Just another statistic of street life and homelessness, his body and mind abused by a system that should have known better.

Foster Childs perished with all but a small part of him. It was amazing! During the autopsy, the doctors discovered that Foster's liver was functioning—seeming to have a life of its own. This was a medical mystery, because all the other bodily functions were dead and deteriorated quickly.

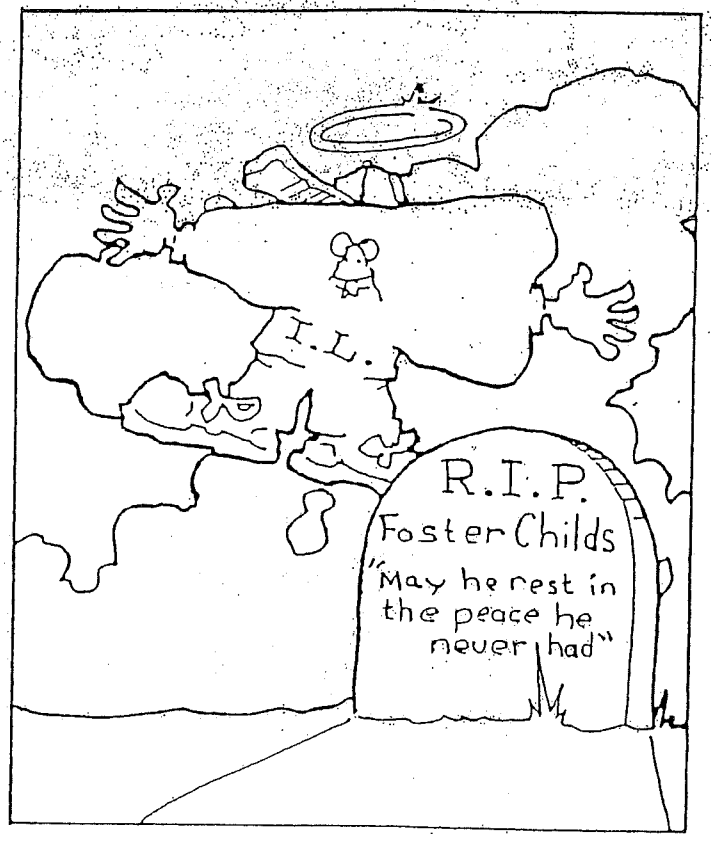
The liver was removed and placed into a basin and labeled "Independent Liver." Over the next weeks, the Independent Liver matured. It grew to full capacity with mind and heart of its own. The Independent Liver was nurtured by a secret special formula code named "D . . . S . . ."

This formula became the lifeline for Independent Liver. Through this formula Independent Liver developed a commitment to other teenagers like Foster Childs. The commitment to prevent homelessness by finding relationships for children—especially older children with special needs.

He worked hard fighting the system, breaking the chains that held children captive—a system that had the goal of independent living for children, a system with an archaic funding stream, a system that trained its professionals not to think in terms of relationships, and a system whose practice seemed to result in great amounts of racial discrimination.

He worked hard and long, developing a trust with the system, educating families, and always giving that extra 110% when needed. Soon, teenagers were finding permanent homes, stopping their destructive lifestyles, and beginning to developing positive relationships.

The Independent Liver continues his work but it is a never ending job. But the satisfaction is great and its commitment becomes stronger everyday.



1
2
3
4
TO: SANTA
1 Box of Joy
5
RED
6
YELLOW
7
XMAS
8
9
NAME
?
10
11
12
13
14
A B C D E
F G H I J K M
N O P Q R S
T U V W X Y
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DECEMBER
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18
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19
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21
22
SHHHH!
23
24

1) Jingle Bells

2) Winter Wonderland

3) Santa Clause is Coming to Town

4) Joy to the World

5) Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer

6) Oh Come, All ye Faithful

7) White Christmas

8) Oh Christmas Tree

9) What Child is This?

10) We Three Kings

11) Deck the Halls

12) I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In

13) Oh, Holy Night

14) Noel

15) Away in a Manger

16) 12 Days of Christmas

17) I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Clause

18) All I want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth.

19) Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting On an Open Fire)

20) It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

21) Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

22) Silent Night

23) Oh Little Town of Bethelehem

24) Silver Bells

BEFORE MARRIAGE

AFTER MARRIAGE

BEFORE MARRIAGE

AFTER MARRIAGE

MYSTERY MATH

THINK OF ANY NUMBER

DOUBLE IT

ADD 10

DIVIDE IT BY 2

SUBTRACT THE FIRST NUMBER YOU THOUGH OF

THE NUMBER YOU HAVE IS:

5

MYSTERY MATH

Multiply the Number of your Brothers by 2
(If you have no brothers multiply 0 by 2)

Add 3

Multiply by 5

ADD the number of your sisters
(add 0 if you have no sisters)

Multiply that number by 10

Add the number of living grandparents you have
(add 0 if you have no living grandparents)

Subtract 150

Your Answer is _____

1) Pick a number from 2 to 9.

2) Take the # you have chosen and multiple it by 9

3) That gives you a two digit #. Take those two numbers and add them together; i.e. if you got 34 you would add 3 + 4 and get 7.

4) Take this resulting # and subtract 5 from it.

5) Take that # and correspond it to the Alphabet. Hence, make the # a letter in the order it is in; i.e. 1=A, 2=B, 3=C,4=D,5=E,6=F and so on.

6) Take your letter and think of a Country that begins with that letter. (For example: A=Australia, B=Belgium, C=Canada, D=Denmark, E=Equador, F=France, G=Greece)

7) Take the last letter of that country and think of an animal.

8) Now take the last letter in spelling of that animal and think of a color.

THERE ARE NO ORANGE KANGAROOS IN DENMARK!!!

19 of 22

FUN MAGIC MATH

(It helps to have a calculator for this exercise)

1) Take the number of the month you were born in.
(Jan – 1, Feb – 2, March – 3, etc.)

2) Multiply that number by 4

3) Add 13 to that number

4) Multiply that number by 25

5) Subtract that number by 200

6) Add the day of the month on which you were born.
(i.e. if you were born on January 29th add 29)

7) Multiply that number by 2

8) Subtract that number by 40

9) Multiply that number by 50

10) Add the last two digits of the year in which you were born.
(i.e. if you were born in 1958 add 58)

11) Subtract 10,500

12) Notice anything interesting about your answer?*

*If your answer is not your birthdate try it again.

Congratulations!

Your finger landed on

Adopt-a-Teen

So, come on down to You Gotta Believe's 10 week Adopting Older Kids And Youth (A-OKAY) parent preparation class and learn about how adopting a teen can become your greatest calling in service to a child.

For instance, when you learn about adopting teens you will learn that your new ***role*** in life becomes that of a:

TEACHER ADVOCATE MENTOR COACH FRIEND

to a child through the final stages of his or her childhood and throughout his or her young adult and adult life as well.

The A-OKAY class will also show you how to create a bond with your new child through teaching and/or enhancing your wonderful ***skills*** to:

ACT SILLY & PLAYFUL, LISTEN, SHOW EMPATHY, ENHANCE SELF-ESTEEM.

Combine your newfound ***roles*** and ***skills*** with:

UNCONDITIONAL COMMITMENT

(Which we define as your decision to love)

And you will go a long way in helping to:

PREVENT A CHILD'S HOMELESSNESS

upon discharge from the foster care system. If all of us partners in the child welfare system do not attempt to get teens into permanent families before they are discharged from foster care, they run a high risk of becoming homeless upon discharge from care.

To learn more about preventing homelessness by adopting teens please contact Pat O'Brien at 718-570-5134, to find out when one of 9 orientations is being held this week in a neighborhood near you. We are currently offering orientations every Monday night in Bayshore/Long Island, Tuesday night in The Bronx, Wednesday nights in Coney Island/Brooklyn, Thursday nights in Harlem, and Staten Island. All weekday orientations start promptly at 6pm. We offer orientations every weekend on Saturday mornings at 10am in East New York/Brooklyn and Green Village/Manhattan at 3pm, and Sunday afternoons in Jamaica/ Queens at 4pm, and at Inwood House on the Upper East Side of Manhattan at 2pm. Both our Bayshore class and Greenwich Village classes are conducted at LGBT Community Centers.

You can listen to many inspiring programs of the "Adopting Teens & 'Tweens Radio Forum" featuring staff, families, professionals and youth dating back to March 2, 2008 by clicking http:// www.adoptingteensandtweens.com. You can listen to a live broadcast of this radio program every Sunday night from 6:30 – 7pm at www.am1240wgbb.com You can also watch a live stream of our weekly cable access television show entitled "The Adopting Teens & 'Tweens Show" every Thursday at 12pm and 8pm (EST) by logging on to ***www.bricartsmedia.org/community-media//bcat-tv-network*** *and then scroll down to click "launch" under the words "BCAT 2." Our e-mail* ***ygbpat@msn.com*** *Our address at You Gotta Believe is 3114 Mermaid Avenue (@19th Street), Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY 11224. Our website:* ***www.yougottabelieve.org***

Are You Being Called To Serve a Child?

A Self-Assessment Survey

Learn what your greatest gift is in your call to serve children. Follow directions below to assess which activity, skill, decision, or role in life is your greatest attribute in your ability to be of service to a child. Whatever box your finger ultimately lands on will be the area where you can offer a child your greatest gift. Keep your mind open, suspend judgment and enjoy this self-assessment and you will learn a great deal about your greatest strength as it relates to helping a child.

Teach	Advocate	Mentor	Coach
Befriend	Act Silly& Playful	Listen	Adopt A Teen
Show Empathy	Enhance Self-Esteem	Unconditional Commitment is love	Prevent Homelessness

1. Place your finger on any **gray or shaded** box
2. Move your finger **left or right** to the nearest **white** box
3. Move your finger **up or down** to the nearest **grey or shaded** box
4. Move your finger **diagonally** to the nearest **white** box
5. Move your finger **left or right** to the nearest **gray** box
6. Now, remember your greatest strength to serve a child (which is the box your finger is on right now). Concentrate on the strength in that box.

Please Turn This Sheet Over!