

# Troy and Lemmie Like Sports

Among The Children Who Wait are these brothers, of whom the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) says:

"Troy is 13 years old, black, cute and alert. He is a hard working student, in 8th grade and an excellent student. He has unlimited potential in soccer. Troy is slender, in good physical and mental health.

"He is very likeable, charming in his personality and has good manners. Troy likes being outside, and plays football, basketball, baseball, besides soccer. He also loves to read, has an ability to build things even without supervision or instructions.

"Lemmie is 14 years old, a black, good looking boy. He is in 8th grade, an average student, and he excels in sports. Lemmie is personable, polite and conforming. He is emotionally immature.

"He is sensitive and needs encouragement with new ventures. He is tall, slender, in good physical and mental health.

"Lemmie and Troy lost their mother by death 4 years ago. They have always lived in the same rural town. They enjoy this kind of environment and especially like to play outside sports.

"Troy and Lemmie can be placed with a couple, or a single man. They present no outstanding problems at their foster home, at school, or in the community."

CAP is an organization which has



TROY



LEMMIE

published a photo-listing of more than 200 children who are hard to place. The above quotation is from that listing.

Children are considered hard to place for a variety of reasons. Some have mental, physical and/or emotional problems, some are older. The age range for The Children Who Wait runs from infancy through early teens. Some children are from a minority race and some are racially mixed. Some are siblings who should not be separated.

The one thing they all have in common is the need for an adoptive family.

In years past there was a great emphasis on placing healthy in-

him. But hopefully he will learn that the latter are much rarer than most people would have us think.

Hopefully, he will never stop throwing his arms out to people at least figuratively speaking.

If he is allowed to maintain that attitude he will never be lonely in this life. He may be alone at times but he will know that simply by walking into a group of people or up to one person by opening up himself he will find someone to talk to. At worst he may be rebuffed, at best he may find a friend.

If he is philosophical, as he should be, he will know that a rebuff is a sign of the other person's insecurity and lack of something to give and not any failing of his own and he will be not be discouraged to try another time.

As he grows older and looks around him, he will discover that the saddest and unhappiest people in this life are not the physically sick, the immobile, the poor or even those whom fate has seemed to single out for one unfortunate turn after another. The saddest people are those who've never learned to reach out to others, who are afraid to ask anything of someone else whether it be something so small as to share their park bench or as big as a chance to develop an acquaintance and possibly continuing friendship.

Besides fear of rebuff these people are also afraid of something more. Asking for anything causes obligation, whether it is a favor, money or another's time and affection. And sadly, for these saddest people they have not learned how rewarding it can be to give of themselves in return.

fants in adoptive homes. Today however, a special drive is underway to find loving and secure homes for children like Troy and Lemmie.

Persons considering adoption of The Children Who Wait should know of the dramatic change in adoptive patterns in recent years. Today both couples with large families and singles are taking these children into their homes.

Children are being placed across religious and racial lines. Financial subsidies are available to ease the burden of adoption. The basic requirement is a loving, caring environment that can meet the needs of the children.

For general information about adoption, the following agencies should be contacted:

Catholic Family Center, 546-7220; Monroe County Department of Social Services, 442-4000; Northaven, Inc. 266-4330; the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP), 288-7989.

For further information about Troy and Lemmie THE CAP BOOK should be contacted at 436-5070.

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**Sarah Child**

We were standing in the driveway, the kindergartner and I, and a toddler, not yet two years old, spotted us.

With the relative who was babysitting him on the run behind him, he saw us and his face broke into smiles. He started toward us his face one big unbroken grin and his tiny pudgy baby arms were outstretched as if to envelop us in a giant bear squeeze. He did not know us and yet even at that tender age he sensed something important that many people do not learn ever. To him, other human beings, even strangers, meant warmth, something good. The youngest of four children, he knew that only something pleasant can come from contact with others.

How lucky that baby, I thought. In time, of course, he must be taught some reservation, how to differentiate between strangers and family, between friends and mere acquaintances and that the intensity of greeting varies. He will be taught eventually that there are some people whom he will want not want to approach at all because of physical harm that might come to



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