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Adoption Day Brings Joy: Seven-Year-Old Finds His Forever Home

Latrobe, PA – When seven-year-old Daryl learned that his foster parents, Jessie and Ashlee Terry, were adopting him, he was so excited that he expressed his love in the most heartfelt way he could.

He told then that he loved them more than Pokémon.

“He couldn’t wait to tell everyone he was finally a Terry,” said Ashlee. “He was so excited on adoption day he could barely keep still when our judge was talking to him.”

The May 2024 adoption marked the start of a new chapter for Daryl, who has been with the Terrys since the age of four—a chapter free from uncertainty and worry.

“We have noticed changes in him since the adoption,” Ashlee reported. “Most of that just being how happy he has been. It is like a weight has been lifted and he can finally breathe.”

The boy was placed in foster care due to significant issues in his previous home, experiences that he still seems to remember today.

“Daryl does remember his previous family but mostly just his brother and sister and Mee-Maw. We do keep a relationship with them. He doesn't really like to talk about his biological parents.

“Remembering things from his past does sometimes come with small triggers such as seeing a toy or something that may have been at a visit or from when he was little,” she explained. “He goes into a little bit of a panic but then remembers that he ‘doesn't need to worry anymore’ and that he is ‘safe.’ Those are his words.”

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Ashlee also admitted that the adoption has brought relief not only to Daryl, but also to herself and Jessie, acknowledging that their three years of fostering came with its own set of challenges.

“The sense of security is most definitely there,” she exclaimed. “It was so hard not knowing if at every court date he would get to come back home with us.

“Daryl is the biggest goofball and enjoys trying to make everyone laugh and he also has one of the biggest hearts,” she proudly stated, noting that in addition his obvious love of Pokémon, he also likes soccer and Hot Wheels. He also enjoys hikes, bike rides and outings on the river with his parents and Cub Scouts.

On the day of his adoption, the Terrys, of Apollo, celebrated "Daryl Day" by taking him to a restaurant of his choice and to a trampoline park.

“We wanted him to have a day all about him and just be able to be together,” said Ashlee. “I don’t think it will be a big holiday every year because Daryl doesn’t really like to celebrate that he was adopted. He just enjoys being a part of our family and wants to remember it like he always was with us from the beginning. He has been very open about that. He was thrilled on the day of adoption because it meant he was ours forever— and forever to him means from the beginning.

“I think back to whenever Daryl first was walking up our front porch steps, barely able to talk, and how much he's grown in not only everyday growing but also in his confidence,” said Ashlee.

“Jessie and I always say he was definitely the missing piece to our puzzle.”

November is National Adoption Month, which serves to celebrate and raise awareness about the importance of adoption and the need for permanent, loving families for children and youth in foster care. This month emphasizes the critical need for family stability and permanence for children and he ongoing effort to find homes for children awaiting adoption. To learn more about adoption services at Adelphoi, please reach out to our team today at www.adelphoifoster.org or 1-800-KID-5928.

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Photo Caption – The Terry family on adoption day.

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