



## Library Foundation holds annual 'Whale of a Used Book Sale'

Sweaters, mittens and hats aren't the only things needed to keep you warm during the fall and winter months in Jefferson County. Cozying up next to the fire with a good book is one of the best ways to warm up from the chill outside – and the opportunity to build your reading reserves is here!

The annual "Whale of a Used Book Sale," sponsored by the Jefferson County Library Foundation, is back and fully stocked with more than 70,000 books. Treasures will abound, from rare editions to bestsellers and favorite childhood classics. Videos, music and other finds will also be on sale.

The Whale of a Used Book Sale will be held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds October 21 through 23, with a special preview night on October 20. Hours of the sale are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free to the public, except on the preview night, which is from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for \$35 (refreshments will be served and Friends of the Library members are admitted at no charge).

All proceeds from the sale fund Jefferson County Public Library children's and teen summer reading programs. For further information or to volunteer, call the Jefferson County Library Foundation at 303-275-2240.

## Patience and commitment are key to successful adoption

Tonya Deem is an outstanding student athlete at Conifer High School with aspirations of becoming a pediatrician. Today, this dynamic young woman is proof of the power of love and commitment. Now 17, Tonya was a scared and angry 4-year-old when Jill and Scott Deem brought her into their home as a foster child.

"We were feeling very blessed at the time and we thought we'd take one little girl for a while," said Jill, chief information officer at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden. After training and orientation provided by Jefferson County, little Tonya arrived at her "temporary" home. "Most children go back to their natural parents, but then her mom abandoned her completely," Jill explained.

The Deems, along with their two daughters who were 9 and 13 at the time, debated whether to adopt Tonya, given the unexpected turn of events. "We didn't ponder it long. The girls were so excited," said Jill, who then added, "But the honeymoon wore off quickly."

Like many other foster children, Tonya developed a shell around her and "was not likeable. These kids are manipulative," Jill admits. "Within a couple of weeks



Jill Deem (left) with Tonya, her adopted daughter

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she was tearing her hair out and yelling, 'I hate you.'" At times, the situation was downright discouraging. Counseling and therapy helped. The Deems kept looking ahead. After three years of persistence, Tonya bonded with her new family.

"Just being loved and knowing she was safe" made the difference, said Jill, who frequently speaks to would-be foster and adoptive parents on the joys and challenges of reaching out to abandoned kids. "They've got to be up to the challenge," said Jill. "The worst thing in the world is to take them and then give them back." She emphasizes that the adjustment period could take several years.

Looking back, however, the Deem family wouldn't change a thing.

"The impact Tonya has had on all of us has been profound and positive," said Jill. – JB

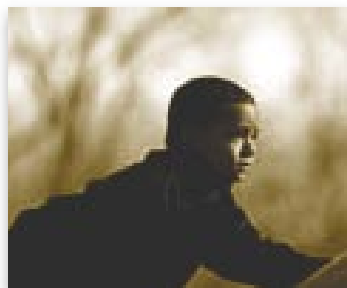
## Learn more about adoption at the Heart Gallery photo exhibit

The first annual Heart Gallery comes to the Jefferson County Administration and Courts Facility in Golden throughout the month of October. The "Face of Adoption" exhibit includes compelling photographs of some 50 Colorado children who have been waiting the longest for adoption. Local professional photographers volunteered their services to help raise awareness about the need for foster and adoptive homes.

Currently there are about 730 children up for adoption in Colorado between the ages of 1 and 17. "We hope the exhibit will inspire potential parents to give at least one of them a home forever," said Sharen Ford, permanency unit manager for the Colorado Department of Human Services. Jefferson County places some 70 children for adoption each year. At any given time, the county has 20 to 30 children free for adoption.

There are two ways to adopt. The traditional approach is available for children whose parents' rights have been terminated. These children tend to be older and have spent a number of years in foster care. The second way is through the Permanency Planning Program. Families agree to be foster parents with the intent of returning children to their natural parents. If this is not possible, Permanency Planning families may apply to adopt. Children in this program are usually younger and have spent less than a year in foster care.

Orientations about these programs are held monthly. To learn more, call 303-271-4043. The Heart Gallery exhibit will be open for viewing during normal business hours at the Jefferson County Administration and Courts Facility, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, during the month of October. – JB



David (photo by Merle Gleiforst)



Shannon (photo by Holly Bowers)



Megan (photo by Holly Bowers)

