



DAVE ELLIS / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Novice, 14, wants to be many things when she grows up. Her list includes 'a model, a singer, a dancer and probably a lawyer.'

Girl longs for family link

BY AMY FLOWERS UMBLE
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

The model knows what she wants for the next shot: a serious look.

"No smiling this time," she says, turning her face toward the camera in a pensive pose.

With her long, lanky legs, heavy-lidded eyes and stylish, high-heeled boots, Novice could

easily pass as the professional cover girl for a glossy magazine.

Until the camera snaps. And she becomes just another giggly 14-year old.

Novice, who hopes to be "a model, a singer, a dancer and probably a lawyer" when she grows up, loves the camera.

She has some very definite

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ABOUT THE SERIES

On any given day, 1,500 Virginia children seek an adoptive family. The Free Lance-Star joined with the Children's Home Society of Virginia, a private adoption agency offering foster-care services, to spotlight some of these children.

First names are used, but no last names are published to protect their identities.

The newspaper will periodically feature a Virginia child available for adoption.

ADOPT: Aspiring model hopes for permanent home after foster experience

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ideas about her future. But she's not sure about family.

Novice has been in foster care in the Newport News area for about two years. In that time, she's lived in four different homes.

And while she loves the idea of a permanent family, she's not so thrilled about a fifth home.

"It would be hard living with somebody else I really don't know," Novice said while touring the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News.

But she thinks having a family would be like the old days. Then, Novice had her

grandmother to turn to when life got hard.

"Having somebody to talk to when I get mad" would be great, Novice said.

And if she had a permanent family, she'd no longer feel left out.

She would love a family that would spend time with her and take her places. Still she hopes family members would also give her personal time, too.

Novice loves to go online, to Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and Flickr. She also loves to visit the mall, where she enjoys shopping for new clothes.

"I have a passion for

fashion," she said with a girly giggle.

Novice is teaching herself to design clothes, and she loves to crochet.

She also loves football, and this year, she's having a great season: Novice is a Saints fan.

She enjoys watching games on television.

"It makes you want to do it yourself," Novice said. "Even though girls can't play."

So she's perfectly content with more feminine pursuits and can't wait to start her modeling career.

She loves the attention she gets in front of the camera and wouldn't mind that same attention from a new family.

WANT TO ADOPT?

Interested in adopting Novice or any of the other foster children waiting? Contact Krista McCulloch at Children's Home Society of Virginia at 800/247-2888 or 804/353-0191.

But she doesn't mind sharing the limelight. Novice wants a sibling.

"I would mostly love to have a sister," she said. "Because you can relate to a girl better than a boy."

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