

Play basketball with this teen

The teenage years can be a turbulent time. Teenagers' experiences vary. Some sail through these years with ease while others face difficult challenges. Regardless, teenagers fare better when they have parents to guide and love them. This is particularly true of the teenagers living in foster care awaiting adoption.

Charles is 14 years old and waiting to be adopted by a family that will nurture and care for him. With blue eyes and red hair, Charles loves to laugh and has a great sense of humor.

Currently in his first year of high school, Charles is excited about school and finds it fun. Despite developmental delays, Charles works hard in all his subjects. His favorite subject is math. He is working to master particular skills that will allow him to live independently in the future. Some of these skills include counting money and telling time.

Charles also likes visiting the zoo and feeding the giraffes.

He likes to read and write. He likes sports and especially enjoys playing basketball with his friends. He likes going to camp and says he is particularly happy when he is singing.

His favorite TV shows include "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "Cops." He likes pizza and going to McDonald's.

Charles focuses on more than just fun. He already knows that he wants to be a policeman when he grows up. Kristy Taylor, a social worker with Children's Home Society of Virginia, feels that "Charles' best quality is his caring and thoughtful nature."

Charles says that he hopes to be adopted by a family "that is nice and will take good care of me." Charles will benefit from a family that will not only create a nurturing environment, but will also provide clear and consistent rules.

All children deserve a family that will love and care for them for their entire lives. Charles is no different. For more information about Charles or other children awaiting adoption, contact Jane Hotchkiss at the Partnership for Adoptions program with the Children's Home Society of Virginia at 353-0191. To view a video interview of Charles, visit www.chsva.org/waitingchildren.htm. **RPM**

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Fourteen-year-old Charles is in his first year of high school.