

## WISH BOOK: Dawn Hoosier and her grandsons have always stuck it out for each other

Always there, always together



Dawn Hoosier sits between her grandsons David, 15, left, and Jason, 13.

NEW ALBANY — Thanksgiving leftovers were on the menu for **David Levine** on Friday. He said he likes cooking for himself, his brother, **Jason**, and his grandmother, **Dawn Hoosier**.

They've been cooking with their grandmother since, "how old were you?" Dawn asked. "About 5," David said. Now David is 15 and Jason's 13. They go to school nearby and live with Dawn, but it wasn't always like that.

Life's thrown a lot at the trio over the years. Dawn had to take on a custody battle to prevent the boys from going from their parents' care to the state's. They've battled homelessness, tough times and more. She said being a grandmother and trying to raise two teenagers isn't easy, but she's happy to have them. "We go toe to toe sometimes, but I love them and I wouldn't change any of it," she said.

Dawn said over the years, David and Jason have lived with her for most of their lives. That used to include her husband, but she said his substance abuse led to her leave that environment. Furthermore, issues with the boys' parents led to a custody hearing. Dawn took in the boys and their mom, her daughter, and tried to make everything work.

"It just wasn't an appropriate environment for the boys to be in," Dawn said. "About two years ago, we had to go to court and apply for temporary custody for them to be in my care."

She's worked to make sure they have a better place to grow up, and has secured housing through the New Albany Housing Authority. They still need a few things to fill out the space, but she said she's grateful to have a stable place for all of them to stay.

Through everything, Dawn said she wants stability for the holidays, for her and the boys. She said the boys cook and they enjoy a few TV shows together. Whether it's "Empire" or "Family Feud," they gather together as a family most days.

David said he likes to go to the library with his friends sometimes, just to hang out or use the internet. Dawn said Jason likes to play basketball or hang out with his friends outside, or sometimes go over and play video games.

But they also like to get creative. David said he likes to write poetry, which sometimes turns into rap. Jason said he's better at it than his brother. When he writes, Jason said he wants to express what he's been through. "I want people to know my struggle," Jason said.

But he's got his eyes on the future. The middle-schooler said he wants to be a musical artist, involved in culinary arts or something else.

Dawn said she's proud of her grandsons and glad she's taken them on by herself. She said part of that comes from her own grandmother rubbing off on her.

"I guess it would go back to my past, with my dad getting a divorce from my mom and her leaving the five of us on his doorstep," Dawn said. "He turned to his mom, who helped him out. She didn't raise us, but she helped raise us while he worked as a truck driver, and she instilled that in me."

## **HOW TO HELP**

The best way to assist families is with a financial donation with which items will be purchased. With each of the profiles of five families being featured Nov. 28 – Dec. 2 in the News and Tribune and at [www.newsandtribune.com](http://www.newsandtribune.com) will be a list of items needed.

Donations can be dropped off at **New Hope, 1302 Wall St., Jeffersonville.**

Checks can be mailed to New Hope to that address.

Call 812-288-4304 or email [patricia\\_kitehannon@newhopeservices.org](mailto:patricia_kitehannon@newhopeservices.org) with questions.

To donate with a **credit card**, please go to [www.newhopeservices.org/donate.html](http://www.newhopeservices.org/donate.html) and designate it as a **Wish Book** donation. The deadline to donate is Dec. 15.

**PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FAMILY NEEDS**

## HOOSIER FAMILY NEEDS

- Women's clothes
- Pants Size 20
- Shirts 2X, 3X
- Shoes 9.5
  
- Men's clothes, **David**
- Pants 32L, 34W
- Shirts Men's ML
- Shoes 12
  
- Men's clothes, **Jason**
- Pants 32L, 34W
- Shirts M, L
- Shoes 13.5 to 14

## NEEDS

- Microwave with stand
- A full-sized or queen-sized bed
- Three large dressers
- Kitchen table and chairs
- Recliner
- Three waste baskets
- Kitchen trash can
- Sheets for twin and full-sized beds
- Blankets
- Two men's winter coats
- Boots for everyone
- TV and a TV stand
- Underclothes for men
- Winter clothes
- Shoes, Converse, blue and black
- Hoodie, blue and black
- Jeans, dark
- Sweatpants
- Batteries

## WANTS

- Used running car or TARC tickets
- DVD player
- Laptop for homework
- Gift cards for cleaning supplies
- Gift card to help with holiday break and winter break food
- Large Print KJV Bible
- Bible Concordance and Dictionary
- White Diamonds perfume
- 42 DDD bras, size 19 underwear
- Clothes for all
- Xbox One and games
- Blender, mixer, electric can opener
- Sit-down walker
- Church clothes and shoes for all (no high heels)
- Mystery book series
- Xbox Live subscription
- Jordan shoes
- Fallout 4
- Gears of War 4
- Halo 5
- The Witcher 3
- Bicycles
- Nike Air Force
- Jordan 11
- Rock Revival Jeans
- Motor Bike

**By Jerod Clapp**

**News and Tribune**

**Wednesday, November 30, 2016**