



WOULD THESE

ANDREW LINCOLN WITH JANET, FIVE

“Every child deserves a chance to fulfil their true potential in life. And I believe that an environment of security, continuity, patience and love is the perfect way to nurture that child – namely, a family.”

Janet is happy and playful, with a strong-willed personality. She is affectionate and enjoys interaction with adults. Her favourite toys are her action figures.

YOU GIVE KIDS A HOME?

Thousands of children in the UK are desperate to find a family – a new celebrity photographic campaign aims to help. By Marnie Summerfield Smith. Photographs by Cambridge Jones

CLAUDIA WINKLEMAN WITH JESSICA, SEVEN, AND HOLLIE, THREE, RIGHT

‘Hollie and Jessica were adorable. I hope this highlights that all children need a loving home. I was very happy to take part in this Barnardo’s campaign. It’s an idea that worked in America, so hopefully it can work here.’

Jessica is a confident, talkative, imaginative girl who giggles a lot. She is very friendly. She is receiving one-to-one support at school for some learning and behavioural difficulties. Hollie enjoys reading and is developing well. She enjoys part-time nursery school.



THERE ARE AROUND 4,000 CHILDREN IN BRITAIN LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOMES AT ANY

ONE TIME. How long they have to wait depends on many factors. Older children like Sheila, eight, may wait longer than most. The majority of adoptive parents are looking for babies and toddlers up to the age of four. Once a child gets to eight, their chances of being adopted drop drastically. Then there's the fact that Sheila is one of six; she and her five brothers are all currently living in foster care (split up into three sets of two) with little chance of moving on any time soon, as most families feel unable to take on that many children at once (although there is no legal requirement for siblings to be adopted together, it's the practice encouraged by the majority of local councils).

The renowned portrait photographer Cambridge Jones, 42, an adopted child himself, has decided to do something about the plight of these children. He was inspired to take action while working in the US last year. 'I saw an article about an American project to help children needing homes by displaying pictures of them in public spaces like libraries. I felt so grateful for how my life had turned out that I felt compelled to do something.'

The photographer returned to the UK armed with inspiring stories of the American project's success – it has spread from one state to 40 in seven years, and found homes for 40 per cent of the children featured. Jones took the idea to Barnardo's adoption agency manager, ►



**CHERIE BOOTH,
BARNARDO'S
HONORARY
VICE-PRESIDENT,
WITH UPRAY, FOUR**

‘Taking part in the shoot has made me realise even more that children and young people needing adoption are not faceless numbers. They are bright, loving, living individuals who will give as much to other new parents as they ever take. They just need the opportunity to realise the potential we'd wish for all our children.’

Upray is bright and active. He enjoys going to the park and playing football. He likes playing with his foster carer's dog and attends nursery part-time, where he enjoys playing with other children.



**JACK DAVENPORT
WITH AARON, TEN,
AND SASHA, FOUR**

“It’s vital that people are reminded about adoption – there are so many children in the UK in need of a loving family. It can change lives in the profoundest way imaginable.”



Aaron and Sasha are bright, artistic and outgoing. Aaron excels academically and has a flair for drawing. Sasha makes friends easily and loves attending nursery. The children are together in foster care, where they have settled well.

‘THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN IN THE UK IN DESPERATE NEED OF PLACEMENT’

◀ Lyn Bugarski. ‘I was really excited at the possibility,’ she says. ‘People turn to inter-country adoption because they think there isn’t a need in the UK, but there are thousands of children here in desperate need of homes.’

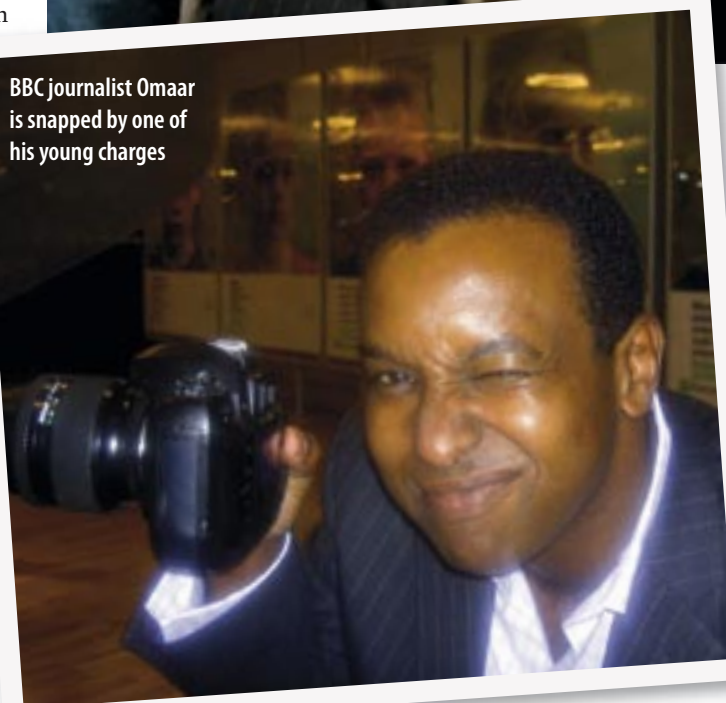
‘We occasionally overlook the fact that these children are individuals,’ Bugarski continues. ‘It’s easier for babies and toddlers to find a home because people want to see their first steps and their first smile or hear their first words, but one adoptive mum told me, “There are always firsts. Such as the first time they feel safe enough to bring a friend home for tea or the first time they call you Mum.”’

Cambridge Jones and Barnardo’s came up with the Home Time project, in which children who are up for adoption take photos of celebrities, and the celebrities – Cherie Booth, Jack Davenport, Laura Bailey, Andrew Lincoln, Rageh Omaar and Claudia Winkleman – take pictures of the children, while Jones shoots the whole proceedings. Then an exhibition of all three sets of photos is launched to raise awareness of the need for adoptive parents.

The children photographing (and being photographed by) ▶



BBC journalist Omaar is snapped by one of his young charges



RAGEH OMAAR WITH ADRIAN, SEVEN, HASSAN, TWO, AND RITA, FIVE

‘Adopting gives you the chance to change a child’s life, while enriching your own. I will take so many things away from today: the faces and stories of the siblings I had the joy to meet; their zest for life. They will be amazing human beings when they grow up.’

Adrian, Rita and Hassan want to stay together. They are engaging and have bonded well with their foster families. They are happy and active, have ready smiles and get on well with other children.

Adoption report

LAURA BAILEY, BARNARDO'S AMBASSADOR, WITH SHEILA, EIGHT

‘I couldn't help but fall a little bit in love with all the children at the shoot. It's great that this exhibition is involving the children and giving them an opportunity to be creative – to show their spirit and joy. Children have such a sense of fun and adventure.’

Sheila has an older brother, William, and four younger brothers, Larry, Danny, Billy and Steven. She is currently fostered with Steven, who is three, but has regular contact with all her brothers. She likes music, dolls, drawing and painting. She is progressing well academically.



Sheila turns the camera on model Laura Bailey

◀ BBC journalist Rageh Omaar are considered particularly hard to place. Adrian, seven, Rita, five, and Hassan, two, should ideally be matched with a family of their own ethnicity – Somali, Dutch and English. One third of children on the National Adoption Register are from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, but only 17 per cent of adopters are from these groups. Plus, Hassan has rickets. ‘People rule themselves out of adopting disabled children,’ says Bugarski. ‘But I hope these pictures will help people to see beyond the diagnosis, to see the child, not the label.’

‘You never know what you're getting with children, adopted or otherwise,’ she adds. ‘All children have unique characteristics.’ As for the traits that adoptive parents need, she says, ‘Many people think they're too old or that they'll “fail” the selection process. But it's aimed at assessing and preparing people, not judging them.’

Cambridge Jones, himself a father of two girls – Amber, aged seven, and Sasha, who is five – says, ‘These children have had really tough times, but they have such a zest for life. They deserve a second chance. It's so simple.’ ■

Anyone interested in adoption should call Barnardo's on 020-8550 8822 or visit barnardos.org.uk

The ‘Home Time’ exhibition runs at the Getty Images Gallery, 46 Eastcastle Street, London W1 until 3 May. For more information, call 020-7291 5380 or visit gettyimagesgallery.com

 **Barnardo's**
BELIEVE IN CHILDREN