

In addition to traditional foster care and adoption services, your support of Orchards Children's Services helps children and families healing from the trauma of abuse and neglect through:

- Empowering families to stay together by making decisions that promote the safety and well-being of their children
- Strengthening the parent-child relationship and building school-readiness and socio-emotional development
- Post adoption education, training, advocacy, and critical resources for families after adoption
- Providing scholarships to youth receiving our services as they attend college or trade and vocational schools
- State-wide mental and behavioral health counseling by licensed mental health clinicians

And so much more...

To learn more about the work currently being done at Orchards please contact Jacob Harrington, Donor Giving Coordinator, at [jharrington@orchards.org](mailto:jharrington@orchards.org) or at 248.914.4438.

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## MEET THE KNOX-POTTS FAMILY



**At Orchards Children's Services** there is no 'typical family.' With over 8,500 children and families involved in services ranging from foster care to adoption, from school readiness to college scholarships, and from family preservation to mental health services, each family has a unique story. The story of the Knox-Potts family offers a glimpse inside just one example...



Two decades ago, the Knox-Potts family embarked on a remarkable journey through Orchards. This voyage began when Ayana and Paul Knox-Potts, a newlywed couple with two young children, recognized they were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to change the lives of others—and their own—by sharing their home and their hearts. So, they reached out to Orchards Children's Services.

**When newborn Amari** entered foster care, the Orchards team realized Ayana and Paul were the perfect fit. Amari required consistent, long-term care, and the Knox-Potts committed themselves to this role. As time unfolded, Amari became eligible for adoption, a path Ayana and Paul gladly embraced.

In the years that followed, the Knox-Potts family expanded further with the addition of another biological child. Despite raising four children, Ayana and Paul felt an enduring desire to extend their efforts and resumed their foster journey welcoming Jabari and Samaya into their home. While the couple originally intended to provide the children with a loving but temporary home, their journey took an unexpected turn, and Jabari and Samaya became permanent additions to the family through adoption.

Orchards Children's Services proved to be an invaluable source of support for Ayana and Paul. "Orchards provided so many resources for us and our family and they never excluded any of our children," Ayana explained. "You have [ongoing] help and support from experts who understand our challenges. We fostered and adopted when they were babies, but this [childhood trauma] still has long term effects. "

Wanting to pay forward the knowledge and support they gained by working with Orchards, Ayana and Paul became mentors, leading a parent support group at Orchards and offering their guidance to fellow adoptive parents. These gatherings fostered a sense of community for both parents and children, affirming that they were not alone in their experiences. Ayana also joined the Oakland County Foster Care Review Board, where she continued to advocate for the welfare of foster children.

Today, the Knox-Potts children have grown, excelling both at school and at home, with the oldest attending college and the youngest just starting middle school.

Reflecting on their journey with immense gratitude, Ayana and Paul know that their family was able to reach its full, beautiful potential thanks to the support they received through Orchards. "Because of Orchards Children's Services, we have our complete family."



**ALWAYS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

