



Raymond Deaton was recently featured in the Dayton Daily News during their April 2026 coverage of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

He shared the courage exemplified by his sister, who reported abuse in their home after moving out of the house. “I saw horrors, I saw things I can’t forget,” he said. “But she decided to take the initiative to tell. To report the abuse that was going on.”

Deaton and his other siblings were taken away, and he found himself creating a new home with a foster family. “They literally changed everything,” he said. “They were the symbol in the foster care system that I was wanting to see. I was able to find my true self and find what I am living for.”

Deaton had the courage to share his story with reporters because he survived something that other local children may be actively experiencing. “We forget that there’s a wide open, clean slate in front of us,” he said. “We have that pencil, we have that paint. And we have the ability to draw whatever we want on there.”

For Deaton, his canvas is filled with typical teenage dreams: getting his driver’s license and finishing high school. But his other dream is to let people who may relate to his journey know they’re not alone.

“I see a future, I really do,” he said. “And I see a future for all these other foster kids. I want them to know, through this, that there is an end.”

