



## Television Story Pitches

More than 400,000 Children are in foster care in the United State's.<sup>1</sup> Some 100,000 of them are in the state of California.

Eugene, Oregon is a relatively small city — but it is the home of a nonprofit organization with a big vision. **A Family For Every Child** is actively engaged in fighting the foster care pandemic in a big way. We're matching prospective adoptive parents across the country with children in need.

Foster care was always intended as a temporary solution. Yet in too many states, it leads defenseless kids into a life of uncertainty and never ending chaos. Innocent children can face an average 2 to 3 changes in foster family placements a year, where they are often subjected to further violence, abuse and neglect. And — at age 18, many are cast out of the system, with no further financial or emotional support.

Sadly, the general public remains unaware of this tragedy. There is greater concern for the rights of animals than for America's foster children.

We propose the following stories to create broader awareness about the plight of these children:

### Journey to Nowhere

The most effective stories are captured as they unfold. AFFEC will work with your producers to identify 3 children with compelling stories to share about their journey. Two are likely to have bounced around the foster care system for close to decade, and therefore lived in a dozen foster homes. They'll share what it is like to face a life of uncertainty, physical abuse and psychological trauma. Yet they persevere; and pray that one day they will finally have a "forever family." But for now, they are left waiting.

The third child will tell a different story. Yes, they too began their formative years trapped in the foster care system. However, through the diligent work of organizations like **A Family for Every Child**, they were placed with a permanent family at age seven. This child is prospering, is college and career ready, and well on his or her way to becoming a fully functioning adult.

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<sup>1</sup> Administration for Children and Families, [http://faq.acf.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/47](http://faq.acf.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/47)

These stories can be illustrated with personal photos, and the recreation of pivotal moments in these children's lives.

## Reunion

One of **A Family for Every Child's** key initiatives is Family Finding, a service that supports children in foster care in the process of reconnecting with lost relatives and key figures in their lives. A team of tireless volunteers, scour the Internet each day — searching for leads.

When leads turn up, AFFEC facilitates a reunion, where foster kids and relatives have an opportunity to meet. We propose that producers follow the evolution of two cases, as they unfold. Cameras will document volunteers as they search the web and work the phones. Foster children will share their hopes of reconnecting with lost loved ones from their past. Additionally, newly identified relatives will be asked to consent to telling their side of the story. They'll share their memories, thoughts, and possible fears about reuniting. Tensions will grow, as the cameras capture both perspectives -- and the final moments leading up to a reunion. Expect smiles, hugs -- and tears as lost hopes are fulfilled.

We have produced a video that tells part of the foster care story:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7EOpDitJCg?>

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