

From: Christy Obie [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christy Obie [jennyhancock@afamilyforeverychild.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 2:44 AM
To: test3@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Matching Assistance Program January 2012

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A Family For Every Child

January 2012

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Would you like to contribute to AFFEC's cause for helping children? Any amount can have a lasting impact on a child. Click below!



Famous Foster Children

- Allison Anders, writer and director
- Alonzo Mourning, NBA Defensive Player of the Year in 1999 & 2000 and seven-time NBA All-Star
- Babe Ruth, American Major League baseball player
- Eddie Murphy, actor
- Eriq La Salle, actor
- Esai Morales, actor
- Marilyn Monroe, actress, singer and model
- Victoria Rowell, dancer, actress
- Wayne Dyer, author and motivational speaker
- Jimmy Graham, NFL tight end, 2011 Pro Bowl

From Our Matching Director:

I've been learning so much from the families that have come to Matching Assistance Program for help during their adoption journeys and want to thank you all for your patience and the trust you have put in us during this time in your life.

Learning about your adoption journey helps me to help others. Most families need support and acknowledgement about the feelings they are feeling along the way and knowing how others have worked their ways through this difficult system is helpful. I invite any of you to send me your story to share with others. The good, the bad, the ugly is all encouraged to be included.

If you would like to give me a call, please do so Monday through Friday between 9:00-3:00 pm.

Jennifer Hancock
Matching Assistance Director
1-877-343-2856

Matching Assistance Program

The Matching Assistance Program is designed for families that have a current homestudy and are searching for school age children, sibling groups, children with difficult behaviors and/or medical challenges.

The goal of Matching Assistance is to work alongside families providing them with one on one communication, assurance and assistance in learning how to best represent themselves in their family biography. In addition to this communication, Matching Assistance is helping families by identifying children through national child.

We continue to have great success with our program and plans for 2012 to expand our services further with Matching Events, continued partnerships with agencies, caseworkers, adoption workers and social service agencies throughout the United States.

Please call our Matching Director, Jennifer Hancock at 1-877-343-2856 or email jennyhancock@afamilyforeverychild.org

Matching Assistance Program Upgrades

We are continuing to expand our services, update and improve our programs for families to better serve them throughout their

Benefits of Matching Assistance

Here are a few of the benefits families will have when using our membership program.

We have many children who may not be available through public listing sites but are available through private protected web listings.

We email family information to our extensive database of recruiters, social workers and agencies around the United States introducing your family as a potential match for a waiting child or children on their caseload.

You have the opportunity to submit your homestudy from the comfort of your own home.

Submit on children found on other photo-listing sites, outside of A Family For Every Child, with minimal information.

You can be assigned your own FAMILY ADOPTION SPECIALIST that searches for you, follows up and helps you submit on kids all over the country.

You may receive a "REVIEWER" that reads your family biography and homestudy documents to give you perspective and suggestions for your family profile.

You get ADVANCED email notices of "KIDS IN NEED EMAILS." We usually send these out when a child is in urgent need, and caseworkers are really ready to move quickly. The MAP families get 24 advance notices of these situations.

You get WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTERS geared toward the MAP program.

ACCESS TO IN DEPTH INFORMATION ON ADOPTION, new photo-listing sites, creating a life book, services, trainings and more from within the log on site.

No minimum membership required.

You can stop anytime.

Every family has a Family Home

adoption journey.

We are upgrading our Matching Family Home Page with additional features such as: blogs, social media links, adoption rooms, and a notepad for each child for families to jot down notes about the children they see. We're also expanding our bookmarking capabilities so that families have easier access to children seen previously.

We'll expand our member library, possible discussion board, and a contact section of each Family Adoption Specialist and A Family For Every Child employee. Families will have an activity summary section and text notification capabilities.

All within our Matching Assistance Program.

Perseverance and Dedication

Children in the foster care system need as many dedicated advocates as possible to help them through the adoption process!

Don't Give Up

The children in foster care programs are used to instability. That can be one of the reasons they are placed in these programs to begin with.

Accepting a new family member into your home is a big step for you and for the child involved. It can be a wonderful experience to find that one person you have been waiting for.

However, for some of these children this is not the first time they have been accepted into someone's home. For some, it has happened many times and with all the excitement involved there is also disappointment.

Because these kids have done this before they will test your boundaries in order to see how serious you are about taking care of them. If things get rocky they need to know that you will be there for them no matter what. In the past that might be the reason a family has given up.

And while giving up might end in a last ditch effort, it should not be the first option new parents jump to.

The main point here is not to let the boundary pushing get you thrown off. It will be hard and it might take a long time. But the child needs to know that you will be there for them no matter what. That is the point in them testing your limits, if you give up then it will just reaffirm what they have learned through past experiences.

Do not give up on them. If it started out so good and then went sour, this is them making sure you will love them no matter what. It will get better. This takes time and patience and our Matching Assistance Program is here to help answer questions and to help you in any way they can.

"It's worth every minute of battle."

Break the Cycle

Contact Us!

880 Beltline Rd.
Springfield OR 97477
1-877-343-2856

Page that's controlled by YOU!

Call me today and find out the exciting opportunities awaiting you!

Prepare Your Heart for this Exciting Opportunity!

Our first ever Matching Event webinar will happen January 2012.

A Family For Every Child and the state of Washington are partnering together to help foster children find permanent placements.

You'll have private access to this event of special children, viewing photos and/or watching videos of these children during this time.

Caseworkers will be on hand to answer questions and give families feedback and information about the type of families preferred.

This event will take place January 26, 2012.

Please feel free to call Jennifer Hancock, Matching Director or Christy Obie-Barrett, Executive Director at 1-877-343-2856.

Hardest to Place Children

Many foster children are at risk of spending their entire childhood in multiple foster care placements.

These children have had a rough start in life and many dream of a "forever family." A child is usually considered "special needs" if they are over the age of six, part of a sibling group, have some physical, mental or emotional disabilities, or are part of an ethnic minority. Of special concern are children who are at risk of "aging out" of foster care.

These are the hardest to place children who have been in the system the longest. Because they lack the support system that most young adults take for granted, they are at higher risk for dropping out of school, homelessness, poverty, and young parenthood. They do not have any more time to wait...

Teens in Foster Care

Though most people think about babies when they think about adoption, there are many older children and hundreds of teens who wait for a family. Most of them have been in foster care for a considerable length of time; many have faced multiple moves and great losses.

Until fairly recently, teens in foster care were rarely considered for adoption. Thankfully, that has now changed. It is now recognized that it is never too late for someone to join a family. In fact, some individuals are adopted as adults.

When these teens in foster care are no longer the responsibility of the government, they become extremely vulnerable. Amongst the kids we see on the streets, homeless, panhandling, or involved in prostitution, many grew up in foster care and have little or no family support when they leave foster care. Most teens who have been adopted thrive in their new families and say it was the best thing that ever happened to them.

Like all of us, these kids need stability, a sense of belonging, and opportunities to develop and grow. These things are all far more likely if they are part of a family.

What sort of people adopt teens? All sorts of people. Some have never parented before; others have seen their children grow up and leave home and want to continue being parents. Parents considering teen adoption will need to be strong, resilient, and, most importantly, totally committed to making it work.

Do the teens want to be adopted? Yes. Here are some comments from waiting teens on what not having a family feels like:

"I've really struggled with the idea of family ... trying to explain to people that I just don't have one."

The University of South Carolina, interviewed teens who had been adopted. This is what they said:

"It's the most important thing that happened to me."

"I've got a family and found love. I have everything one hopes for. I fit in a family."

"I have a normal life now. I have a driver's license, and I drive. I have friends, and I get to go on overnights. There is no comparison to what my life is now and what it was before."

"Before I was adopted, I was the property of the state ... just being adopted feels better."

"If it weren't for my mom, I wouldn't be where I am today. In the beginning, I had given up. I really tested her, especially in school. There was no way I'd be where I am today without being adopted. The best part is the relationship I have with my mom now."

Adoptive Dad says "[Don't be afraid of older kids](#)"

ABC News Video- [Aging out of Foster Care](#)

If you wish to reach us by e-mail, fax, phone or letter, please contact us at:

A Family For Every Child
880 Beltline Road
Springfield, OR 97477

(541) 343-2856
(877) 343-2856
(541) 343-2866 - fax
Email: christy@afamilyforeverychild.org

Notes

Congratulations to all the families that have finalized or are close to finalizing their children's adoption. The time and difficulties is so worth the wait!

Do you have an adoption story you'd like to share? We'd like to hear from you. Please send them to

jennyhancock@afamilyforeverychild.org

Find out how you can receive the full Matching Assistance membership for \$75/month

From a Child's Point of View

The children in foster care have experienced a disruptive home life due to no fault of their own. They are separated from birth parents, and sometimes siblings and extended family members.

Can you imagine the feelings and anxiety these children must feel?

These children are often eager to belong, but because of past experiences are confused and scared to trust new adults.

Some of the things children think are:

Where are my brothers and sisters?

Why can't I be with my mom and dad?

Will I ever be adopted?

No one really loves me.

Children don't always express or discuss how they feel about adoption. Just because they don't does not mean they don't want to be accepted. Let children know it's okay to talk about their feelings, and create a warm and welcome environment for them to do so.

You can join a parent support group, seek adoption related materials, talk with a counselor or your adoption agency.

Tips for Seeing the Positive and Letting Go of the Negative

Mind

1. Assume the best and look for it in yourself and others
2. Know what turns on your light and do those things often
3. Fake it - just pretending to feel positive makes you feel better and improves your health and well-being
4. Get plenty of laughter every day to distract yourself from stressors
5. Replace negative mind chatter with positive

Body

1. Spend less time in front of a TV, computer, or digital device and more time out in the real world of nature
2. Get more light in your life (open the curtains, move your bed, get outside)
3. Hang around with playful experts - young kids, older people, and pets
4. Reconnect with your body in playful ways
5. Get more sleep and wake up joyful

Soul

1. Hang out with positive people, avoid life-o-suckers
2. Give thanks often, even if you have to make your own
3. Don't go to the dark side when you can choose the lighter side
4. Watch your language (what we say creates how we see the world)
5. Push past your limits to get around your ego

Jenny Hancock
Matching Assistance Director
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Springfield OR 97477
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Please visit: [A Family For Every Child](#)

Online Matching Event

Hosted by A Family For Every Child

We are excited to announce that we will be holding our first 11 online matching event on January 26th.

A Family For Every Child has partnered with the state of Washington to help foster children find permanent placements. During this online webinar event you will have private access to 10 special children, where you can view photos and/or video.

Caseworkers will be on hand to answer your questions and give families feedback and information about the type of families that would be the best match for these children.

In order for you to attend this special event you will need to fill out the online sign up form and insure that you have uploaded your homestudy with us.

Only Adoption workers and Families with completed homestudies will be approved to attend to this event due to the personal and detailed information that will be provided about the children during the event.

Go to this link to view the children who will be featured.

**Make Your Life and
Attitude Lighter
through...**

Deflecting stress (not worrying about things that have already happened over which you have no control)

Unpacking worries (letting things out of the bag through laughter, exercise, having fun, yoga, singing, playing with animals, dancing, coloring, etc.)

Distracting yourself from negative thinking (looking for the good and the funny instead of focusing on what's gone wrong)

Questions?

Feel free to call at 541-343-2856
or email:
info@afamilyforeverychild.org



Help us with the Princess for a Day Event 2012!

On March 4, 2012, we will be hosting our 4th annual Princess for a Day event. This special day is an opportunity for Oregon girls to be treated like a princess for a day.

It is designed to be a gift for foster children in the community as well as to raise awareness of foster children in Oregon. Each princess will take home a gown, crown, and slippers. She'll have her hair and nails done, and be in her very own photo shoot. She and a guest will then attend a tea party fit for a queen.

We are accepting donations of new or gently used dresses, shoes, and accessories to fit girls ages 2-18. Bring donations to 880 Beltline Road, Springfield Oregon.

Also visit our [Amazon Wishlist](#).

Want to help transform girl into princesses for a day? If you are interested in volunteering for the event please e-mail linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org.

Register a princess, and give her a special day she deserves. The success of this event depends on you! For additional information about A Family For Every Child or Princess for a Day visit us online at [by clicking here](#) or contact us at 541-343-2856.



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