

From: Heather Smith [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Heather Smith [heather@afamilyforeverychild.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 2:03 AM
To: scott@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Mentoring April 2012

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A Family For Every Child

April 2012

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Life Skills Calendar of Events

Life Skills classes are open to all youth 12 and up. Meetings are held 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. and dinner is served. Seating is limited so please RSVP your child/children.

April 24: Being an Active Citizen. Community service projects/ ways to help in the community

May 22: Transportation/Auto responsibility

June 19: Living on your own

Research Shows Mentoring Needed for Disconnected Youth

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 - A national survey and research report released recently by America's Promise Alliance, Civic Enterprises and Peter D. Hart Research Associates shows that mentoring can play an important role in helping young people who are detached from school and without a job find ways to get back on track.

Titled Opportunity Road: The Promise and Challenge of America's Forgotten Youth, the research was aimed at understanding how young people between ages 16 and 24 become disconnected from school and work and what challenges they face in trying to reconnect.

Nearly 73 percent of those surveyed, even though they are not enrolled in school, are unemployed and do not have a college degree, remain confident and hopeful that they will be able to achieve their goals in life.

"The fact that these young people still have hope in their future is critical," said MENTOR's Chief Executive Officer David Shapiro. "But, as would seem natural, this study also revealed that having support and help makes a big difference."

The majority (52 percent) of young people in the study who said they have a lot of help and support feel confident about their future; only 37 percent of those who self-identified as "on their own" felt the same. And, when asked about the kinds of people they would like to have helping them succeed, they said successful peers (79 percent), college mentors (69 percent), parents or family (67 percent) and business mentors or advocates from my community (65 percent).

"We already know that quality mentoring is one of the keys to academic achievement and helping keep students in school and on track. This new research adds to the growing body of evidence that mentoring is also a critical asset in helping America's disconnected young people get back on track and find pathways to meaningful and productive lives," added Shapiro.

America's economy would benefit from reconnecting with this population, as well. Opportunity Road notes that, according to Teachers College, Columbia University, more than 17 percent of American youth between 16 and 24 are classified as disconnected. In 2011 alone, they cost taxpayers \$93 million in lost revenues from a lack of productive work

Support Group

We want to support you in your foster or adoption process, and you may have something to offer in the role of support to another family. Together we can encourage and support each other.

Let's reach out to each other and those in our community to see how we can support each other during times that can often be discouraging or difficult. We cover essential training topics.

Support Group

DATE: Thursday April 12 & April 26

TIME: 5:30-7:30pm

LOCATION: Friends Church
3495 West 18th Eugene

Childcare will be provided

If you will be bringing children, please RSVP to the AFFEC office (541)343-2856 or email heather@afamilyforeverychild.org

This meeting counts toward your required training hours so come take advantage of our support group.

Support Group meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

We are looking for snack donations for the children. Examples: crackers, granola bars, fruit snacks. Please contact Heather if you can make a donation.

Mentor Volunteers Needed

We would like to recruit a volunteer for the Mentor Program that can go to different venues/businesses and attempt to get free tickets for activities for our mentors to use with their mentees. We would like that person to be able to find free family activities that are available this summer.

Some of our mentors have expressed their concern about not having the funds to do extra things with the kids that they would like to do.

and increased use of social services. The lifetime economic burden of young people in this status is up to \$4.7 trillion.

Do you have 10 hours a month to commit to a child?

A Family For Every Child mentor program was created to provide one-on-one mentoring relationships for youth who are living in foster care. Youth are matched with an adult volunteer mentor who has similar interests, by spending time together forming a friendship. We ask that the mentor spend approximately 10 hours a month with the youth doing things like: visiting parks, sports activities, watching a movie, doing homework, or talking about what life has to offer the child. These are just examples; many more options available.

The mentor and the mentee will decide what activities to do together to build a lasting bond. The mentoring program is designed to bring stable, long-term relational support to foster youth. Mentoring relationships can provide stable emotional support, increase self-sufficiency and expose foster youth to new cultures and experiences, thus broadening their vision of "what could be" in their lives.

Children in need of Mentors:

Anne is a **16-year-old girl** who lives in Cottage Grove. She loves horses, movies, swimming and reading. She would prefer a female mentor.

Haley is a **14-year-old girl** who lives in Cottage Grove. Haley likes Subway, math, the color orange and hanging out with her friends. She loves music and wants to go ice skating. She would prefer a female mentor.

Alex is a **8-year-old girl** who lives in Springfield. She is a girly-girl who loves having her hair and nails done. She likes basketball, swimming and riding bikes. She also likes the Ducks. Alex would like a female mentor.

Belle is a **8-year-old girl** who lives in Eugene. She likes the color pink, reading, McDonalds and watching movies. She likes arts and crafts, playing at the park and Christmas. She would like someone that can help her with her homework. She would prefer a female mentor.

Kara is a **17-year-old girl** who lives in a group home in Eugene. She is bright, engaging and funny. Kara needs someone that can help her with her sense of worth. She likes arts and crafts, movies, bowling and animals. She would prefer a female mentor.

Stacy is a **11-year-old girl** who lives in Eugene. She likes the color blue, Hometown Buffet, funny movies and running around at the park. She doesn't like mushrooms or onions. Stacy wants to be a zoologist when she grows up and she loves animals. She would prefer a female mentor.

Joey is a **7-year-old boy** who lives in Portland. He needs a bilingual mentor. He loves to dance, martial arts, and watching movies. He would prefer a male mentor.

Paul is a **13-year-old boy** who lives in a group home in Portland. He loves to read, photography, and playing video games. He likes movies, going fishing, and telling jokes. He would prefer a male mentor.

Tony is a **12-year-old boy** who lives in Gresham. He loves to cook, hiking and playing basketball. He is good at math and loves to try new foods. He would prefer a male or female mentor.

AFEC Blog

Our blog is focused on providing support and information about the foster care and adoption system.

We aim to create a community of people invested in the interest of the children who are in the foster care system. Through our blog we want to encourage families who are thinking about becoming adoptive or foster care parents while assisting those who are already a foster or adoptive parent(s).

We hope to provide support by sharing individual stories, advice, and constant information on A Family For Every Child and the foster care/adoption process.

Visit [our blog here!](#)

While you are there, make sure to sign up for the email alerts which will notify you any time we have a new post!

Questions?

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

Brett is a **9-year-old boy** who lives in Tualatin. Brett likes to play games and puzzles. He loves funny movies and playing basketball. Brett has a "trache" so he will need a medically trained mentor or he can bring his medically trained helper with you on outings. He would prefer a male or female mentor.

Ali is a **14-year-old girl** who lives in a group home in Springfield. Ali likes math, Dairy Queen, The Twilight Series movies, animals and playing chess. Ali would prefer a male mentor.

Please contact Heather@afamilyforeverychild.org for more information.

Landrieu Introduces Foster Care Mentoring Act

Bill aims to connect foster youth with supportive adult mentors

WASHINGTON - United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., introduced the Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2011 this week, which aims to connect foster youth with caring and supportive mentors. Joining Sen. Landrieu in sponsoring this bill are Sens. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, and Tim Johnson, D-S.D.

"Mentoring relationships can play an enormous role in helping foster youth reach their academic and personal potential," Sen. Landrieu said. "These youth, who have been moved from school to school and from home to home, lack stability and permanency and can learn to thrive when someone gives the energy and time to show that they care. It is our responsibility to ensure that these youth have the opportunity to build lasting relationships with adult role models. Whether these relationships are developed through natural interactions or through a mentoring program, they are rooted in trust and respect and have the potential to last a lifetime."

Research shows that children who are mentored are 45 percent less likely to use illicit drugs; 59 percent more likely to succeed in school; and 73 percent more likely to attain higher life achievement goals. Specifically, the Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2011 aims to improve the outcome of children in foster care through establishing long term relationships with responsible, caring adults by:

Authorizing \$15 million to establish statewide foster care mentoring programs. States would be eligible to receive up to \$600,000 to establish or expand a foster care mentoring program.

These programs would be specially designed to serve the needs of foster youth and would have a strong emphasis on improving academic achievement.

Providing \$4 million to begin a national public awareness campaign and mentor recruitment program. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a nationwide campaign to raise public awareness of the need for foster care mentors and opportunities to get involved.

Allowing up to \$10,000 in federal student loan forgiveness for those who volunteer to mentor a child in care. Mentors who participate in a foster care mentor program would be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 in federal student loan forgiveness for every 200 hours they serve. A total of \$10,000 in student loans incurred by participating college or graduate students would qualify for forgiveness.

Child Recruitment/ Listing Roles

Slide Shows/Video:

Create slide shows of kids, and edit video of children

Newsfeed:

Maintain newsfeed on web

Web Help of all Kids:

Help update web pages

Social Media Roles:

Google plus, youtube, four square, QR, overall Social Media goals

Video Segments:

Of How-to (short) process and programs

Graphic Design for Web Pages:

Such as front page, text message page, HGA site

Text Coordinator:

Work on cleaning up text listing, and integrating into all our web pages, social media and email outreach

Survey Volunteer:

Explore different survey options and explore how to integrate this into SF, design surveys and identify groups' surveys needed

Writers:

For success stories, web pages and more

SEO:

Linking us to other sites

Public Listing:

List on the public site

Audio File Coordinator:

Gets audio for kids on the site and those to come or matching event kids

Photo Coordinator:

Coordinate photos for kids and matching events

Matching Online Coordinator:

Create flyers, outreach, templates and web pages to market Matching events, do outreach for agencies, schedule Matching events, plan outreach to workers and photographers, use surveys, do follow up to families and agencies

Family Search Specialist:

Need to refer to Nora for training

Individual State Outreach Child Coordinators:

List kids, check current status, update info in our database, reach out to worker

Outreach Coordinator:

Reach out to agencies, social workers, photo listing with the goal to list more kids, families and partners

Targeted Email Outreach:

Design and send targeted outreach



HEART GALLERY MENTOR PROGRAM

Heather Smith

Mentor Director

A Family For Every Child

(541)343-2856

www.afamilyforeverychild.org

Heather@afamilyforeverychild.org



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