

From: Heather Smith [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Heather Smith [heather@afamilyforeverychild.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 2:03 AM
To: jennifer.dunn@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Mentoring May 2012

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



A Family For Every Child

May 2012

Like us on **Facebook** 

View our profile on **LinkedIn** 

Follow us on **twitter** 

[Visit our blog](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Text Me!](#)

Donate to AFFEC

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

[Click here to DONATE NOW](#)

Attention All Foster Youth Age 10+

This will be our last Life Skills meeting until October, 2012.

Tuesday, June 19, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at our office on 880 Beltline Road, Springfield.

This month we will be learning about life on your own.

Dinner will be provided.

Please RSVP: heather@afamilyforeverychild.org 541-343-2856 if your child would like to attend. Space is limited.

Children in Need of Mentors: May

Walter is a **13-year-old** boy who lives in Eugene. Walter likes computers, movies, sports, biking and swimming. He is a good ballet dancer. Walter likes dancing and playing games. Walter would like a male or female mentor.

Matthew is an **11-year-old** boy who lives in Eugene. Matthew likes movies, reading, video games and sports. He is shy but warms up once you get to know him. He would like a male mentor.

James is a **nine-year-old** boy who lives in Eugene. James loves boxing, roller skating and riding his bike. He likes spaghetti, The Ducks and going to the movies. James loves sports and video games. He would like a male mentor.

Brad is a **nine-year-old** boy who lives in Tualatin. He has a "trache" so his medical assistant will go on outings with his mentor. He is very funny and has a great sense of humor. Brad likes to play with legos and playing basketball. He loves chocolate candy and silly movies. Brad would like a male or female mentor.

Andy is a **12-year-old** boy who lives in Gresham. He likes movies, cooking and all things about the "Oregon" nature. He likes to paint, swim and playing sports. He would like a male or female mentor.

Paul is a **13-year-old** boy who lives in a group home in Portland. Paul likes to read the bible, sports and taking pictures. Paul is social and very outgoing. He wants to go fishing and likes to play the guitar. Paul would like a male mentor.

Joe is a **7-year-old** boy who lives in Portland. Joe lives in a Spanish-only speaking home so we will need a bilingual mentor. Joe likes to break dance, movies, martial arts and swimming. He would like a male or female mentor.

David is an **11-year-old** boy who lives in Beaverton. David likes to play video games, animals and sports. He would like to have some new experiences with his mentor. David would like a male mentor.

Melissa is a **14-year-old** girl who lives in Eugene. Melissa likes to play softball and basketball. She is silly and a great singer. Melissa likes to do arts and crafts, eating at Red Lobster and is good at math. She likes kittens and playing Twister. Melissa would like a female mentor.

Mentoring Makes a Difference One Child at a Time

Recent data indicates that there are almost half a million children in the foster care system. The average age of a child in foster care is 9 years old; the average length of stay in foster care is 26 months, (AFCARS Report). In addition to the trauma caused by the disruption to their family and home environment, foster youth often have emotional and physical needs. Many are the victims of abuse or neglect.

They may have trouble forming healthy relationships with adults and peers. Academics often suffer during out-of-home placements. Even the most resilient child can be thrown into a pattern of depression, self-doubt, and isolation when faced with the world of foster care.

Because of the disruption in their lives and the loss of support, foster youth need many things. This is where mentors can play a valuable role.

A Mentor can be many things to a foster youth:

A stable adult - Foster youth are often overwhelmed with the rotating cast of caseworkers, foster parents, clinicians, legal advocates, and other professional adults that may be a part of their team. A mentor serves as a continuous source of support.

A positive role model - Foster youth need positive relationships with adults they can learn from and grow with. Mentors can model appropriate behavior, provide guidance and advice and enable foster youth to form healthy relationships with adults they trust.

A source of happiness - In addition to the practical roles mentioned above, a mentor can also bring joy and fun to a foster youth's life. Simply bringing some laughter and entertainment to a foster youth's day can help foster normalcy in childhood experiences.

Mentoring makes a big difference: When kids enjoy a

Lisa is a **13-year-old** girl who lives in Springfield. Lisa is bilingual but her guardians only speak Spanish, so she will need a bilingual mentor. Lisa likes horses and cheerleading. She likes to cook and watch movies. She would like a female mentor.

Tracy is a **10-year-old** girl who lives in Eugene. Tracy is friendly and happy and likes trying new things. She would like to play softball. Tracy likes to read, sports and watching movies. She would like a female mentor.

Alice is a **15-year-old** girl who lives in Eugene. Alice likes sports, hunting and socializing with friends. Alice is more on the "tom-boy" side and not a "girly-girl". She is very excited about getting a mentor. She would like a female mentor.

Shelly is a **three-year-old** girl who lives in Springfield. Shelly loves to play with other children and would like a mentor that has children for her to play with. She likes math, ice cream, and reading. Shelly likes Disney movies, riding bikes and eating at McDonalds. Shelly would like a female mentor.

Ashley is a **16-year-old** girl who lives in Eugene. Ashley speaks mostly Spanish and will need a bilingual mentor. She likes computers, biking and listening to music. Ashley would most benefit from a mentor that understands the cultural differences between the U.S. and Mexico. She would like a female mentor.

Emily is a **three-year-old** girl who lives in Portland. Emily is a very sweet little girl. She loves to play dress-up, princesses and being read to. Emily is very coordinated and would love to play some sort of sport or take a dance class. She would like a female mentor.

Allison is a **16-year-old** girl who lives in Cottage Grove. She likes horses, movies and reading. She likes to swim and hang out with her friends. Amber would like a female mentor.

Teresa is an **11-year-old** girl who lives in Tualatin. She loves gymnastics, horses and animals. Teresa likes to go to the library, watching movies and going to the zoo. She likes science and doing projects. Teresa would like a female mentor.

Krista is a **17-year-old** girl who lives in Eugene. She likes arts and crafts, cooking, watching movies and animals. She is bright, engaging and funny. Krista would like a female mentor.

Alisha is a **14-year-old** girl who lives in Springfield. She likes Dairy Queen, roller skating, hazelnuts and Alaska. She likes to journal and to draw. She is shy until you get to know her. She would like a male mentor.

Please contact Heather@afamilyforeverychild.org for more information.

Want to Partner with Us?

With over ½ a million foster youth in the United States needing support, no one program can successfully reach all of these "at risk" youth.

A Family For Every child has successfully operated many volunteer based programs over the last 5 years. We have a data base of over 900 volunteers do to our extensive recruitment process. We have served over 2000 children and 15,000 families from all over the country, we do this with our strong Volunteer commitment and through 9 different programs all geared towards children in Foster care. Our mission is to simple get kids out of foster care into committed

regular, positive activity with an adult over the course of a year, those kids are 46% less likely to begin using drugs, 27% less likely to begin using alcohol, and 52% less likely to skip school. This decreases drug-related suspensions, drug related crime, and the number of babies born drug-affected.

Children guided by positive role models are more likely to improve their academic performance, make better decisions, have more self-confidence, and a sense of belonging.

Foster youth with a mentor tend to have better relationships with parents/caregivers, teachers and peers. They are also more likely to attend and graduate from college.

Another Reason Mentors are Important

Melissa will turn 18 this month. She is struggling with coming of age issues like getting a job, finances and graduation. She is struggling with her mom about doing chores, privileges, and what happens when you turn the magical age of "18". She is bright, kind, ethical, and really trying to sort things out.

Her mentor, Chris, was referred to her at a really crucial time in her life. This is a time in her life where she really needs some extra guidance, support, and understanding.

Chris describes Melissa as being strong, reflective and a competent young woman with a lot of talent. She encourages Melissa and has become a good friend to her.

Chris took her to Starbucks, drove her around the U of O campus and took her to the library where she got her first library card. They talk on the phone multiple times during the week. Chris is a safe person that Melissa feels she can talk to and a person Melissa knows she can count on.

Chris is helping Melissa learn many life skills that will help prepare her for adulthood. Our mentor program asks you commit ten hours a month to your mentee.

permanent homes and connected to dedicated loving individuals that will be there forever.

A Family For Every Child has two programs that have taken advantage of extensive use of Volunteers. If you are wanting to build a Mentor or Family Finding Program, and need or want to use Volunteers, we would love to partner with you to make that happen. Family Finding and Mentor programs provides guidelines on how to build a new programs and/or successfully help strengthen your old program with the use of Volunteers. We will help you focuses on designing and planning the program, setting up volunteer recruitment, training and retention, and managing the program and sustaining the program.

A Family For Every Child's Mentor Volunteer Program and Family Finding program will help your organization build a programs for "high risk" youth in your community, by using your communities BEST resources, their people. We can help you build a program to assist these youth living in foster care, so that they can break the "cycle" and live healthy productive lives.

For more information please contact
Heather@afamilyforeverychild.org
www.afamilyforeverychild.org
877-343-2856

Grad Nation Summit Focused on Increasing Graduation Rates

Monday, March 26, 2012 - Representatives from MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership attended the 2012 Building a Grad Nation Summit in Washington, D.C., hosted by America's Promise Alliance in partnership with the Alliance for Excellent Education, Civic Enterprises and the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University.

This annual event brings together community groups, educators, local and state leaders, nonprofit organizations, businesses and youth to discuss the progress being made and remaining challenges in the nation's efforts to increase high school graduation rates.

MENTOR is a partner with America's Promise Alliance in its Grad Nation movement to end America's high school dropout crisis and prepare young people for college and the 21st century workforce. Research shows that youth mentoring is an effective intervention for young people at risk of dropping out of high school; mentored youth have better school attendance, a better chance of going on to higher education and better attitudes toward school.

A 2012 update to the original Grad Nation report - Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Ending the High School Dropout Epidemic - includes information about the work State and Local Mentoring Partnerships, Big Brothers Big Sisters, City Year, Communities In Schools, Success Mentors of New York City, United Way and others are doing in locations coast to coast.

The report references MENTOR's Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™, as well as the growing Quality Mentoring System developed and pioneered by Mass Mentoring Partnership and the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, and promotes the newly-released Mentor in a Box, which global entertainment company Viacom created with MENTOR and innovation Research & Training to help empower companies to understand the process and possibilities of strengthening their communities by engaging in youth mentoring.

Ten hours a month can make a huge difference in a child's life...

Mentors Needed

Youth mentors help children set goals, solve problems, and make good choices. A mentor never takes the place of a parent - a mentor is a friend/companion, supportive adult who can be a positive role model.

Simple activities such as reading together, playing games, shooting some hoops, going to museums, and doing homework can mean the world to a young person eager for guidance. All of the youth we serve are in the State of Oregon foster care system.

- Must be 21 years old
- Make a one year commitment
- A sincere desire to be involved with a young person
- Spend at least 10 hours per month one-on-one with the youth
- Listen, respect, empathize, show patience and the ability to be flexible and look for opportunities for positive outcomes
- To create avenues of positive and creative fun through adventures that show a life of excitement without the negative influences
- Track monthly activities, complete and return online report

Few bonds in life are more influential than those between a young person and an adult. As you and your mentee begin your communication; exploring values, interests and goals, you will find yourself making a difference and having a positive effect on a young person's life.

What you may also be surprised to see is that you will be learning more about yourself, too.

Mentoring is a shared opportunity for learning and growth for both mentor and mentee. Consistency is very important to youth in foster care. Foster youth have likely been hurt by adult relationships, this combined with the transition of adults in and out of their lives, may leave them hesitant to form close relationships, this is one reason we ask for a one year commitment.

Approximately 1,000 people attending the conference learned the latest research on the nation's graduation rates and participated in workshops on topics such as expanded learning opportunities, the role of technology, post-secondary access and affordability, disconnected youth, early childhood education, education reform, working with minority, rural and military youth populations and the importance of data systems. Speakers included America's Promise Alliance Founding Chairman General Colin Powell and Chair Alma Powell, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and George Lucas, Star Wars creator and chairman of The George Lucas Educational Foundation.

According to the Alliance for Excellent Education, the lost lifetime wages for students who did not graduate from high school in 2011 are estimated to be more than \$330 billion. "There is economic and human crisis here that must be met with rigor, urgency and ingenuity," said MENTOR's Chief Executive Officer David Shapiro. "Because educational achievement stems from healthy development, we must continue to create structures that introduce and support quality relationships into the lives of young people and connect the adults in their various contexts to support them in their development so they can push the bounds of their potential. When this holistic, relationship-centered approach is pursued, as highlighted by Grad Nation, it is possible to make huge gains in educational attainment collectively."

The Grad Nation Summit was supported by Premier Sponsors State Farm, AT&T, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Target, as well as Signature Sponsors Apollo Group, Casey Family Programs, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Ford Foundation, Ford Motor Company, Intel Corporation, Lumina Foundation, National Cable & Telecommunications Association and Pearson Foundation.

We Need Your Help!

We have a great kid, that is currently in foster care, who is desperately in need of a laptop.

He was given one as a gift, but it ended up being stolen and broken. He saved up money to get it fixed, but because it was stolen he could not keep it. He is doing really well in school and in his current placement, and this would be a big boost for his education and self-esteem.

Used is fine; in good shape is great. We would just like to see him stay on a positive track. Thank you.

christy@afamilyforeverychild.org



A Family For Every Child works with families and social workers nationwide, to help children in foster care find

Please contact Heather:
heather@afamilyforeverychild.org
for more information.

AFFEC 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

permanent placements. One way we can assist these children is by featuring them to our families in an Online Matching Event. During these online webinar events families will have private access to many special children, where they can view photos and/or video. Social workers will be on hand to answer questions that families might have and give feedback and information about the types of families that would be the best match for these children.

These events are a great opportunity for families to learn more about children that they might be the perfect forever family for. Only Adoption workers and Families with completed home studies will be approved to attend these events due to the personal and detailed information that will be provided about the children during the event.

Due to the high demand for webinars and webinar registrations, families and agencies that register after our webinar is full will be put on a waiting list and notified when an opening is available.

Learn more about our upcoming Child Matching Events [here!](#)



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 June 14th

TIME: 5:30pm-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 heather@afamilyforeverychild.org

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



HEART GALLERY MENTOR PROGRAM

Heather Smith
Mentor Director
A Family For Every Child
(541)343-2856
www.afamilyforeverychild.org
Heather@afamilyforeverychild.org



[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to jennifer.dunn@afamilyforeverychild.org by heather@afamilyforeverychild.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
A Family For Every Child | 880 Beltline Road | Springfield | OR | 97477