

**From:** Christy Obie-Barrett [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christy Obie-Barrett [cbobie@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2012 2:03 AM  
**To:** scott@afamilyforeverychild.org  
**Subject:** AFEC We Found Our Forever Families July 2012



# We Found Our Forever Families!

<http://www.afamilyforeverychild.org> (541-343-2856)  
1675 West 11th Eugene, OR 97402

**A Family For Every Child**

**July 2012**

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**Jerome**



**All These Children Have Found  
Their Forever Families!**

**Thank You To All Who Helped  
With Their Journey!**

**Sarina**



**Michael**



**Patrick**



**Dyamond, Sapphire, Aaron**



**Shawn and Michelle**



**Carlos and  
Carla**



**Bianca**



**Harold and  
Carlos**



**AFFEC Has  
Moved**

We are moving this week.

Please be patient with us... we are moving to larger offices. Our phones are temperamental. You may need to call 541-343-2856, 541-343-0295, or 541-343-2866 if you get a busy signal. The FAX number is unchanged, but you may need to try more than once. Thank you.

The new office, located in

**Great Story!**

FRANKLIN, Tenn. - At a time of life when many Americans would be checking on the 401(k)s, and helping the kids move out of the nest, 57-year-olds Marla and Dwayne Hastings are part of a close-knit group of faithful 50-somethings who are starting family all over again through adoption. The Franklin, Tenn., couple, who have five grown children, just a few weeks ago brought home their third child from an orphanage in China, a 5-year-old boy with a huge smile whom they've named Hudson. He joined big brother James, 8, who joined the family in 2008, and big sister Gracee, also 8, who came to the Hastings' home

The new office, located in neighboring Eugene, Oregon, is a return to West 11th Avenue, near downtown. Just the office is changing; there won't be any change on our website or phone numbers. Starting Monday, July 23, we should be available for you at the building on West 11th and Chambers.

New address: 1675 West 11th, Eugene, OR, 97402

## Community Symposium

A Family For Every Child is starting an exciting new program called Extensive Team Recruitment, which we'll be introducing to the community on August 2nd! We encourage Lane County caseworkers, CASAs, foster parents, or anyone actively involved in a foster child's life to attend.

The symposium will cover why there is a need for Extensive Team Recruitment, what the program has to offer, and how this program will help foster youth!

Extensive Team Recruitment Community Symposium

Where: United Way in Lane County, 3171 Gateway Loop, Springfield, OR 97477

When: August 2nd, 9AM to 11AM

Why: To learn about Extensive Team Recruitment, a great new program that will help foster youth in Lane County find their "forever families."

Space is limited, so to reserve your space please contact the Family Finding Director, Caitlin Baird, at [caitlin@familyforeverychild.org](mailto:caitlin@familyforeverychild.org)

## "A Home for the Holiday" Event Meeting Date

It is time for our second "A Home for the Holiday" Winter Wonderland themed Event (yes, this is a new name) and we would be honored if you could join us

in 2005.

"People think we're crazy," says Marla, who adds that people thought they were crazy when they kept on having children back in the day. Or when her husband left a corporate job for seminary.

"They ask, 'Why?' " she says. "We say, 'Why not?' "

These older adopters have spurred on one another, mentored adoptive families and created ministries based on the conviction that Christians are called to take care of orphans.

"We first saw it as rescuing them," says Marla Hastings shaking her head. "But it changed," says her husband. "It's God rescuing us from a self-centered life."

'Better old parents than no parents'(AT)

And what about those 401(k)s and retirement?

"We don't think about it," says Dwayne Hastings, vice president of communications at the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"There's no retirement plan in the Bible," says Shane Pass, who facilitates the adoption ministry at ClearView Baptist in Franklin. At 40, he and his wife, Heather, recently domestically adopted their first child, Hallie.

Marla Hastings, a swim coach, laughs when she calls herself "older than dirt." The couple's decision to adopt took a little while to gel as questions about funding and their ages were answered.

She credits something fellow swim coach and adoptive dad Jim Chapman said to her years ago when they were first considering adoption. "He said, 'Better old parents than no parents,'" she recalls. That did it.

Bob and Tracy Gavigan of Franklin, Tenn., have four biological children. Two months ago, they brought Sophie home from an orphanage in China. She'll be 3 next month.

Tracy, who will turn 50 soon, and her husband, Bob 52, felt the tug to adopt about 10 years ago.

Their no-longer youngest is Ally, 14, who, at first, wasn't too sure about her place in the family being usurped. "But, it's great now," she says.

"All of our kids have been really changed," says Tracy. Their recently married son and his wife are thinking about adoption. 'It needs to be a calling'(AT)

The seemingly overwhelming decision to adopt became easier for these families when someone who's been there shows them the ropes -- and the realities.

"There's a subculture that you wouldn't even know existed," says Dwayne Hastings, who adds that social media has made it even stronger. It often starts with relationships struck up over conversations about their adopted children.

"It happens when they see neighbors adopting, when they see that precious child and know it might not have lived if it hadn't been adopted," says Schweiterman.

The Gavigans were inspired by the Hastings, who were inspired by Jim and Yolanda Chapman, who have four children 24 to 19 years old and three adopted children, who are 11, 7 and 6. They were inspired by his sister Mary Beth and Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman, who adopted three children and started Show Hope, which helps others fund adoptions. And so on.

"It needs to be a calling. Everybody is not supposed to adopt or foster, but they can get involved without having a child in the home," says Pass, the children's minister at ClearView Baptist. 'Step out on faith'(AT)

It can cost between \$20,000 to \$40,000 to adopt internationally or domestically.

For that reason, adoption is often a community effort.

"It's not \$30,000 up front," says Dwayne Hastings. "We put down the \$100 application fee, then step out on faith."

To fund their three adoptions, the Hastings have borrowed from a retirement annuity and benefited from fundraisers. For their first adoption, Marla heard of a church that was closing and giving away assets. She wrote a proposal and it granted them \$20,000.

With all that, they still have some debt.

As for Pass and wife Heather, he says the response from friends and churchgoers was phenomenal.

"With three emails, we raised \$40,000 in 40 days," says Pass.

on Wednesday, August 22nd, at the Oregon Electric Station for our second event meeting. It will start at 12:00.

We will be going over the different committees, needs and where they are at currently. We would love to have you join us for this meeting even if you haven't gotten involved, but would like to. Come see where your interests and heart guides you.

Please RSVP to Linzy or Christy.

Hope to see you there!

Thanks in advance for your support.

Linzy Munger at 541-513-7480 or Christy Obie-Barrett.  
AFFEC office at 541-343-2856  
[linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org)  
[christy@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:christy@afamilyforeverychild.org)

Small and large organizations help as do individual churches that have adoption funds.

"I spent one of my retirement funds to adopt," says Jim Chapman. "I might have to work till I'm 80," he says with a laugh.

"It's an amazing journey," says Marla Hastings.

## It Takes a Village and We Need You!

**We want and need your help to spread the word!  
Here are ways you can help us recruit for kids:**

- Email us any supports, training's, activities, blogs, anything that could help. Contact: [Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org)
  - Become a [volunteer](#)
  - Donate, attend, or become a sponsor at our [event](#)
  - Host a Heart Gallery: [christina.para@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:christina.para@afamilyforeverychild.org)
  - Become a mentor: [christina.para@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:christina.para@afamilyforeverychild.org)
- Questions? Ideas? [Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org)

## How can you contact A Family For Every Child? Call, email, or visit us online or in person!

1675 West 11th  
Eugene Oregon 97402

office - 541-343-2856  
toll free - 877-343-2856  
fax - 541-343-2866



Executive Director--Christy Obie-Barrett  
[info@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:info@afamilyforeverychild.org)

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