

From: Christy Obie-Barrett [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christy Obie-Barrett [joanne@afamilyforeverychild.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 2:03 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: HG Children of the Month July 2012



Children of the Month

<http://www.afamilyforeverychild.org> (541-343-2856)

1675 West 11th Eugene, OR 97402

A Family For Every Child

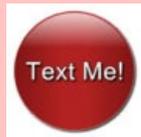
July 2012

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**Donate to
AFFEC**

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



Jerry

Simply click on a child's photo to learn their full biographical information!



Shauwen

Age 15

Bulletin WA309

Age 11



Bulletin OR13093

Rosie
Age 16



Bulletin WA875

Jordan
Age 11



Bulletin WA890

Micaiah
Age 17



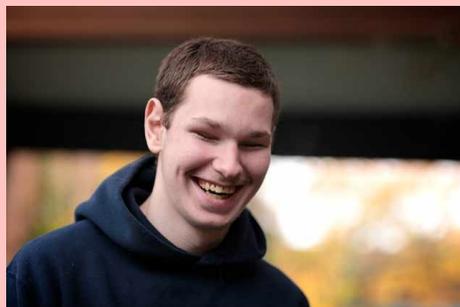
Gianna
Age 16

Bulletin WA343



Alex
Age 12

Bulletin ID118



Joseph
Age 18

Bulletin WA926



Bulletin WA997

Katherin
Age 16



Bulletin WA923

Heart Gallery Needs

The Heart Gallery is in need of these things:

-Venue Volunteers: These volunteers pick up the photos, take them out to the venues and replace the other photos. This happens monthly, around the 10th.

-Contributions for photos: Children have beautiful photos taken by our volunteer photographers. When a child is approved to go up in Heart Gallery venues, we need to order photos to display. We keep photos and just exchange them from one venue to another. New children are always going up in the venues and the children that are placed with their 'forever families' are taken out of the mix of photos. The average spent on photos monthly is around \$100.

-Sponsorships for venues: Sometimes a venue would be a great place to get a lot of exposure for these children with many people visiting the venue. Photos can be purchased monthly for just one venue, if we



Noel
Age 15

Bulletin WA861



Bobby
Age 15

Bulletin MI434



Scott
Age 11

Bulletin WA857

for just one venue, if we have people interested. This would assist us in having more venues, but would not stretch our financial obligations too thin.

Heart Gallery Venue Thank You

Thank you to two Heart Gallery venues that have been around since 2009. People seem to notice and comment a lot on these two venues.

The 29th Street Market of Choice has 14 photos nicely framed up by their cash registers. You can't miss those cute faces smiling back at you!

The Valley River Mall has 11 photos in varying sizes in an area where people can sit and enjoy a meal or just rest during their shopping spree. Again, the smiling faces of our foster children waiting for their 'forever families' to notice them are up and the biographies are easy to read.

Enjoy the photos and make sure you thank the venues for allowing us to showcase our children in the Heart Gallery!

Thank You to Photographers

Thank you to all the photographers that take photos of our children. Many of you are more than willing to assist us quickly with photos and you take outstanding pictures which makes it hard to decide on our favorites!

We could not bring these children to life without these photos. The photos are so enjoyable and make it easy for families to fall in love with these children.

Again, a million thanks to all of you.

A Home for the Holidays 2012

It is time for our second "A

A Call to Action!

IMAGINE...

- What it must be like when "mom" is not a safe word?
- Graduating or getting married and not having someone to walk you down the aisle.
- Having a brown paper bag and 20 minutes to pack up your belongings, so you can move to your "new" home.
- Being 10 and having less than a 10% of a chance of ever having a family!



500,000 children are being raised in foster care in the US; this is larger than the population of most of cities. 12,000 children live in foster care in Oregon. Fewer than 50% of foster children will return home.

More than half of children living in foster care move 3 times a year....If in foster care for over 15 years it is not uncommon to have 12 plus homes....this means:

- A new mom and/or dad
- New siblings
- New teacher and schools
- New friends, coaches, teams, neighbors
- Very few of their belongings follow them, usually what will fit in a bag
- Different religion
- Different food
- Different rules, chores, expectations



How would your kids do? Post traumatic stress for foster youth is double that of veterans and six times the rate of the general population. Imagine how they feel every time a different car pulls up in the driveway; most moves have no advance notice.

85% of kids come into foster care with siblings; 75% are separated from their siblings and the percentage increases the longer they are in care. Minority children enter foster care at twice the rate of Caucasian children.



Where do foster kids live, when in care???

It is time for our second "Home for the Holidays" Winter Wonderland themed event meeting (yes, that is a new name). We would be honored if you could join us on Wednesday August 22nd, at the Oregon Electric Station in Eugene, Oregon for the second event meeting. It will start at noon.

We will be going over the different committees, needs and where they are at currently. If you haven't gotten involved yet, but would like to, join us! Come see where your interests and heart guides you.

Heart Gallery Venue Volunteers

Thank you so much to all the Heart Gallery venue volunteers. Every month they come to pick up photos and then trade them out in the venues.

Cathy Apel is one of those super volunteers that oversees the venues at four dentist offices. These venues can be tricky because their schedules vary. Great job and thank you Cathy!

Vera Collins is also one of those fantastic volunteers that oversees the venues at four different locations: Friendly Street Market, Associated Business, Mercedes Benz of Eugene, and Eugene Christian Fellowship. The Friendly Street Market has 9 photos in it's venue. Thank you Vera for your assistance in doing such a nice job with these venues.

Children Coming Out of the Venue

This month we have 7 children coming off the venue due to being placed with their 'forever family.' Seeing Heart Gallery venue displays encourage people and families to go online to find out more about our children and to bring awareness that there are

- 48 percent in nonrelative foster family homes
- 26 percent in relative foster homes
- 15 percent in institutions, residential or group homes
- 5 percent on trial home visits (situations in which the State retains supervision of a child and the child returns home on a trial basis for an unspecified period of time and after 6 months are considered a discharge from foster care)
- 4 percent in preadoptive homes
- 2 percent had run away
- 1 percent in supervised independent living

Foster care was intended to be temporary, but many Oregon children remain in foster care for years.

For children waiting to be adopted in Oregon, the average length of stay in care is more than three and a half years (43.9 months). On average, children who were adopted in 2010 spent more than three years (38.7 months) in care before the adoption was finalized.

In 2010, 336 (18%) of Oregon's waiting children had been in care for five or more years.

In 2010, 1,827 foster children in Oregon were waiting to be adopted.

Older children in Oregon are not as likely to be adopted as younger children.

The average age of Oregon's adopted children is about 5.8 years, while waiting children are, on average, roughly 7.3 years old. Research shows that for youth over the age of 9, the likelihood of being adopted drops significantly.

"Age-Out," is a term used that refers to children who become of legal age and are no longer required to stay in foster care. They are adults, if you will. Since 1999, 230,000 children have aged out of foster care nationwide. While the number of kids coming into care has decreased over time, the number aging out has increased from 1999-19,000, to 2010-30,000.

In 2010, 201 youth in Oregon aged out of foster care without a permanent, legal family. Research shows that many of these youth will face significant obstacles in the future, including homelessness, unemployment, depression and substance abuse.

In 2010, 1,747 (42%) of children in foster care age 9 and older in Oregon had case goals of long term foster care or emancipation. These youth are at high risk of aging out of foster care without a legal connection to a permanent family.



What these children/adults "are not" is... properly prepared for their self care.

After aging out of foster care:

- 27% of males and 10% of females were incarcerated within 12-18 months.
- 50% were unemployed
- 37% had not finished high school
- 3% go to college
- 67% of former foster youth are on food stamps compared to 5% of the regular population
- 19% of females had given birth to children.
- Before leaving care, 47% were receiving some kind of counseling or medication for mental health problems; that number dropped to 21% after leaving care.

children that very much do want to find a family of their own.

Remember, Washington children are usually marked with a heart saying, 'We have found a family' when they are in the process of being placed, while Oregon children are taken out of the venue when being placed.

Heart Gallery venues make a big difference in children being noticed! Please check out our Heart Gallery [website](#).

For the 20,000 youth nationwide who are emancipated - or "age out" of the foster-care system every year, nothing is more terrifying than the number 18. It is on this birthday that these youth, many abused and neglected before and after entering the system, are expected to instantly become responsible adults. While many non-foster-children are eager to leave home at this point, their parents often serve as a safety net in times of financial or emotional need. Most emancipated foster children do not have this luxury. They are moved from home to home, forming few, if any, long-lasting ties to any of the adults they are forced to live with. Then, at eighteen, they are instantly cut off from a system that never prepared them to live on their own.

CALL TO ACTION

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO...

- BE AN ADOPTIVE PARENT
- BE A FOSTER PARENT
- BE A MENTOR
- VOLUNTEER TO HELP
- MAKE A DONATION
- SPONSOR A CHILD

July Heart Gallery Venues

Check out our Heart Gallery venues. We change photos in them once a month.

Applebees
Associated Business Systems
Cottage Grove Community Center Library
Creswell Library
Creswell Post Office
Denny's Restaurant, Glenwood
Dr. Barta, DDS office
Dr. Dave Matthews, DMD office
Emanuel Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA
Eugene Airport
Eugene Christian Fellowship
Eugene Cris Family Dental
Friendly Street Market
Gateway Mall
Iron Works Gym, Creswell
Kendall Chevy and Honda
Kendall Subaru
Lake Sawyer Christian Church, WA
Market of Choice, 29th St., Eugene
Mercedes Benz of Eugene
Metro Perc, Beaverton
Nature's Way Chiropractic
New Seasons Market, Happy Valley, OR
Oakmont Family Dental
Peace Health Cottage Grove Hospital
Peace Health Medical Group, Dexter
Precision Classics and Collision
Prime Med Medical Clinic, Cottage Grove
Putters / Strike City
Ray's Food Center, Creswell
Siuslaw Valley Bank, Creswell
Siuslaw Valley Bank, Pleasant Hill
Summit Bank
Sweetbriar Villa, Springfield
The Bookmine, Cottage Grove
The Inn Home, Portland
The Roseburg Beacon, Roseburg
Thurston Cris Family Dental
US Bank, 7th and Chambers, Eugene
Valley River Center
Wells Fargo Bank, W. Broadway, Eugene

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
 - Become a [volunteer](#)
 - Donate, attend, or become a sponsor at our [event](#)
 - Host a Heart Gallery. Contact: christina.para@afamilyforeverychild.org
 - Become a mentor: christina.para@afamilyforeverychild.org
- Questions? Ideas? Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org

How can you contact A Family For Every Child?

Call, email, or visit us online or in person!

880 Beltline Rd.
Springfield Oregon 97477

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



Executive Director--Christy Obie-
Barrett

info@afamilyforeverychild.org

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