

From: Christy Obie-Barrett [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christy Obie-Barrett [cbobie@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 2:02 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Adoption Agency August 2012

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A Family For Every Child

August 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!

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Online Child Matching Event

Hosted by A Family For Every Child

[Ohio Matching Event](#) on Wednesday, August 22nd, 3pm PDT, 4pm MDT, 5pm CDT, 6pm EDT.

AFFEC Adoption Agency Stats

In the past 3 months our agency statistics:

AFFEC Seeking Special Oregon Families

Are you thinking about adoption? We have a special offer for our Oregon families who are interested in adopting a sibling group!

Has the cost of the home study kept you from pursuing your dream of expanding your family? Let me take a moment to share something very exciting with you. We recently are able to offer to underwrite the cost of the first forty families interested in adopting sibling groups. What better time to start your adoption journey, with the possibility to have part or all of your home study fees paid for! It is our mission to find forever families for those children considered hardest to place and with this offer we are able to do this for more children.

- 1) Family must pay the application fee of \$500.00 & travel fee's.
- 2) Family will have an orientation with an adoption worker
- 3) Family must be interested in a sibling group.
- 4) Family will be offered the ability to search both instate and out of state for a sibling group match.
- 5) We do have a few scholarships available for September orientations, but they are going fast so get your appointment on the calendar!

If you feel like you may match this criteria, then you don't want to miss out on this opportunity. For more information you may contact our office.

Now is the time as children are waiting for a "Forever Family."

Please contact linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org or christy@afamilyforeverychild.org or call 541-343-2856 to get more information or to set up an orientation meeting. We look forward to hearing from you!

Adoption in the Media: What Do Pregnant Women, Killers and Crying Babies Have in Common?

Posted: 08/08/2012 Thank-you to the Huff Post Media and Author Adam Pertman

When we don't fully understand something, we're prone to make mistakes when dealing with it. This not-very-profound truism popped into my head a few days ago as I was thinking

- * 6 of our families have had children placed in their home
- * 4 of those were sibling groups
- * 10 new families have started the process with our agency

Home for the Holidays 2012

It is time for our second "A 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.

Please RSVP to Linzy or Christy:

Linzy Munger
Linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org

Christy Obie-Barrett
christy@afamilyforeverychild.org

AFFEC office: 541-343-2856

We are also in need of many auction items.

Volunteer Needs

Auction/Procurement:
Someone to procure items for the auction, mainly using phone and Internet.

Recruitment Assistant:
Need someone to add photos, bios, and videos to templates which will be used to highlight children at recruitment events. Other duties will include child listing and caseworker follow-up. Contact Katie at:
katie.nelson@afamilyforeverychild.org

HHS Releases New Adoption and Foster Care Data

The Children's Bureau has released new Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

about how to lead into a new commentary -- the one you're reading right now -- about the negative repercussions of the secrecy, stigma and shame that permeated adoption for generations and, alas, sometimes still do.

Here are just a few of the examples I was considering as a jumping-off point, and I did not make any of these up: A new reality show called I'm Having Their Baby, which films pregnant women as they agonize over the decision of whether to place their newborns for adoption; a headline in a New Jersey newspaper, "Did They Adopt Their Killer?" atop a story about a 26-year-old man accused of murdering the father and grandmother who had brought him up "as their own" for two decades; and an online poster of two infants, the laughing one assuring the crying one, "Dude! I'm joking, you're not adopted!"

Ah, welcome to the wonderful world of adoption, a place where women are baby-delivery devices for other parents, where men slay the people who raise them because they are not biologically related, and where the very idea of having entered a family in this way is so unnerving that it makes you weep.

It's tempting to look at all this and conclude that the problem is the media, which too often succumb to the sensational without doing their homework -- or caring -- about the accuracy or consequences of their seize-the-second hyperbole. So, for example, was the status of that New Jersey family relevant in any way to the murders that were committed, because that's the implication of the headline, and what's the message it sends about adoption generally?

And, of course, the Internet provides a forum for every kind of random notion anyone can conceive, and there are lots out there that are far more toxic than the suggestion that being adopted is an insult; but it's worth asking what that poster's impact might be on adopted people (especially children) and, again, what's the message it sends about adoption generally?

While the media play a significant role in perpetuating misinformed myths and negative stereotypes relating to adoption, however, they obviously did not create those beliefs and I'm confident they rarely transmit them with bad intent. Rather, journalists and television producers and regular folks who post pictures on Facebook primarily reflect the perceived truths of their culture -- and the unfortunate fact is that we are still living with the remnants of the bad old days of adoption, when unwed mothers were routinely pressured to give up their babies; it was common not to tell children they were adopted (remember: we keep secrets about things we're embarrassed about or ashamed of); and adoptive parents were often viewed as having second-best families that might even include "bad blood."

Combine all those elements with another truism about secrets -- that it's very hard to learn anything about them -- and here we are. That is, we're learning more and more about the realities of the tens of millions of people affected by adoption but, as a culture and as individuals, we retain some of the lingering misconceptions that can undermine their lives.

The title of the new cable show I'm Having Their Baby is one of the best examples I've seen in a long time, even without getting into its content. I genuinely believe the creators of that program did not mean to transmit any hurtful messages relating to adoption; I'm sure, instead, they saw an opportunity to get strong ratings with episodes chock-full of drama, pathos and empathy, all the while demonstrating just how excruciating the decision to part with one's child can truly be.

My professional life is all about educating the world about adoption's realities, including the tough ones, but pregnant

data for fiscal year 2011 (October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011). The number of children waiting to be adopted was 104,236 in 2011, down slightly from the previous year.

In 2011, 50,516 children were adopted with public agency involvement; their average age was 6.4. The average age of children waiting to be adopted was 8. The children and youth who were waiting to be adopted at fiscal year end had been in care, on average, for almost two years since their parental rights were terminated.

Children were most often adopted by adults who are known to them: 54 percent of children were adopted by foster parents, 31 by relatives, and only 15 percent by non-relative and non-foster parents.

The report shows that the overall foster care population continued to decline. There were 400,540 children in foster care on September 30, 2011. Several states-including Pennsylvania and New York-saw significant reductions in the number of children in care, while other states saw increases.

Tragically, more than 26,000 youth aged out of foster care in fiscal year 2011 without a family of their own.

Access the [AFCARS Report](#) (including previous years' data)

women serving as baby carriers for other people? That emphatically should not be among them. Use this title for a show about paid surrogates, not one about women whose options -- and, vital to keep in mind, whose preferences -- also include parenting the children to whom they give birth.

For the women on screen, is simply participating in something called I'm Having Their Baby not-so-subtly letting them know what they're supposed to do? Will it unwittingly serve as a message to other pregnant women, and to prospective adoptive parents, as well? More broadly, will it communicate to everyone watching that this is what adoption is all about? In 2012, after we're made so much progress on women's reproductive rights and on best practices for everyone involved in adoption, am I really still asking these questions?

Adoption is not just about child placement. It is also about family diversity, about equal rights, and about treating everyone involved with respect and dignity. We couldn't do that very well during an era when we lied to our own children, drove women underground and shamed nearly everyone else involved. Looking back, we can argue -- whether it's a rationalization or a fact -- that those practices simply reflected the mores of their time and, besides, there was a lot we didn't know.

Well, the times have changed, and we know very much more. So now what's our excuse?

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

Questions?

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

How can you contact A Family For Every Child?

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

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Eugene Oregon 97402
office - 541-343-2856
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fax - 541-343-2866

Executive Director--Christy Obie-Barrett
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