

**From:** Christina Parra [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christina Parra [christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 23, 2012 5:33 AM  
**To:** scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org  
**Subject:** AFFEC Mentoring Program August 2012

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## A Family For Every Child

August 2012

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A big thank you goes out to all those who've supplied their time, support and donations to our cause.

Click the photo below to see a heartfelt message from a few members of the AFFEC staff!



**Christina Parra**  
**NEW Mentor Program Director**

Hello Mentor Program Supporters,  
My name is Christina Parra and I am beyond excited to be the new Mentor Program Director. I am a recent University of Oregon graduate and couldn't have found a more perfect position than at AFFEC. My ultimate goal in life is to be able to sleep at night knowing that I am actively doing my part in the world. All I've ever wanted to do is give back and feel like I am making a difference in youth's lives. Our children are our future.

I am the oldest of five siblings and we were raised by a single mother. I was the first person on both sides of my family to graduate high school and now the first to graduate college. Two of my younger sisters are currently in college and my two youngest siblings are an eighth grader and a sophomore in high school. I also have a two-year-old nephew who is our pride and joy.

Being the oldest, I always saw my role as a second parent and role model to my siblings. Once I realized that we didn't have to be a part of the cycle that we knew of poverty and struggle, I made it a goal to get us out. By pursuing my personal everyday and long-term goals I have showed my siblings that we can break cycles and be somebody. My older sister mentor position will never end with my four siblings, but I am ready to take on bigger things.

A Family for Every Child's Mentor Program is the perfect position for me to continue to impact youth's lives. I believe that every youth (no matter what their situation) needs positive influences in their lives. Someone to take time out of their day to have a "How was your day?" chat, someone to remember their birthday, someone to



## Let's Celebrate!



I would like to invite all of our former, current, and inquiring mentors to join us on September 14th from 6:00-8:00pm for free pizza and drinks. Let's celebrate all of the great work that is done through mentoring!

This will be a great time for us all to meet and get to know one another. We can exchange stories and learn about what works and what doesn't through our own mentor/mentee relationships.

I am asking that every current mentor bring a friend who might be interested in mentoring. Attached is a flyer that describes our Mentor Program. Please feel free to either print out or forward to a friend who might be interested in becoming a mentor. This will be a great way for us to build our program and be able to provide our youth with the best mentors possible.

Unfortunately at the time I have more kiddos needing mentors than I have mentors. It would be amazing for these numbers to be reversed so that a child doesn't have to wait months before meeting their mentor.

The celebration will take place at our new location: 1675 West 11th Eugene, OR 97402

Hope to see everyone there!

### Mentor Program Flyer

[Check it out!](#)



continuously encourage them to do their best, and simply someone to care. My mission is to make positive connections between youth and mentors and build long lasting relationships.

I just recently took over the position and I am doing my best to respond to everyone's emails and continue the progress with this amazing program. I thank you in advance for your patience and also for your genuine care in our youth!

Christina

### A Mentee's Testimony

"My relationship with my mentor started during the end of January. It was about a week before my 15th birthday. We enjoy cooking together, going to church, and music. What I think that we've learned from each other is a lot. We have learned how to get along, treat each other with respect, and overall how to become more like friends. She has been a huge influence on me.

By showing me that she cares about me, I now know what it is like to be loved by two parents, instead of just one. I love her and I hope that she stays in my life for many years to come. Even though we have a few arguments here and there, I know that she will always be there for me, and I will be there for her. She is a big part of my life now. I can't ignore the fact that she and her husband chose me. I have never felt so loved.

When I sat in one of the visiting rooms at OCP, and my mentor and her husband told me together that they wanted me to live with them forever, I literally started to cry. It made me feel so good about myself, like I didn't have to hide a part of me anymore. I love the feeling that I get every time I look at my parents and they smile at me. I feel all warm and fuzzy inside my heart. They gave me the love that I had been craving my entire life. I feel as though I had a tremendous hole in the middle of my heart. Now that hole is gone, thanks to the love and support that I get from my parents.

To me a mentor is someone who looks after you when you're feeling down and out of sorts. They try to comfort you when you need it, and they are always there for you, no matter what happens. When you're feeling like there is nothing to live for, just ask your mentor how much you mean to them and then you'll wonder how you ever got to feeling so out of place.

I think that mentoring programs are very important because it lifts the child's spirit every time you give them a smile. It makes them feel like they have a reason for living. For me, it's just the fact that I know that she's always there for me when I need her, and even when I'd rather be alone she is there. They're kind of like the best friend you've always wanted but could never find.

When you find your mentor, make sure that they know that you love them and that you know that they love you as well. My mentor means everything to me. I can't live without her. I don't even remember what my life was like before I met her, it's just a fuzzy memory in the back of my mind.

This is why I think that mentoring is important!"

### Kiddos in IMMEDIATE NEED

## of Mentors!

### Why is Mentoring Important?



Everyone should experience the amazing feeling it is to help guide a person to live a successful life. Mentoring with youth in foster care is especially important.

On average, youth in foster care switch home up to 2-3 times a year. Unfortunately consistency and permanency is something that youth in foster care lack. By providing them with a mentor they are given the opportunity to have a consistent person in their lives. Someone who, no matter what is going on, will always be there.

#### *Mentoring makes a big difference.*

When kids enjoy a 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
- 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 true 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.

The statistics speak for themselves!

### Specific Mentors Needed

We currently have a high need for male mentors. It is important that



**Alison** is an active **3-year-old** girl who loves to watch Disney movies and enjoys Dora the Explorer. She is a chatter box who loves to share about everything. Her favorite color is purple and she loves to ride her bike. Alison lives in Portland and would love to share new experiences with a mentor. Her sister has a mentor whom they often share but Alison is ready to have her own mentor.

**Valerie** is an extremely bright **4-year-old** who lives in Eugene and is in need of a mentor who can teach her Spanish. She loves to read and color. Valerie knows her ABC's and how to spell her name. She is a Seattle Seahawks fan but her passion is dancing. Anytime music comes on Valerie can't resist but to dance away! She loves swimming and her favorite fruits are watermelon and strawberries.

**Michael** lives in Gresham and is **5 years old**. He's a cutie whose smile will steal your heart. Michael can be shy in the beginning and soft spoken. However it doesn't take much to get him to feel comfortable and open up. He is great at puzzles and is currently working on one that is a 1000 pieces! Michael loves to color and is great at it. His favorite cartoon is Spongebob and his favorite colors are all of the colors of the rainbow. Michael could really benefit from a positive male role model in his life, someone who will enjoy sports and outings with him.

**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, watch movies, martial arts and swimming. He would like a male or female mentor.

**Melissa** is an **8-year-old** with a beautiful smile. She loves to dance and do gymnastics. Her favorite color is pink and she loves to do arts and crafts. Melissa likes to ride her bike and go on walks. She likes playing board games and one of her favorites is checkers. Melissa lives in Gresham and would like a female mentor who can enjoy "girly" activities with her.

**Brad** is a **9-year-old** boy who lives in Tualatin. He has a "trachea" 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.

**Chris** lives in Dexter and is **10 years old**. He is incredibly smart and talented. Among his many skills drawing is his favorite. Chris also collects rocks and is very much informed on the subject. He also is a builder and has built anything from a book shelf to a bench. Chris' favorite color is green and he loves cats. He would enjoy the friendship of a male mentor to help guide him.

**Tammy** is a **10-year-old** girl who is always up for a

successful males share their experiences and impact a young life. Unfortunately, positive male role models are something that too many young boys lack. It is time for our positive male role models to step up and lead by example. Their impact can go a long ways in a young man's life.

Mentors who are trained in special medical treatment are needed. We have youth waiting for mentors who have special needs and it is important that they are matched up with an appropriate mentor. Someone who can not only be their friend, but also be trained to respond adequately to any medical needs that might arise.

Please help spread the word and recruit mentors for our high-need areas.

## A Home for the Holidays 2012

The silent auction needs you!

Come and celebrate our annual [Winter Wonderland Event](#) and help a foster child find their own Forever Family!

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2012

We need volunteers to help gather silent auction items in Portland, Bend, Seattle, the coast and all areas outside Eugene. If you can help us with some items in any of these areas, please contact me at [christy@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:christy@afamilyforeverychild.org)

### Questions?

Feel free to call at 541-343-2856 or email:  
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challenge. She loves doing obstacle courses and going on bike rides. She also enjoys fishing and going camping. Tammy's favorite color is purple and she loves playing sports. She specifically enjoys playing softball and soccer. Tammy needs a female mentor who is ready to be as active as she is.

**Teresa** is an **11 year old** girl who lives in Tualatin. She loves gymnastics, horses and animals. Teresa likes to go to the library, watch movies and the zoo. She likes science and doing projects. She enjoys playing with remote control cars and would like to be a mechanic when she grows up. Teresa's passion are horses; she likes riding and reading books about them. She would like a female mentor.

**Andy** is an **11-year-old** boy who lives in Gresham. He likes movies, cooking and all things about the "Oregon" nature. He likes to paint, swim and play sports. He would like a male or female mentor.

**Mark** is a **13-year-old** boy who lives in Alvadore. He loves dirt bikes and four wheelers. Mark would love to someday go to the dunes and ride. He also enjoys paintballing and playing laser tag. Playing video games of all sorts is another one of his favorite hobbies. Mark would benefit from having a male mentor whom he could enjoy these activities with.

**Will** lives in Eugene and is **13 years old**. He can be pretty quiet and reserved, but once he opens up it's easy to tell that he's a great kiddo. Will enjoys sports and loves the Oregon Ducks football team. He's never been to a game and this something he'd love to do. Will would love a male mentor whom he can enjoy "hanging out" time with.

**Heather** is a **13-year-old** girl who lives in Dexter. She is a chatter box who loves to share about her interests, hobbies and just about anything. She enjoys reading the Lord of the Ring books and owns every one of the movies. Her favorite actor is Elijah Woods (of course). Heather's favorite color is yellow and she loves cats. Heather would benefit from having a female mentor.

**Michelle** lives in Cottage Grove and is **13 years old**. She is incredibly smart and mature for her age. Michelle enjoys watching documentaries and reading fiction novels. When she grows up Michelle would like to be a writer, neuron surgeon, chef, and mechanic. Her favorite colors are black and purple. Some of her favorite activities include; acting, cooking, dancing, singing and will soon begin karate lessons. Michelle would love a female mentor to enjoy her favorite activities with.

**Amaya** is a **15-year-old** girl who would like to be a lawyer or caseworker when she grows up. Her favorite foods are chicken and rice and sushi. Amaya's favorite hobbies are arts and crafts but specifically ceramics. She also enjoys shopping, baking, cooking, doing her nails and drawing. Amaya is a girly girl who also loves to fish, hunt and go camping. She would like a mentor who enjoys the same activities as she does.

**Carl** is a **16-year-old** boy who lives in Portland. Carl likes cooking, movies, sports and video games. He is a high achiever and is excited about having a mentor. He would like a male mentor.

**Alice** is **17 years old** and lives in Corvallis. She has many nieces and nephews so she loves kids. When she grows up Alice wants to be an OBGYN. Her favorite color is blue and she loves chocolate cake. Alice's favorite subject is science because she finds it so interesting. Her favorite sport is basketball and she loves the Twilight series (both movies and books). Alice would like a female mentor.

Please contact [christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org)  
for more information.

## How can you contact A Family For Every Child?

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

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