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Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 2:03 AM
To: scott@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Matching Assistance Program January 2013

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A Family For Every Child Matching Assistance



*"We should not be asking who this child belongs to,
but who belongs to this child."*

January 2013

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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!



We Need a Laptop!

A Family for Every Child is in need of laptop computers that will support Window 7. Much of our mission "to get kids out of foster care and into permanent homes" is done using the internet.

We submit interest on children available for adoption at an increasing rate, currently we send over 500 inquiries a week, to children's workers from families that would like to adopt them. These laptops are needed to keep up with the high demand of the services and connection we supply for the over 2000 waiting children we serve.

If you have a computer you

Matching Assistance Is Now **FREE!**

By changing our program to a free program, we hope to better fulfill our mission of finding loving, permanent families for waiting foster children.

Our program is designed to assist current approved home studied families looking to adopt waiting foster children. Our goal is to work alongside families, providing them with one-on-one communication, assurance, and support during the submission and waiting process.

We are here to assist families with learning how to best represent themselves in their family biography, and perform national child searches based on information provided in your home study and family biography.

The following are just some of the benefits related to becoming a Matching Assistance member:

- The ability to submit for as many children as you want, whenever you want!
- The ability to submit for over 2000 waiting children and sibling groups, in addition to the ability to submit for children you find on other sites through our site via our offsite submit form.
- The assurance that your home study is going directly to a child's caseworker, and not some general inquiry inbox.
- Submitting is fast and easy! Your home study, profile and family biography are all automatically sent, so all you have to do is answer a few questions and click "submit"!
- The ability to update your family biography daily, weekly, or monthly to keep it up to date and accurate.
- The ability to take advantage of our successful family recruitment options to get your family noticed by caseworkers.
- Weekly how-to emails containing valuable information about foster care adoption.
- Bi-monthly informative newsletters answering common questions about foster care adoption and children's needs.
- A volunteer Family Adoption Specialist to assist you in editing your biography, providing recruitment updates, and caseworker information for offsite submissions.
- Those are just a few of our great benefits! Sign up today to take full advantage of our free program!

How to sign up:

would like to donate, and want to make a difference in changing a waiting child's life, we ask you to consider us.

For more information or questions about donations, please contact: Scott@afamilyforeverychild.org or call 541-343-2856 and ask for Scott.

Register for Matching Events

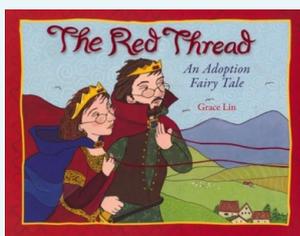
A Family for Every Child offers two different matching events that families and caseworkers may partake in and benefit from. The first are Child Matching Events. During Child Matching Events, caseworkers may present the biographies of the waiting children on their caseload to home study approved families.

In turn, families may ask the caseworker questions about the child, and then submit their home study at the end of the event if they are interested.

The second are Family Matching Events. During Family Matching Events, families may present their biographies to caseworkers, allowing caseworkers to ask questions and connect families with children on their caseload that they feel would be a good match for the family.

Please check out our matching events page to register for upcoming matching events, or to view past events! You may visit our [matching events page](#).

New Book Added to Our Booklist



The Red Thread by Grace Lin

A king and queen should be full of joy and contentment, but they both feel a strange pain

Signing up for Matching Assistance is easy! Click this link, [Sign up for MAP](#) and get started on your family profile and biography today! Request that your worker send in your home study, and request activation. You can follow the how-to guide to help you through the process. It is located under the Matching Assistance drop-down menu on the home page.

Helping Your Child Understand and Form an Attachment:

The bond between a parent and their child is very special and unique. Infants bond with their parents from the moment they are born, but creating that bond with an older child can be a bit tricky. Children in foster care may experience difficulty in attaching to their caregivers right away, due to the fact that they have been removed from their biological home and sent to many different foster homes. They have not had the opportunity to form a lasting bond and feel a sense of security that comes with it. Children in foster care may need some extra help forming attachments.

What is attachment? Attachment is defined as a close, lifelong relationship between two people. Children form attachments with their caregivers when they feel safe and when all of their needs are being met. Children in foster care may have a hard time forming attachments because they have not had anyone in their life long enough to attach to. Their biological parents were unable to provide for their needs and guarantee their safety, and being sent to many different foster homes does not help this sense of security either. A child that is not able to form attachments will become anxious, and feel that they cannot trust anyone to provide for them. Close attachments give a child a sense of trust, and form a healthy dependence between child and caregiver.

How to bond with your child: You don't need to adopt an infant to form a bond with a child. It may be a little more challenging, but you can help your older child form an attachment with you. It will take time and patience; this is not something that will happen over night. Do not set a "goal" for when you want to have your child form an attachment to you. Every child is different, and their experiences are playing a role in this. Provide your child with consistency. Address their needs right away as they come up. This will establish a sense of trust, and let the child know that you keep true to your word. Take time out of your day to spend with your child, away from your phone, computer and TV. Giving your child your undivided attention will let them know that you care and want to be there for them.

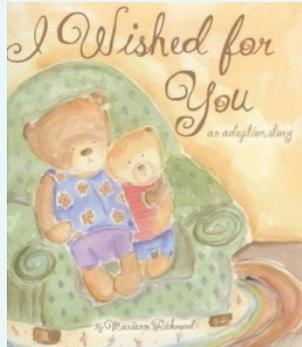
Help your child learn to seek out parenting. Encourage them to ask you for help. You need to help the child learn that you are in charge, and that they can enjoy being a child. Help them understand that you are the parent and they are the child, and as such it is your responsibility to take care of them; they don't have to take care of themselves anymore.

For younger children, explaining that "you are you" will confirm the child's belief that they are permanent, regardless of what changes. Tell the child that they are themselves whether they are in school or at home. In addition, teach the child that they are still permanent, regardless of your mood changes. In other words, when they misbehave, tell them that you are mad and you still love them; avoid the word "but"-eliminating the sense that your love is conditional. Here are some other ways to bond:

-Keep a picture of you and your child next to the child's bed. That way they wake up and see it every morning, and it reaffirms that they are part of your family.

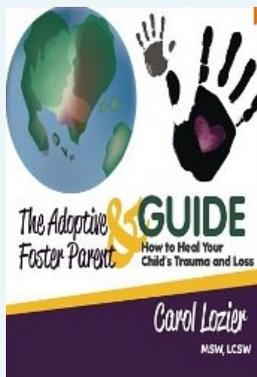
-Do activities together. Teach the child something you love, like cooking, drawing or fishing. They may end up enjoying the activity, creating a common interest between you. In addition, participate in an activity that they enjoy as well, to show your interest in what they like.

they both feel a strange pain that worsens every day. Then a peddler's magic spectacles reveal a red thread pulling at each of their hearts. The king and queen know they must follow the thread.



I Wished For You: An Adoption Story by Marianne Richmond

I Wished for You: an adoption story follows a conversation between Barley Bear and his Mama as they curl up in their favorite cuddle spot and discuss how they became a family. Barley asks Mama the questions many adopted children have, and Mama lovingly answers them all.



The Adoptive and Foster Parent Guide: How to Heal Your Child's Trauma and Loss by Carol Lozier

Finally, a practical, reader-friendly book for adoptive and foster parents! The first part of The Adoptive & Foster Parent Guide effortlessly explains topics that are pertinent to adoptive and foster families including: the four attachment styles, detachment (which leads to attachment disorders) and unique family issues, such as family triangles and birth families.

All attachment styles are clearly

-Plant a garden with your child. This will help teach the child to nurture and self-care.

-Leave your child surprise messages in their lunch, their room, or around the house. These messages will let the child know that you still love them and care about them, even when you're out of sight.

Waiting Agency Profile



Meet Kelly and Kevin!

We are a family of 4 living in a quiet, family friendly neighborhood. We live in a 2-level house with plenty of room for everyone. Our favorite room is the family room which attaches to the kitchen. We love to eat dinner as a family and gather near the fire for movie nights and board games. We live in an area with great schools, both public and private, that offer wonderful after school programs such as science lab, jump roping and dance. They also offer services to children needing a little extra help. Our daughter loves jump roping class!

We love keeping the kids busy with activities of their interests: soccer, Lego robotics, library reading or geocaching. We love to travel as a family and do so often. Having just moved back to the Northwest a few months ago, we have a lot of new territory to explore. If there is a 3 day weekend or longer you can guarantee we are planning a trip. We are excited to be adding to our family by adoption! The adoption world is not new to us nor are foster children. We have done foster care since 2004 in the state of OR and FL.

We have cared for over 60 children with various needs. Most of the children we cared for were between the ages of 0-4 and were either born premature or had some prenatal drug exposure. We have also cared for children with some mild physical and developmental needs. We will be using all the training and experience that we have acquired over the years to help our new child(ren) feel welcomed and loved within our family. We are looking to add 1 or 2 children, siblings or not.

We would love to find children with a sense of adventure, that go with the flow and are up for anything. [Read more!](#)

Waiting Family Profile



Meet Marianna and John!

explained along with practical strategies, scripts, and stories to show parents how to create a healthy attachment or relationship. Many families struggle with triangulation where one person feels like an outsider in the family; the book illustrates how to change this unhealthy dynamic. The subject of birth family raises many questions and feelings for parents, and this chapter shows options through numerous family examples.

This information will be helpful to the newly arrived home family as well as the experienced family. Adopted and foster children enter a family with a history of loss and/or trauma. In the second half of the book practical strategies, vignettes, and tips teach parents how to maintain a calm home, manage their child's behavior, and heal their child's trauma and loss through the guidance of step-by-step instruction.

Since most opportunities to heal a child's loss or trauma occurs in the home, this part of the book equips parents to re-create an incident with a better outcome forming a healing experience. As a result of early deprivation, children may see a few too many professionals, and typically are also involved in school or community activities.

Commonly, parents believe that a provider will manage their child's care but in actuality, this is often not the case. The third part of the book explains how parents can arrange, monitor, and coordinate their child's mental and physical health care.

To view this title and more, visit our [booklist page](#).

Princess Event - March 3, 2013

Think about gathering donations in your office!

Thanks to one of our fabulous community partners, LEVI!

They built this great castle collection box for their office and staff, with a sign on top of all our princess needs.

Meet John, Marianna, Ben & Tia. We have wanted to expand our family through adoption for a very long time now. We would love a child or sibling group who want to be a part our active family, too. My husband John and I married on New Year's Eve in 2006 and knew right away that we wanted to have more children.

We decided to become a foster family with hopes of finding a child(ren) who wanted & needed a forever family as much as we wanted and needed them. Our family currently now consists of a 15-year-old son, Ben with interests of (besides girls) weight lifting, football and electronic gaming. And a 13-year-old daughter, Tia, whose interests are volleyball, soccer, shopping and Facebooking.

My husband John's interests are reading, exploring, black & white movies, photography and anything to do with computers. My (Marianna) interests are running, sewing, camping, reading, garage sales and anything to do with Hawaii. Also included in our family is a Shih Tzu puppy (that is always in need of a haircut), a 15-year-old cat (who thinks he's a dog) and a parakeet who doesn't sing, (mostly squawks). [Read more!](#)

Agencies: Partner with Our Matching Assistance Program

We work with many adoption and state agencies throughout the United States and are now offering an exciting opportunity to partner with A Family For Every Child to further benefit your families. Over time we have developed valuable relationships with many of you; working together to assist families and therefore have found homes for children. All we are asking is your willingness to let your families know about our Matching Assistance Program and partner with us to better serve families in a time of large workloads for all. Let's work together and change the life of a child by building a family.

This program will offer your families support that compliments what you are already doing. As a team we can work to match them sooner and perhaps support them through the process. We all know this is a big job and often requires a team.

How our team will benefit you as the family's worker:

- 1) Your family will be able to create their own family biography page that will be viewed by children's workers. This page reflects their personality and current status, training and experience which is often hard to write on paper in a home study and certainly hard to update as much as families would like to. Families can update daily if they desire.
- 2) Families will be able to submit their interest and family biography for themselves based on your recommendations and guidance. Even though you will not be required to do these daily submissions, we will cc you on all of them. We will also track these submissions and inquiries and be able to provide you with monthly reports if requested, this should also free up some time.
- 3) Your family will feel empowered to be their own advocate and hopefully more engaged during this difficult "searching/waiting" part of the adoption process. We all know how hard this can be on families.
- 4) You as their worker will be able to log on and review your family's profile and submission account at any time.
- 5) Your family will always have up to date adoption materials, online training information and new photo listings for their continued education, meaning you will not need to hunt for



If you would like to do this in your office, we would welcome the help, contact Linzy at linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org for more information. Also, visit our [list of needs](#).

Questions?

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

this information for them. When they register, they receive a list of over 50 photo listing sites and a "loaded" welcome packet with adoption information for their review.

6) And best of all your family will be matching faster!

If you would like to talk to us further about partnering we are very interesting in exploring these options with you, contact Nora Sharp, Matching Assistance Coordinator or Christy Obie-Barrett, Executive Director.

Volunteer Needs

Family Adoption Specialist:

The Matching Assistance Program is a free program aiding families on their journey to adopt waiting foster children. We work alongside families, their adoption workers and caseworkers to get families matched. As a Family Adoption Specialist you will work alongside families and the Matching Assistance Coordinator to assist families during their adoption journey.

You will provide assigned families with feedback on their biography and profile as needed. You will assist assigned families with offsite submissions, and provide recruitment updates to families as requested. In addition, you will provide support, guidance and resources to your families, encourage them to take advantage of our various recruitment efforts, and become an additional point of contact for them.

As a Family Adoption Specialist, you will remain in close contact with your families, checking in with them on a monthly basis. Training will be provided. Computer proficiency is an absolute must.

A commitment to at least 5 hours a week for 6 months is required.

Interested? Contact:
nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org



Contact us at
A Family For Every Child

info@afamilyforeverychild.org
541-343-2856 Office
541-343-2866 Fax

www.afamilyforeverychild.org

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