

**From:** Christy Obie-Barrett [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christy Obie-Barrett [cbobie@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2013 2:04 AM  
**To:** scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org  
**Subject:** AFPEC We Found Our Forever Families January 2013



# We Found Our Forever Families!

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

1675 West 11th Eugene, OR 97402

**A Family For Every Child**

**January 2013**

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

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

**Daniel**



**Veronica and Vicente**



**Laverne**



**Richard**



**Tayrome & Tayshawn**



**Jackie**



**Michael, Brittany, Justin**



**Wade, Helaina,  
Dameian, Azazel**



## **Adoption Tax Credits**

### **What is the adoption tax credit?**

The adoption tax credit, which can be claimed for eligible adoption-related expenses, has helped thousands of American families offset the high cost of adoption since the credit was established in 1997. The credit applies to all types of adoption (except stepparent adoption), including international, domestic private, and public foster care. Since 2003, families who adopted children with special needs could claim the maximum credit regardless of their qualified adoption expenses. The credit has made adoption a more viable option for many parents who might not otherwise have been able to afford adoption, allowing them to provide children with loving, permanent families.

### **What is the current status of the adoption tax credit?**

## Web Volunteers Needed

-Database help, in particular any knowledge on Salesforce.com  
-Blog help/social media help  
-Web Graphics  
-Mobile: Know how to build a php web site and then interface to a mobile platform

In the best of all worlds, volunteers need the following to help with the website:

Computer Literate/MS Word  
HTML/CSS/JavaScript  
PHP/SQL/XML  
Dreamweaver/Salesforce

If you are interested, please email or call Scott at [scott@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:scott@afamilyforeverychild.org) or 541-343-2856

## Princess For A Day 2013

### Time to register!

Register your princess and help support a Foster child's "Princess for a Day" opportunity!

Our next meeting is on January 29th, at 5:30 pm. Held at the AFFEC main office, 1675 West 11th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97402



## 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.

The legislation to avoid the fiscal cliff (the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, signed into law on January 2, 2013) included a provision that made the adoption tax credit permanent. It did not make the adoption credit refundable, so it will only benefit those adoptive families who have federal income tax liability.

The credit is still "flat" for special needs adoptions, meaning families who adopt a child with special needs (see special needs question below) do not need to document qualified adoption expenses.

### What does it mean that the adoption tax credit is permanent?

A permanent tax credit is one that was extended without a specific expiration or sunset date. Congress can still choose to make changes to the credit in future legislation.

### What is the maximum amount of the credit for 2013? At what income level does the credit begin to phase out?

For 2013, the maximum adoption credit and exclusion \$12,970 per child. The credit will begin to phase out for families with modified adjusted gross incomes above \$194,580 and the credit will go away completely for those with incomes around \$234,580.

Since the credit is per child, the maximum you claim depends on the number of children you adopt. If you adopt two children in 2013, your maximum is \$12,970 x 2 or \$25,940. If you adopt four children, the maximum is \$12,970 x 4 or \$51,880. For purposes of the tax credit, there is no limitation on the number of children you can adopt.

### Can I receive the credit if I adopted a child from another country?

Yes, once the adoption is legally finalized, either in the child's home country or in the U.S., you can claim your qualified adoption expenses, up to the maximum.

### Is the tax credit for all adoptions or just special needs? Can I receive the credit if I adopted a healthy child? What kinds of adoptions benefit from the tax credit?

The adoption credit is for all adoptions other than stepparent adoptions (international, domestic private, and public foster care). See below for more information about how special needs adoptions are different.

### What are qualified adoption expenses?

The IRS writes: "Qualified adoption expenses are reasonable and necessary expenses directly related to, and for the principal purpose of, the legal adoption of an eligible child. Qualified adoption expenses include:

- Adoption fees,
- Attorney fees,
- Court costs,
- Travel expenses (including meals and lodging) while away from home, and
- Re-adoption expenses relating to the adoption of a foreign child.

## Well-Being of Native Children and Youth in Foster Care: Leave No American Indian Child Behind!

*Daryle Conquering Bear Crow (Oglala Sioux Tribe), Foster Care Alumni and Consultant for the National Council of Juvenile*

come 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 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@familyforeverychild.org](mailto:Scott@familyforeverychild.org) or call 541-343-2856 and ask for Scott.

*and Family Court Judges and National Resource Center for Tribes*



Summary: Judges, lawyers, guardian ad litem attorneys, CASA volunteers and others need to keep in mind the agony, hurt and lack of connection that many native youth going into care will experience and make a conscious choice to consider their well-being and need for connection to their culture.

I was 12 years old and getting ready to go to my first sweat and sun dance when foster care came into my life and ripped me away. Being placed with strangers in a strange environment, I was scared and emotional. I was not coping well, and the system's solution was to place me on psychotropic medication- medication with bad side effects.

I really wanted sage and prayers with an elder, but that was not a choice for me. Even as a tribal youth, I knew how our cultural remedies could help the mind, body and spirit. The system often unknowingly strips these everyday cultural rituals away from youth entering foster care, not even considering the cultural ways as a means to help young people.

I was given hope as an adolescent for a new life, a better life. My stay, which was supposed to be only temporary, turned into long-term foster care. I was raised in the Colorado state foster care system, where I was slowly disconnected from my Lakota culture and everything that I was ever taught as a young boy.

I aged out into a world of uncertainty. I didn't have what I truly needed for my well-being: a connection to my tribe and culture. Not unlike many youth who age out of foster care, I had very little support. One of the most difficult parts of growing up in foster care was that I was disconnected. It is important to give young people the opportunity to have an elder, spiritual leader or tribal role model to keep them connected to while in care. This would have given me the opportunity to have an alternative for health and healing, without the first choice having been psychotropic medication.

Going through the foster care system, I lost the connection to important family members who taught me to dance and sing. I longed to go to the local urban Indian center and interact with other natives and leaders in the community who looked like me, who I could identify with. Many choices that were made for me were made without me. I suffered from the choices that judges, guardians ad litem, and caseworkers made for me and my family. In my journey in the state care system, I felt left behind.

Recently I attended the First Nations Repatriation Institute's Annual "Gathering for Our Children and Returning Adoptees Pow Wow" in Minneapolis, MN. It was an experience that I will never forget. This gathering brought together adoptees and youth alumni from across the nation, as well as some from Canada. Each person had a story of cultural identity being compromised. There was a healing ceremony; it was a moment in life that was unexplainable. It was the first ceremony where I had the opportunity to be recognized for the many struggles and challenges I and others faced being away from our Indian communities, the first time I was welcomed home with a sacred song that was given by a Lakota elder. I had to wait 12 years to experience this, and many foster youth will never have this opportunity.

At the end of the ceremony I looked around and saw the many faces old and young. This gave me strength and direction that my voice in advocating for young people in foster care is important and making sure that "No American Indian Child is Left Behind."

## 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: [joanne@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:joanne@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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