

From: Christy Obie-Barrett [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christy Obie-Barrett [info@afamilyforeverychild.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 2:02 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: HG Children of the Month February 2013



Children of the Month

<http://www.afamilyforeverychild.org> (541-343-2856)
1675 West 11th Eugene, OR 97402

A Family For Every Child

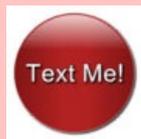
February 2013

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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!



Annie
Age 11



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



Braden
Age 10

Bulletin OR13937



Skyler
Age 16

Bulletin WA897

Bulletin OR13360

DeaQuan

Age 9



Bulletin OR13115

Angel

Age 9



Bulletin OR13397



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. We need venue volunteers in the Eugene/Springfield area for Denny's on I-5, Strike City Bowling Alley and Putters on Highway 99, Kendall Honda, Chevvy and



James and Cheyenne

Ages 13, 11

Bulletin OR13453

Time Is Running Out!

Register for the Princess Event



LEARN ABOUT THE PRINCESS FOR A DAY 2013 [HERE!](#)



A Heart Gallery Child's Success

Subaru on Goodpasture Island Road, Wells Fargo Bank and Summit Bank in downtown Eugene.

If you are interested in helping once a month at a venue, please call Joanne at: 541-343-2856.

-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.

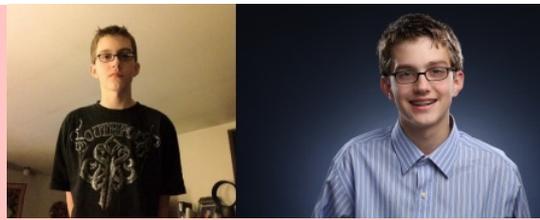
-Sponsorships for venues: Sometimes a venue would be a great place to get a lot of exposure for these children with many people visiting the venue. Photos can be purchased monthly for just one venue, if we have people interested. This would assist us in having more venues, but would not stretch our financial obligations too thin with the other venues we are now assisting.

Photos are not that expensive if you purchase them for one venue once a month.

We Need Venue Volunteers

We now have over 230 photos of our children out in over 50 venues in Oregon and Washington!

We are in need of individuals or families who would be willing to help us change out the images in many of our venues. This can be a great activity to do with your children or just something simple you could do to volunteer your time that would make the world of a difference for a child waiting for their forever family.



15 year old Chase, has quite the story to tell! With the help of his great team and the support of the Heart Gallery and professional photos Chase now has a forever family, who saw his true personality shine through in his photos.

When growing up, Chase noticed that his life was different from the lives of his friends.

"They got to have all these good relationships with their parents," he told me last week. "I never had that with my 'bios.' I had a mom who couldn't take care of me and I never had a dad. I never had a grandmother who liked me."

So, why, in our phone interview, is the 15-year-old Federal Way, Wash., boy going on about astrophysics and anti-matter and why I'd be a fool to read only the first book in the "Hunger Game" series?

"The second is better and the third even better," he says. "And all the books are better than the movie."

Why? Because Chase is no longer a "throwaway kid," the kid with Asperger who nobody wanted.

He's an upbeat, knowledge-thirsty kid with hope.

Thanks, largely, to the Eugene-based A Family for Every Child adoption agency, he not only has found a foster home that's working for him but is scheduled for permanent adoption by a Maryland couple before year's end.

"They already love me," he says. "That's the great part. They're willing to tackle my problems with me."

A Family for Every Child concentrates on finding permanent homes for the most difficult-to-place children - those with special needs, those who are part of an ethnic minority or those at risk of "aging out" - the middle-teen kids who, if they don't wind up finding permanent homes, will most likely wind up on the streets at 18.

"Chase is one of those kids," says Linzy Munger, the associate director of the six-year-old organization. "He'd have three years before he'd probably become one of those statistics."

But the matchmaking agency found him the foster home while they worked on shifting him to a permanent solution back East.

Such success stories will be celebrated Nov. 1 when the Eugene nonprofit group puts on its third annual "Home for the Holidays Gala: A Winter Wonderland Evening" at Valley River Inn. The silent and oral auctions begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and wine to follow.

Though the organization began by serving only Lane County children, it soon saw the need to expand across the Northwest and now matches kids to families nationwide: 700 adoptions and counting.

"We began to build contacts with waiting families nationwide and saw the barriers they faced in trying to adopt from foster care," Munger says. "It's our belief that there are more than enough families for every child waiting in foster care, but

This would require you to pick up images at our office once per month, change out the images at your assigned venue or venues and then return the old images to our office.



Thank you to all the photographers that are willing to volunteer their time to take photos of our children. High quality photos are such a crucial part of recruiting for a child. We could not 'bring these children to life' as you do so well with these photos. It is easy for families to fall in love with our foster children when looking at these enjoyable photos.

We have over 150 photographers nationwide and we are always looking for more! We want as many photographers to experience the joy of playing a part in a child finding their forever family!

A million thanks to all our photographers!

Heart Galleries Nationwide

Did you know that A Family For Every Child's Heart Gallery is just one of the many other Heart Galleries nationwide?

Take a look at some of the Heart Galleries in [your area!](#)

there is simply too much red tape, bureaucracy and resistance to collaboration between states working together to make this happen. So we recognized and built a system that helped families and children nationwide to be matched."

Conventional thinking suggests that uprooting a child from one state to another would be disruptive.

"The reality is that it is far more important for children to have the right match in a family than to remain in the same state," Munger says. "A child who lives in foster care moves an average of three times a year and they lose everything. It doesn't matter where they move from Eugene to Cottage Grove or whether they move from Eugene to New York. The important thing is they find the right family."

Which looks like may be the case for Chase. (The agency doesn't allow use of last names.)

"These kids all need a chance," says Kathy Bigelow, 55, who is Chase's foster mother in Federal Way. "Most are coming out of group homes or hospital situations. We want them to feel like they can be part of a family that doesn't beat them or abuse them."

She admits that she'll miss Chase when he's permanently placed.

"He has the most awesome sense of humor," she says. "You can be down in the dumps and he'll come up with that big old smile and his braces and you're all better. He reminds me of that kid in TV's 'The Big Bang Theory.' Sheldon. Smart. Quirky. Funny."

Twenty years ago, options for children such as Chase were limited. Not now.

"We live in a world where the Internet makes everyone (be) in your backyard," Munger says.

The organization still believes children without permanent homes are part of a social epidemic.

"We believe foster care is a community crisis and needs to be a community solution," Munger says. "However, the community is not just in our own backyard anymore."

And so it is that children like Chase may find their permanent families 2,000 miles away.

"You feel like there's been something missing in your life," Chase says about life without a permanent family. "But what I want is people who share my interests. People there for me. A shoulder to cry on."

A Family for Every Child understands. But it's come to realize that the important thing isn't where that shoulder is.

Only that, for kids with no shortage of heartbreak, that shoulder is available.

February Heart Gallery Venues

Check out our Heart Gallery venues! We change photos in them once a month. Please make sure to stop by, check out the venues, and thank them for their support of the Heart Gallery.

Look for more venues coming next 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
Downtown Bend Goody's
Goody's Factory, Bend
Forum Goody's, Bend
Sunriver Goody's
Goody's, 5th Street Public Market, Eugene
Prineville Goody's
High Lakes Exhaust and Brakes
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
Neighborhood Assembly of God
New Seasons Market, Happy Valley, OR
Oakmont Family Dental
Parenting Now!
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: christy@afamilyforeverychild.org
 - Become a [volunteer](#)
 - Donate, attend, or become a sponsor at our [event](#)
 - Host a Heart Galler: info@afamilyforeverychild.org
 - Become a mentor: caitlin@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!

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

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