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Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 9:13 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Adoption Agency Newsletter January 2014



A Family For Every Child Adoption Agency



"Adoption is not about finding children for families, it's about finding families for children"

A Family For Every Child
2014

January

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One Family's adoption journey!

Perspective & advice from a newly formed family of 5

From my vantage point as an adoptive mom of three siblings (now ages 7, 10 and 11) who were placed with us for adoption 18 months ago, I have two messages for those who are at any point in the adoption process:

1. It's worth the waiting and the hard work
2. Life does get easier



My husband, Jack and I

talked about adopting for almost 10 years before we finally made the choice to become parents, chose A Family for Every Child and started the home study process. During that time Jack even went back to school to become a nurse so he could support our family and I could be a stay-at-home mom. Most of our waiting was during those years of school and making the decision to be parents because we were blessed to be chosen at our first committee, within just a few months of our home study being finished.

The really hard work began for us when our children, Emilio, Ben and Emily joined our family. It was a big adjustment for us as a formerly childless couple in our early 40s, to have three active children! But I want to encourage those who might be in a similar situation - adjusting to the noise and chaos of children, wondering if you will ever get to

know your kid(s), questioning your sanity - life does get easier. After 18 months, I just now feel like I'm emerging from a fog and reclaiming some personal interests. We are in a much better place as a family than we were even a year ago. Our children still struggle with a lot of anxiety (Christmas and the finalization of our adoption on December 30, 2013 were both anxiety inducing times) but we are learning how to comfort them, how to talk with them and what coping skills to teach them. We try to notice small improvements, like our son being able to look me in the eye when I'm correcting him. And on our adoption ceremony day, our other son gave us a special note that said in part, "you have earned my trust."

Our children are thriving - all three doing fine in school, making friends and enjoying just being kids. Our sons are both playing basketball this winter and our daughter recently enjoyed a whole weekend with her "BFF" - playing dress-up and getting her nails painted for the first time - as our family went away on a retreat with other families from our church. Parenting our children is by far the hardest thing I have ever done but I wouldn't trade it for anything. I am incredibly thankful we made the decision to adopt and we are so thankful for AFFEC, for the important role you played in making us a family.

Begin your Adoption Journey TODAY with AFFEC!



A Family For Every Child Adoption Agency serves families all over the state of Oregon. We are an inclusive agency that specializes in finding forever families for children in the foster care system. Our child centered approach creates a unique adoption experience for families interested in adopting children from foster care. With our numerous programs, we help connect foster children to their forever families by assisting our agency families through each step of the adoption journey. We know that every child deserves to be loved, and no child will outgrow the need for a "forever family."

Is your family interested in learning about Adoption? A Family For Every Child would like to invite you to one of our informational adoption orientations. Maybe your ready to start the adoption process now, or perhaps you are just in the early phases of gathering information. Wherever you are in the process we want to help you on your journey.

Email Linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org to find out when an AFFEC Adoption Worker will be in your area.

Do you have questions about Adoption Assistance?

The North American Council on Adoptable Children hosted two webinars answering all kinds of questions regarding Adoption Assistance, including how it works and how you can advocate for federal Adoption Support. (NACAC) recently



You can download an mp4 file to view the sessions or visit <http://www.nacac.org>. (Please note the file is 52MB. In some browsers, you need to right click or control click on the link and choose Save Link As to download the file.)

- Adoption Assistance Benefits and Eligibility - [download](#)
- Advocating for Adoption Assistance Programs on - [download](#)

Princess For A Day 2014!



Sunday, March
2nd
10am-5pm
At the Valley
River Inn

\$50 for non-foster girls

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

Admission free for
foster girls

We need LOTS of donations to make this event a success! Each year we are in need of donations of the following items for the princess event: Please keep in mind our princesses are ages 2-18

We are looking for donations of the following items

- Princess Dresses, gently used Holiday dresses, prom dresses
- Slippers, fancy shoes of all sizes
- Tiara's
- Boa's
- Lip Gloss
- Glitter Dust
- Glitter Hair Spray
- Combs
- Nail Polish
- Rings, earrings, and necklaces
- purses
- Anything and Everything Princess

Feel free to visit our online [Wish List](#) for the list of items we need!

Contact for more information:
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