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Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 1:10 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Matching Assistance Program February 2014



A Family For Every Child Matching Assistance



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

A Family For Every Child

February 2014

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Matching Assistance Program

If you are a home study approved family seeking to adopt from foster care, consider signing up for our free Matching Assistance Program! Our goal is to work alongside families, providing them with one-on-one communication, assurance and support during the submission and waiting process.

As a member of Matching Assistance you will have the ability to submit your home study and family profile for over 2000 waiting children and sibling groups listed on our site, with the assurance that your submission is going directly to a child's caseworker. Your adoption worker will be cc'd on all submissions so they remain in the loop at all times.

In addition, you will receive emails featuring recently added children that match your child preferences; you will have the opportunity to partake in our very successful recruitment services; you will receive weekly how to emails containing valuable information and resources about foster care adoption; have access to knowledgeable and helpful staff, and more! Those are just a few of our great benefits!

[Sign up](#) today to take full advantage of our free program! Contact the Matching Assistance Coordinator at nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org with any questions about our program.

Waiting Agency Family: Katie and Ben

We are a fun and loving family who are excited to find the next piece to our family puzzle. We are seeking to adopt a boy, sibling group of 2 (boy/boy or boy/girl) between the ages of 2 and 10. We are open to any race.



Our family of 7 (mom, dad, and 5 boys!) love spending time together playing games and having adventures outdoors. We live in the country on 2 acres of land, where we enjoy coming up with ways to play as a family. If we are not out working on the tree house or building forts, we are probably working in the garden, playing with our animals, or relaxing as the kids ride bikes or play soccer. Some of our favorite family activities include hiking, camping, taking family vacations, movie nights, playing games, reading aloud together, and hosting family parties with our friends in our back field (movies under the stars anyone?)

As the parents of 5 kids, and having raised Katie's little brother, we kind of feel like we are well seasoned in the parenting world. While we definitely learn something new every day, we love the adventure and the lessons having that many kids can bring. The biggest thing we have learned is that there is no one surefire way to raise kids, and each one will require a totally individual way of interacting, loving, nurturing, redirecting, and guiding.

We are blessed to have a close, but large, family and friend support unit near by us. We spend time frequently with Benjamin's parents and his siblings families, all of whom live near by. Our children spend a lot of time playing with their cousins. We have also been blessed to 'adopt' several sets of 'grandparents' and 'parents' from our community, with whom we often spend time. We really feel that it takes a village to raise a child, and that our friends and family enrich our kids lives through teaching and sharing with our children their life's experiences. [Learn more about Katie and Ben!](#)

Waiting Matching Assistance Family: Marla and Kelly

We would like to adopt a child between the ages of 3 and 6 inclusive. My partner and I are interested in adopting a female child. We feel that we can accommodate one child. My partner and I are open to accept any Ethnic background the child is. I am open to children with any special needs like allergies, behavior issues, transitions, and more. I do not mind having continuing contact with the child's former foster parents, by phone. In general, we would like to adopt a child and give them a happy home.



I took care of my friend's daughter for 2 summers. Kelly raised her niece from birth to now 21. We are both caring, trustworthy, loving, understanding and will always be aware of the well-being of the child and their needs. We care and have lots of patients for children. I love children and have worked with special needs for over 18 years with the School Districts of Palm Beach County Florida, Clark County in Las Vegas, Nevada and Des Moines Public Schools in Des Moines, Iowa. My family supports me in adopting a child in need they would be honored to include a child in the family. I have taken trainings through work, but would take other trainings if needed and Kelly would take training

classes if needed too. The more Kelly, myself, and the family know the better we can help the child grow. [Learn more about Marla and Kelly!](#)

Talking With Your Child About Adoption

Talking with your child about their adoption story and birth family can seem like a daunting endeavor. Parents are never sure what to tell the child, what is appropriate to share, and may be caught off guard by their child's questions. Talking about your child's birth family be an uncomfortable topic for you, and it may also bring up a lot of emotions not only for your child, but also for you. The following are some suggestions for becoming comfortable with talking openly with your child about their adoption:

- First and foremost, always tell the truth. You can tailor the information to fit your child's age and/or developmental level, but make sure you are being honest. Your child will find out the truth someday, and it's a lot easier to be honest with your child from the get-go and work through any feelings they may express.
- Be as accurate as possible. You may not have all the details surrounding your child's history, and you can tell them that. Help them fill in the blanks as much as possible to avoid letting them create their own story. Recognize that its hard not knowing all the details.
- Become comfortable with your child's story. Children are very perceptive, and will pick up on any feelings of discomfort. This may deter them from asking you questions in the future, which can have a negative impact on them coming to terms with their story. In addition, it is important that you also keep all your feelings and biases in check.
- Seek out support groups and/or counseling if you need to grieve about what happened to your child in the past. Coming to terms with your emotions and feelings will help you in telling your child his/her story.

For more tips and suggestions, check out [Your Child's Story: Tips From an Adoptive Parent](#) by Debbie Schugg on the ATTACH website.

Additional Resources

Adoptive Families: [Talking About Adoption With Your Three-to-Five-Year-Old](#)

Adoptive Families: [Talking About Adoption With Your Six-to-Eight-Year-Old](#)

Adoptive Families: [Talking About Adoption With Your Nine-to-Twelve-Year-Old](#)

[Talking with Young Children about Adoption](#) by Dr. Susan Fisher, M.D.

[Double Dip Feelings: Stories to Help Children Understand Emotions](#) by

Barbara S. Cain

Adoptive Families webinar: [Talking About Adoption With Children](#)

***Note from the Matching Assistance Coordinator:** I listened to the "Talking About Adoption With Children" webinar last month, and found it to be very helpful! The speaker provides some great suggestions and insight. The webinar is free, and is about an hour long. I recommend you listen to it if you can!

Recent Matches & Placements

178 MAP families were matched/placed with children in 2013! Here's the breakdown of some of those matches/placements:

Matched/Placed with Children on Our Site: 47

Matched/Placed with In-State Children on our Site: 12

Matched/Placed with Out-of-State Children on our Site: 35

We're so thrilled for all of our MAP families who were matched and placed with children this year, and we are honored to have helped with some of those matches. We are looking forward to matching even more families and children in 2014!

Congratulations to the following families who were matched in December and January:

**-S & C
-S & R
-L & J
-M.D.
-A & H
-H & B (with a sibling group on our site!)
-A.J.
-H & A
-A.K.
-K & N
-J & S**

Congratulations to the following families who were placed in December and January:

**-D & C
-M & K
-M & G**

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.

Upcoming Child Matching Events:

Keep checking the Matching Event pages to see additional children who will be participating in the event!

You may register for upcoming matching events and view past events all from our [Matching Events home page](#).

Volunteer Needs

Family Adoption Specialist: The Matching Assistance Program is looking for a Family Adoption Specialist to work alongside our Matching Assistance Families. It is the responsibility of the Family Adoption Specialist to read over a family's biography and provide suggestions for improvements, assist families with offsite submissions, and provide support, and resources. Desired qualifications include:

- § Computer proficiency
- § The ability to work with minimal supervision while completing work in a timely manner
- § Excellent verbal and written skills with the ability to communicate across diverse populations
- § Well-organized with attention to detail, and the ability to carry out tasks independently
- § The ability to provide support, empathy and resources to adoptive families
- § A strong sense of customer service

Please contact the Matching Assistance Coordinator at nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org to learn more about the position. Training will be provided. A commitment to at least 5 hours a week for 6 months is required.

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