



## A Family For Every Child Family Finding

"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family.  
Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one."



# All You Need is Love

### *Family Finding Jan/Feb 2015*

Although Milaina is still very young, she has already lived in more homes than most do in a lifetime. Family issues began for Milaina very early on in life, which forced her to be transferred between various relatives' homes for her own safety. Milaina had no contact with her father, or her father's side of the family, since shortly after her birth. After a tumultuous year, and three different homes, Milaina was taken from her mother's care and placed into foster care where she is currently living with her loving foster family.

In 2012 Milaina's caseworker suggested her case be referred to the Family Finding program in order to possibly find supportive connections with biological relatives. Additionally, the hope was that in doing so, we could also find a permanent

home for Milaina. Prior to being referred to the Family Finding Program, Milaina had been in contact with her maternal grandmother, Debbie, and maternal grandfather, Randy, as well as having monthly supervised visits with her mother, Jody.

The Family Finding volunteer program mined Milaina's file, performed internet searches on relevant names, and ultimately attempted to contact all possible relatives. Relatives contacted were interviewed to learn more information about them and decide whether or not they would be a good influence on the children. After these contacts were made the Family Finding team held a meeting to further determine which relatives, and other loved ones, would then be invited to the Family Meeting.

Hard work paid off and the Family Finding program was able to hold a meeting with Milaina's paternal aunt , Jen, paternal grandfather, Kerry, maternal aunt and uncle, Pat and Leslie, maternal grandmother, Debbie, maternal uncles, Jeff, Andy, and Robert, as well as her maternal grandfather, Randy.

The meeting was a success in bringing together long lost relatives who could now begin growing a relationship with them. The process of reconnecting began by family members sending letters introducing themselves and their families, including with them current photos. Some family members, however, had continued contact with Milaina and it was decided to plan visit with them for specific, more frequent, meetings. Many of Milaina's relatives showed interest in bringing her into their home permanently, which is beyond wonderful being the hoped for outcome in the Family Finding Program. Milaina's family members have remained involved with the steps being taken to place her permanently, as well as continued developing their relationship with the child. Milaina is still living with her foster family and foster siblings. She had been developing relationships with the other children she is living with and doing very well. She is developing into a beautiful young girl, loves the color pink, and playing dress up with her friends.



**Hero for a Day is a special event, taking place on Sunday, February 15, 2015 from 12-3pm, that allows foster children to be transformed into heroes for one special day. Hero for a Day is for children ages 2 to 18 and is a day filled with tons of fun activities designed to create not only an educational and fun experience for local children, but raise awareness about the foster care system. This event is free for children in foster care and 50 dollars for community children. To become a station, volunteer, donate, or be involved in any other capacity, please contact [events@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:events@afamilyforeverychild.org) for more information on what it entails to be an activity station.**



**Are you wanting to spend your extra time doing something good that benefits kids in your community? Are you a college student in need of extra credits? AFFEC is always looking for volunteers and interns in the community in a variety of different capacities including:**

- **Child Recruitment**
- **Development**
- **Grant Writing**
- **Mentor Program**
- **Family Finding**
- **Heart Gallery**
- **Events**
- **Volunteer Photographers (On Call)**
- **Web Development**

These are just a few of the many exciting volunteer opportunities available here at AFEC. Please visit our website at [www.afamilyforeverychild.org](http://www.afamilyforeverychild.org) for a full list of volunteer opportunities. Once you fill out our volunteer form a representative will be in touch with you!



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A Family For Every Child | 1675 W 11th Avenue | Eugene | OR | 97402