

A Family For Every Child Matching Assistance



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

Matching Assistance Program Newsletter April 2015

Join Our Free Matching Assistance Program!

If you are a home study approved family seeking to adopt from foster care, join 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 enjoy benefits, such as:

- Submission autonomy for over 2,000 waiting children featured on our photo listing site
- Recruitment services to connect you with caseworkers
- Suggested child matches via email
- Recruitment updates on children you submitted for
- Caseworker contact information sent to your adoption worker for easy follow up
- Access to helpful adoption resources

And more!

[Sign up today](#) to take full advantage of our free program!

The Adoption Process

Adopting from foster care can be a long journey, but typically it is worth the wait in the end.

Understanding the different steps in the adoption process can help your family be proactive during the entire process, which in turn can help expedite the process.

Orientation Meeting - This is the first step in the adoption process. A family will meet with an adoption agency or adoption worker to discuss the adoption process, the needs and characteristics of the children in foster care, the agency's policies, and the services their adoption worker/agency will provide for them. During this time, a family will often begin their pre-service training classes to provide further information on the reasons children come into care, their needs, and information on national and community resources.

Home Study - After the family and agency mutually agree to work with each other, the home study process will begin. The applicants and any resident over the age of 18 will have to clear state and federal background checks. Each applicant and the applicant's child(ren) will need to complete a physical through their family physician. The home study consists of information on the adoptive parent(s) and their family history; information on their child(ren), if applicable; training classes completed; parenting experiences; child preferences; physical and mental health information; financial information; and the adoption worker's recommendation for the type of children the family should be matched with. A list of references is also required. The home study provides a child's social worker with a complete view of the family: their strengths and needs, hobbies, interests, lifestyle, experiences with parenting and/or special needs, etc. It is used to determine if the family will be a good match for children on their caseload. During the home study process the family's adoption worker will make a couple of visits to the family's home to complete a home inspection, and interview each applicant and their children, if they have any. Adult children living outside of the home, and 3-5 references will be contacted as well. While the home study process may feel very intrusive, the goal is to provide a complete and accurate picture of who the family is so families should be honest with their adoption worker. This in turn will help a child's caseworker determine if a family is the best match for a child, ensuring a successful placement.

Matching - The next step in the adoption process is often the longest. During the matching phase, families should be actively searching and submitting for children. It is also important to attend as many adoption events, either online or in-person to connect with children's caseworkers. Families should also continue their education during this time, by attending online webinars, in-person trainings, reading books, etc. Continuing your training can help prepare you for the challenges you may face parenting a child with special needs, and will make you a stronger candidate for adoption. Building a support network during this time is also important. Joining support groups in your area or online can help normalize the process and keep you going on tough days. During this time a family's adoption worker should follow up on children they are most interested in, and connect with their caseworkers to learn more about the children to determine if the family would be a good match.

Home study-approved families should join our free Matching Assistance Program (MAP) and begin searching and submitting their home study for children they find on the A Family for Every Child photo listing site, and other state photo listing sites.

Selection - The selection part of the adoption process can vary from state to state, but in general this is when a child's team decides which family is the best match. A child's team can consist of the child's recruiter, their caseworker, CASA or GAL, and/or a caseworker's supervisor. During the selection phase, the adoption worker will connect with a child's team to discuss the family as a potential match. After the meeting is over, the child's team will determine which family is the best match for the child and will notify the family. At this point, the family should receive full disclosure on a child, meaning they will review a

child's files. These files can consist of birth parent history, child's history before coming into care, a child's history while in care, their diagnoses, behaviors, school history, current medical information, mental health history, etc. The family should have the opportunity to discuss the child further with their doctor, teachers, CASA, foster parents, etc. After reviewing the child's files the family will be able to decide if they want to move forward with the match.

In some interstate adoption cases, full disclosure will not be given to the family until after ICPC paperwork is approved by both states. However, a family should review full disclosure documents before agreeing to meet the child.

Transition - A child's caseworker, foster parent, and the adoptive family should draft a transition plan together. It is important to keep the child's needs in mind when creating a transition plan. The transition may consist of visits, phone calls, video chats, and in-person meetings to help the child become comfortable with the family. The transition timeline can vary depending on if the family is matched with an in state or out of state (interstate) child. Some children may need a longer transition period depending on their needs and adoption-readiness. Typically a child will move into a family's home permanently during a school break so the move is less disruptive for the child. If the child is from a different state, ICPC paperwork will be worked on during this time. ICPC paperwork must be approved by both the child and family's state before a child can move into a family's home.

While you wait for your child to move in, you should begin setting up services and activities for your child in your community. You should connect with adoption-competent therapists, pediatricians, and other organizations that will help meet your child's needs. You may find it helpful to create a "parenting plan" with your adoption worker, outlining the child's needs, how you will meet those needs, and what resources are available in the community to help you address your child's specific needs.

Post-Placement - Post-placement begins the day a child is placed in the family's home. From now until finalization, a family's adoption worker will visit the family and child to see how everyone is adjusting, and to provide support and resources as needed. It is important for a family to be honest about how things are going at home and what they need during these visits. There is no shame in asking for help! Your adoption worker is not looking for ways to find fault with your family and remove your child from your home; they are there to help your family to ensure the adoption will succeed. During this time a family will also file for adoption assistance.

Finalization - After the post-placement phase is over, you will get to finalize the adoption and your child will legally join your family! Typically a child will be in a family's home for 6 months before the adoption can be finalized, although this can vary. You will want to hire an adoption-competent attorney to assist with finalization.

The Adoption Process Resources

Assoc. of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance -
[AAICAMA Home Page](#)

Adoption Exchange - [Making Connections: A Guide to Adoption](#)

Adopt Us Kids - [Finding a Fit That Will Last a Lifetime](#)

Adopt Us Kids - [Legalizing an Adoption](#)

A Family for Every Child - [Picking the Right Agency](#)

A Family for Every Child - [Questions About Your Child](#)

A Family for Every Child - [The Basics of Adoption](#)

Child Welfare Information Gateway - [Adoption Assistance by State](#)

Child Welfare Information Gateway - [Helping Your Foster Child Transition Into Your Adopted Child](#)

Child Welfare Information Gateway - [Summary of State Background Check Laws](#)

Child Welfare Information Gateway - [The Home Study Process](#)

Dave Thomas Foundation - [10 Ways Prospective Parents Can Get a Head Start to Adoption](#)

Foster Cares - [Transition Guidelines](#)

ICPC State Pages - [ICPC Information](#)

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange - [The Waiting is the Hardest Part: Tips and Survival Strategies for the Matching Process](#) (free 45 minute video)

MN Adopt - [Becoming Your Own Advocate: Learning to Be Assertive](#)

NACAC - [State Adoption Subsidy Profiles](#)

Waiting Agency Family



Meet Kris and Becky!

We are Kris and Becky, and we are excited and can't wait to be parents of children who need a loving forever home. We are looking for 1-3 kids, age newborn-8. We have five animals at home, two dogs, a cat, and two tortoises, so our kiddos need to be comfortable around, and not allergic to pets.

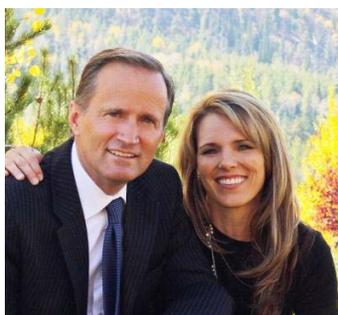
Becky, a former CASA, works in the loan department of Umpqua Bank. Kris works for Mercy Medical Center selling durable medical equipment. We have dinner as family every night, and love spending time

together having fun. Becky has always been around children growing up. She worked in a nursery, volunteered at her Church's nursery, and babysat every chance she got. As an adult, Becky was a CASA for two years, stopping only because the adoption process was a conflict of interest. Kris has a younger adopted sister and was a babysitter as a teenager. He loves kids and has organized fundraiser events to benefit children's hospitals. We are also respite care providers for some local foster parents.

We have a great support structure in place. We have several family members and friends that have either been adopted or adopted children. They have been a great resource to us in this process and will be there to support us when we adopt.

We are 100% committed to adopting and providing the best home for our future children. We have already researched all the local schools, private and public, and we have looked into all sorts of activities and resources in our area. We are ready to be parents, we know that this process will not be easy, and even after we get matched there will be a whole gaggle of challenges, but we are ready for them. [Learn more about Kris and Becky!](#)

Waiting Matching Assistance Family



Meet Shelly and Kent!

Our names are Shelly and Kent. We have two daughters living at home: Alyssa and Cierra, ages 3 and 14. We would like to adopt a child who is less than 12 years old. We are open to boys or girls. We feel we can accommodate a sibling group of up to 4 children. Almost any ethnic background will blend in with our family. Shelly is currently a stay-at-home Mom. Kent is currently a Senior Vice President at Nudge International and has a flexible work schedule. Family hobbies include hiking, biking, ATV outings, boating, snowmobiling, children's activities (movies, museums, zoos, pools, etc), music, art, reading, gardening and traveling.

We have many years of parenting experience. Our third daughter was born with mild hydrocephalus, so we understand speech delays, sign language, learning disabilities and educational supports (IEPs). Some of the skills we have that will be helpful to our adopted children include higher education, patience, selflessness, commitment (our kids are our first priority), structure, organization, good communication, flexibility, availability (we are always there for them) and unconditional love.

We are familiar with a well respected and highly recommended child therapy clinic in our area, as well as many other resources mentioned in the foster care training classes. We have been very blessed with a wonderful extended family. We have a soft spot for children in foster care, and feel that we have the skills, love, desire and resources needed to provide a safe and loving home for them. We would like to provide a home where children can heal, thrive and find the happiness they deserve. [Learn more about](#)

Shelly and Kent!

February and March Matches!

Congratulations to our MAP families who were matched and placed in February and March!

Total number of families matched - 22

Total number of families matched with in state children via our site - 2

Total number of families matched with out of state children via our site - 9

Create an Adoption Worker or Social Worker Login!

If you are a family adoption worker or a child's social worker and have not created a login yet, we encourage you to create one today!

Our **Adoption Worker Login** allows you to:

- Private message a child's caseworker;
- Easily upload a family's home study;
- View a family's submissions;
- Quickly submit a family's home study;
- Send your family potential child matches;
- Recommend a family join our Matching Assistance Program; and,
- Request recruitment services for your families.

[Click here](#) to create an adoption worker login!

Our **Social Worker Login** allows you to:

- Private message a family's adoption worker;
- Communicate directly with home study-approved families through our private messaging system;
- Easily list children or change their recruitment status;
- View the families who have submitted for a child;
- Over 300 waiting family profiles to browse through;
- Read a family's home study;
- Create an urgent placement email for children who need to be placed quickly; and,
- Request recruitment services for children on your caseload.

[Click here](#) to create a social worker login!



VOLUNTEER

The Matching Assistance Program is seeking motivated Family Adoption Specialist volunteers and interns in Eugene to assist with our Additional Services Program! As a Family Adoption Specialist you will work with a small caseload of families, sending them monthly child searches, following up on child submissions, assisting with home study submissions, encouraging participation in family recruitment services, and providing support and guidance as needed. This position must be done from our Eugene office.

Desired qualifications include:

- Customer service experience
- Computer skills with proficiency in Microsoft Word and the Internet
- 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
- The ability to provide support, empathy and resources to adoptive families

Please email matching@afamilyforeverychild.org to learn more about the position. Training will be provided. A three-month minimum commitment is required.



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