

A Family For Every Child Adoption Agency



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



A 16-year-old in foster care whose plea to be adopted went viral in 2013 has finally found a home. His adoption case worker, who has known him since he was 7, will become his adoptive mother this month.

In October 2013, Davion Only spoke in front of a church congregation in St. Petersburg, Florida, and made an appeal for adoption. He had recently learned that his biological mother, who'd been in jail since Only was born, had died. He'd spent years bouncing between foster homes. "My name is Davion and I've been in foster care since I was born," he said. "I know God hasn't given up on me, so I'm not giving up either."



Oregon Families! Find Out About Adoption

Interested in adopting? Find out more about the process of adoption and get started... it is our goal to significantly reduce the barriers to adoption by making the process positive and exciting all around. Begin your adoption process now and plan on growing your family this year. Then call 541-343-2856 to schedule an orientation convenient for you! You can also email kim@afamilyforeverychild.org

A Family for Every Child is dedicated to finding loving,



The heartbreaking plea went viral, and Only's foster agency received calls from more than 10,000 people. Only ended up traveling to Ohio to live with a minister's family. But after Only got into a physical fight with one of his older would-be siblings, the minister and his wife changed their minds.

Back in Florida, Only passed through four different temporary homes over the next year, until he called Connie Going, his adoption case worker, to make a special request.

Only had known Going for nearly ten years, and had asked every year if she would adopt him but she always hesitated. "I always believed there was a better family than us out there," Going tells Yahoo Parenting. "He deserves so much in this world."

But this past July, when Only called and asked again if she might adopt him, Going says something felt different. "In adoption there is a 'claiming moment,' when you know [someone is] your child. When he called me to ask, in that moment, I just knew," she says. "When he asked me, my heart felt this ache and I just knew he was my son."

So Going, 52, invited Only to start spending time with the rest of her family - her two daughters, Sydney, 21, and Carly, 17, and a son Taylor, 14, who she also adopted out of foster care. Eventually, after seeing how well the arrangement was working, Going, who

permanent families for every waiting foster child.

A Family For Every Child, a nonprofit organization, was started by Christy Obie-Barrett and dozens of dedicated and passionate volunteers. In 2006, AFFEC was formed and developed into an organization focused on finding permanent and loving adoptive homes for all waiting children. Our intention is to develop programs that assist special-needs/challenging-to-place foster children in finding their own Forever Families.

We started with our first sole project called The Heart Gallery in November, 2006, and now we have blossomed into ten incredibly successful programs. None of this could have occurred without the wonderful support from this community's sources, including volunteers, sponsors, photographers, in-kind donors and many more.

- See more [here](#)

is divorced, rented a bigger home, got a lawyer, and started adoption proceedings. Only moved in with her family in December.

Only will officially join Going's family on April 22, when the adoption goes through. "Today, I am feeling blessed and honored by being chosen to be the parent to all my children," she says. "I work every day on being the best parent I can to them, to be patient and creative so that I can meet all their needs."

But it's not always easy. Going told the Tampa Bay Times that the kids do fight, and that a family therapist meets with them as a group and individually, twice a week. "I'm okay with messy and difficult," Going told the paper. "You just have to have your armor on all the time, but it's more than worth it. And every day things get a little bit better."

A spokesperson for Eckerd, Only's foster agency, told the Tampa Bay Times they were pleased with the new development. "We are truly thrilled that Davion has been united with his forever family."

While Going is waiting for the newest addition to her family to become official in the eyes of the law, she says Only is already her child. "I want him to know he is unconditionally loved for who he is, the way he is," she says. "The changes he chooses to make in his life, and the choices, are his to make. As a family we will be there through it all, the good and the bad for our lifetime. He is home."

Welcome to Adoption Basics.....

Each month this section will address basic questions regarding the adoption process, adoption agencies, and adoptive families.

Step 1 Getting Started

You have made the decision to adopt. You will need to contact an agency licensed in your state about completing your adoption home study, and ask questions. Choosing the right agency will make a difference in your adoption journey. We are also happy to help you any way we can, as children are waiting for their "Forever Families". Please use the Inquiry Form to make yourself known to us and sign up to receive our weekly mailings (inquiring about specific children is also an option). A Family for Every Child serves children and families nationally. A Family for Every Child is licensed by the states of Oregon and Washington as a private adoption agency. We are active members of Oregon's Special Needs Adoption Coalition (SNAC). If you live in either Oregon or Washington, we can provide

***A Family For Every Child
Mentor Program***



"A Mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself"

Mentor Program Mission Statement

you with the home study
required for an adoption -
See more [here](#)

The mission of A Family For Every Child's Mentor Program is to bring enthusiastic, dedicated, caring adult members of our community and unite them with youth in foster care - to provide someone who can be a friend, who will encourage and support them through the various transitions in their life, help instill independence, confidence and everyday life skills they will need - and ultimately to build long lasting relationships.

- See more [here](#)

Program Goals Connect foster children with positive members of their community to build friendships and have role models. To provide foster youth with someone who may provide support and guidance To provide support and connection for foster youth and help them transitions they may experience (transition back home, transition to adulthood, etc.)

To help the foster youth and the mentor form a strong bond; to provide the youth with someone to call "just because." To provide a potentially permanent relationship for the youth. Teach independent living/life skills, instill creativity, and promote the youth's self esteem.

WhatDoes

A Family For Every Child's Family Finding Mission is to find safe, loving kith and kin connections for youth in foster care. By discovering such individuals we hope to create a lifelong support system for youth, help children learn about their family and history, and reconnect them with loved ones who can be a part of their "forever family." - See more [here](#)

**Do you need family finding help? Please contact us
at:**

Office:541.343.2856

Fax:541.343.2866

Email: famfind@afamilyforeverychild.org

Email: rochelle.lewis@afamilyforeverychild.org

Heart Gallery

A portrait exhibit displayed to raise awareness of the needs of foster children



What is the Heart Gallery?

The Heart Gallery is a portrait exhibit displayed to raise awareness of the needs of foster children.

Foster children waiting and hoping for their own adoptive family to love and protect them.

Professional photographers volunteer to take compelling portraits and these beautifully framed and matted portraits get displayed along with the children's biographies in various venues that will touch your heart.

A Family For Every Child (AFFEC) is a Heart Gallery.

Heart Galleries, which participate in an umbrella organization, Heart Gallery of America, are all independent non-profit organizations, though some are started by and maintained by Pacific Northwest, both as photo displays and on the internet. AFFEC has also taken a pro-active role in the State of Washington, displaying Washington children for adoption and snagging washingtonheartgallery.org for listing Washington children (the Washington kids are listed here). We have had contact with social workers in Alaska, Idaho, and Montana who would like to photo-list children for adoption in those states as well, which we are pursuing as fast as we have resources to expand.

In June 2011, the Heart Gallery of New Mexico, one of the first Heart Galleries, celebrated ten years of producing stirring portraits of children waiting for adoption. If you have time, you are invited to visit one of our current venues. Many venues have better quality photos that can be displayed on the internet.

Our websites also display web-quality photos of children. Our websites are a work-in-progress, and are constantly updated as we learn the status of

children who are available for adoption. The sites are being combined, but at the present time, link between themselves. Feel welcome to browse around; they are replete with information on foster care, adoption, and post-adoption support.

- See more [here](#)

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