

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 May 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!

Aging Out of Foster Care

Each year, approximately 25,000 foster youth will "age out" of foster care. The age for emancipation is

either 18 or 21, depending on the state. For foster youth who age out at 18, many of them are woefully unprepared and unequipped to handle the realities of life. Some do not even have the opportunity to finish high school before they age out. With no home, diploma, job, or family to support them many of the youth that age out end up back in some sort of government system. The [statistics](#) for youth aging out are grim: one in five will be homeless at age 18; 71% of women who age out will be pregnant by the time they are 21; less than 3% will earn a college degree; one in four will be involved in the justice system within two years of exiting foster care; and less than half will be employed by the age of 24. The costs of aging out are not only high for foster youth, but for society, too: in 2013 the Jim Casey Foundation estimated the [total costs](#) of letting foster youth age out were \$7.8 billion. Instead of allowing this to continue to happen, here are a few things you can do instead:

Extend foster care services beyond age 18 - This will allow youth to hopefully finish high school, find housing, enroll in college, and/or find a job. Allowing youth those extra four years of support can make a huge difference in their outcomes for success. Contact your state Governor and policymakers to lobby for extended services for youth in foster care in your state. The Jim Casey Foundation outlines a number of policy practice recommendations, which you can download from the Resources section of this newsletter.

Become a mentor, or a CASA/Guardian at Litem (GAL) - Mentors can provide foster youth with guidance, direction, support and friendship when it is needed most. A mentor can help a foster youth achieve success in school, life, and relationships. A CASA or GAL gives foster youth a voice in the court system. After speaking with a foster child's foster parents, teachers, caseworkers, therapists, and doctors, the child's CASA compiles a report that is presented to a judge, outlining their recommendations for the best course of action to help a child succeed. You can learn more about becoming a mentor or a CASA in the Resources section of this newsletter.

Consider adopting an older child - Per the [latest AFCARS report](#), the average age of a child in foster care is 9-years-old. Older youth and teens want and deserve supportive, loving families just as much as younger children. If you can open your home to an older youth, you may find the wait time to be matched is shorter and the rewards are just as great!

Aging Out of Foster Care Resources

Adoption Advocate No. 77 - [The Joys and Challenges of Parenting Older Adopted Children](#)

Adoption Advocate No. 83 - [The Human, Social, and Economic Costs of Aging Out of Foster Care](#)

A Family for Every Child - [Oregon Mentor Program](#)

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America - [Home Page](#)

CASA for Children- [Home Page](#)

Children's Bureau - [AFCARS Report No. 21](#)

Children's Rights - [Aging Out Fact Sheet](#)

Child Welfare Information Gateway - [Extending Out-of-Home Care for Youth Past Age 18](#)

Child Welfare Information Gateway - [Parenting Your Adopted Teenager](#)

CNN - [We are abandoning children in foster care](#)

Huffington Post - [Aging Out of Foster Care: The Costs of Doing Nothing Affect Us All](#)

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative - [Campaign Resources](#)

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative - [Home Page](#)

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative - [Improving Policy](#)

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative - [Policy and Practice Recommendations Handout](#)

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative - [Success Beyond 18: How to Get Involved](#)

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative - [Success Beyond 18 Infographic](#)

KJZZ - [The big leap: Aging out of Arizona's foster care system](#)

NACAC - [A Family for Every Child: Strategies to Achieve Permanence for Older Foster Children and Youth](#)

Ohio Fostering Connections - [Home Page](#)

One Thankful Mom blog - [Joining a New Family at 16 \(and Realistic Expectations\)](#)

The Dallas Morning News - [Texas foster kids find transition support, housing, before "aging out" of system](#)

Waiting Agency Family



Meet Matt and Lissa!

We are Matt and Lissa, and we look forward to adopting a sibling group of 4 or a single child between the ages of infant to 15. We are open to boys or girls, and would most likely prefer a combination of both. Almost any ethnic background will blend in with our family. We are also open to children with several different special needs. Matt works full-time and has a flexible work schedule. Matt has several hobbies, which include reading (biographies, investing), weight lifting, playing with our two kids, and washing and

detailing our cars. He also loves grilling barbeque in the backyard, watching football, and spending time at the beach. Lissa is a stay-at-home mom to their two daughters. Like Matt, Lissa's favorite place to be in the world is also at the beach. Lissa also enjoys sitting down with a good book, going blueberry picking with the kids, or working on some kind of spontaneous creative project. She likes trying new things.

Matt and Lissa live in a suburban neighborhood outside of Portland, Oregon. There are also plenty of fun venues to explore in their community including tons of local parks, indoor recreational play clubs, the Portland zoo, the Children's Museum, OMSI, bowling, hiking trails, great swimming and rafting areas along the river, libraries, several malls and shopping centers, and lots and lots of play dates with neighbors.

Matt and Lissa have been married 11 years and have a strong marriage as well as a strong support group around them. They have several friends that have adopted as well, and they feel comfortable going to them with questions or problems they might encounter. They have completed over 50 hours of training in preparation for adoption. They are both aware that they will need to depend heavily on outside resources post-adoption and they feel confident that they have the right guidance and information to select the appropriate resources to help with a successful adoption. They recognize that many aspects of their family life are going to be different post-adoption, and they are ready and excited to figure these out together as a new family unit. [Learn more about Matt and Lissa!](#)

Waiting Matching Assistance Family



Meet Joe and Sunny!

Hi, we are Joe and Sunny! We would like to adopt a child who is less than 9 years old. We are open to boys or girls. We feel we can accommodate a sibling group of up to 2 kids. Almost any ethnic background will blend in with our family. Together we enjoy taking road trips to Palm Springs, San Francisco and we've even gone as far as Texas to visit Joe's Dad. We also enjoy spending time at Disneyland with our friends. Another things we like to do is entertain and cook at home. Joe works from home, and Sunny works full-time but has a flexible work schedule.

We live in a 2-story town house in the heart of Los Angeles with our two small dogs, Winston and Valentino. We have a huge park and playground in our neighborhood. There are plenty of schools and libraries in the area as well as community and recreation centers. One of the great things about living in Los Angeles is that we are 10 miles away from the beach!

One of the things that we both had in common was a desire to have our family with children. We also felt that we have lots of love to share and life experiences to impart to our future kids. We always wanted to adopt because we feel we have a lot of love to share. Joe has worked at a children's theatre company for

8 years, and both he and Sunny have volunteered as mentors for teens. We've also fostered a new born that we picked up from the hospital when he was 4 days old. We feel that we are well equipped to raise a child successfully. We have lots of support from our agency, friends, and local support groups.

We are 100% committed to providing a safe, loving, stable home to a child or children in need. We will help them with their education and their personal goals as well as respect and help them maintain contact with their birth family if they wish. [Learn more about Joe and Sunny!](#)

April and May Matches/Placements!

Congratulations to our MAP families who were matched and placed in April and May!

Total number of families matched - 10

Total number of families matched with in state children via our site - 4

Total number of families matched with out of state children via our site - 1

Total number of families placed - 3

Create a MAP for Adoption Workers Account!

If you are a family adoption worker and have not created a MAP for Adoption Workers account yet, we encourage you to create one today!

By creating a free account, you will be able to:

- Quickly submit a family's home study
- Private message child's caseworker
- View a family's recent submissions
- Submit a family's home study
- Recommend children to your families

And more! [Click here](#) to create an account now.

Create a MAP for Social Workers Account!

If you are a child's social worker and have not created a MAP for Social Workers account yet, we encourage you to create one today!

By creating a free account, you will be able to:

- Browse through over 300 waiting family's profiles
- Request recruitment services for children on your caseload
- Quickly list a child
- Easily update a child's recruitment status

- Search for home study-approved families

And more! [Click here](#) to create an account now.



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.

