



## Directors Note

Every day I have the privilege to walk into an organization focused on finding homes for children in foster care. These are children who, through no fault of their own, find themselves without a family, without anyone to really care about them and tell them they are special, loved, wanted, and amazing.

Permanency is something that many of us don't give a second thought to. We have never experienced the fear that comes from not knowing what is happening or how long we're going to be able to stay in the current place we call home. In fact, we never even think about the children or adults, who find themselves in this situation.

Those that do think of them, think of foster or mentoring or even adopting, are often scared about who the child will turn out to be. Have they been 'damaged' beyond repair, will they ever love the way 'my own child' would and the list of doubts goes on. The reality is these children who are adopted more often than not become loving members of a permanent family.

The love and admiration goes both ways and most families report that even with the struggles of the adoption they can't imagine their family being any different. This isn't to say there aren't struggles, because let's face it, every family has its struggles. This is a part of life. As a society we each have the opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child and yes, it's true there are struggles and it's a hard process. But the fact is in the end it's a child's, and families, life that changes.

Any family who is considering adoption must make themselves aware of the myths and realities of foster care adoption **BEFORE** they rule it out. Over the next couple of months we will explore the myths and realities of adoption in hopes that if you have been thinking about adoption, you will reach out and let us help you determine if foster care adoption is the right way to grow your family.

First, let's talk money.....

**Adoption is expensive:** Adoption CAN be expensive, but adoption from foster care is very affordable. Costs average from 4,000 - 6,000 dollars (depending on travel requirements) and much of that money will be returned or subsidized at the end of the adoption process through either Adoption Assistance or the Adoption Tax Credit.

**The Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)** is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance for eligible adoptive children who have special needs. Special needs include children over 8 years old, children of minority or

ethnic groups, children with cognitive, emotional, or physical disabilities and children with histories that put them at risk for special needs. Children remain eligible for AAP through their 18th birthday. They are also eligible to receive medical benefits through the age of 18.

**The Adoption Tax Credit** is offered through the IRS and is a federal tax credit to help offset the cost of adoption up to 10,000 per child for all adoptive families. You can get more information on this credit in the IRS Publication 968 'Tax Benefits for Adoption' at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov).

We encourage everyone who has considered adoption in the past to seriously consider attending our informational webinar. Single parents, same sex parents, unmarried partners, families, and yes even opposite sex couples are encouraged to adopt. ***So if you've ever thought about adoption, please consider attending our free, no obligation, webinar coming up on April 14, 2018. To register [click here](#) and get the information your looking for about adoption from foster care.***

If you're looking for additional information before then, or you have a specific concern, please feel free to email me at [kim@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:kim@afamilyforeverychild.org) and I'll be happy to answer your questions.

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Visit our Website

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## Why A Family For Every Child?

There are many ways to grow your family through adoption and we are often asked why AFFEC?

We have a unique approach to adoption with all of our programs working together to find 'forever families' for waiting children.

**Family Finding** - Works to find relatives who would be enthusiastic about adopting an extended family member

**Mentor Program** - helps create positive relationships and connections for youth in foster care.

**Matching Program** - helps families find children waiting for a 'forever family' nationwide.

We have a child centered approach which creates an individualized adoption experience for the children and families we serve. Our goal is to educate, support, and encourage families through the adoption process.

All children who find themselves in foster care are considered 'special needs' because of the trauma they have endured. At AFFEC we specialize in placing children considered 'hard to place' such as minorities, sibling groups, and children over the age of 8. Every child, regardless of age, or any other factor, deserves and **NEEDS** a loving, permanent home to call their own.

If you have ever thought about adoption, but haven't acted because you have questions, please give us a call. We have monthly in person (in Eugene) and online information sessions designed to educate families on the process and our services. You can find the registration information for those sessions here:

**You can make a difference in the life of a child!!**

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## Empowered to Connect (TBRI) Simulcast

Date: Friday April 13, 2018

Time: 9:00am until 5:00pm

Trainer: Daren Jones, Dan & Terri Coley, Sarah Mercado, Casey Call

The Empowered to Connect Conference is a two-day event presented by Show Hope and the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development. Come experience practical teaching in a safe and supportive community as we work to equip families, churches, and professionals to better serve children.

Featuring Trust-Based Relational Intervention methods developed by Dr. Karyn Purvis and Dr. Davis Cross from the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development this conference helps bring attachment and connection in to families.

The nationwide participation in the Empowered to Connect Conference is a **significant** testament to the impact and work of Dr. Karyn Purvis.

For registration please call or email ORPARC

(503) 241-0799

[orparc@nwresource.org](mailto:orparc@nwresource.org)

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