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Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 2:02 AM
To: scott@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFEC Matching Assistance Program August 2012

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A Family For Every Child
Matching Assistance




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

August 2012

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Would you like to contribute to AFEC's cause for helping children? Any amount can have a lasting impact on a child. Click below!



Register for Matching Events

We have a few upcoming webinars that you may register for! Our next webinar is on August 8th, at 1 PM PDT. It will feature National Children. You can register for the event [here](#).

The August 22nd webinar will feature Ohio children. Future matching webinars will feature Matching Assistance families. Check back weekly for updates on upcoming webinar events!

Sign Up for Text Messaging

Matching Assistance Is Now FREE!

By changing our program to a free program, we hope to better fulfill our mission of finding loving, permanent families for waiting foster children.

Our program is designed to assist current approved home studied families looking to adopt waiting foster children. Our goal is to work alongside families, providing them with one-on-one communication, assurance, and support during the submission and waiting process.

We are here to assist families with learning how to best represent themselves in their family biography, and perform national child searches based on information provided in your home study and family biography.

How to sign up:

Signing up for Matching Assistance is easy! Click this link, [Sign up for MAP](#) and get started on your family profile and biography today! Request that your worker send in your home study, and request activation. You can follow the how-to guide to help you through the process. It is located under the Matching Assistance drop-down menu on the home page.

Putting together a Welcome Book:

One way to welcome your adopted child into your home is through the use of a Welcome Book. This book is made by you to introduce your new child to your family. It contains pictures of you and your immediate family, pets, and your surroundings (house, yard, new room, etc). This book is very important because it helps your child prepare for his or her new life through photos. The Welcome Book will help the child to start adjusting to their new life and become familiar with their new surroundings and family members before they move in. If you have contact with your child while they are still in foster care, you can mail it to them; otherwise you can give it to them when you first meet. The following are some suggestions of what to include in your Welcome Book:

- Begin with a picture of them (referral picture) on the first page. Title it with large words such as WELCOME LILLY, HI TANYA or WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU MARIA!
- Include a picture of you and your spouse or partner (if applicable).
- Include a photo of your car(s).
- Have a picture of your house from the outside.
- 1 or 2 photos of inside rooms, especially the ones they will see first, such as the entry way or foyer.
- Include one or two photos of their room, and a picture of your living room and kitchen.
- Brother or sister? Add pictures of siblings waiting at home. Hopefully your child-to-be has heard their voice

Stay up to date on events, family support groups, our mentor program, and get notified when children are added or placed!

Click [here](#) to sign up today!

Volunteer Positions

Are you interested in helping kids in foster care? Do you have at least 5 hours a week to spare? Then [sign up](#) to become a volunteer!

With 57 local and regional opportunities, as well as many national opportunities, there is always a position for you! We also have internships available for college credit.

Featured Volunteer Positions:

Matching Family/Child Search Specialist:

Searches national sites and compiles a list of kids that fit the criteria of our families and produce a list for each family once a week. We provide a large list of sites to search and sample templates for the list and a How-to, plus whatever training you may need. This volunteer can live anywhere in any state, all work is done on the web/email. This is very rewarding as you are actually involved in the matching of families and kids, on your own time and days. Commitment of 5 hours a week for at least 6 months.

Feature Family Emails:

Volunteer to put together an email featuring several of our families and send to workers and recruiters for children. We provide all the tools and it can be done from anywhere, once a week on your schedule.

Interested? Contact:

nora.sharp@afamilyforeverchild.org

New How-to's for Matching Assistance Families

We have two new Matching Assistance how-to webinars available to Matching Assistance families! Both can be accessed on your Family Home Page. The first is a how-to on writing and creating your family

over the phone. Consider getting a photo frame with a voice-recording feature and bring it with you.

- Picture of immediate family- those who live in or near the house. This is not the place to include every cousin, in-law, etc. in your family.
- Pets? This is a great time to introduce your furry friends, to show pictures and make animal sounds.

If you're adopting an older child, you can also include a picture of their new school and other areas that will help them become familiar with their new home and community.

Remember-familiarity reduces fear; so the more you can help familiarize your new child, the less afraid they will be! While it is tempting to include lots of pictures of family vacations to show them what a "good life" they will have, keep it simple. Show pictures of what their daily life will be like. End with a photo of your family, and if you can add a picture of the child too, either via Photo Shop, a scanner, or taping a picture of them in to make a complete family photo.

Vicki Butterfield:

My dad passed away right after I got the original book done. I was still able to go in and edit the grandparents' page easy enough. We had one pet we had to put down so I took him out. Then we got a couple more and it was easy to go in and add them. It works out beautifully! Ours was 22 pages and I also included a page where it says "our newest additions" with the online photos of the boys and a little bio about them as I did with each other kid in the family.

The boys' worker said they will be thrilled to see themselves included in the book. Anyone interested in purchasing My Memories Software? (I do have a code that would give \$10 off)

Go to <http://www.mymemories.com> and the code is STMMMS16104 (use at checkout). There are other digital scrapbooking programs available as well. Another option is just using their Word/Office program on your computer. They can cut and paste information and photos. It doesn't need to be anything fancy. In fact, I chose to go rather plain as to not overwhelm the boys! :)

Waiting Agency Family



Michael and Amy

Hi,

We are the Fisher family. Our names are Michael and Heather. We have a five-month-old daughter as of the end of March. We live in a two-story house at the end of a road with four bedrooms. One of them is used for Michael's office. The down stairs is one big room that consists of kitchen, dining room, and living room.

We like to spend a lot of time together as a family. We like to play board games, talk, go bowling, mini golfing, and spend time with extended family and friends (all of which have children). We like to read the Bible and go to Church. The church we attend is Southwest Hills Baptist church.

biography. That webinar can be found under the Biography and Photo box by clicking "View the MAP Biography How-To Webinar."

The second is a webinar presentation on what to expect the days and weeks after your membership has been activated, and how to make the most of your Matching Assistance membership. It can be found in the Request Activation/Deactivate box, and is titled "Family Activation Webinar."

In addition, new weekly how-to emails have been created! Topics include blending families, parenting a child that is a victim of sexual abuse, and helping your foster child transition to your adopted child. If you have ideas about topics that you would like to see in a how-to email, please email the Matching Assistance Coordinator at nora.sharp@afamilyforeverchild.org

Questions?

Feel free to call at 541-343-2856 or email: info@afamilyforeverchild.org

We are looking to adopt a sibling group of maybe three children, but we aren't really strict on that. We are open to fewer children or more. Our preference with age is seven and under. We will, however, consider a child a little bit older. We would like to provide a home for a sibling group so that they are not split apart.

We are a two-parent home. I am a stay at home mom and Michael works from home. Because I do not work, I have the extra time to take care of the children's needs. I'd be able to take them to doctor appointments and therapy. Because of this, we feel that we are able to take on the challenge of multiple children. We are happy to accept any ethnicity a child has, and willing to look at any challenges that the children may have. It doesn't matter to us in the least if the children look like us or not.

Waiting Family Profile



Christine and Todd

Hoping to find our daughter :)

We are a loving family of three, hoping to grow our family! We are a Mom and Dad blessed with one wonderful son. Prior to parenting our son, we both have a lot of experience with children. I always babysat children and I have worked as a sign language interpreter in the public schools for many years. With my educational background, I am used to helping children with their homework. I also spent many summers working at a camp with children with a wide variety of special needs. My husband, before becoming a father to our son, spent many years being a wonderful uncle to his six nieces and nephews.

We have completed our Adoption Home study and Foster Care Licensure, including all the PRIDE training for adoption and foster care. We have also completed the first aid/medications reaction training. We have completed physicals, all background checks, fingerprints, etc. Since I work as a sign language interpreter for a local school district, my schedule is the same as the school children's. We live in a nice suburban area, and our son attends the best school district in Michigan. We are all avid readers, and love to travel and have adventures. We are a very close family and blessed to have good support from our friends and family.

We have two grandmothers who would just love to have another grandchild to love :) We attend a beautiful church, which offers so much to its congregation. We would seek all support services needed to help a child make the transition into our family and do whatever we could to make them feel safe and loved. We have a wonderful dog named Tigger, who is good with kids. We have a lot to offer. We would very much like to adopt a daughter between the ages of 3 and 9 years old.



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