

**From:** Christy Obie [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christy Obie [nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 14, 2012 2:04 AM  
**To:** scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org  
**Subject:** AFFEC Matching Assistance Program November 2012

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**November 2012**

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**Donate to AFFEC**

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



**Register for Matching Events**

Check out our matching events page to register for upcoming matching events or to view past events!

Visit our [matching events page](#).

**Support Group on November 15th**

This support group is an open forum, a place for pre-adoptive families, post-adoptive families, foster families, and mentors. We have different speakers

## 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.

### How to Promote Your Family:

Every adoptive family should have a well-written biography. Your family biography is a way for you to introduce your family to a child's caseworker, and make your family stand out. For Matching Assistance families, a caseworker sees your family biography when you submit on a child through our site, but there is also another way to let caseworkers view it without having to submit on a child: making your biography public. When you grant us permission to make your family biography publicly viewable, it gives your family more exposure to caseworkers. By granting us permission to post your family biography on our site, we can do the following:

- Feature your family on our home page for one week as our Web Feature Family. It will just be your family biography, front and center on our home page for one week!
- Allow caseworkers to see your biography when they visit our site, without having to login, making your family biography more accessible to them.
- Feature your family biography in a Feature Family Recruitment Email!

To grant us permission to make your family biography public, simply login to your family profile. On your Family Home

each month that share experiences along with valuable information. Come share and encourage each other through this journey.

When: 3rd Thursdays of each month (except holidays)

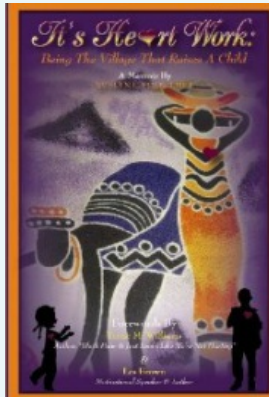
Time: 5:30 - 7:30pm

Where: Bethesda Lutheran Church 4445 Royal Avenue Eugene, OR, 97402

Activities for children available  
See our [Local Events](#) page for meeting announcements and agendas.

RSVP to:  
[linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org)

## New Book Added to Our Booklist



### **It's Heart Work: Being the Village That Raises a Child by Evelyn L. Polk**

"It's Heart Work: Being The Village That Raises A Child" is a memoir in which "Ms. Evelyn" shares the joys and pains of counseling, mentoring, parenting, and caring for youth impacted by the circumstances of separation from their biological parents. Her experiences and insights will provide a different perspective and understanding of the mind and "heart set" that underlies the sense of indifference, resistance, anger, and/or rejection they may experience from the children/youth they are reaching out to.

She, and some of the youth (now adults) she's worked with, share some of the ways in which she was able to make heart connections which helped them to embrace and channel their pain into dreams; as well as the struggles she endured in living the one she brought into

Page, at the bottom of box #2, click on the link that says "[OPTIONAL] Grant Permission for Display on the Internet". On the next page, click on the check box, and click "Submit".

Here are some other ways that you can promote your family through our Matching Assistance Program:

#### **Feature Family Recruitment Email:**

Our Feature Family Recruitment email is the best way to promote your family. This email goes out to thousands of caseworkers across the country, and allows caseworkers to send us child profiles that they think would be a good match specifically for your family. They have a very high success rate! By granting us permission to display your family biography on the internet, this allows us to send your biography out in our Feature Family emails.

We also include a link to our Waiting Families page so caseworkers can browse all the families who are publicly displayed on our site. These emails go out every other week to caseworkers.

#### **Child Matching Events:**

Signing up for Child Matching Events is another way to promote your family. During our online webinar events families will have private access to many special children, where you can view photos and/or video and hear from people who are actively involved in these children's lives.

Social workers will be on hand to answer questions and give feedback and information about the type of families that would be the best match for these children. Once the event has concluded families will be given the opportunity to submit their home study on children that they feel would be a good fit for their families.

#### **Family Online Matching Event:**

As a Matching Assistance family, you can participate in our Online Matching Event. This event is similar to the child matching events, except families are featured to over 50 caseworkers nationwide! During this event, your family biography will be shown, and you will have the opportunity to discuss your home life and what you can offer a foster child. Caseworkers will have the opportunity to gain information about families that might be a good match for children on their caseload.

The benefits of this include instant exposure to over 50 caseworkers, adoption workers and recruiters nationwide. and they will be able to learn about your family...straight from you! These events are open to all Matching Assistance families, and all you need is a computer with internet access to attend! It's an easy, free way to promote your family directly to a child's caseworker!

## Waiting Agency Profile



### **The DeHaven Family**

We have been married for eight years. We own a small house with a big yard in the Parkrose Heights neighborhood. Our neighborhood is very family friendly, and we enjoy spending time with many of our neighbors.

oving the sons she brought into her heart and her home.

Readers will be able to identify, validate, and learn how to take care of their own emotions and well-being, and not lose their minds or selves in the process of trying to "be the village" that raises a child and loves them through.

To view this title and more, visit our [booklist page](#).

## Changes to the MAP Page!

We are working on making some changes to the Family home page. We are working on making it more user-friendly, and adding some new features to assist families on their journey to adoption.

## New Adoption Form

We have a new adoption forum that is available for our Matching Assistance families! The forum is a great place for families to post their questions and concerns for other families to answer and offer advice. Here are what families have to say about the forum:

"I have to say this forum is an awesome idea to bring us together to discuss common concerns. Thanks for that!"  
-D & M

"Having this forum to talk to others and even commiserate is a nice way to wait since that is all that we can do. It is very good to know that you aren't alone in your search to broaden your family!" -M & J

"The program is an excellent resource and the forum is a great addition! Thank you for your constant support and encouragement." - T & J

## Become a Sponsor Today!

'Tis the season to change a life! This holiday season, give the gift of hope and become a sponsor today! Sponsor a child through their adoption process or ensure a sibling group celebrates the holidays together by sponsoring a sibling group in

We love animals, and we own two cats. Eddie is our big 16 pound older cat--he is the man of the house. Katniss is 1 year old, and full of playful energy. We also own a small Bichon Frise named Puka. She is 7 years old, and absolutely adores people.

We plan to share our passion for adventure with our child, teaching them through experiences that will last a lifetime. We both grew up travelling with our families on long road trips, with plenty of educational opportunities along the route, and would like to do the same with our child.

[Learn more](#) about the Dehaven's.

## Agencies: Partner with Our Matching Assistance Program

We work with many adoption and state agencies throughout the United States and are now offering an exciting opportunity to partner with A Family For Every Child to further benefit your families. Over time we have developed valuable relationships with many of you; working together to assist families and therefore have found homes for children. All we are asking is your willingness to let your families know about our Matching Assistance Program and partner with us to better serve families in a time of large workloads for all. Let's work together and change the life of a child by building a family.

This program will offer your families support that compliments what you are already doing. As a team we can work to match them sooner and perhaps support them through the process. We all know this is a big job and often requires a team.

How our team will benefit you as the family's worker:

- 1) Your family will be able to create their own family biography page that will be viewed by children's workers. This page reflects their personality and current status, training and experience which is often hard to write on paper in a home study and certainly hard to update as much as families would like to. Families can update daily if they desire.
- 2) Families will be able to submit their interest and family biography for themselves based on your recommendations and guidance. Even though you will not be required to do these daily submissions, we will cc you on all of them. We will also track these submissions and inquiries and be able to provide you with monthly reports if requested, this should also free up some time.
- 3) Your family will feel empowered to be their own advocate and hopefully more engaged during this difficult "searching/waiting" part of the adoption process. We all know how hard this can be on families.
- 4) You as their worker will be able to log on and review your family's profile and submission account at any time.
- 5) Your family will always have up to date adoption materials, online training information and new photo listings for their continued education, meaning you will not need to hunt for this information for them. When they register, they receive a list of over 50 photo listing sites and a "loaded" welcome packet with adoption information for their review.
- 6) And best of all your family will be matching faster!

by sponsoring a sibling group in their journey to find their forever family.

Sponsorships can be given on behalf of someone else-The perfect gift for someone yearning to make a difference in a child's life! For more information, visit our [sponsorship webpage](#) at

Interested? Contact:  
Katie Nelson or Christina Parra at:  
[katie.nelson@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:katie.nelson@afamilyforeverychild.org)

[christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org)

### Questions?

Feel free to call at 541-343-2856 or email:  
[info@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:info@afamilyforeverychild.org)

If you would like to talk to us further about partnering we are very interesting in exploring these options with you, contact Nora Sharp, Matching Assistance Coordinator or Christy Obie-Barrett, Executive Director.

## Volunteer Position

### Family Search Specialist:

As a Family Search Specialist you will be a representative for A Family For Every Child while working with families through the adoption process. You will need to be professional, supportive, empathetic, diligent and proactive during this time.

You can expect to help answer questions for these families, communicate with other agencies about children that may be a good match, as well as communicate with our Matching Assistance Coordinator weekly.

As a Family Search Specialist it is your job to conduct one national and northwest search (one set) for your family within one week of assignment. You will also be responsible for checking in with assigned families on a regular basis. Computer proficiency is an absolute must.

A commitment to at least 5 hours a week for 6 months is required.

Interested? Contact:  
[nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org)



Contact us at  
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[info@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:info@afamilyforeverychild.org)  
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