

From: Caitlin Baird [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Caitlin Baird [caitlin@afamilyforeverychild.org]
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 2:01 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Family Finding May 2013



A Family For Every Child

May 2013

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Family Finding Success Story: Veronica

Veronica has overcome a past of abuse and neglect from parents and step-parents with severe mental illnesses. In 2003, she was taken away from her mother, Patty, who had been both neglectful and abusive towards her children and was known to bring significant others into her home who would treat the children similarly. Prior to entering the foster care system, Veronica lived with Patty and her various partners as well as her three half siblings, Anna, Tyler, and Megan; all of whom have different fathers than herself and all of which have been entered into the foster system for their own protection. After being placed in foster care, Veronica moved between five different homes before being placed in the long-term foster home she is currently thriving in.

In 2012, Veronica's case worker suggested her case be referred to the Family Finding program in order to possibly find supportive connections with biological relatives. Additionally, the hope was that Veronica would have regular contact with her extended family in an effort to learn more about them and where she came from. The Family Finding volunteer program mined Veronica's file, performed internet searches on relevant names, and ultimately attempted to contact possible relatives. Relatives contacted were interviewed to learn more information about them and decide whether or not they would be a good influence on the children. After these contacts were made the Family Finding team held a meeting to further determine which relatives, and other loved ones, would then be invited to the Family Meeting.

Hard work paid off and the Family Finding program was able to hold a meeting with Veronica's maternal grandmother, Phyllis, her paternal half-sister, Rebecca, her maternal half-sister, Anna, and her maternal Aunt Linda. The meeting was a success in bringing together long-lost relatives who could now begin growing a relationship with them. Although Veronica can legally have contact with her biological parents, she has decided against it. This makes these external familial bonds even more crucial as Veronica continues to grow and find herself.

The process of reconnecting began by family members sending letters introducing themselves and their families, including with them current photos. Veronica has kept in consistent contact with Phyllis and her family via bi-weekly phone calls. She has also kept in touch with Linda over the internet, both sides are working to strengthen their relationship further and begin contact via phone calls and visits in the near future. Veronica is doing very well in her long-term placement. She is performing very well in the school she is attending and is participating in volleyball. She has also taken an interest in working with horses, a hobby which is very therapeutic. Overall Veronica is a happy healthy young woman whose possibilities are endless.

Volunteer/Internship Opportunities

A Family for Every Child is in search of dedicated volunteers or interns to perform the following roles:

Training Coordinator: The Training Coordinator is responsible for hosting bi-monthly trainings for A Family For Every Child's permanency programs. The Training Coordinator will also work closely with the Permanency Director and is responsible for notifying potential volunteers about the upcoming trainings. The Training Coordinator will also need to research Family Finding and Mentorship methods and should create "on-going" trainings that volunteers can view online or via email. The Training Coordinator will need to dedicate 10 - 20 hours a month to this position.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Apt research skills and the desire to learn about Family Finding and Mentoring best practices
- Must have your own computer and knowledge of computer programs, and be willing to learn and use GoToWebinar
- Basic knowledge of the child welfare system
- Public speaking skills
- Available to host Family Finding trainings from 9AM until 12PM every third Saturday of the month, and Mentor Orientations from 5:30PM until 7:30PM every third Wednesday of the month.
- Availability to attend a Family Finding training and Mentor Orientation

Follow Up Coordinator: The Follow Up Coordinator is responsible for following up with case staff, family members, and connections engaged in the Family Finding process. The Follow Up Coordinator will be charged with following up on *all* Family Finding cases, and will need to dedicate at least 15 - 30 hours a month to the task.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Good communication skills; non-judgmental attitude and comfortable speaking with strangers
- Ability to record detailed notes

- Availability to make phone calls and receive return calls
- Persistent and professional attitude
- Ability to follow instructions
- Availability once a month to meet regarding the follow up process for all cases
- Availability on a quarterly basis to meet with A Family For Every Child and the Department of Human Services regarding Family Finding cases

Child Preparation Coordinator: The Child Preparation Coordinator is responsible for working with specified children regarding the Family Finding process. This includes working on exercises like Mobility Mapping, Six Word Essays, and child interviews. The Child Preparation Coordinator will also need to research current child preparation methods, have experience in working with children (preferably at risk youth) and have the time to attend Family Finding trainings and work closely with the Family Finding Director and Family Finding volunteers. The Child Preparation Coordinator must dedicate 15 - 25 hours a month to the position.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Previous work with children, particularly teens or at risk youth
- Patience and the ability to read body language, actively listen, and ask open questions
- Ability to work on projects with children
- Ability to take diligent notes
- Availability during business hours
- Ability to actively communicate with youth and case staff

To sign up as a volunteer or intern with A Family For Every Child, please visit our [volunteer sign up](#) page.

If you have further questions regarding any of the mentioned positions, please contact the Permanency Director, Caitlin, at caitlin@afamilyforeverychild.org

Do you know a Family that could benefit from Family Finding?

"Family Finding" services are not just about finding relatives for children, but finding support systems for families by bringing community members and relatives together. There are many families out there that are not connected with the Department of Human services that need such a service.

If you know a child who may be at risk of entering the foster care system and needs family members, faith based groups, school administrators, and mentors to work together to support the family and the youth, please contact our Permanency Director, Caitlin, at caitlin@afamilyforeverychild.org.

Home for the Holidays: Winter Wonderland Meeting

Our first event/volunteer meeting will be on May 28th, 5pm, at our office. Please join us and bring friends if you would like to be a part of this effort. Our annual event last year had close to 350 guests. This event is critical to the support of each A Family For Every Child's programs.



A few of the committee's roles/needs:
Oral Auction, Silent Auction, Invitations/Registration, Take down/Set up, Decorations, Logistics, Sponsorship's, Wine Wall , Dessert Dash, Procurement and more!

Please let us know if you are interested:
rebecca@afamilyforeverychild.org

Please also bring along any friends or co-workers you would like to get involved. Thank you!

AFFEC Summer Event: July 13th

A Family For Every Child is teaming up with your local Sweet Cheeks Winery for our FIRST Summer Event!



Help us find a home for every waiting foster child, by enjoying a fun-filled night of:

Local BBQ
Sweet Cheeks Wine
Argrarian Ales
Hop Valley Brewing
And a night of dancing to country singer Amy Clawson

Our summer celebration will help provide resources for thousands of waiting foster children. Tickets will go on sale shortly!

A Family For Every Child
1675 West 11th
Eugene, Oregon 97402

Office: 541-343-2856
Toll Free: 877-343-2856
Fax: 541-343-2866
Executive Director: Christy Obie-Barrett
info@afamilyforeverychild.org

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