



A Family For Every Child Matching Assistance



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

December 2014



Matching Assistance Program

If you are a home study approved family seeking to adopt from foster care, consider signing up for our FREE Matching Assistance Program! Some of our site features include suggested matches, the ability to mark children as a favorite, add notes, and see recruitment updates for children as we receive them, to name a few! This year so far, the Matching Assistance Program has helped match/placed 38 families with children on our site. Of those 38 families, 31 were matched/placed with out of state children.

Handling the Holidays

For many children and families, the holidays are a wonderful time of year. There are presents, good food, games, vacations, and visits with extended family. For children in foster care however, the holidays can bring up all sorts of negative feelings and stressors. If you have a foster child in your home or have recently adopted, follow these steps to ensure that your holiday will be a happy one for everybody:

- **Don't expect perfect.** Setting your expectations really high will only lead to disappointment. Instead, make small goals for the holiday season and take things one day at a time.
- **Acknowledge your child's feelings.** It can be difficult to hear your child say how much they miss their birth parents, especially when you feel like you are doing everything you can to make the holidays a happy time. However, it's important for the child to know that he/she can voice these feelings and that they are allowed to be sad or miss their family.
- **Incorporate new traditions.** If your child

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 have the ability to submit your home study and family profile for over 2,000 waiting children and sibling groups listed on our site, with the assurance that your submission is going directly to a child's caseworker.

Your adoption worker will receive a copy of your submission with information on where to follow up, so they will be kept in the loop. In addition, you will have the opportunity to partake in our very successful recruitment services; receive weekly how to emails containing valuable information and resources about foster care adoption; receive weekly emails featuring recently listed children; have access to knowledgeable and helpful staff, and more!

[Sign up](#) today to take full advantage of our free program!

Additional Resources

Adoption Goddess blog - [How to Survive the Holidays When Your Heart is Breaking](#)

comes into your home with different traditions, beliefs, or rituals, it is important to incorporate them into your family's holiday traditions. Doing this will show the child that they are part of your family and will make them feel more at ease.

- **Keep it low-key.** Overstimulation can cause disruptive behaviors, so keep the celebrations relaxed. Instead of having every single cousin, aunt, uncle, and grandparent over to your house for Christmas dinner, invite only a small group of people. It may also be tempting to buy your child every new toy you can find, but they may find the sheer number of gifts overwhelming. It may be helpful to space gifts out throughout the day or week.
- **Maintain routines.** Children in foster care thrive on consistency and routine, but the holidays can be a hard time to maintain a consistent schedule. Between school vacation, traveling, and visitors, your child's schedule may be disrupted. Try and keep some aspects of your child's normal schedule intact, and be sure to prime your child in advance of any changes.
- **Take cues from your child.** If your child looks scared, overwhelmed, tired, or sad, take notice. Ask them how they are feeling, and if they would like to do something different or if they need some space. Give your child permission to spend some quiet time alone if they need it.
- **Be mindful of "be good " messages.** A common phrase heard around Christmastime is "Santa is watching, so be good!" The phrase "be good" has different implications for children in foster care, who may think that the reason they are in care is because they

Adoptive Families - [Holidays Can Bring Up Lots of Emotions](#)

C.A.S.E. - [Holidays With Extended Family: An Opportunity for Connection](#)

C.A.S.E. - [The Holidays: Challenges and Opportunities for Adoptive Families](#)

C.A.S.E. - [The Holidays: An Opportunity for Healing](#)

Foster Club - [Help Youth In Foster Care](#)

Jen Hatmaker blog - [Parenting Kiddos Who Sabotage Big Days](#)

NCTSN - [Holiday Stress](#)

Recent Matches!

Congratulations to the following families who were matched in November and December:

- E & G with an out of state sibling group on our site
- B & J. with an out of state sibling group on our site
- K & D with an out of state child on our site
- V & D with an out of state sibling group on our site
- J & B with an out of state child on our site
- K & D with an out of state child on our site

are bad. Be careful about what messages you are sending your child, and let them know often that you love them unconditionally.

The holidays can bring up feelings of anxiety and stress for parents as well. Parenting a child with special needs has it's own challenges, without adding in holiday stressors. It's important for parents to take some time for them, practice self-care, and recognize when they are stressed out or overwhelmed. Reach out to your support network when you need help, and seek out professional help if you need it.

Feelings of sadness are also common amongst parents during the holidays. Maybe the foster child you grew very attached to was returned to his/her biological parents or another family adopted them. Maybe you thought you would have adopted a child by now, but all you have received are rejections. Understand that it's acceptable to experience these emotions, and let yourself feel them. Take time to grieve, but also let yourself be happy. Try and find the positives in life, and focus on those. The holidays are great time to surround yourself with family and friends, so reach out to them when you need someone to talk to.

Waiting Agency Family

Meet Ted and Jeanine!



- E & R with an out of state sibling group on our site
- T & S with an out of state sibling group on our site
- R & T with an in-state child
- D & J with an in-state sibling group
- A & S with an out of state sibling group
- E & D
- J & D
- S & K
- A & R

Congratulations to the following families who were placed in November and December:

- A & L with an in-state child
- J & D with an out of state sibling group on our site
- K & U with an in-state child
- C.I. with an in-state child
- H & S with an in-state sibling group
- S & M
- M & K

New Adoption Worker & Social Worker Login

A Family for Every Child is excited to announce it's new Adoption Worker and Social Worker Logins are up and running! If you are an adoption worker or a child's social worker and have not created a login yet, we encourage you to create one today!

We would like to adopt a child or a small sibling group of school-aged children (6-10 years). We are open to boys or girls from any ethnic background and to children with various needs. We do not mind having contact with the child's biological parents provided this is in the best interest of the child. We do not mind having continuing contact with the child's former foster parents. We hope to adopt a child or children who want to participate in activities and experience new things, as well as a child or children who want to try and improve themselves, whether academically, learning new skills etc. We look forward to helping each child reach their potential.

I (Ted) enjoy biking, camping, hiking, and reading about science and technology. I also volunteer facilitating a youth group for high school students through our faith community. I also mentor youth who lead junior youth groups for middle school students. I am self-employed as a psychologist and have a flexible work schedule. Jeanine enjoys hiking and camping even more than I do. She also joins me for bike rides. Jeanine also helps to support the youth group, and teaches children's classes through our faith community, as well as mentoring others to lead children's classes. Jeanine works full-time as a Program Coordinator for an early childhood special education program. She can take adoption leave when we welcome a new child or children into our home.

We have raised two biological children, Shirine, aged 21, who is traveling around the world on her bicycle, and Nevin, aged 19, who is studying engineering at university. I am a psychologist who specializes in children and adolescents, working with parents on how to manage a range of difficult behaviors. I am a trainer of trainers in the Incredible Years parenting program - an evidence-based program for

Our Adoption Worker Login can offer you:

- Private messaging system between you and a child's caseworker;
- Easily upload a family's home study;
- View a family's submissions;
- Quickly submit a family's home study;
- Send your family potential child matches;
- Recommend a family join our Matching Assistance Program; and,
- Request recruitment services for your families.

Our Social Worker Login can offer you:

- Private messaging system between you and a family's adoption worker;
- Communicate directly with home study-approved families through our private messaging system;
- Easily list children or change their recruitment status;
- View the families who have submitted for a child;
- Browse through over 300 waiting family profiles;
- Read a family's home study;

managing oppositional and aggressive behavior. Jeanine has her Master's in Education, and works in special education for preschoolers. She taught in elementary school and preschool for years, conducted assessments and offered special education services for children, and now supervises classrooms and staff. She has also done extensive volunteer work with children, teaching children's classes and mentoring other children's class teachers through our faith community.

We really enjoyed parenting our biological children and want to continue to spend time raising children. We will be patient and unconditionally accepting of our new children. We believe all children deserve to experience unconditional love and commitment, and patient help to learn more functional ways of interacting. We have mentored others in difficult circumstances, and are comfortable with accepting the challenges children can bring.

[Learn more about Ted and Jeanine!](#)

Waiting Matching Assistance Family

Meet Christopher and Phillip!



We would like to adopt a child between the ages of 3 and 8. We would like to adopt a boy but are willing to adopt a sibling group of two children. We feel we can accommodate a sibling group of up to 2 kids. We prefer to adopt a child of

Create an urgent placement email for children who need to be placed quickly; and,

- Request recruitment services for children on your caseload.

Click [here](#) to create a login.

Volunteer Needs

Family Adoption Specialist

The Matching Assistance Program is seeking motivated volunteers and interns in Eugene, OR to assist with our new 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
- Excellent verbal and written skills with the ability to communicate across diverse

Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Biracial, or Mixed background. In general, we would enjoy a child that is active with a great personality, a fun sense of humor, a willingness to learn, a child that loves the outdoors and a child that does well with being social with other children.

Christopher enjoys running and participates in a 5-k every 3 months. During down time Christopher likes to read. He also enjoys anything outdoors such as camping, fishing and the beach. Phillip enjoys yard work during his free time. Phillip enjoys gardening when he can and enjoys growing vegetables. Phillip also enjoys collecting rare money. Phillip likes to cook and try new recipes. Phillip also enjoys anything out doors such as camping, fishing and the beach. Christopher works full-time for State of Texas as a CPS Caseworker and has a flexible work schedule. Phillip works full-time for Office Depot as a Store Manager and has a flexible work schedule. With our previous foster children as well as with our forever child we would enjoy spending time outdoors as a family. We enjoy taking our children camping, to the beach, theme parks and water parks, hiking, swimming, enrolling them in sports activities if they like. We are a very active family and believe in healthy activities.

Both Phillip and I fostered a 3-4 year old Caucasian boy for a year and 3 months. We also fostered a 5wk old African American boy until he was six months old. He was born with HIV and was treated for 8 weeks until the HIV was eradicated. We also fostered a male/female sibling group, ages 6 and 4 for two weeks with PTSD and ADHD. Christopher has the ability to communicate with children and an education and experience with children of all types in the foster care system. Christopher is very calm and focused and able to look at the "big picture" in all situations. Our past fostering educated us

populations

- The ability to provide support, empathy and resources to adoptive families
- The ability to work with minimal supervision while completing work in a timely manner

Please [email the Matching Assistance Coordinator](#) to express interest and learn more about the position.

Training will be provided. A commitment of at least 10 hours a week for 3 months is required.

Register for Matching Events

A Family for Every Child offers two different matching events that families and caseworkers may partake in and benefit from. The first are **Child Matching Events**. During Child Matching Events, caseworkers may present the biographies of the waiting children on their caseload to home study approved families. In turn, families may ask the caseworker questions about the child, and then submit their home study at the end of the event if they are interested.

The second are **Family Matching Events**.

both on the ability to tailor our parenting skills to meet the specific needs of children from diverse situations. Phillip has a strong patience with children and is able to think outside of the box for the child's needs. Phillip is able to communicate on the child's level so that the child can relate.

We feel that we are great parents that can provide guidance, stability and love to a child. We have a large family along with a large extended family that is ready to bring a child into the family and surround the child with love. We are committed to do all things necessary to show a child the love and stability we can provide them as a family.

[Learn more about Christopher and Phillip!](#)

A Family For Every Child

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During Family Matching Events, families may present their biographies to caseworkers, allowing caseworkers to ask questions and connect families with children on their caseload that they feel would be a good match for the family. Keep checking the matching event pages to see additional children who will be participating in the event!

You may register for upcoming matching events and view past events all from our [Matching Events home page](#).