



**April 2015**

Simply click on a child's photo  
for their full biographical  
information!



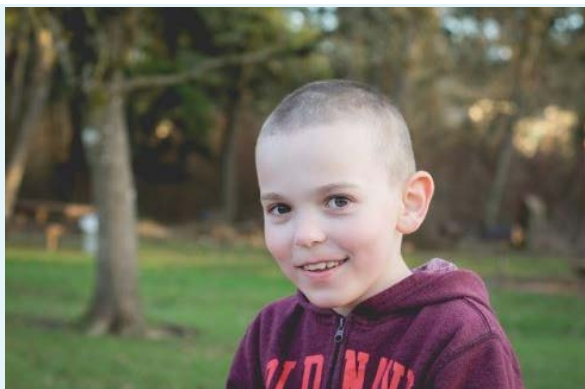
**Daysha Mitchell**



How long have you been a

**venue volunteer for the Heart Gallery?**

I have been volunteering for the Heart Gallery since October 2012.



**Why do you choose to donate your time volunteering for the Heart Gallery?**

I used to study at a coffee shop in town that had a Heart Gallery and always wanted to volunteer but, school took so much of my time that I never perused it any further. Once I graduated I felt like I had too much extra time on my hands so I decided to get in touch with A Family for Every Child to see how I could start volunteering. I've been volunteering for two and a half years now and love it!



If you would like to submit your home study for any of these children, please do so [here](#).

**What is your favorite part of being a venue volunteer for the Heart Gallery?**

I love talking with people as I put up the new pictures, they always ask me questions and want to know about the kids.

**Take us behind the scenes. Tell us about an experience you had while volunteering that made you realize you were making a difference?**

There is one resident that lives at Sweetbriar Villa that always stops me to tell me how the



The Princess for a Day event on Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 is an opportunity for Oregon girls 2-18 to be treated like a princess for a day. It is designed to be a gift for foster children in the community as well as to raise awareness of local foster children.

The day of princess pampering includes:

- Tea party lunch**
- Hair and makeup**
- Photo shoot**

Heart Gallery kids hold a special place in her heart. She and her husband couldn't have kids so they adopted two children and then had a miracle third child. She always says that they would have never had their third child if they hadn't adopted the first two.

**What advice would you give someone who is on the fence about volunteering for the Heart Gallery?**

It's fun and easy! It takes very little time commitment and provides great personal reward. Do it!

**Want to be a venue volunteer like Daysha? The following locations are in need of a volunteer to deliver and exchange photos once a month:**

\*US Bank-7<sup>th</sup> Street, Eugene

\*Wells Fargo Bank-Broadway Street, Eugene

\*Columbia Bank-Seneca Street & Green Acres Rd, Eugene

\*Oakmont Dental-Oakmont Street, Eugene



Thank you to our amazing volunteers. We appreciate

## **Princess outfit to keep**

We gladly accept donations [year-round](#) for this event.

Donations can include dresses, shoes, and other princess accessories. Would you like to sponsor this event? How can you make a difference to a child in foster care? Put a twinkle in the eye of a foster child and sponsor one of the rooms! Contact us for more information at [events@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:events@afamilyforeverychild.org)

Learn more [here](#).

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## **Aging Out**

When children cannot return home to their families, child welfare systems must move quickly to find them alternative homes. As time goes by, the prospects for landing in safe, loving, permanent homes grow dimmer for foster youth. Many will simply "age out" of the system when they turn 18, without a family and without the skills to make it on their own.

In 2013, more than 23,000 young people -- whom states failed to reunite with their families or place in permanent homes -- aged out of foster care, simply because they were too old to remain.

Of the 402,000 children in foster care, more than 19,000 had case goals of emancipation, or aging out after leaving foster care without a permanent family.

The percentage of youth that age out of the foster care system increased from 8 percent in 2003, to 10 percent in 2013.

Youth who age out of foster care are less likely

you more than you know!

Thank you for helping us,  
We wouldn't be here without  
all of the support from our  
volunteers. We couldn't do it  
without you.

A special thank you to Cheryl  
Moreno. Cheryl is one of our  
venue volunteers & she  
generously donated funds for  
us to buy some much needed  
new frames...Thank you  
Cheryl!

Thank you to The Center for  
Spiritual Healing for having a  
Heart Gallery on display for  
the entire month of March!

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## We Need You!



Photographers wanted!  
We coordinate photos from all  
across the US. We are seeking  
photographers in every state  
to help us accomplish our  
goal.

A Family For  
Every Child/Heart Gallery is

to graduate from high school and are less likely  
to attend or graduate college. By age 26,  
approximately 80 percent of young people who  
aged out of foster care earned at least a high  
school degree or GED compared to 94 percent  
in the general population.

Also by age 26, 4 percent of youth who aged out  
of foster care had earned a 4-year college  
degree, while 36 percent of youth in the  
general population had done so.

**\*\*Source: childrensrights.org\*\***

You can help!! We have a wonderful Mentor  
Program here at A Family For Every Child. The  
mission of A Family For Every Child's Mentor  
Program is to bring enthusiastic, dedicated,  
caring adult members of our community and  
unite them with youth in foster care - to  
provide someone who can be a friend, who will  
encourage and support them through the  
various transitions in their life, help instill  
independence, confidence and everyday life  
skills they will need - and ultimately to build  
long lasting relationships.

If you are interested in mentoring a youth in the  
foster care system, please contact our Mentor  
Coordinator Mavis Sanchez at  
[mavis.sanchez@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:mavis.sanchez@afamilyforeverychild.org)

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## A Family For Every Child

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designed to find permanent homes for every waiting foster child. Professional photographers volunteer their time and take compelling, beautiful pictures of children presently in foster care that are waiting for a forever family.

A Family For Every Child (AFFEC)/Heart Gallery works closely with child welfare to assist in finding permanent homes for children who need and deserve them. AFFEC and the Heart Gallery displays reach people by moving from venue to venue. Photos, web sites, flyers, and displays are used for all forms of recruitment (and more). They give a child a much better chance of finding a family and of being seen in a positive light.

Please visit our [website](#) to sign up to be a volunteer.

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**Executive Director:  
Christy Obie-Barrett**

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