

# A Family For Every Child Adoption Agency



*"Adoption is not about finding children for families, it's about finding families for children"*



## What Might Have Been



FOUR years ago, when I was 24, my mother handed me a case file on myself. I had long known that I was adopted as an infant and that my birth mother had died in a car accident several years after I was born. But this case file was new to me.

Growing up, I had internalized my parents' matter-of-fact approach to the subject, and by the time I was in elementary school, being adopted hardly seemed worth mentioning. Even so, when a classmate and I came across a book called "Why Was I Adopted?" one day during reading time, I said to him happily, "I'm adopted!"

"No you're not," he replied. "You're lying."



Please plan to join us for 'Princess For A Day'

**Mark your calendars for April 3, 2016**

Princess for a Day is a special event that allows foster children to be transformed into a princess for one special day. Princess for a Day is for children ages 2 - 18 and is designed to be a gift to foster children in the area as well as to raise awareness about the foster care system.

This event is free for children in foster care and \$50.00 dollars for community children.

Princess for a Day is an annual event allowing foster children to have a special day just for them.  
Registration is now open.

Follow this [Princess Link](#) to register your Princess

today!!!



A Family For Every Child  
Mentor Program



"A Mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself"

**Thank you!!**

We want to give a special thank you to everyone who donated and made Christmas for our mentor youth so fantastic. Your generosity was amazing and we are eternally thankful for everyone who stepped forward to make Christmas wishes come true!

You made a true difference.

Have questions? Please contact our Mentor Director [Mavis Sanchez](#) by clicking on the link or you can complete a referral form. To learn more about the kids we serve [click here](#).



### Professional Portraits Taken Nationwide

Knowing how important a good photo is to recruitment, AFFEC is now offering to take professional photos for child bulletins. We are committed to a two week turn around time (although caseworker or foster parent schedules may make that difficult). We have developed our Oregon/Washington list of photographers that can,

"I really am," I said, bursting into tears.

I told the teacher's aide, and within minutes I was already over it, but the aide apparently saw the chance for a teachable moment.

"Do you know why you were adopted?" she asked.

I told her it was because when I was a baby, my biological mother didn't want to take care of me anymore.

"Didn't want to, or couldn't?" she asked pointedly.

I was taken aback, then said I guessed it was because she couldn't, though the distinction hardly seemed important.

Read the rest of the story [HERE](#)

Please email [kim@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:kim@afamilyforeverychild.org) today for more information on how you can learn more about adopting!

### A Family For Every Child Mission

A Family for Every Child is dedicated to finding loving, permanent families for every waiting foster child.

A Family For Every Child, a nonprofit organization, was started by Christy Obie-Barrett and dozens of dedicated and passionate volunteers. In 2006, AFFEC was formed and developed into an organization focused on finding permanent and loving adoptive homes for all waiting children. Our intention is to develop programs that assist special-needs/challenging-to-place foster children in finding their own Forever Families.

within a week of our call, photograph a child or sibling group. (We are working on a nationwide list of photographers) Within a week of images taken we will email the .jpg images to caseworkers. We then store all images until for further recruitment tools if requested by the caseworker.



## Photolisting

What questions should you ask before referring a child to the Heart Gallery for listing?

1. Is my child on the adoption track?
2. Has my child's recruitment been extended outside my state?
3. Could my child benefit from extra adoption recruitment?

How to prepare your child for the Heart Gallery

1. Does your child understand you are searching for their forever family?
2. Discuss the purpose of the Heart Gallery
3. Show the child examples of other Heart Gallery listings.
4. Talk about what your child likes and dislikes about the different recruitment methods.

Photolisting is a very effective way to get your kids

- See more [here](#)

## *Frequently Asked Questions.....*

Each month this section will address basic questions regarding the adoption process, adoption agencies, and adoptive families.

### Asking the Questions

#### **Q: How long does it take to adopt a child?**

**A:** It usually takes about 18-24 months from the time a family first calls an adoption agency to the time when a child is placed with the family. These estimates can vary depending on where you live and your individual circumstances. Please keep in mind that this is an average. There are a number of ways to increase your chances of being matched, including having a well-written family biography; being open with your adoption preferences; having your adoption worker follow up on your submissions; submitting for children that you know you will be able to meet all of their needs; attending matching events online and in your area; and paying special attention to things in their biography like desired family characteristics.

#### **Q: Can I obtain additional information on a child before I submit my home study for them?**

**A:** Unfortunately, no. The information that is listed in a child's biography is all the information that we have on a child due to HIPAA. Caseworkers hold on to more personal information about a child's special needs and case history until they have identified a potential match. Then, they will either send the family's adoption worker and/or the family the child's history to let the family decide if they want to still be considered as a potential placement and be represented at the child's committee hearing or staffing. The reason caseworker's hold on to this information is because it is private and personal. They don't want the child to be embarrassed by having that information publicized.

All these questions and many more can be



profiles out to a large audience of people who are seeking to adopt. If age appropriate, encourage your children to be involved in the photolisting process. Ask them what information they think is important to share with prospective families.

A Family For Every Child is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Your entire donation is tax deductible.

found on our website. Also, feel free to contact our Adoption Agency Program Director by email at [kim@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:kim@afamilyforeverychild.org)

- See more [on our Website](#)



Are you interested in making a difference in your community? We are looking for a talented individual who can assist in developing our outreach and recruitment plan.

Do you have talent for marketing? Do you know or can you learn Constant Contact? Do you like to design newsletters?

We are looking for passionate, dedicated people to assist us in fulfilling our mission. When you work with us, you not only expand your skills but you contribute to making a difference in the life of a foster child.

If you are interested, please complete the volunteer application available [here](#).

**No Contribution is too small!!**

## HOW TO SPEND 1 MILLION DOLLARS

With lottery prizes over 1 billion dollars, a trending topic on Social Media lately has been 'If I win.... ' We had great fun at our house laying out our plans and dreaming about vacations, houses, and donations!!

So, how would you spend 1 MILLION dollars? This can provide great insight to what others in your family think about vacations and future planning. Try to imagine what you might be able to buy in 24 hours.

Each family comes up with their own 'shopping' list and then with some 'educated guesses' the family agrees on the general cost of each item. Once everything has a cost on each list, add them up and the family member who gets closest to a million without going over, wins a prize!

Maybe the winner gets to pick what's for dinner the next night, or what board game to play at the next game night!

