



OUR MISSION :

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



Family Finding Newsletter- May 2016

Finding Connections for Waiting Children in Foster Care

- A Family for Every Child's Family Finding Program utilizes our staff and volunteer base to extensively search for family members of children in foster care across the nation. Whether its kin or kith, connecting children with people who can give them support well into adulthood provides children with the opportunity to succeed.

Our Family Finding process is based off these principles:

- Every child has a family.
- Loneliness can be devastating, and particularly felt by foster children.
- Meaningful connections to family help children develop a sense of belonging.
- The single most identified factor contributing to positive outcomes for children involves meaningful connections and lifelong relationships with family .



The Reality of Aging Out

When we consider the children living in the child welfare system in the United States, whether they are housed in a foster home or residential services, many conjure up an image of children who were rescued from stagnant, abusive homes. Our Child Welfare System is seen as a permanent solution for youth; a safety net for our neglected and abused children. But, what happens to these children when they are legally too old to be a ward of the state? When children spend enough time in foster care that they are effectively cut off from outside connections, individuals aging out of the system find themselves in some serious trouble.

Most 18 year-olds who have families/connections are unable to support themselves, so what do you do if you have no where to go? By utilizing Family Finding resources across the nation, state, private and non-profit institutions are able to track down and reconnect lost connections for children in foster care. These connections can mean the difference between a supportive home-base when pursuing education, for example, or falling back into the net of state institutions. [Click here](#) to read a story related to aging out.

[Residential Homes: Solutions or Amplifiers?](#)

Our country has had many different forms of boarding schools; from well-to-do families sending their children away to receive education, to Indigenous families who had their children forcibly removed, boarding schools have been a historical alternative to life at home. In the United States, residential homes have been created as an alternative for children under protection of the state. These homes are alternatives for children when foster homes are unavailable to the child. Availability of foster homes can change due to a lack of willing foster parents or unique behavioral/emotional needs of the child.

There have been conversations occurring across the country in regards to whether these foster home alternatives are truly beneficial for children. Below are links provided that will lead you to pro and anti residential home arguments.

[Click Here to Read a Pro-Residential School Article](#)

[Click Here](#) and [Here](#) to Read Anti-Residential School Articles/Info



[Calling All Social Workers](#)

We accept all cases referred to us- whether the child has just entered into care or they've been in care most of their lives, whether the child is in Oregon or Maine, whether you have an extensive contact list or not, we will utilize our resources to contact the child's connections.

If you have a case that you think could benefit from our Family Finding Services, fill out a referral form to get it started:

[Family Finding Case Referral](#)

[Family Finding](#) [Volunteers Needed](#)

Need Volunteer hours for school? Feel like getting involved with a rewarding program? Whatever the situation, volunteers are always needed. Fill out an application form to get started: [Family Finding Volunteer Form](#)

Meet the Director:

-Emma Stahl, the most recent addition to the AFFEC staff, is the new Director of Permanency (Family Preservation Program, Family Finding Program). Originally from Upstate New York, Emma came out West to attend the University of Oregon where she graduated with a degree in Ethnic Studies and Sociology. She joined the AFFEC staff in April 2016 after volunteering with the organization for 6 months. She will be the main contact for both the Family Preservation Program and the Family Finding Program- if you have any questions for her you can:

Email- emma@afamilyforeverychild.org

Call- 541-343-2856 (General Office Number)

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!!



STAY CONNECTED:



A Family For Every Child , 1675 W 11th Avenue , Eugene , OR 97402