



# Volunteer Newsletter

A Family For Every Child



*["THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF  
IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS."  
~ GANDHI]*

Hello Everyone!!!

Things here at AFFEC have been very busy since we last published our volunteer newsletter and we want you all to know how much we appreciate the time you give to our organization. With your help we continue to successfully find Forever Families for the thousands of children in the foster system.

With June quickly approaching we are preparing to say goodbye to our student volunteers for the summer. We value all that our student and community member volunteers do for us and are a bit sad to see our student volunteers and interns leave at the end of each term.

What this means is we have more volunteer and internship positions available! These are perfect for community members, those who wish to support our organization nationwide, as well as students seeking to secure internships. You can locate some job descriptions below of positions we are seeking to fill.

Programs are continually expanding, growing and developing so there is definitely something for everyone. While many of our programs are administrative in nature, we do have some that offer some case management, research, and longer-term and project-based experiences.

For more information on any of our programs or volunteer opportunities both in our offices or from home, feel free to contact me at: [info@afamilyforeverchild.org](mailto:info@afamilyforeverchild.org)

Thank you for your continued support. Our volunteers mean so much to all we do!

Gratefully,

Kelli Smith

## Feature Article

*An article as published by Helpguide.org*

### **Benefits of Volunteering: 4 ways to feel healthier and happier**

#### **Benefit 1: Volunteering connects you to others**

One of the better-known benefits of volunteering is the impact on the community. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place. Even helping out with the smallest tasks can make a real difference to the lives of people, animals, and organizations in need. And volunteering is a two-way street: It can benefit you and your family as much as the cause you choose to help. Dedicating your time as a volunteer helps you make new friends, expand your network, and boost your social skills.

#### **Make new friends and contacts**

One of the best ways to *make new friends* and strengthen existing relationships is to commit to a shared activity together. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, especially if you are new to an area. It strengthens your ties to the community and broadens your support network, exposing you to people with

common interests, neighborhood resources, and fun and fulfilling activities.

### **Increase your social and relationship skills**

While some people are naturally outgoing, others are shy and have a hard time meeting new people. Volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice and develop your social skills, since you are meeting regularly with a group of people with common interests. Once you have momentum, it ' s easier to branch out and make more friends and contacts.

## **Benefit 2: Volunteering is good for your mind and body**

Volunteering provides many benefits to both mental and physical health.

**Volunteering helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety.** The social contact aspect of helping and working with others can have a profound effect on your overall psychological well-being. Nothing relieves stress better than a meaningful connection to another person. *Working with pets* and other animals has also been shown to improve mood and reduce stress and anxiety.

**Volunteering combats depression.** Volunteering keeps you in regular contact with others and helps you develop a solid support system, which in turn protects you against depression.

**Volunteering makes you happy .** By measuring hormones and brain activity, researchers have discovered that being helpful to others delivers immense pleasure. Human beings are hard-wired to give to others. The more we give, the happier we feel.

**Volunteering increases self-confidence .** You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. And the better you feel about yourself, the more likely you are to have a positive view of your life and future goals.

**Volunteering provides a sense of purpose.** Older adults, especially those who have retired or lost a spouse, can find new meaning and direction in their lives by helping others. Whatever your age or life situation, volunteering can help take your mind off your own worries, keep you mentally stimulated, and add more zest to your life.

**Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy.** Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not. Older volunteers tend to walk more, find it easier

to cope with everyday tasks, are less likely to develop high blood pressure, and have better thinking skills. Volunteering can also lessen symptoms of chronic pain and reduce the risk of heart disease.

### **Benefit 3: Volunteering can advance your career**

If you 're considering a new career, volunteering can help you get experience in your area of interest and meet people in the field. Even if you 're not planning on changing careers, volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice important skills used in the workplace, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, project planning, task management, and organization. You might feel more comfortable stretching your wings at work once you 've honed these skills in a volunteer position first.

#### **Gaining career experience**

Volunteering offers you the chance to try out a new career without making a long-term commitment. It is also a great way to gain experience in a new field. In some fields, you can volunteer directly at an organization that does the kind of work you 're interested in. For example, if you 're interested in nursing, you could volunteer at a hospital or a nursing home.

Your volunteer work might also expose you to professional organizations or internships that could be of benefit to your career.

#### **Teaching you valuable job skills**

Just because volunteer work is unpaid does not mean the skills you learn are basic. Many volunteering opportunities provide extensive training. For example, you could become an experienced crisis counselor while volunteering for a women 's shelter or a knowledgeable art historian while donating your time as a museum docent.

Volunteering can also help you build upon skills you already have and use them to benefit the greater community. For instance, if you hold a successful sales position, you raise awareness for your favorite cause as a volunteer advocate, while further developing and improving your public speaking, communication, and marketing skills.

### **Benefit 4: Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life**

Volunteering is a fun and easy way to explore your interests and passions. Doing volunteer work you find meaningful and interesting can be a relaxing, energizing escape from your day-to-day routine of

work, school, or family commitments. Volunteering also provides you with renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into your personal and professional life.

Many people volunteer in order to make time for hobbies outside of work as well. For instance, if you have a desk job and long to spend time outdoors, you might consider volunteering to help plant a community garden, walk dogs for an animal shelter, or help out at a children's camp.

### **Consider your goals and interests**

You will have a richer and more enjoyable volunteering experience if you first take some time to identify your goals and interests. Think about why you want to volunteer. What would you enjoy doing? The opportunities that match both your goals and your interests are most likely to be fun and fulfilling.

*To read the full article visit [Helpguide.org](http://Helpguide.org)*

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteering or Interning with A Family For Every Child can be a rewarding experience for undergraduates. By working within one of our many programs, interns learn the skills and knowledge necessary to become integral members of our organization. Interns are placed into one of our many programs and concentrate efforts in a specific area of our mission. With the help and aid of an assigned staff member, the intern will quickly develop proficiency and participate in many aspects of that program.

Volunteers and Interns also work alongside other colleagues in an open atmosphere where ideas are continually shared and creative thinking is encouraged. Intern responsibilities include developing presentations, outreach, utilizing technology to streamline, implement, and grow areas of each program, work within our local community as well as nationwide, and assisting with day-to-day responsibilities. You will gain knowledge and develop important analytical and communication skills. As a commitment to our interns, staff members review their responsibilities, performance goals and professional development during the internship experience. Apply today and be the change you want to see in the world!

---

Below you will find a number of opportunities with our



organization. The best way to connect with the program that is the right fit for you is to contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kelli Smith, at [info@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:info@afamilyforeverychild.org) for more information and to schedule an interview, by phone or in-person.

Apply Today!



### Annual Event Specialist:

We are looking for an organized and passionate volunteer to help us in the coordinating process for AFFEC 's largest event of the year.

In this volunteer position, you will be securing in-kind donations, calling potential donors, working with event volunteers, assisting in organizing marketing for the event, and acting as a right hand to AFFEC 's Event Coordinator.

This volunteer position is fun and focused on increasing the value of this major event to celebrate our donors and raise awareness of children in foster care looking for their forever family.

Complete our application or call 541-343-2856 to learn more about how you can help.

This is an opportunity that can involve many individuals working as a team!



### Family Finding Specialist:

Work within the Family Finding Department involves working closely with Department of Human Services (DHS) caseworkers and the Family Finding Director.

Inter/volunteers will perform research and establish contact with positive, safe family members and meaningful people for deserving children in foster care.

These interns/volunteers must have attention to detail and a high level of computer and phone proficiency as well as excellent written and oral communication skills.

These volunteers and interns must be present in our offices for this position.

However, there may be opportunities for those out of the office regarding family research, genealogy and more!

Apply Today!



### **Mentor Program:**

Mentors need to be enthusiastic, dedicated, and caring adult members of the community who can positively influence youth in foster care.

Our Mentor Program serves foster and at risk youth in Lane County, Oregon as well as foster youth in the Portland, Oregon Metro area.

As a mentor, you would help children develop confidence, independence, and everyday life skills. Mentors also provide friendship, encouragement, and support foster youth through the various transitions in their lives. You must be a stable and positive role model who can commit to at least 10 hours a month to their mentee.

Our Mentor Program serves the Eugene/Springfield, Oregon and Portland, Oregon metro area!



### **Adoption Agency:**

Our Adoption Agency is in need of individuals helping both in the office and behind the scenes from anywhere.

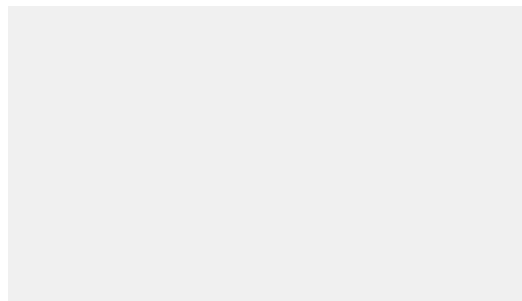
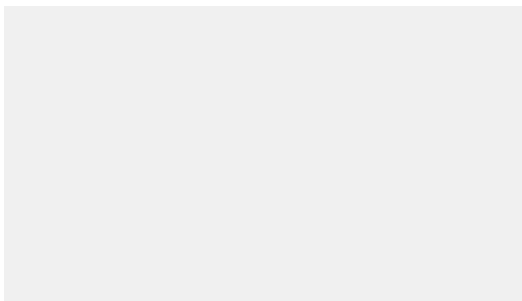
Newsletter writers can research and create newsletters from anywhere.

We also have opportunities for those who are interested in conducting outreach or creating marketing materials for our agency.

Additionally, if you are interested in more general administrative tasks, we have a number of opportunities.

Volunteers and Interns are welcome in the office as well. We have projects both small and large in scope and have a little of something for everyone!

[Apply Today!](#)





### **Child Recruitment Specialist:**

Child Recruiters work with Child and Family Operations to develop outreach plans to engage child social workers and offer recruitment services.

#### **Duties include:**

Connecting with social workers nationwide

Offer recruitment services for waiting foster children-- to help locate potential matches

Schedule and coordinate services  
Complete services, including data entry, targeted outreach, and online webinars.

Recruiters would need to be well organized, have excellent oral and written skills, and have the ability to make deadlines.

Strong oral and written communication skills and knowledge of PowerPoint a plus!

Some areas of this position are available for individuals out of the office!



### **Family Adoption Specialist:**

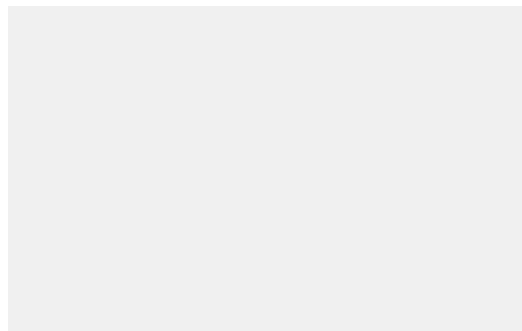
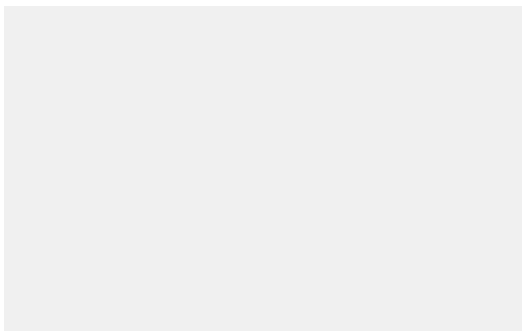
Family Adoption Specialists are responsible for supporting families through the adoption process, being available to help answer questions, and assuring that families are kept informed throughout the process.

Volunteers would need to be supportive, empathetic, and well-organized along with being able to work unsupervised and have excellent oral and written skills.

This position also requires a high level of professionalism and specific training is provided.

This position may be available to those outside of the office!

**Apply Today!**







### **Web/Database Volunteer/Intern:**

AFFEC is looking for volunteers who are educated in these areas: PHP/HTML/CSS/Dreamweaver CS5, SMS/texting, familiar with frameworks, object oriented programming in C#, Java, or C++, familiarity with TCP/IP, familiarity with SQL and interfacing to programs.

Those with experience in databases, specifically Salesforce, are also encouraged to apply as well.

Areas of interest would include how to streamline some of our tasks, improve data collection and recording, look at our systems and look for new opportunities.

This is great for those with some database experience and attention to detail;



### **Development Team:**

We are seeking individuals who wish to be a part of a marketing or non-profit team to build and grow several of our programs.

Business and Corporate Sponsorship

Legacy/Endowment Program

This intern/volunteer will work with the Development Director to review processes, identify barriers, and develop a plan of action for implementation and growth.

Candidates will have strong oral and written communication. Those interested in Marketing, Non-Profit and Business are a good fit, but all who are interested are encouraged to apply.

[Apply Today!](#)



### **Auction Procurement Volunteer/Intern:**



### **Adoption Agency Licensing Program:**

We are in need of volunteers and interns interested in helping us with our Annual Silent and Oral Auctions. If you are outgoing and friendly, professional and energetic, this is a great opportunity to connect with our community and beyond.

This volunteer will connect with community members and donors to request donations for our annual event's silent and oral auctions.

This is a great opportunity for you to be involved from anywhere-- all you need is a desire to help! By connecting with your local community, you help us expand our programs that serve foster youth nationwide.

Do you enjoy research? Would you like to assist families seeking to adopt all across the country? We have many opportunities both in and outside of our offices.

Research avenues for Military families and adoption nationwide

Research and prepare materials to expand knowledge related to the Interstate Compact of Placement of Children (ICPC)

Training Coordinator-- Assist in the preparation and implementation of training materials as well as look at ways to make those trainings more "tech friendly"

Explore adoption friendly companies and how we can partner with them to work with more adoptive families

And much more!

[Apply Today!](#)



### Marketing:

Create marketing materials for many of our programs. Use Microsoft PowerPoint, Publisher, or our online resources to create marketing materials, PDF's, fliers, and generate email marketing plans for many of our programs.

This is an opportunity anyone with



### Slide Show Video Creator:

Use your video creation program (similar to Microsoft Movie Maker) to create beautiful slide show presentations of children using photos we provide.

A knack for the creative and a desire to help is all that's required!

a flair for the creative, attention to detail and strong oral and written communication skills. This is a position that can also be done from anywhere!

This position is available to individuals nationwide.

Apply Today!

## Project Based Positions:

We are seeking a **Project-Program Coordinator**.

The Project/Program Assistant should be a dynamic individual who will have overall responsibility for the work environment. This person must be innovative, creative, and detail-oriented with excellent organizational skills. The Project/Program Assistant is responsible for ensuring the programmatic quality and integrity of all Projects assigned to them.

This is a unique opportunity to know what it is like to be a part of running a Nonprofit. This role will work intensely with the ED and Management Team as well as the board. They will develop new projects and grow existing ones.

The Project/ Program Assistant will be responsible for the overall operation of the growth plan of all projects assigned to them. Monitoring project goals, budgets, marketing and outreach. In this capacity the Project/Program Assistant will provide leadership and supervision to volunteers/interns that are assigned to them. We hope this new staff member will grow with AFFEC. Our goal is to expose and assign enough projects that this position will roll into an expanded position in one of the area 's/projects assigned as they grow.

This individual may be a liaison between AFFEC, Executive Director, and community agencies, must be approachable and professional. Experience with customer services and sales is an advantage. Must be willing and able to ask for money. Project/Program Coordinator will be involved in funding stream planning and development that AFFEC is involved in particularly for Program Funding, as a member of the Team.

In this capacity, the position is responsible for planning, organizing, implementing, coordinating and managing projects, exercising independent judgment, as well as decision-making authority in designated areas. Projects below are a sample of task we have, we will pick from this list they are somewhat in order of importance to us.

*Email [info@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:info@afamilyforeverychild.org) or call 541-343-2856 for more information and to schedule a time to come in and discuss this and other positions in more detail.*

Apply Today!



Please check out the following places for more opportunities for you to be involved:

*A Family For Every Child*

*VolunteerMatch.org*

*Untied Way of Lane County*

***Thank you for reviewing some of our opportunities. We could not do this important work without your help!***

***We look forward to hearing from you soon!***

Apply Today!

**TO APPLY, PLEASE FILL OUT OUR VOLUNTEER FORM  
HERE**

***A Family For Every Child would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who make our organization and its related programs so successful. It is only with your dedication, time, and hard work that we are able to achieve our goals and continue to grow as we have each and every year!***



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT OUR  
ORGANIZATION,  
PROGRAMS, OR OTHER  
POSITIONS PLEASE VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE ***HERE***  
You may email:  
info@afamilyforeverychild.org  
or  
call: 541-343-2856





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