

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Christy Obie-Barrett, Executive Director

A Family for Every Child

541-343-2856

Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org

lanecountyheartgallery.org

A Family for Every Child to Receive Duck Race Donation

The Eugene Rotary recently announced that it has pledged \$45,000 from its proceeds from its annual Duck Race to A Family for Every Child, a local non-profit organization. The donation will allow the agency to provide extra support to families by adding a staff position as well as additional programs.

The Rotary's contribution will allow A Family for Every Child to create a family liaison position. According to, founder Christy Obie- Barrett, "The family liaison will help adoptive families get through what can be difficult beginnings." The position will focus on making daily contact with recent adoptive families. Obie-Barrett adds, "The reason that most adoptions fail is because of an initial lack of support. This position should help combat that problem". The family liaison will be knowledgeable about the services and support in the community that the adoptive family might need, such as education, support groups, clothing and medical needs.

The funds will also contribute towards family training support groups, child support groups, and weekend care, which will give the adoptive families a respite. It will also help to provide mentors for the family and the child and any needed recruitment.

A Family for Every Child's mission is to seek a permanent home for every Oregon foster child who is available for adoption. One of the major programs it uses is the Heart Gallery, which displays photographs and descriptions of foster children and youth waiting for their adoptive families. By helping children find permanent homes the agency hopes to break the pattern from their past family disruptions and dysfunctions. In addition to finding permanent homes for Oregon foster children, the agency also assists potential and current adoptive families and works to improve the process through which eligible children are made available for adoption.

The Eugene Rotary Duck race was started in 1988 and has since raised over four million dollars to combat child abuse. The 2009 race will be held at Alton Baker Park on Saturday, October 10th. To learn more about this event visit rotaryduckrace.com.

For more information on A Family for Every Child go to lanecountyheartgallery.org.

###

