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Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2011 2:39 AM
To: test3@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Mentoring December 2011

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A Family For Every Child

December 2011

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Would you like to contribute to AFFEC's cause for helping children? Any amount can have a lasting impact on a child. Click below!



Thank You to All!

We would like to take a moment to thank everyone for helping foster children this holiday season. It is outstanding to see what can happen in a community when people stand up for such an important cause.

Let's keep this momentum going into 2012 and beyond!

What is a Mentor? A Mentor is...

A stable adult - Foster youth

Mentor Success Story

Craig is a college student at the University of Oregon. He is working with Jeff's teacher, caseworker and guardians to help Jeff become a successful young man. He knows Jeff does not have many positive male role models in his life and is really trying to help fill that gap. (names have been changed)

Story as told by Craig:

A few weeks ago, I learned that Jeff has been falling behind in his homework. Every phone call and visit we've had he's told me that he finished all his homework and that he doesn't need much help. I suspected some lying on his part but it wasn't until I was notified by his teacher that he needed to turn in all of his late homework. I had a very, very long talk with Jeff about his lying and his irresponsible behavior.

I told him that he needs to take his schoolwork seriously and not be afraid to ask me for help when he needs it. I told him that there are times where we can play together but before any of that happens, he needs to show me that he really cares about school.

He took that talk well but I could tell he felt sad after because he knew what he was doing was bad. After I helped him catch up with his schoolwork, I told him that from now on before we can have fun together on the weekends, he must show me his schoolwork on Thursday because all of his homework is due on Friday. He agreed to this and so far things have been going better with his schoolwork.

I was very proud of him for taking responsibility of his actions and for understanding how important an education will be in his life.

Mentoring Works!

Mentoring is simple yet powerful. A strong connection between an adult and a young person can encourage the youth to seek and build connections elsewhere, like school, work, and family. Many youth don't have natural mentors in their lives - adults to look out for them, guide them when needed, but mostly just be there to listen and offer encouragement.

Do you have 10 hours a month to give to a child? We are looking for mentors for the following children:

are often overwhelmed with the rotating cast of caseworkers, foster parents, clinicians, legal advocates, and other professional adults that may be a part of their team. A mentor serves as a continuous source of support.

A positive role model - Foster youth need positive relationships with adults they can learn from and grow with. Mentors can model appropriate behavior, provide guidance and advice and enable foster youth to form healthy relationships with adults they trust.

A source of happiness - In addition to the practical roles mentioned above, a mentor can also bring joy and fun to a foster youth's life. Simply bringing some laughter and entertainment to a foster youth's day can help foster normalcy in childhood experiences.

Life Skills Classes

Mentor Director: Heather Smith
(541)343-2856

These classes are open to teens 13 and older that are currently in foster care. Seating is limited, so please call to RSVP your child if they would like to attend. All classes (except January's will be held at our office at 880 Beltline Road, Springfield)

Classes are from 6:00-8:00pm.

Tuesday, January 24, 2012
Health and Nutrition (This class will be held at Hartwick's Kitchen Store)

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Military Awareness

Tuesday, March 20, 2012
Higher Education

Tuesday, April 24, 2012
Picking Careers

Tuesday, May 22, 2012
Community Service/Responsible Citizens

Tuesday, June 26, 2012
Living on Your Own

We have the following needs with our life skills classes. Dinner for approximately 20 youth and adults. If you know of a restaurant or someplace that will

Joe - Age 7. Needs a Spanish-speaking mentor. Joe is an active young man. He loves soccer, martial arts and break dancing. Joe is very sweet and friendly. He loves to swim, play video games, and go to movies. Joe lives in Portland.

Tony - Age 11. Tony is an easy-going boy. He would really like a mentor that he can just "hang out" with. Tony likes to read and likes movies. He also likes sports and video games. Tony lives in Gresham.

Troy - Age 12. Troy likes pizza, Skateworld, and is a wrestler. He likes to go to movies and to play soccer. He loves to play and watch most sports. Troy would like a male mentor. He lives in Aloha.

Brad - Age 9. Brad is a special child that wears a "Trache" about 80% of the time. He is a very funny little boy who loves to make people laugh. He likes movies, video games, and legos. He also loves the Ducks. If Brad's mentor is not medically trained, he has a medically trained assistant that can go on outings with them. Brad loves crafts, fishing, and all animals. Brad lives in Tualatin.

DJ - Age 10. DJ loves, loves, loves video games! He likes sports and games. DJ would like to experience some new things and learn some new activities. He is a very active young man. DJ lives in Beaverton.

Melissa - Age 15. Melissa loves art projects and animals. She wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up and would love to have a mentor that can help her achieve this goal. She is sweet, talkative, and enjoys experiencing new things. Melissa lives in Roseburg.

Art - Age 14. Art likes video games and board games. He likes to cook and bake. Art is a shy young man. Art would like a male mentor. He lives in Eugene.

Kris - Age 8. Kris loves video games, pizza and playing flag football. He loves to run and play outside. Kris would like a male mentor. He lives in Eugene.

Annie - Age 10. Annie loves arts and crafts, playing outside and baking cookies. She likes to watch Disney movies and going to the beach. Annie lives in Salem.

Mentoring: Why Giving Back is Important

When an adult decides to be a mentor, he or she takes on the responsibility of helping a youth become the best person that he or she can be. JET asked some authorities on mentoring why giving back is important.

Thomas W. Dortch Jr., national chairperson for 100 Black Men of America Inc., believes mentoring today's youth is one of the most important things an adult can do.

"If all of us just take the time to look at our lives and where we are in life, we'll find that there was somebody there to help us get to that point," he says. "Mentoring is a way to help young people move through life."

Dortch, the author of *The Miracles of Mentoring: The Joy of Investing in Our Future*, says anyone can be a mentor.

"Mentors come in all sizes and shapes, and they don't have to have a portfolio or a college degree," he explains. "You must, however, be an individual who is concerned about the future of young people and be willing to make a commitment and keep it. That's so critical."

donate dinner, we would greatly appreciate it.

We also need someone that can help us research college scholarships for children that have been in the foster care system.

Community Open House

January 10th, 6-8pm TBA

How can you be involved?

Come and have your questions answered. You will meet several agencies and be given information about their programs.

All of our programs are focused on children in the foster care system. Come join us!

Foster care needs a community solution, we need you!

If you want to sign up, you can email:

info@afamilyforeverychild.org or try out our new online signup form, [here](#).

Questions?

Feel free to call at 541-343-2856 or email:

heather@afamilyforeverychild.org

Judith Carter, vice president of program services for the Boys & Girls Club of America, says mentoring is a noble act that shows people are willing to go the extra mile on behalf of others.

"Mentoring is important because mentors can serve as a vital link to other resources," states Carter.

When children are mentored, they are being allowed to look beyond the present so that they can envision the future. A future filled with promise."

Carter says everyone needs a mentor to help climb life's ladder.



Help us with the Princess for a Day Event 2012!

It's that time of year again. The weather is turning, the leaves are falling, and here at A Family For Every Child we're gearing up for the 4th annual Princess For A Day Event which will be held on March 4th, 2012.

Itinerary: The Princess gets a gown to take home, a crown and slippers too. She has her hair and nails done, a photo shoot, and a tea party. The parent, guardian, or foster parent who brings the Princess will also have lunch as her royal guest!

Foster children are admitted free. General admission for other princesses is \$50.00. Advanced registration is required for all girls. This is a girls only affair. All girls are welcome to be accompanied by their King or Queen.

Due to limited space we can only accommodate the Princesses and with one adult, so please leave the extra princesses and wicked step-sisters home at the Castle.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event or would like to make a donation or sponsor a princess please check out our Princess information and needs on our web site.

This is a special occasion where girls (both in foster care and general admission) can come and get "Pampered" and enjoy a Tea Party. [Click Here](#).

You may also contact: Linzy@afamilyforeverychild.org or call 541-343-2856.



HEART GALLERY MENTOR PROGRAM

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