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Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2012 2:04 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Matching Assistance Program April 2012

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Matching Assistance Program




A Family For Every Child

April 2012

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MAP Features

When you sign up for our free Matching Assistance Program, you will have the following features available to you:

-An assigned Family Search Specialist (FSS) who will conduct a child search featuring kids from our database, in addition to a national child search featuring children from state photo listing sites. Your FSS will also provide support, answer questions, and address concerns that may come up during the matching process. They will also help you find caseworker contact information.

-A chance to create a family biography that will be sent out to caseworkers whenever you submit your home study for a child. If you choose to make your family biography public, you may be featured on our home page.

-Periodic how-to emails will be

Matching Assistance Program

Our Matching Assistance Program is now FREE! By changing our program to a free program, we hope to better fulfill our mission of finding loving, permanent families for waiting foster children.

Our program is designed to assist current approved home studied families looking to adopt waiting foster children. Our goal is to work alongside families, providing them with one-on-one communication, assurance, and support during the submission and waiting process.

We are here to assist families with learning how to best represent themselves in their family biography, and perform national child searches based on information provided in your home study and family biography.

How to sign up:

Signing up for Matching Assistance is easy! Click this link, [Sign up for MAP](#) and get started on your family profile and biography today! Request that your worker send in your home study, and request activation. You can follow the how-to guide to help you through the process. It is located under the Matching Assistance drop-down menu on the home page.

The Children in Foster Care:

Many of the children in foster care are over the age of six and part of a racial, ethnic, or cultural minority, and have significant physical, medical, mental, developmental or emotional disabilities. Children part of a sibling group need to be placed together. The children in foster care are all waiting for a permanent, dedicated family who can provide them with the love and care they need and deserve.

Success Story

After being in the final selection process more than twice, getting very excited to meet our newest family members, and then being told we were not selected, it was hard to be positive some days. But, we kept at the process, submitting our inquiries and home study, praying (lots and lots of praying) and continued to keep a positive attitude.

We were recently selected, exactly six months after our home study was approved and after inquiring on over 250 groups of siblings. We are beyond thrilled with our match of three siblings, 2 boys and 1 girl, who were living in different foster homes until we were all matched together. We all fell right into place as a family during our first visit and we could never have

sent, guiding you through the many components of foster care adoption.

-The ability to submit your home study directly through our site. You can even submit on children that you find on other photo listing sites; all you need is a caseworker's name and email address.

Adoption Across State Lines

This past week two of us involved in the Freddie Mac Foundation's Wednesday's Child program were involved in a seminar about adopting across state lines.

Representatives from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia engaged a room full of social workers and other adoption professionals, giving us some insight and answering our questions. While we won't go into the intricacies here, we did want you to know that this process does exist. Currently to adopt across state and territory lines a process must be followed. That that is guided by the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children(ICPC). This financial responsibility also includes which state or territory will pay for post-placement therapies, subsidies and respite care, thus it is vitally important that this process be followed properly.

This agreement lays out who will be responsible for the supervision of and the financial aspects of the placement. In other words, who supervises and who pays for that supervision.

States and territories usually have an agreement with each other about what they do for each other. This is especially true in states that are close together, like Virginia, Maryland and DC or Oregon and Washington State.

Now if you live in California and are matched with a child from Vermont, there may not be a routine practice in place. Not saying it is impossible, but you will have to advocate on behalf of yourself and the child you wish to have placed with you.

dreamed of this day finally coming.

It seemed like a very long road (and sometimes a disappointing road) to get here, but when the fit was right for everyone, it was absolutely worth every moment we waited.

Kristine and Josh Habetler
February 2012

Adoption Agencies: Partner with Us!

We work with many adoption and state agencies throughout the United States and are now offering an exciting opportunity to partner with A Family For Every Child to further benefit your families. Over time we have developed valuable relationships with many of you; working together to assist families, and therefore have found homes for children. All we are asking is your willingness to let your families know about our Matching Assistance Program and partner with us to better serve families. Let's work together and change the life of a child by building a family.

This program will offer your families support that compliments what you are already doing. As a team we can work to match them sooner and perhaps support them through the process. We all know this is a big job and often requires a team.

How our team will benefit you as the families worker:

- 1) Your family will be able to create their own family biography page that will be viewed by children's workers. This page reflects their personality and current status, training and experience which is often hard to write on paper in a home study and certainly hard to update as much as families would like to. Families can update daily if they desire.
- 2) Families will be able to submit their interest and family biography for themselves based on your recommendations and guidance. Even though you will not be required to do these daily submissions, we will cc you on all of them. We will also track these submissions and inquiries and be able to provide you with monthly reports if requested (this should also free up some time).
- 3) Your family will feel empowered to be their own advocate and hopefully more engaged during this difficult "searching/waiting" part of the adoption process. We all know how hard this can be on families.
- 4) You as their worker will be able to log on and review your family's profile and submission account at any time.
- 5) Your family will always have up to date adoption materials, online training information and new photo listings for their continued education, meaning you will not need to hunt for this information yourself. When they register, they receive a list of over 50 photo listing sites and a "loaded" Welcome packet with adoption information for their review.
- 6) And best of all your family will be Matching Faster!

If you would like to talk to us further about partnering, we are very interesting in exploring these options with you. Contact Nora Sharp, Matching Assistance Coordinator or Christy Obie-Barrett, Executive Director.

nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org
Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org

Tips and Strategies for Surviving the Waiting Period

We recognize that waiting is often the hardest part of the adoption process. We recommend you continue to submit on children that fit your criteria, situations change too fast for you to rely on one child/children match to happen.

In addition to creating a Life Book while you wait, please check out this webinar put on the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange. The video is just under 45 minutes long, and contains some valuable information to help you and your family through the hardest part of the adoption journey: the waiting period. As always, your Family Search Specialist, your adoption worker, and myself are here for you to offer advice and guidance.

Remember, you are not alone! Many families are going through the same struggles that you are at this time. Join a support group, an online forum, become a mentor; get involved!

Link to the webinar: [Tips and Strategies for Surviving the Waiting Period Webinar](#).

Questions?

Feel free to call at 541-343-2856 or email: info@afamilyforeverychild.org



Volunteer Positions

Are you interested in helping kids in foster care? Do you have at least 5 hours a week to spare? Then [sign up](#) to become a volunteer! With 57 local and regional [opportunities](#) and many [national](#) opportunities, there is a position for you! We also have internships available for college credit.

Featured Volunteer Positions:

Family Search Specialist:

Work one-on-one with assigned families, sending them child searches, providing support, empathy and answering questions families may have.

Web Child Listing:

Write and list children's biographies on our site.

Family Finding:

Research and contact positive and safe family members and meaningful people for children in foster care. The goal is to achieve permanent and supportive family connections for children in foster care.

Caseworker Outreach:

Search for caseworker contact information to help us better connect with caseworkers and advance toward our goal of matching families with waiting foster children.

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