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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2012 2:04 AM  
**To:** scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org  
**Subject:** AFFEC Family Finding May 2012



# Family Finding Program

<http://www.afamilyforeverychild.org> (541-343-2856)  
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A Family For Every Child

May 2012

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Would you like to contribute to A Family For Every Child's cause for helping children?

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**Volunteer  
Training**

Are you interested in becoming a Family Finding volunteer? We have a number of Family Finding volunteer roles available!

File mining: Search through a child's files to gather the names and information about potential supportive connections for said child.

Internet research: Search the web for recent contact information, more relatives, and more information about

## Moving Towards Extensive Recruitment

As we begin moving into Spring, A Family For Every Child is also moving towards implementing our new Extensive Team Recruitment Program. Extensive Team Recruitment employs the best of what A Family For Every Child has to offer. With the combined use of our Family Finding and Mentor programs, as well as our best recruitment tools, child preparation skills, and teamwork, we will be finding permanent homes for more children in foster care. We are hoping to meet with community leaders, social workers, and others to promote this program and implement it as quickly as possible.

Keep an eye out for dates when we'll be hosting a community symposium regarding this new and exciting program!

### What is Extensive Team Recruitment?

Extensive Team Recruitment will use Family Finding tools, mentors, child pictures and videos, continuous team meetings, and careful planning to find a forever family for foster children. The program will be tailored to cases that are looking for a forever family for a youth in foster care.

The process begins when a caseworker refers a child's case to our organization, and provides us some information about the child and his or her case plan. We then assign a Family Finder, Mentor, Recruiter, and other roles to the case. In doing so, we provide all available services to the youth with the shared goal of finding a safe, happy, and permanent home for him or her. We engage found family members, the child's new mentor, the caseworker, and the rest of the team through weekly meetings at which plans and goals are made for the child's case.

Within twelve to twenty weeks, we hope to discover, engage, and support as many positive resources for the youth as possible, and in doing so move them into a happy home and out of foster care. When in their new, stable placement, the youth will have a home, as well as a vast "forever family" which includes biological relatives, a mentor, and a permanent placement.

### How is this different from Family Finding?

Family Finding is a successful program in which family members and other supportive connections are found on

relatives and other lost loved ones.

Calling/Engagement: Call and talk with found connections and gauge their interest towards involvement in the child's life. The caller gets to work closely with the child's caseworker, and attend a Family Meeting at which we meet and discuss a plan for supporting the youth!

All Family Finding volunteers must attend a Family Finding training. Our next volunteer training is on May 19th, from 9AM until 12PM. If you have any further questions about becoming a Family Finding volunteer, please visit our website, or email the Family Finding Director at [caitlin@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:caitlin@afamilyforeverychild.org)

## 2012 Volunteer Training Schedule

All trainings take place from 9AM until 12PM. Hope to see you there!

- May 19
- June 16
- July 21
- August 18
- September 15
- October 20
- November 17
- December 15

## Looking for a Private Investigator!

Are you a retired detective or private investigator looking to further exercise your skills?

Do you know a private investigator who is interested in dedicating their time to serve foster children? If so, we need you!

A Family For Every Child is looking for a volunteer detective or private investigator to be a part of our Extensive Recruitment Team! For more information, please email Caitlin Baird at: [caitlin@familyforeverychild.org](mailto:caitlin@familyforeverychild.org)

behalf of children in foster care.

Family Finding covers a wide variety of goals, from finding biological family in order to create a family tree, family connections, or discovering supportive and positive contacts for a youth, as well as placement. Extensive Team Recruitment not only involves discovering estranged loved ones, but involving all current and possible connections for a child in order to find him or her a permanent home. While Family Finding connections are a vital part of Extensive Team Recruitment, it is not the central goal. For those Family Finding cases in which permanency is the goal, Extensive Team Recruitment is an ideal match!

## What are the Proposed Outcomes?

Extensive Team Recruitment is based off of the Extreme Recruitment® model created by the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition in Missouri. The outcomes they have achieved are finding permanency for 70% of referrals given to them, and family and other supportive connections for the other 30%. We are looking to make the same achievements, ultimately reducing the number of children growing up in foster care, and eliminating the number of children growing up in care without any supportive connections (other than their caseworker and other staff). This means improving the lives of 100% of the foster youth referred to Extensive Team Recruitment!

April was "Child Abuse Prevention Month," and one way to prevent child abuse is by identifying safe and stable relatives and families to provide permanent homes for children who can otherwise not remain with their birth parents.

## State's Five Efforts Work to Help Prevent Child Abuse

Child abuse and neglect take place at home and at the hands of someone the child knows well, usually a parent.

In Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties in 2010, there were 3,869 investigations into reports of child abuse and neglect - and 1,481 victims. These children had been neglected or physically, sexually or emotionally abused. These incidents can have physical, psychological and behavioral effects for children and families that last lifetimes, even generations.

As a result of abuse and neglect, 2,165 local children spent time in foster care because they could not remain safely at home. While foster care is essential to keep some children safe, it is a temporary service.

We know children need a more permanent place to grow up than foster care offers. We know we can do better at keeping children safely at home or with relatives. With strong community involvement, we believe we can improve outcomes for our children and families. Here are five ways we are working to prevent child abuse and keep children safe in their families:

First, the state is working to create a new, cross-systems and community-based "Differential Response" model for child welfare that focuses on safety and allows child welfare flexibility to respond to the family's issues without taking the child into foster care. Differential response would only occur in low- and moderate-risk families. The family's strengths and needs are assessed and services provided to support the parent continuing to safely take care of the child and connect with community supports.

Second, drug and alcohol issues are the largest single factor in 44 percent of child abuse cases. If we can address substance abuse issues with parents, we can help children stay safe and at home.

Third, another big factor is domestic violence. We have strong collaborative relationships between child welfare staff and local domestic violence programs and advocates.

Strengthening those relationships will improve our ability to keep children safely at home.

Fourth, family supports and parent mentors can provide many

types of assistance to families facing challenges with parenting. Support programs can intervene, prevent and correct the conditions threatening the in-home stability of children and the maintenance of the core family.

Fifth, when a child cannot stay safely at home with parents, the Oregon Department of Human Services and the courts - more than ever before - actively seek to locate relatives to find safe, positive and supportive families who can step in to care for the child for a short period, often while the parents deal with drugs, alcohol, domestic violence and anger issues, or to get family support services. Relatives provide stability and connection during a traumatic time for a child.

These five new ways of working with families represent a significant change and continuing improvement for Oregon. The efforts are based on research that demonstrates that outcomes for children, families and communities are better when children are raised in their families and supported by their community.

Everyone has a role to play to report child abuse. If a child is being hurt or is in danger right now, call 911 immediately. Local law enforcement and community child welfare workers respond to child abuse and neglect reports.

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## Family Finding Volunteer of the Month

Meet our Family Finding volunteer of the month, Lynne Swift! Lynne has been a volunteer with A Family For Every Child for over a year, and has worked on a number of Family Finding cases. Lynne has a talent for engaging individuals and making them feel comfortable, which has served us well when speaking with relatives and other connections for foster youth. Lynne approaches each case with enthusiasm, urgency, and warmth!



A Word from Lynne:

I'm a retired counselor, having worked at Lane Community College for many years. I have fun playing in an African marimba band (Zambuko), being involved with an organization that provides education and collaboration opportunities for international nonprofits, and building fairy castles with my two young granddaughters!

When I heard about the work that AFFEC was doing to find families for kids who were not living with their parents, I knew I wanted to be involved, for very personal reasons. My brothers and I lived with our aunt and uncle growing up after our parents died accidentally. Our extended family of grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins gave us the solid, loving family connections that every child needs. AFFEC is creating that connection for children in foster care, and I love having a small role in making that happen.

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## It Takes a Village and We Need You!

**We want and need your help to spread the word!  
Here are ways you can help us recruit for kids:**

- Email us any supports, training's, activities, blogs, anything

that could help. Contact: [Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org)  
- Become a [volunteer](#)  
- Donate, attend, or become a sponsor at our [event](#)  
- Host a Heart Gallery. Contact:  
[Heather@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:Heather@afamilyforeverychild.org)  
- Become a mentor. [Heather@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:Heather@afamilyforeverychild.org)  
Questions? Ideas? [Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:Christy@afamilyforeverychild.org)

### How can you contact A Family For Every Child?

Call, email, or visit us online or in person!

880 Beltline Rd.  
Springfield Oregon 97477

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toll free - 877-343-2856  
fax - 541-343-2866



Executive Director--Christy Obie-  
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