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Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 2:03 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
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Matching Assistance Program




A Family For Every Child

June 2012

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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!



Register for Webinars

We have a few upcoming webinars that you may register for! Our next webinar is on June 28th, at 1 PM PDT. It will feature sibling groups from Colorado, Florida, and Nevada. You can register for the event [here](#).

Future matching webinars will feature New York foster children; sibling groups, and also sibling groups of three or more. Check back weekly for updates on upcoming webinar events!

Helpful Links

[The National Adoption Foundation](#): Provides financial assistance, services, and support to families. Contains information about programs, membership and achievements.

[Families Like Ours](#): Provides support, resources, education and advocacy to LGBT families

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.

How MAP Can Help Your Families

Agencies: Partner with our Matching Assistance Program!

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 in a time of large workloads for all. Let's work together and change the life of a child by building a family.

and non-LGBT families that are in the adoption process.

NACAC: The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) promotes and supports permanent families for children and youth in foster care, particularly those with special needs, and is committed to helping the families that adopt them.

Dave Thomas Foundation: Finds forever families for children in foster care.

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, as well as many national opportunities, there is always a position for you! We also have internships available for college credit.

Featured Volunteer Positions:

Matching Family/Child Search Specialist:

Searches national sites and compiles a list of kids that fit the criteria of our families and produce a list for each family once a week. We provide a large list of sites to search and sample templates for the list and a How-to, plus whatever training you may need. This volunteer can live anywhere in any state, all work is done on the web/email. This is very rewarding as you are actually involved in the Matching of families and kids, on your own time and days. Commitment of 5 hours a week for at least 6 months.

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

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 family's 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.

Success Story

Every adoption experience is unique; it is never possible to anticipate exactly what it will be like. The processes and requirements for adoption can be complicated. Though ultimately rewarding, adoption can at times be an emotional roller coaster for parents and children alike.

With its Matching Assistance Program and other resources, A Family For Every Child tries to help families persist through these frustrations, to stay hopeful, and to keep believing that the rewards in the end will be well worth it.

Here is one family's story about the ups and downs of the adoption process, and how it all turned out:

"After being in the final selection process more than twice, getting very exciting 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 selected exactly six months after our home study was approved and after inquiring about over 250 groups of siblings.

We were beyond thrilled with our match of three siblings, two boys and one 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. We could never have 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.

Our children have now been with us for about a month. They are lively and energetic (typical children). All three of our children have their challenges and need us to be their voice when they're struggling with something. We have learned to be very strong advocates for them in school and with healthcare professionals; we know them better than the professionals and we do not stop until all of our questions and concerns have been addressed.

We have all also learned this is not the fairytale we had hoped. Our children came to us thinking we would be perfect and would not have any rules for them. They thought they would be able to do whatever they wanted to do, when they wanted to do it. But when Mom and Dad started explaining why rules were important and necessary, they gradually started to understand we were not mean, we were just like their foster

advance toward our goal of matching families with waiting foster children.

New How-to Emails Coming Soon

The Matching Assistance Program is working on creating some new, weekly how-to emails to be sent to Matching Assistance families.

If there are particular topics you would like to see covered, please email Nora Sharp at nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org with your ideas!

Questions?

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

parents, trying to keep them safe and happy.

We also learned our children were not perfect. They still had temper tantrums, still used the word 'no' a lot, and still needed help in most areas. They make messes, and get messy themselves; they do not always do what they're supposed to and they do not always follow the rules. But they are our children, and we are their parents, and we all make it work, with a lot of talking and a lot of effort.

We have been asked the really hard questions like, 'Why didn't my real mom and dad want me?' It is heartbreaking and hurts you to the core. You want to let them know that everything will be okay, and we do tell them everything is okay. We tell them the truth, but not the details of their removal from their birth parents. Instead, we tell the children that the biggest gift you can give your children is sometimes the hardest thing to do, giving them to someone who can take care of them. We tell them their parents are not bad people, they were people who decided the best thing for their children was to allow them the best possible life. And when that conversation ends, we always hear 'I love you, Mom and Dad' -- and they mean us! -- followed by hugs and kisses. It is the most rewarding experience we have had so far.

We've watched our children grow, just in the short month they've been with us. They've grown emotionally and physically, and they've opened up socially in ways we weren't sure they were going to be able to. Watching them become more and more comfortable, knowing they're loved and cherished, even through some difficult behaviors, is an absolutely wonderful feeling.

Not every moment has been wonderful -- some have been very challenging -- but all children have challenges. All parents have challenges. We couldn't be more happy with our process and we love our new family members."

Feature Families



Sky and Ingrid

Hi,
My name is Sky, and my partner Ingrid and I would love to welcome an older child or sibling set of two, possibly three, into our home. We are a non-traditional family, creative, open-minded and compassionate. We would be stay-at-home parents, working a small farm in a peaceful, rural setting.

We are looking for the child or sibling group that completes us as a family, a child who enjoys exploring the world around them. One who is inquisitive, curious, and enjoys learning. We are looking for a teen or sibling set with an older child who shares our love for animals and perhaps has always wanted to live on a farm and have a pet or horse of their own.

We are open to non-gender specific youth. We are very good with timid, shy, children and the boys up the street have helped us understand and love the challenges of loud, active, rambunctious children! As a teacher, Ingrid interacted with many young adults, some still teenagers, in everyday

situations. In the summer we take vacations to water parks, museums, fossil beds, mining towns, the Oregon coast and other family friendly places.

As stay-at-home parents we will always be there to participate with our children. There are kind, energetic neighbor children, ages 6-14, already waiting to play. Thank you for the good work you do for the children in your care, and thank you for considering us.



Bob and Candy Murdock

Workers: would you like to place your children with a close, loving, and active family?

We are the Murdocks of Rome, Georgia, and we're hoping to find a majority-girl and low issue sibling group! We have 13 children, but ten have gone off to college and beyond and only three (ages 16, 15, and 12) remain at home. Our strength is our close-knit family, both immediate and extended. Our children have been deeply involved in sports, such as soccer, competitive cheerleading (2 of the girls cheered varsity in college), and track, as well as church, band, dance, and Scouts.

We've all been active in Scouting (1 Eagle so far, 2 on the way) and summer camp programs. Bob and Candy are both teachers (Spanish, ESOL, science) and we work closely with our children in academics; we know how to get children into advanced programs if they qualify and find help for children who need it. Bob teaches in the children's strong and multicultural school district (rcs.rome.ga.us). All of us love to travel, especially to the beach, Disney, and the older children's colleges.

We also love to celebrate holidays; Thanksgiving is great because we go to Hilton Head Island (photo attached) to celebrate with around 80 Murdocks but we decorate and have fun at home at Christmas, Easter, and Halloween as well! We would love and cherish more children and we hope you'll think of us if you should have children who need a safe and happy home.



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