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Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2012 12:02 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: A Family For Every Child's Sponsorship Program Newsletter September 2012

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Sponsorship Program

"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."



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Donate to AFFEC

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



Family Support Group

The next family support group meeting is Thursday, September 27th from 5:30-7:30pm.

The group is designed as an open forum to help families who have adopted, are interested in adoption, are involved with foster care, and who mentor. After the first meeting, the support group will meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except holidays).

We are planning for child care. Please come join us!

Friends Church
3495 W. 18th
Eugene

RSVP to Sarah Shipley:
sarah.shipley@afamilyforeverychild.org

A Home for the Holidays

A Family For Every Child's Sponsorship Program

A Family For Every Child is proud to announce the launching of our new Sponsorship Program! Learn how to [become a sponsor](#).

Here at A Family For Every Child we value our donors, sponsors and contributors very much. Thank you for taking the time to check out our new program, and learn more about the wonderful ways you can help a child!



Our Children Are Our Future

There are more than 500,000 children and youth in foster care in the U.S. today. From this number, more than 20,000 youth "age out" or emancipate from foster care each year. Within the first 18 months of emancipation, up to 50% of former foster youth become homeless, where they are subjected to financial, mental, physical and societal stress. Many youth struggle in this plight and fail to escape homelessness and poverty due to limited support from their community and a nonexistent family.

We understand that not everyone can become an

2012

We need you, no matter where you live, to make our annual event a special evening! Help us truly find "A Family For Every Child."

Please take a minute to look over our [needs list](#) for our auction and other event items. Are you a business that would be willing to partner with us?

Maybe you would be willing to give our donors a percentage off your items when they buy it to donate to our auction, such as products, services or food and drink? Or maybe you have a great location? We are grateful for all ideas/help/offers!

Come and celebrate our annual Winter Wonderland Event and help a foster child find their own forever family. November 1st, 2012.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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.

Feature Family Emails:

Volunteer to put together an email featuring several of our families and sent to workers and

adoptive or foster parent. However, this is not the only way to help a child or youth in need. For a standard payment a month, you can help a struggling child find peace, ease and happiness.

You cannot help everyone, but you can help someone. Your donation and sponsorship will help a child find their forever family, help a child find their biological family through our family finding program, help a family through their adoption process, help a sibling group find a forever family, help teach youth various independent living skills with our life skills class, and help youths build positive self esteem through helping AFFEC's mentor program.

Sponsor our Life Skills Program

Help a foster child learn the necessities of life by sponsoring A Family For Every Child's Life Skills Program!



Our life skills program allows youth in foster care the opportunity to learn everyday skills that keep them from becoming a statistic.

- **Only 3% of former foster children obtain a bachelor's degree or higher**
- **Employers are less likely to hire a former foster youth who have the similar qualifications than a non-foster youth**
- **Compared to the 84% of the general population, only 46% of former foster youth complete high school**
- **Within 18 months of emancipation 40-50% of foster youth become homeless**
- **50% of emancipated foster youth experience high rates of unemployment within 5 years of emancipation**

The Life Skills program began in October of 2011 and uses community members to teach children and youth in foster care important life skills such as opening a bank account, creating a budget, filling out a job application, cooking for themselves and so on. The Life Skills program invites community members to share their skills and knowledge with teenage mentees.

Through our life skills program youth learn valuable living skills to help ease their transition from foster care to a successful independent lifestyle. We achieve this by providing the youth with workshops, speakers and seminars that teach them various skills such as successfully obtaining a job, pursuing a higher education, and effectively living on their own. As a sponsor you will also help by providing essential materials including books, computers, college prep courses and other various supplies.

Sponsor Our Mentor Program

"A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could."

Help make a difference, sponsor a mentor match!

The mission of the Heart Gallery Mentor Program is to

recruiters for children. We provide all the tools and can be done from anywhere, once a week on your schedule.

Interested? Contact:

nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org

Male Mentors Needed

We currently have a high need for male mentors. It is important that successful males share their experiences and impact a young life. Unfortunately, positive male role models are something that too many young boys lack. It is time for our positive male role models to step up and lead by example. Their impact can go a long ways in a young man's life.

Mentors who are trained in special medical treatment are needed. We have youth waiting for mentors who have special needs and it is important that they are matched up with an appropriate mentor. Someone who can not only be their friend, but also be trained to respond adequately to any medical needs that might arise.

Please help spread the word and recruit mentors for our high-need areas.

Contact Christina Parra for more information:

christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org

New How-to's for Matching Assistance Families

We have two new Matching Assistance how-to webinars available to Matching Assistance families! Both can be accessed on your Family Home Page. The first is a how-to on writing and creating your family biography. That webinar can be found under the Biography and Photo box by clicking "View the MAP Biography How-To Webinar".

The second is a webinar presentation on what to expect the days and weeks after your membership has been activated, and how to make the most of your Matching Assistance membership. It can be found in the Request Activation/Deactivate box, and is titled "Family Activation Webinar".

bring enthusiastic, dedicated, caring adult members of our community and unite them with youth in foster care.

To provide someone who can be a friend, who will encourage and support them through the various transitions in their life. To help instill independence, confidence and everyday life skills they will need.

Mentoring makes a big difference. When kids enjoy a regular, positive activity with an adult over the course of a year, those kids are **46%** less likely to begin using drugs, **27%** less likely to begin using alcohol, and **52%** less likely to skip school. This decreases drug-related suspensions, drug-related crime, and the number of babies born drug-affected. Children guided by positive role models are more likely to improve their academic performance, make better decisions, have more self confidence, and a sense of belonging. Foster youth with a mentor tend to have better relationships with parents/caregivers, teachers and peers. They are also more likely to attend and graduate from college.

Sponsor our Family Finding Program

A biological connection to a family member means safety, security and love to a child in foster care.

Help us build these connections by sponsoring AFFEC's Family Finding Program!



More often than not children who enter the foster care system have lost all ties to their biological families. Most of the time family members have no idea that the child is in foster care. Family finding is especially important because we exhaust every option to make some sort of biological connections for the child. The Family Finding model is a group of methods and strategies to locate and engage relatives of children living in out-of-home care. The goal of Family Finding is to provide each child with the lifelong connections that only a family can offer. Children placed with biological family members have more opportunity to grow and develop in a healthy manner. Research demonstrates that biological families show more willingness to emotionally invest the time and energy to work with children who may have medical or emotional challenges.

Sponsor a Child

Sponsor a child through their adoption process and be the support they desperately need and deserve!

On average children in foster care change homes 2-3 times a year. Our children are our future and it is important that they live a healthy life in order to be successful citizens of society. Many resources and strategies are needed in order to succeed in finding loving, permanent families for every waiting foster child. Some of these include outreach to case workers, photos and video recording of the youth, matching events, faith-based outreach, heart gallery venues, urgent placement request and support groups for the youth going through the process.

We need to come together in order to ensure permanent and loving placement for every child in foster care. Together we can make a difference; it only takes one

In addition, new weekly how-to emails have been created! Topics include blending families, parenting a child that is a victim of sexual abuse, and helping your foster child transition to your adopted child. If you have ideas about topics that you would like to see in a how-to email, please email the Matching Assistance Coordinator at nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org

Questions?

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

person to change a life.

Sponsor a Sibling Group

A sibling is an automatic friend, companion and confidant. Sponsor a sibling group through their adoption and help keep these connections strong!



One of the biggest struggles about being in foster care is being separated from your siblings. We feel a strong need for siblings to stay together when finding their forever family. A necessity in order to live a healthy lifestyle while in foster care and after finding a forever family is maintaining as many biological relationships as possible. It is crucial that sibling groups do not get split up.

In order to successfully find forever families for sibling groups we need to exhaust all of our resources and strategies. These being outreach to case workers, photos and video recording of the youth, matching events, faith-based outreach, heart gallery venues, urgent placement request and support groups for the youth going through the process.

Sponsoring a sibling group would help ensure that more siblings find forever families together.

Sponsor a Family

Adopting a child can be strenuous, both emotionally and financially. Help a family through their adoption journey and become a sponsor today!

A family who has made the choice to adopt needs all the support they can get. It is nationally recognized that 75% of the families that begin the adoption process get discouraged by the lack of support. Along with emotional and moral support, financial support is a very important factor. Most families who would like to adopt never begin the process due to fear of not being financially ready. Once they are ready to commit to a being a child's forever family they are faced with initial fees. Some of these fees include a home study application, processing, adoption worker plus their mileage.

Once a family has made the decision to change a life through adoption they should be supported in every way possible and relieving them from financial stress in the beginning would help guarantee a placement. Not everyone can adopt but we can all contribute to the journey of children finding their forever families. Becoming a family sponsor will help make the adoption process that much less stressful and allow families to take that first step.

Where is my money going?

Once you become a sponsor, your money will go directly to the specified program you signed up for. If you sign up to sponsor a child, or sibling group through their adoption process, that money will go to the child's extensive recruitment efforts. These recruitment efforts include high resolution photos for our Heart Gallery, resources to improve our targeted e-mails and Online Child Matching Events, urgent placement requests, case

worker outreach, and much more.

If you choose to sponsor a family through their adoption process, your donations will directly help that family afford the various expenses associated with adoption. There are many families who can accommodate children with special needs or children who are considered "hard to place" by that wish to adopt. However, these families often get discouraged once they realize how expensive it will be, and drop out of the adoption process. Your donation will help these families further pursue adoption and change the lives of children nationwide.

If you sponsor the mentor program, the money will go directly to the mentees and their activities with their mentors. Sometimes all that a mentor is able to provide is their time. Sponsoring a mentor match will allow these mentor matches to go on fun outings together and spend more time exploring the child's interests, strengths and hobbies.

Our Life Skills Program sponsors will be directly contributing to the Life Skills classes. They will help us provide the students with tools and equipment necessary to teach a successful class. This includes a computer, supplies for examples and activities and financial support for paper hand outs and exercises.

Family Finding sponsors will help the program by allowing us to exhaust all resources available. This includes extensive search mechanisms for every child that is associated with the program. With your contribution we can expand our trainings and make sure we are being more efficient with every child's case. Making sure we exhaust all of our options in order to find our kiddos family members.

Becoming a sponsor for any of these wonderful programs will make a huge impact in a youth's life! In return we will thank you by sending quarterly e-newsletters. Our informational and educational e-newsletters will keep you updated on our organization and your specific sponsorship program.



Here at A Family For Every Child, we believe that every child has the right to feel special, feel loved, and feel appreciated. We also believe in the goodness and support of the American community to help those who are less fortunate and in need. Whether you support a family in their adoption process, a child, a sibling group, the life skills program, the mentor program or our family finding program, you will directly improve a child's life and aid to their successful future. We appreciate and thank you for all of your support.

Not everyone can foster children, adopt or volunteer their time as a mentor. However we can all do something. If each one of us steps up and plays a role we can make a difference. Let's come together for our children.

"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do

everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."



A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD

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