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**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012 2:05 AM  
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**Subject:** AFFEC Mentoring Program November 2012

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## A Family For Every Child

November 2012

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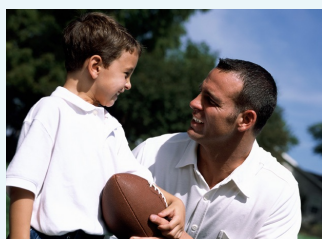
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### December Mentor Orientations



If you've had some interests in mentoring and want to know more, join us for our December Orientation.

**Mentoring our youth in care is a necessity, especially to our teens that are close to aging out of care. If they didn't find their forever family while in foster care, they need to have some sort of support system when emancipating.**

**A mentor is someone who can provide support and consistency while they are transitioning into the real world. The article below talks about the need for mentors and about a mentoring program in Arizona.**

#### Forever Mentors Needed in State's Foster Care System

*By Allison Hurtado  
Ahwatukee Foothills News*

While the need for open homes is great, open hearts can be just as helpful to Arizona's foster care system.

Speakers from Arizona Departments of Economic Security (DES), Passage Transition Coalition, and Catholic Charities shared information on the need for more support during Connecting to Serve's monthly meeting on Tuesday.

Deidre Calcoate, adoption and resource home development and support manager for DES, said since March of 2012 nearly 2,000 kids have entered the foster care system, bringing the total to somewhere near 14,500. In that time the number of homes stopping fostering has exceeded the number of homes being opened up.

"When families close their homes we always ask why," Calcoate said. "The majority will tell you they're leaving because they've adopted and need a little time. Some of those will come back and foster again later, but there are other issues. One issue is the support a family receives when they receive a child into their home. Our agencies that contract with us do a very good job of supporting families, but families need more than that. They need the community that is a part of their lives to help them do the work that they do with children."

Calcoate said mentors can do things as simple as reading to kids, helping with sewing, or making a meal. There are also opportunities for volunteers to serve as a court appointed advocate for a child or sit on a review board for a case.

Julie Ball, Passage coordinator for Passage Transition Coalition, said their biggest need is for mentors. Passage

This is a great way to meet our organization, learn more about our programs, and ask specific questions.

December 11, 2012 at 5:30-7:30pm  
at our offices at 1675 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Eugene, Oregon 97401

RSVP to Christina or call 541-343-2856.  
[christina.parra@familyforeverchild.org](mailto:christina.parra@familyforeverchild.org)

## What's It Like To Mentor?



The quote below came from a mentor who has been matched up with their child since 2008.

"When I first signed up to be a mentor, I had no idea - no idea about how rewarding it would be and no idea how difficult it would be!

I can truly say that my relationship with Alice has changed my life, and I believe that I have been able to do some good things for and with her. It's an amazing experience, and every time I think it's settling down and nothing else will surprise me, I am proved wrong!"

- Amy Miller

## Special Medical Treatment Mentors

Mentors who are trained in special medical treatment are needed. We have youth with special needs who are waiting for mentors, and it is important that they are matched up appropriately.

These mentors should not only be their mentee's friend, but also be trained to respond adequately to any medical needs that might arise.

## Male Mentors

Foster boys are in desperate need of male mentors. Too many of these children lack a positive male

focuses on providing kids aging out of the foster care system with resources they need to find housing, get into school and find a job. In a typical family setting the child might call their parent if they're having trouble finding an answer, but for many kids aging out of the foster care system they don't have that luxury.

Aid to Adoption of Special Kids (AASK) has a mentoring program that matches adults with teens in the system. They ask for a one-year commitment from their mentors but hope that the relationships will last much longer. Mentors are asked to meet with the youth twice a month. JoAnne Chiariello, director of Family Support Services for AASK, said many mentors spend weekend days with their youth.

The youths are ages 12 to 21 and older kids will receive priority for being assigned a mentor.

AASK mentors must have a level one finger print clearance card, annual criminal record statement, current Arizona driver's license and proof of insurance. AASK will help mentors with all the necessary paperwork.

For more information on ways to mentor, AASK host orientations across the Valley at various times. Visit their website at [www.aask-az.org](http://www.aask-az.org) or call (602) 254-2275.

## Kiddos in IMMEDIATE NEED of Mentors!



**Michael** is a creative, active little guy. He is great at puzzles and like to paint and color. He also likes to ride his bike and go to the park. At the park his favorite things to do are the swings and slides. Michael's mentor should be a positive male influence, and be able to influence Michael to continue his education throughout his life.

**Dereck** is an intelligent and imaginative 4<sup>th</sup> grade boy. He loves sports, riding his bike, and most anything outside. Dereck really loves football and is anxious to see his first game. When he is older he wants to play the sport. Currently, he is learning how to swim and likes that, too. He says he wants to get better. Dereck also likes animals, especially dogs. When he grows up he wants to be animal trainer.

Dereck is sensitive and needs someone who understands that. Eating dinner at the table is a must for Dereck because he hasn't had that structure before. Someone who loves football and can further introduce him to the sports would be a plus.

**Vanessa** is currently a junior in high school but planning to graduate early to attend LCC. She is very motivated and wants to either be a lawyer or nurse. She likes to be able to express herself, which she does through writing. She also like movies, especially love stories and Channing Tatum. Her favorite activities are tennis, kickball, listening to music, and going on walks. One day she hopes to go to Disneyland because she loves rollercoasters.

influence in their lives and could benefit so much from one. For many of these children a male influence is the difference between a successful and unsuccessful future.

A male mentor can make all the difference in a foster boy's life.

Get involved. Spread the word.

## Sponsor a Teen in Need of a Mentor!

Growing up can be hard for most kids, but even harder for foster children. As foster children turn into teens, getting closer to the age of maturity, new questions arise. Questions like, "What will I do when I age out of foster care?", "Where will I go?", "How will I get a job?", and "How will I survive?"

Turning 18 is a celebration for most teens, but for a foster teen it can be a dread. It is an age that marks the aging out process, when foster care teens become independent and face the world alone. It marks what could be the most challenging times of their lives.

56% of teen who age out of foster care are unemployed. Because only 54% of foster care teens have a high school diploma or a GED equivalent, as opposed to 87% of non-foster care teens, it is difficult for many of them to compete for jobs; some turn to the streets. 20% of aged out foster children will become homeless at some point in their lives; some turn to crime. 25% of men who age out of foster care will spend time in jail or prison. And as for the women who age out of foster care, 50% will be pregnant within one year.

By matching a teen with a mentor we are giving the teen support and permanency for after they age out of the system. Our program specifically finds mentors for kiddos in care and the mission is to provide a lifetime friend who can be there for them even after they've aged out of care. To provide them with someone they can trust and someone they can turn to for help when needed.

The one person that will still be in their lives five years from their eighteenth birthday and someone who they can call to share good news with. It is imperative that our teens leave care with some sort of support and a mentor is a great resource.

Vanessa would like a trusting, female mentor to help and support her as she transitions to adulthood. She worries about her career. With her mentor she is happy just to talk and get to know them, take walks, and other low key activities.

**Erika** is funny, talkative, and loves to do things. She likes to camp, visit the coast, and to go geocaching. Her favorite sports are basketball and baseball, which she is currently playing in school. Her favorite sports teams are the Anaheim Angels and the Oregon Ducks. She likes to express herself by singing. Her favorite food is enchiladas. And she plays the trumpet in her schools band.

Erika's mentor should be someone who likes to be active and have fun. Besides sports and the outdoors, Erika also likes to do her nails, model, and do hairstyles.

**Angela** is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and very into fashion. In fact, she wants to be a fashion designer when she grows up. Her favorite colors are lime green and hot pink. She also loves music and dance. Angela is currently enrolled in a dance class, but would like to take more. She is hoping to take a contemporary dance class soon, but for now, just dance for the Nintendo Wii will have to do. Some of Angela's other favorite activities are listening to music, going to the park, and riding bikes.

Angela is looking for a nice and caring mentor who shares the same interests she does. She wants someone to go to the park and movies with, and someone who likes music and dance.

**Mark** is an outdoorsy and energetic 8<sup>th</sup> grader. He loves to spend time in nature, especially if it is fishing. He recently got a hunting and finshing license. When Mark grows up he wants to be a park ranger or wildlife warden. Other activities that Mark likes are video games, movies, and guitar. With his mentor, Mark would like someone who shares these interests. Eventually, Mark would like to try canoing, kayaking, dirtbiking, and paintballing. Mark would prefer to have a male, outdoor-loving mentor.

**Brad** - aka Frankenstein - is a sweet, artistic, and bright kid. He loves to build things. In school his favorite subjects are PE and science. When he is older he wants to be a technician - specifically, he wants to make robots. Because Brad has spent a lot of time living in the country, he loves the outdoors and the woods. While some kids are scared of horses, Brad loves them. Brad also likes soccer, all-you-can-eat buffets, roller coasters, and helping his parents out with chores.

**Jose** is a fun and excitable 10-year-old with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. When he grows up he wants to be either a skateboarder or a chef. He loves to play outside, watch TV, and play sports. Football is his favorite, but he would like to try baseball, basketball, and eventually track. His favorite movies are Alvin and the Chipmunks and Horton Hears a Who. His favorite type of music is hip-hop and party rock. Specifically, he likes the band LMFAO. In school Jose gravitates most towards math. And although he claims to not like reading, he would like someone to help him get better at it.

Jose would like a mentor, preferably a male, who shares his interest in sports and who will play them with him. Someone with athletic experience and knowledge would be a great mentor for Jose and a meaningful, positive influence in his life.

**Amanda** is an artistic 14-year-old. She loves horses and other animals, and would like to work with them when she grows up. She plans on becoming a pitbull rescuer.

A mentor can help them through their transition from care into the real world. We all know that even when we turn 18 and legally become adults; we still need the support of our families to get by. By providing a teen in care with a mentor we are providing them with the support that they desperately need.

Sponsoring a teen will make sure that extensive recruitment is done so that they have a mentor *before* aging out of care. Be a part of the solution and help instill some sort of support and ease into our teens lives when that dreaded day finally comes.

## Questions?

Feel free to call at 541-343-2856 or email:  
[christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org)

Amanda's mentor should be someone with patience and understanding. Preferably, her mentor should be someone with experience with teen girls. A positive, guiding female influence would be great for Amanda, especially for support as she matures through adolescence.

Although **Alice** is shy at first, after a little warming up she come alive. She's a multi-faceted young woman and has a lot of different interests. She loves to shop, cook, and play a variety of sports. Skateboarding, riding bikes, and football are some of her favorite activities. She wants to one day try playing hockey. She likes to read nonfictional teen stories, but enjoys fiction, too. Twilight is a favorite of hers. Alice also has an artistic side. She has a passion for scrapbooking, drawing landscapes, photography, and any arts and crafts.

Alice's mentor should be someone with a love for life, and should want to lend a guiding hand as Alice begins her transition from adolescence to adulthood.

For more information, please contact:  
[christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:christina.parra@afamilyforeverychild.org)

## First Princess 2013 Planning Meeting!



**It's time to start thinking about the Princess for a Day event 2013!**

Tuesday, December 4th, 5:30pm  
1675 West 11th, right next to Ring of Fire Restaurant

We need volunteers. There is a role for everyone!

**Registration:**

Oversee all registration of princesses- develops day of schedule.

**Invitations:**

Oversee printing and mailing of invites- works with registration to get invites out to princesses as soon as possible.

**Sponsorship:**

In order to do this right, we need the help of our community partners. This role would be gaining sponsors to help with total event costs.

**Hair Dressers:**

Oversee gathering of hair, makeup, and nails volunteers.

**Dress & Shoes:**

Oversee collection of all dresses and shoes.

**Accessories:**

Oversee collection of all accessories.

**Fairy Godmother/Prince:**

Oversee gathering of these volunteers.

**Photographers/Videographer:**

Oversee this group of volunteers.

**Decor:**

Plan and gather supplies to create a "Princess Day" theme.

**Tea Party Room:**

Oversee room day of, as well as coordinating volunteers and the schedule of food.

**Food:**

All food and beverages are donated. Oversee all these donations and getting them to the venue the day of.

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

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

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