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**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2013 2:02 AM  
**To:** scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org  
**Subject:** AFFEC Matching Assistance Program March 2013



## A Family For Every Child Matching Assistance



*"We should not be asking who this child belongs to,  
but who belongs to this child."*

**March 2013**

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### Register for Matching Events

A Family for Every Child offers two different matching events that families and caseworkers may partake in and benefit from. The first are Child Matching Events. During Child Matching Events, caseworkers may present the biographies of the waiting children on their caseload to home study approved families.

In turn, families may ask the caseworker questions about the child, and then submit their home study at the end of the event if they are interested.

The second are Family Matching Events. During Family Matching

## Matching Assistance 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.

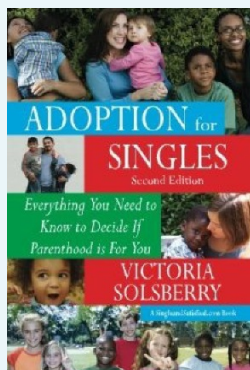
The following are just some of the benefits related to becoming a Matching Assistance member:

- The ability to submit for as many children as you want, whenever you want!
- The ability to submit for over 2000 waiting children and sibling groups, in addition to the ability to submit for children you find on other sites through our site via our offsite submit form.
- The assurance that your home study is going directly to a child's caseworker, and not some general inquiry inbox.
- Submitting is fast and easy! Your home study, profile and family biography are all automatically sent, so all you have to do is answer a few questions and click "submit"!
- The ability to update your family biography daily, weekly, or monthly to keep it up to date and accurate.
- The ability to take advantage of our successful family recruitment options to get your family noticed by caseworkers.
- Weekly how-to emails containing valuable information about foster care adoption.
- Bi-monthly informative newsletters answering common questions about foster care adoption and children's needs.
- A volunteer Family Adoption Specialist to assist you in editing your biography, providing recruitment updates, and caseworker information for offsite submissions.
- Those are just a few of our great benefits! Sign up today to take full advantage of our free program!

Events, families may present their biographies to caseworkers, allowing caseworkers to ask questions and connect families with children on their caseload that they feel would be a good match for the family.

Please check out our matching events page to register for upcoming matching events, or to view past events! You may visit our [matching events page](#).

## Single Parent Adoption Books



### **Adoption For Singles Second Edition: Everything You Need to Know to Decide If Parenthood is For You** by Victoria Solsberry

*Adoption For Singles Second Edition* is the first of a series of Singleandsatisfied.com books. It was written to walk single men and women through the process of adoption, whether domestic - private adoption of newborns, or children in foster care - or international.

Single adults are now permitted to adopt in all 50 states, and with 129,000 waiting children in the foster care system, and an estimated 5 million orphans in Ethiopia alone, single parents couldn't be more needed.

Read about:

\*Are you emotionally ready? What does it take to be a parent?

\*How much does it cost? (Hint: it can be as low as \$0!)

\*What age child is best for you? What is available? Can you get a baby? (Read about two men who got a 14 month old son and newborn twins.) How about older children? Teenagers?

\*Where do you start? How long does the process take? Will anyone help you? How about

### **How to sign up:**

Signing up for Matching Assistance is easy! [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.

## Adopting as a Single Parent

The latest research has shown that a single parent home may be best suited for children who need close relationships and attention. Having this close bond may actually foster normal and healthy development in children who have experienced turmoil and a string of unstable relationships. As a single parent, you have the skills and capabilities to provide this loving, nurturing, and stable environment a child in foster care so desperately needs.

As of September 2011, approximately 29% of special needs adoptions were by single mothers and fathers. Single parent adopting is a growing trend, and has become more prevalent and accepted in our society. So what are the first steps you need to take, in order to become a parent?

First, you need to make contact with adoption agencies and adoption groups. Find out what they can do for you as a single parent. Adoption groups will provide support and resources that you will need as you embark on the adoption journey.

Second, you need to gather information from social service agencies and details about specific adoption programs. Having this information will prepare you for the kind of adoption you would be interested in, and the types of challenges you will face.

Finally, read! Read books, read blogs, read articles. Gather up as much information and knowledge as you can. Having a plethora of knowledge will help you down the road when you are inquiring on a child and eventually raising one.

In addition, it is important that you join a type of parent or support group. Parenting groups can provide lots of valuable information, advice and resources. Parenting groups can provide advice such as what agency to go through, which social worker to ask for, and how to go through the process. In addition they can provide stories of real-life experiences, encouragement, and support. Spending time with people who have gone through the adoption process can provide enormous insight on the process and help you determine the type of child you would like to adopt.

To find out more about the adoption situation in your state or others, contact the state's Department of Public Welfare or Social services, local adoption agencies, and private adoption agencies.

## The Challenges of Adopting as a Single Parent

There are many challenges associated with adopting as a single parent. The biggest challenge may be convincing a caseworker or adoption agency that you have the skills necessary to raise a child on your own. There are a few ways to go about this.

First, have a strong support system. This support system can contain friends and family, and be made up of people who will be there for you no matter what. Raising a child as a single parent can be challenging at times, so having a few people who will be there for you in times of need will help you and

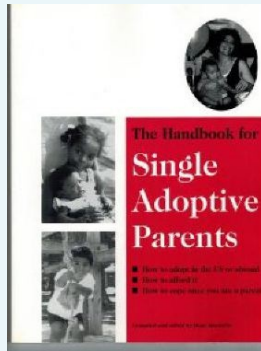
after the adoption?

\*What do you need to do to prepare your life and home for a child?

\*Q&As with single adoptive parents, an adoption social worker; the founder of an adoption clinic, and the Executive Director of The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

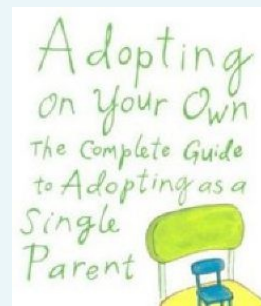
\*100+ page Appendix of all of the countries tracked by the U.S. Department of State and their policies on adopting to American singles.

\*Web links to dozens of resources, including an agency directory prescreened for a willingness to work with singles, and forms to help with the process.



### **Handbook for Single Adoptive Parents by National Council for Single Adoptive Parents and Hope Marindin**

An indispensable guide for managing single parenthood and coping with challenges - includes studies by social scientists showing the success of single parent adoption.



also show the caseworker that the child will be in a stable, loving environment.

Second, have a long-term plan. You need to be able to show that you have thought about the long-term implications of raising a child. Having a financial plan is important-the caseworker will look to see that you will be able to financially support a child. In addition, creating a social plan is also important. Consider how you will handle your social life going forward. It is unrealistic and unwise to give up your social life, but creating a plan on how you will balance spending time with friends with raising a child will show that you are serious and mature.

Both men and women face challenges when trying to adopt as a single parent. Men especially have a hard time, as agencies may feel that a child "needs a mother". It is important to remain strong and determined throughout the process, and know that you are completely capable to raise a child.

## **Waiting Agency Profile**



### **Meet Larry and Becky!**

Larry & Becky have been married for 17 years, together for 21. We have lived in Bend for 16 years. Larry is a nurse who works at our local hospital. Becky is a teacher by training, but has been staying home since we adopted Jeremy as a one-day-old infant in 2003. He's now a nine year old third grader, eager to have a (or a couple) buddies to play with. We like camping, hiking, canoeing, mountain-biking, and snow-sports like snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

We also enjoy the many activities available in Bend, Oregon; we like going to the movies, and enjoy quiet activities like reading and crafts as well. We are hoping to bring love, fun, structure and stability to a younger brother for Jeremy or a sibling pair (preferably one boy and one girl). Because Jeremy is 9, we're looking at adopting a child or two up to the age of 7.

We have great friends and a good support system (even an auntie & uncle & cousins in town, and other family throughout Oregon), and we've had experience finding and utilizing early intervention resources for Jeremy, who has had some speech & learning delays due to in utero drug exposure.

We've been so privileged to help Jeremy grow into a great young man, and we look forward to providing an environment where more kids can thrive. [Read more!](#)

## **Waiting Family Profile**



## **Adopting On Your Own: The Complete Guide to Adoption for Single Parents by Lee Varon**

*Adopting on Your Own* addresses the questions and concerns of prospective single parents. Lee Varon, a practicing therapist specializing in adoption counseling and the single mother of two adopted children, helps readers make an evenhanded assessment of whether adoption is right for them, then leads them through the different stages of arranging and financing the adoption. She weighs the advantages of open versus closed and international versus domestic adoption for the single parent, and demystifies potentially daunting steps such as choosing an agency and preparing for the home study.

*Adopting on Your Own* also offers up-to-date information on the latest developments in interracial adoption policy, the legal rights of gays and lesbians to adopt, and the evolving attitudes of agencies and social workers toward single-parent adoptions. Throughout the book, Varon draws on personal anecdotes and the experiences of her clients to offer honest, insightful advice on every step of the adoption process.

## **Volunteer Needs**

### **Family Adoption Specialist:**

The Matching Assistance Program is a free program aiding families on their journey to adopt waiting foster children. We work alongside families, their adoption workers and caseworkers to get families matched. As a Family Adoption Specialist you will work alongside families and the Matching Assistance Coordinator to assist families during their adoption journey.

You will provide assigned families with feedback on their biography and profile as needed. You will assist assigned families with offsite submissions, and provide recruitment updates to families as requested. In addition, you will provide support, guidance and resources to your families, encourage them to take advantage of our various recruitment efforts, and become an additional point of contact for



### **Meet Holly and Braton!**

We have 3 daughters, ages 3, 7, and 12. I am a stay-at-home-mom and my husband works as an Engineer. I have a BA in Education and a minor in Psychology. We have both worked with children of all ages at different churches in our community. I have had 3-4 years of counseling involving domestic abuse with children/spouse.

We have had over 20 hrs of parent training, have completed MAPP, and are continuing to attend webinars as well as any articles that we find in magazines or on the web. We have spoken with several adoptive parents as well as foster parents. We have spoken to adults who grew up in the foster care system and also a guardian adlitem volunteer.

As a family, we like to visit the beach, camp, swim, go to the river, and ride bikes. We have a family game night weekly as well as a movie night every weekend with popcorn. We enjoy several vacations throughout the year like Disney, Maine, or the Carolinas.

We try to have balance in our lives and while my husband loves sports as he was the baseball pitcher for VSU in college, I love to take the kids to visit museums (art, natural history, and the Butterfly), musicals (we just took them to see Disney's Phineas and Ferb live), plays (we just saw Ramona Quimby), operas (The Magic Flute was great!), and other concerts (our eldest daughter did a dance act opening up for the Yancy concert). My husband also loves to play music and tries to incorporate the kids in family and church concerts.

I host a Keepers of the Faith club after school for kids to learn life skills and character building traits while earning badges. My husband hosts a Science Club after school and plays several different instruments, likes to hunt and fish, and enjoys working in the yard, the garden, or building projects (he made a tepee for the kids and they planted a strawberry garden).

We live in a small, rural area in the country, but are not too far from town. Our home is next to my parents' so we see them very often and share a garden and their pool! My mom and dad are like 2nd parents to our children. [Read more!](#)

## **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.

This program will offer your families support that

them.

As a Family Adoption Specialist, you will remain in close contact with your families, checking in with them on a monthly basis. Training will be provided. Computer proficiency is an absolute must.

A commitment to at least 5 hours a week for 6 months is required.

Interested? Contact:  
[nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org)

## Questions?

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

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.

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 for them. 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 interested in exploring these options with you, contact Nora Sharp, Matching Assistance Coordinator or Christy Obie-Barrett, Executive Director.



Contact us at  
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