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Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 4:33 PM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Matching Assistance Program July 2013



A Family For Every Child Matching Assistance



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

**A Family For Every Child
2013**

July

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Matching Assistance Program

If you are a home study approved family seeking to adopt from foster care, consider signing up for our free Matching Assistance Program! Our goal is to work alongside families, providing them with one-on-one communication, assurance and support during the submission and waiting process.

As a member of Matching Assistance you will have the ability to submit your home study and family profile for over 2000 waiting children and sibling groups listed on our site, with the assurance that your submission is going directly to a child's caseworker. Your adoption worker will be cc'd on all submissions so they remain in the loop at all times.

In addition, you will be assigned a Family Adoption Specialist volunteer to provide support, resources and guidance; you will have the opportunity to partake in our very successful recruitment options; you will receive weekly how to emails containing valuable information and resources about foster care adoption; have access to knowledgeable and helpful staff, and more! Those are just a few of our great benefits!

[Sign up](#) today to take full advantage of our free program!

Waiting Agency Family: April and Justin

Our hearts and home are open to an adoption of up to two siblings (infant - age 13) from any race, cultural or special needs background. Isabella came into our lives in June 2012, right before her 1st birthday. Isabella had been a foster child since birth and was placed with the

plan for adoption. Our lives have been committed to helping others, especially children who have experienced trauma in their lives.

As a nanny April has spent her life dedicated to nurturing, educating and enriching the lives of children from low income families who have been investigated by the state, as well as upper income families whose children suffered from neglect and ignorance of appropriate child development. April understands the commitment it takes to ensure a child is raised in an environment that is safe, educational, inspiring, and fun.

Justin's experience came from within his own family, parenting his step-sister's three children who had been traumatized by domestic violence, and also his two siblings adopted from Russia who had experienced abuse, neglect and trauma. As an attorney Justin is committed to helping those in need at a time of their lives when everything seems like it is falling apart. We are committed to raising children in this world who understands the importance of helping others.

[Learn More About April and Justin!](#)

Waiting Matching Assistance Family: Meet Wilda!

There are three of us living at home these days: Mom (Wilda), 19-year-old Alissa, and 15-year-old Danielle (who prefers to go by Dani). We really want to add another little girl to our



family, but we are open to considering little boys, too.

Our preference would be a child who has some ongoing

special needs, such as Cerebral Palsy or Downs Syndrome. We have experience working with special needs children as "Mom's" grandchildren (Alissa and Danielle's nieces and nephews) have Cerebral Palsy, use wheelchairs, and one has a feeding tube.

Mom stays home pretty much full time, with the exception of a few hours weekly in a local church nursery. She has always had a love for children and cannot imagine life without a child in the home. She also does freelance writing from home and has been published in Guideposts and Angels on Earth and numerous online publications.

Wilda, along with her late husband, Randy, provided foster care for children in the state of Oregon from 1987-

2002. She parented 100 children, many with special needs including drug and alcohol exposure, cleft lip/palate, feeding issues, failure to thrive, mental health issues, neurological disorders, language dyspraxia and more. She also worked for the State of Oregon Services to Children and Families where she interacted daily with foster children and their foster/adopt and bio parents. (Four of her 7 children were adopted through the foster care system and one was a private domestic adoption). [Learn More About Wilda!](#)

Transracial Adoption

A transcultural adoption is an adoption that crosses cultural boundaries, with the adoptive child being of a different culture than that of the adoptive parents. Many transcultural adoptions are also transracial, which means that the child has a different racial background in addition to a different cultural background. Both transcultural and transracial adoption are extremely common in the United States, but complex social and cultural issues surround them.

People choose to adopt transracially or transculturally for a variety of reasons. Some prospective adoptive parents feel connected to a particular race or culture because of their ancestry or through personal experiences such as travel or military service. Others simply like the idea of reaching out to children in need, no matter where they come from.

While you may think you know yourself and your family members very well, it is important to examine your beliefs and attitudes about race and ethnicity before adopting a child of another race or culture. Try to think if you have made any assumptions about people because of their race or ethnic group. There are two reasons for this exercise: (1) to check yourself -- to be sure this type of adoption will be right for you; and (2) to prepare to be considered "different."

When you adopt a child of another race or culture, it is not only the child who is different. Your family becomes a "different" family. Some people are comfortable with difference. To them, difference is interesting, wonderful, and special. Other people are not so comfortable with difference, and are scared by it. Thus, some friends, family members, acquaintances, and even strangers will rush to your side to support you, while others may make negative comments and stare. During the pre-adoption phase, you should think about how you will respond to the second group in a way that will help your child feel good about himself or herself.

Before considering a transracial or transcultural adoption,

take a look at your current lifestyle. Do you already live in an integrated neighborhood, so that your child will be able to attend an integrated school? If not, would you consider moving to a new neighborhood? Do you already have friends of different races and ethnic groups? Do you visit one another's homes regularly? Do you attend multicultural festivals? Do you enjoy different kinds of ethnic foods? How much of a leap would it be to start doing some of these things?

It is always good for siblings to be adopted together. It is no different in the case of transracial or transcultural adoption. Siblings who are adopted together have the security of seeing another person in the family who looks like them. They are able to bring a part of their early history and birth family with them to their adoptive family, which may help them adjust better. Parents in a transracial or transcultural family should do the following:

- o Become intensely invested in parenting;
- o Tolerate no racially or ethnically biased remarks;
 - As adoptive parents in an interracial or intercultural family, you should refuse to tolerate any kind of racially or ethnically biased remark made in your presence. This includes remarks about your child's race or ethnic group, other races and ethnic groups, or any other characteristic such as gender, religion, age and physical or other disability. Make it clear that it is not okay to make fun of people who are different, and it is not okay to assume that all people of one group behave the same way.
- o Surround yourselves with supportive family and friends;
 - Surround yourself with these family and friends that support your plans to become a multicultural family.
- o Celebrate all cultures;
 - As a multicultural family, you should value all cultures. Teach your child that every ethnic group has something worthwhile to contribute, and that diversity is this country's and your family's strength.
- o Talk about race and culture;
 - Talk about racial issues, even if your child does not bring up the subject. Use natural opportunities, such as a television program or newspaper article that talks about race in some way. Let

your child know that you feel comfortable discussing race-the positive aspects as well as the difficult ones.

o Expose your child to a variety of experiences so that he or she develops physical and intellectual skills that build self-esteem;

· While society has made strides in overcoming certain biases and forms of discrimination, there remain many subtle and not-so-subtle color or race-related messages that are discouraging and harmful to young egos. Be alert to negative messages that are associated with any race or culture. Point them out as foolish and untrue. Emphasize that each person is unique and that we all bring our own individual strengths and weaknesses into the world.

o Take your child to places where most of the people present are from his or her race or ethnic group.

· If you bring your African-American child to an African-American church, or your Peruvian child to a Latino festival, your child will experience being in a group in which the number of people present of his ethnic group is larger than the number of Caucasians present. Adoptive family support group events are other places where this might happen. Children usually enjoy these events very much.

As a transracially or transcultural adoptive parent you should strive to instill in your child an understanding of their roots, as well as a sense of cultural identity and pride. While adopting a child from another race or culture can have many unique challenges, it can also be very rewarding for families.

Source: [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

New Book Resource

The Explosive Child: A New Approach for Understanding and Parenting Easily Frustrated, Chronically Inflexible Children by Ross W. Greene. The groundbreaking "New Approach for Understanding and Parenting Easily Frustrated, Chronically Inflexible Children," *The Explosive Child* by Ross W. Greene, Ph.D., has been updated and revised to include the latest research. Dr. Greene is Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School and the originator

of the Collaborative Problem Solving approach to the treatment and study of children with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges.

With *The Explosive Child* he offers an indispensable helping hand to parents who may feel overwhelmed by having to deal with children whose reactions to everyday stimuli may be far more extreme than normal. You may purchase a copy of the book [here](#). Don't forget to check out A Family for Every Child's reading recommendations for [adoptive families](#)! Any book recommendations are greatly appreciated and can be sent to nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org.

Resources for Families Adoption Transracially

The following are some resources families who are adopting transracially may find helpful:

Brown Babies, Pink Parents by Amy Ford. Book and blog may be found [here](#).

I'm Chocolate, You're Vanilla: Raising Healthy Black and Biracial Children in a Race-conscious World by Marguerite Wright Jossey-Bass. You may learn more about and purchase a copy of the book [here](#).

Raising Nuestros Niños: Brining Up Latino Children in a Bicultural World by Gloria G. Rodriguez, Ph.D. You may learn more about and purchase a copy of the book [here](#).

Child of Mine: Caring for the Skin and Hair of Your Adopted Child by Brooke Jackson M.D. You may learn more about and purchase a copy of the book [here](#).

Adoptive Families Skin and Hair Care webinar with Dr. Brooke Jackson. You may have a free recording of the webinar sent to your email by visiting the Adoptive Families [site](#).

The Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parent Association has a PDF guide on transracial parenting. You may view and download the guide [here](#).

Check out *Adoptive Families'* [booklist](#) for parents seeking to adopt a child of another race or culture.

You may also view *Adoptive Families'* booklist for children [here](#).

Consider joining a [support group](#) to talk to other parents

who have adopted transracially or transculturally.

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 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.

[Wednesday, July 24th](#) at 1PM PST.

[Wednesday, August 7th](#) at 1PM PST.

[Thursday, August 22nd](#) at 1PM PST.

You may register for upcoming matching events and view past events all from our [Matching Events home page](#).

Volunteer Needs

Bio Writer: The Matching Assistance Program is looking for a Bio Writer volunteer to work with families on strengthening their family profiles! As a Bio Writer you will work one-on-one with our Matching Assistance families to provide them with suggestions on ways they can strengthen their family profiles and encourage participation in our free recruitment options. Desired qualifications include:

§ Computer proficiency

§ Attention to detail

§ The ability to work with minimal supervision while completing work in a timely manner

§ Excellent verbal written and communication skills, with the ability to communicate with diverse populations

Please contact the Matching Assistance Coordinator at nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org to learn more about the position. Training will be provided.

o Family Adoption Specialist: The Matching Assistance Program is looking for a Family Adoption Specialist to work alongside our Matching Assistance Families. It is the responsibility of the Family Adoption Specialist to read over a family's biography and provide suggestions

for improvements, assist families with offsite submissions, provide support, and resources, and send family child recruitment updates as requested. Desired qualifications include:

§ Computer proficiency

§ The ability to work with minimal supervision while completing work in a timely manner

§ Excellent verbal and written skills with the ability to communicate across diverse populations

§ The ability to provide support, empathy and resources to adoptive families

§ A strong sense of customer service

Please contact the Matching Assistance Coordinator at nora.sharp@afamilyforeverchild.org to learn more about the position. Training will be provided. A commitment to at least 5 hours a week for 6 months is required.

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