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Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2013 12:04 PM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Family Finding July 2013



A Family For Every Child

July 2013

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Family Finding Success Story: Phillip*

Phillip was born to a low-functioning mother and does not have a legal father. His history of abuse started when he was an infant, at the hands of his mother and step-father. Some of his family stepped in to care for him at that time. However, they lost touch with him for about a decade when he was placed in foster care. Phillip had twenty-two placements in a span of ten years. He does not have any siblings and has faced all these transitions alone.

During the discovery process of mining case files, twenty-two connections to Phillip were identified and called. Volunteers were able to contact thirteen people in Phillip's life from searching the internet and engaging with discovered family. From those connections, five people participated in the Family Meeting. In the Family Meeting they planned for Phillip's future and discussed how to meet his needs for emotional and physical permanence. They decided that to begin with they would send photos and letters to Phillip to introduce themselves. Participating family members also received photos of Phillip to see how he has grown and what he looks like now.

After some time of getting reacquainted, Phillip wrote letters back to family and eventually started visiting with them. The decisions made and actions taken have undergone evaluation and follow-up to ensure that Phillip's needs are being met. A Family For Every Child also continues to follow-up with supportive individuals to see how contact is going and to offer support. Phillip has been visiting with his family on a regular basis, spending holidays together, and speaks with family members by phone almost weekly.

Phillip was previously considered to be a "troubled" youth who became angry easily, moved from home to home, and did not have any lifelong connections. Since being reunited with safe family members, he has transitioned from middle school to high school as a calm and comfortable person, and is becoming more involved in after school activities. Phillip was able to reduce some of his medications due to his behavior improvements as well. He is really

into music, writing, and dancing. He likes the outdoors and sports such as football and basketball. He continues to want to find supportive resources and build relationships with them. He cherishes anyone who comes into his life. He did not have contact with some family for eight to ten years.

As a result of A Family For Every Child's Family Finding Program, Phillip has reconnected with family that has been concerned about him for the last decade. He remembers everyone that he has reconnected with. Phillip is now talking about going to college, which is a completely new subject for him. After reconnecting with relatives, Phillip continues to have questions about his family as he gains a sense of his identity and where he comes from. A Family For Every Child's Family Finding Program has successfully reunited Phillip with his caring family in order to give him a strong sense of identity and belonging that he needs to grow into a happy and healthy adult.

*name has been changed

Volunteer Positions

File Mining: Research child welfare case files and gather as many relatives' names and contact information as you can find (don't forget kith connections, too!) This role requires someone who is detail-oriented, a good problem solver, and a great researcher. This role also requires someone who is available during daytime business hours, and can commit 2 to 6 hours.

Internet Research/Calling and Engagement: Use the internet to find updated contact information for relatives, more family information, and more connections. Call phone numbers found in the files, case notes, and online in order to try and reach kith and kin connections. Ask individuals you speak with for more connections' names and contact information while determining how committed one might be to the child. This role can be performed from home and requires 5 to 25 hours per case.

Genealogy Specialist: Build family trees and research family history for cases so that children may have a better understanding of their roots. This role can be done from home and requires 2 to 10 hours per case.

Training Coordinator Job Description:

The volunteer/intern Training Coordinator is responsible for hosting trainings for A Family For Every Child's (AFFEC) Permanency Programs. These programs include the Mentor and Family Finding programs. The Training Coordinator is responsible for the following duties:

- Host the Family Finding training once a month according to the Family Finding training schedule.

- Host the Mentor Program training once a month according to the Mentor program training schedule.
- Check in with the Permanency Director 2 weeks prior to the trainings in order to obtain a list of interested volunteers
- Email interested volunteers about the upcoming training(s) once week before the training
- Must schedule trainings using GoToWebinar
- Keep track of volunteers who respond to emails RSVPing to the training(s)
- Send a list of potential attendees to the Permanency Director 1 - 3 days before the training(s)
- Keep track of training(s) attendees
- Notify the Permanency Director of the volunteers that attended the training(s) within 24 hours after the training(s)
- Remain knowledgeable about Family Finding best practices and Mentorship best practices
- Update training(s) as needed, and notify the Permanency Director of such
- Check email on a daily basis

Qualifications:

- Must have a computer, high-speed internet access, and be computer literate
- Must know how to use or be trained to use GoToWebinar
- Impeccable communication skills
- Have knowledge about child welfare, including the different kinds of case plans children may have, the different people that are a party to a child's case, the need for permanency for children in care, etc.
- Must have a passion for connection children in foster care with caring, consistent adults.
- Must have a passion for connecting children in care with caring, stable family members and kith connections.

The Training Coordinator will work under the Permanency Director and will be charged duties assigned to them by said individual. This is an unpaid position but can be recognized as an internship position for class credit. The Training Coordinator position requires 10 - 15 hours a month.

To sign up as a volunteer or intern with A Family For Every Child, please visit our [volunteer sign up](#) page.

If you have further questions regarding any of the mentioned positions, please contact the Permanency Director, Caitlin, at caitlin@afamilyforeverychild.org

The Next Family Finding Training

Are you a diligent researcher with a talent for connecting with

people? Do you have a passion for helping children? If so, you should become a Family Finding volunteer! Come learn more about our program by attending a Family Finding training! Our next training is on August 17th from 9AM until 12PM at 1675 W. 11th Ave., Eugene, 97402.

RSVP by emailing the Permanency Director at caitlin@afamilyforeverychild.org. We hope to see you there!

Home for the Holidays: Winter Wonderland Meeting

Home for the Holidays is our Winter Wonderland themed annual event which includes a beautiful evening of dinner, wine, dessert, and an auction benefiting thousands of waiting foster children. In this year's auction we will be showcasing getaways to the Caribbean, an outing with Olympians Ashton Easton and Brianne Theisen, and many other fun and unique auction packages.

Our event is November 12th, 2013 and will be held at Valley River Inn in Eugene, Oregon. Tickets are 75 dollars and you surely don't want to miss this beautiful evening.



Want to Volunteer?
Donate to our Auction?
Sponsor A Home for the Holidays?

Contact:
Rebecca Rhodes
Event Coordinator
rebecca@afamilyforeverychild.org

Want to purchase a ticket?
[Click here!](#)

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