

From: Nora Sharp [christy@afamilyforeverychild.ccsend.com] on behalf of Nora Sharp [nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org]
Sent: Friday, October 04, 2013 12:06 PM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: AFFEC Matching Assistance Program October 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

October 2013

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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: Tina and Jacin

Thanks for taking the time to get to know our family. We are a family of four and are hoping to add another girl to our family. We want to keep our 10-year-old son as the oldest child in our family. We are looking to adopt a girl. We are open to any race, in our eyes we are all equal, and every child is beautiful, and deserves a great loving home. It is very important to our son that he remains the oldest child in our family, so we want to respect his wishes. We're a little



flexible with the girls age range, 1-8 years old. We have two children that we love and adore already. We have a son who will be going into 5th grade, and a daughter who is going into 2nd grade.



We have a 3-bedroom, ranch style home. We have our own swing set in our fenced backyard, and a trampoline also for the kids. We also got a hot tub for Christmas, which has locks. Our girl's room is huge and she is excited to share it with her new forever sister.

We love going camping every summer and taking road trips throughout the year. We have a great neighborhood with a park in it, and plenty of kids to play with. We enjoy bike rides, walks, swimming, playing sports. We also enjoy lazy days, where we eat popcorn and watch movies, or play board games or the Wii or PlayStation 2. We also enjoy playing in the snow in the winter and going to the beach in the summer. We love adventures and taking lots of pictures to cherish every moment, and so we have pictures to look back on as the kids keep growing.

[Learn More About Tina and Jacin!](#)

Waiting Matching Assistance Family: Meet Janelle!

I would enjoy raising more children, and giving them the chance to become happy and productive adults. I am best suited to raising children between the ages of 6 to 18 years in age; due to my religious beliefs, girls would be the best fit in my life. However, if the children are a Muslim sibling set, I am happy to consider a male child. I do not believe that siblings should be separated. I would like to adopt at least two children. I am committed to having a family that is happy, healthy and loved.



I am a 50-year-old divorced mother of two. Both my children have learning disabilities, and had IEPs while in school. I also have a learning disability. I find that it makes me able to understand children whom have educational needs.

I live in a three-bedroom town home. I have one pet, a cat named Penny (aka Pig Pig). I have a support system of friends and family within the Muslim community, and also have a support network at work.

[Learn More About Janelle!](#)

Post-Adoption Resources

Just recently, reports of "re-homing" have come to light as two girls shared with the world their terrible experiences as re-homed children. Re-homing is not only unethical, but it often leaves children in a worse situation than they were in before. It is hard to see families and children struggle to live harmoniously together, and for parents to feel like they

have no other options but to give their children away to complete strangers.

I encourage all families to seek out help, guidance and support when they need it. Join a support group in your community and/or online. Seek out respite care if you need a break for a weekend. Find a therapist in your area that is familiar with adoption issues, as they will better be able to help your child deal with their emotions and behaviors. Be honest with your adoption worker when he/she does your monthly post-placement visits. Ask for help. Search for valid resources. There is absolutely no shame in reaching out for help and guidance when you need it.

Don't compare yourself to other families and how they are raising their children. Their children may not have had the same experiences as your children did. The fact that you are willing and able to raise and love a child who is throwing emotional, developmental and behavioral challenges your way speaks volumes about you as a family. You are incredible. You have the skills. You have the knowledge. If you didn't, you would not have been selected as the child's forever family. Sometimes diagnoses are not known to a caseworker or a therapist at the time of placement, but just know that you are not alone when it comes to working through them. And there is no reason you should feel you have to do it all on your own. The following are some suggested resources families should seek out if they are struggling during the post-placement phase of adoption:

Support Groups

One of the best things a family can do post-adoption is join a support group. This support group can be in your community, or online. Support groups are a great way to meet other adoptive parents who have experienced the same challenges you are experiencing. The families in these groups can offer practical, applicable advice and insight. To find a local support group in your area, speak with your adoption agency. You may also want to check out *Adoptive Families* magazine's website, [Locate a Parent Support Group](#) to find support groups near you. Child Welfare Information Gateway also has a page, [Parent Support Group Programs](#), with links to websites that you may use to search for groups in your area. *Adoptive Families* magazine also has some wonderful online support groups that you may join. To search for groups alphabetically by topic, please visit their [Adoption Groups](#) page.

Respite Care

Respite care is temporary care for challenging children to give parents some relief. Raising a child with disability or chronic illness poses many challenges. As families meet these challenges, time off can become a necessity for the caretakers. In recent years, the growth of respite care services--short-term specialized childcare-- has begun to provide families with some temporary relief. To search for a respite care provider in your area, please visit ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center's page, [National Respite Locator](#). From there, click the first link that reads *Search For Respite Services and Funding*. You may also talk

to your agency for recommendations on respite care providers near you.

An Adoption Therapist

Finding a therapist that is familiar with adoption issues can make a huge difference for your child and family. It is important that the therapist is skilled in figuring out what is an adoption problem and what is not, since an adopted child may present problems that can be common to any non-adopted child. Typically mental health professionals that have skills and backgrounds in attachment and trauma are best suited for adoptive families. You can find a list of different types of therapist that are often skilled in adoption by viewing Child Welfare Information Gateway's publication [Selecting and Working with a Therapist Skilled in Adoption](#). Please note that this guide is meant for informational purposes only, and that you should do your research and consult with your adoption worker and the child's caseworker to find a therapist that will be able to work best with your family.

Additional Post Adoption Resources

Helping Foster and Adoptive Parents Cope With Trauma

The American Academy of Pediatrics has published this guide that will help parents navigate the complex diagnoses that is PTSD. This guide will educate families on the causes and effects of childhood trauma, and help them learn how to handle a child's behaviors in a way that will help the child heal and respond in a more adaptive way to stress. You may view the guide [here](#).

Strengthening Your Forever Family: A Step-by-Step Guide to Post-Adoption

The Dave Thomas Foundation collaborated with Jockey Being Family to come up with this post-adoption resource for families. This guide will outline how to prepare for your child's placement, how to identify, find, seek out and create resources, and more. You may view the guide [here](#).

Model Post-Adoption Resources

The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) has a list of articles that will show parents a variety of post-adoption resources that will help their child(ren) along their journey of healing. You may view the full list of articles [here](#).

Finding and Using Post-Adoption Resources

This guide from Child Welfare Information Gateway will outline what types of post-adoption challenges parents may face, what services can help them, what organizations provide those services, how to pay for post-adoption services, and more. You may view the guide [here](#).

Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE)

If you are a family from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, or Idaho, you may want to check out the NWAE's Northwest Resources for Families page [here](#).

Adopt Us Kids

Check out the Adopt Us Kids Post-Adoption Resources Page for information on the adoption tax credit, financial subsidies, respite care and support groups, and training and support on parenting post-adoption. You may view the list of resources [here](#).

Beyond Consequences with Heather Forbes, LCSW

Heather Forbes is a great resource for parents who have children with severe acting out behaviors. Her Beyond Consequences model helps parents who have tried everything, only to have nothing work. You can learn more about Heather (an adoptive parent herself!) and what resources she has to offer [here](#).

Empowered to Connect with Dr. Karyn Purvis

Karyn Purvis is the director of the TCU Institute of Child Development and a former foster parent. Empowered to Connect provides resources for foster and adoptive parents in the form of articles, and audio and video presentations. You may check out Empowered To Connect's resources [here](#).

A Family for Every Child's Suggested Reading List

Browse the various book titles that we recommend to adoptive families! We have suggestions for families in every stage of the adoption process, and books for children/teens as well. You may view our suggested reading list [here](#).

Deborah Gray's Ten Tips for the First Year of Placement

Deborah Gray is a children's psychotherapist who specializes in the areas of attachment, adoption, trauma and loss. You may check out her "Ten Tips for the First Year of Placement" [here](#).

The Post Institute

A love based, family-centered approach to dealing with children's challenging behaviors. They have many resources (free and paid) available to families in the post-adoption phase. You may view their website [here](#).

Recent Matches & Placements

Congratulations to the following families who were matched in August and September:

-H & J

-L.K

-M & T

-B & L

-M & I

-J & J

-L & M

-B & P

-J & S

-K & M

-G & T

-V & R

-R & S
-D & K
-A & J

Congratulations to the following families who were placed in August and September:

-S & J
-H & K
-D & A
-V & T
-T & H
-D & J
-M & T
-T & J
-K & S

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.

[Thursday, October 10th](#) at 1PM PST.

[Wednesday, October 23rd](#) at 1PM PST.

Keep checking the matching event pages to see additional children who will be participating in the event!

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@afamilyforeverychild.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.

**A Family For Every Child
1675 West 11th
Eugene, Oregon 97402**

Office: 541-343-2856

Toll Free: 877-343-2856

Fax: 541-343-2866

**Executive Director: Christy Obie-Barrett
info@afamilyforeverychild.org**

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