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Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 8:10 AM
To: scott.corcoran@afamilyforeverychild.org
Subject: Campaign Update - We're off to a great start



Giving Thanks...

This is the time of year to be grateful for those we love and for all we have. This is also the time of year your mailbox is filled with appeals for help and donations.

This year A Family For Every Child has decided to send a **thank-you** letter instead. We have been very blessed this year with support, donations and acts of kindness. We want to give you just one story, and just one reason why you are and have been so important to us.

With your assistance we can work together to improve matching waiting children --just like Davion-- with loving families.

**YOUR DONATIONS, SUPPORT,
GENEROUS VOLUNTEER HOURS AND
PRAYERS HAVE MADE THIS POSSIBLE.**

Last year, we had the honor to represent 2,250 children through our many programs. Most of these children are minorities, older, part of a sibling group, and/or are children with physical, psychological or developmental challenges. Due to these factors children with unique needs are often underrepresented by their state social workers or overlooked by families. At A Family For Every Child, we focus on these children's unique qualities to match them with loving, permanent families.

Your support has allowed us to continue increasing the prospect of adoption for every child and limiting their time in foster care. This is a point of great significance.

Last year 400,000 children spent at least one day in foster care in the United States. These children entered foster care after being removed from their homes and placed in the care of unfamiliar adults. A child in foster care does not know what the future holds, when the next unexpected move to another temporary home will be, if their physical and emotional needs will be met, or if a family will find them for adoption.

Davion did not know what his future would hold when he stood in front of the St. Mark

Foster care by the numbers...

399,548 children currently living in U.S. foster care.

Average age of a child in foster care is nine.

Fewer than 10% of children adopted from foster care are between 14 and 17.

20,000 is the average number of children who age out of the U.S. foster care system each year.

12,000 children are living in the foster care system *just in Oregon!*

Click here to donate now!

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Baptist Church congregation and asked for a family to adopt him. Since Davion made his public appeal, over 10,000 searching families have expressed their desire to adopt through the Heart Gallery. Our goal is for all children in foster care to have the same attention brought to their simple need for a family.

If you only have time for one story, please read about Davion...

The first picture to the left was taken of Davion when he was just seven years old. Davion, who lives in Florida, is now 15 and is still looking for a family to adopt him.



Photographer Tim Boyles said, "It broke my heart to photograph Davion a second time. It has been eight years since I first photographed him for the Heart Gallery. He had grown up into such a fine young man from the cute, little boy he was in 2005. But one thing hadn't changed: Davion was still living in group homes and foster care."

For many of us, a family is something we take for granted. We always have them around and we can count on them in good times and bad. We know that they are there and that we are loved. We are secure in the knowledge that we have a place to call home, a place which our refuge from the world, a place where we belong and a place where we are safe and secure.

But what happens when you don't even have your own pillow? What happens when your bed is abunk in a room shared by several other boys? What if you live in a group home occupied by 12 teenage boys, all with their own problems? What if cameras record everything you do? What if your few meager possessions must be kept under lock and key so they won't be taken from you? For Davion, this is his reality.

[Click to read more about Davion and watch a video on him.](#)

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