

Subject: AFFEC Family Finding April 2014
From: Caitlin Baird <caitlin@afamilyforeverychild.org>
Date: 4/23/2014 1:14 PM
To: scott@afamilyforeverychild.org
CC:



April 2014



How Can You Help?

Our Family Finding program relies on volunteers to conduct research, call family members, and learn about relatives' and connections' strengths in helping a child. We are looking for volunteers to help us mine child welfare case files, oversee internet research, call found relatives, and help plan family meetings!

We are looking for diligent, detail oriented, and passionate volunteers to join our team. Each Family Finding case takes roughly twelve weeks, and volunteers should dedicate 5 hours or more to each case per week.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please complete an online volunteer application, or email our Permanency Director, Caitlin Baird at Caitlin@afamilyforeverychild.org to sign up for training.

Training Schedule

May 17th, 9AM - 12PM

June 21st, 9AM - 12PM

July 19th, 9AM - 12PM

August 16th, 9AM - 12PM

September 20th, 9AM - 12PM

A Family For Every Child Is Expanding Its Reach!

A Family For Every Child's Family Finding program has found great success in discovering and reconnecting children in foster care with their biological relatives and estranged loved ones. We have been doing Family Finding since 2007, and have successfully reconnected 75% of the children referred to our program with at least one safe and supportive connection. We're hoping to bring some of that success to your county, and bring Family Finding services to more children across the state of Oregon!

Please [click here](#) if you would like to learn more about bringing AFFEC's Family Finding services to your area.

Success Story: John

Twelve-year-old John had been in foster care for seven years before his case was referred to Family Finding. John's caseworker wanted to find meaningful family connections for John. He had very little contact with his relatives, and had moved from foster home to foster home since his time in care. He was considered a "troubled" youth and had few permanent, meaningful relationships.

The Family Finding volunteer started mining the child's files shortly after the case was referred, and after diligent research including calling

October 18th, 9AM - 12PM

November 15th, 9AM -
12PM

December 20th, 9AM -
12PM

Would You like to Refer a Child to Family Finding?

If you are an Oregon caseworker, you can refer a child to our [Family Finding program](#).

If you would like to learn more about our Family Finding program, please visit our [website](#) or email the Permanency Director at Caitlin@familyforeverychild.org

We look forward to hearing from you!

every found relative, eighteen connections were found for young John.

A family meeting was held in which individuals discussed how they wished to support John, including family reunions, visits with his siblings, and more. At the meeting, it was decided that a second family meeting would be held. John attended the second meeting so that he could meet his relatives.

The meeting was very emotional. John's mother, who thought he had been adopted, was in tears. John had not seen her since he was a small child. She and other relatives were ecstatic to see John again, and much had changed since John had been taken from his family's home. His mother was working, and able to take time off to see John.

His grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins from both sides of the family were reunited with John. Afterwards, the family gathered to take pictures. Everyone had a plan to stay in touch through letters, phone calls, visits, and Facebook.

John began to form meaningful relationships with his family. He visited regularly with his grandparents and spoke on the phone with his mother every night. He attended family events such as picnics, and was able to reconnect with his brother. John began visiting his mother and her parents regularly.

After sometime, John moved in with his mother and his grandparents. His grades improved, and while they continued to have "ups and downs" John adjusted well and was happy to be with his family.

*name has been changed

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