



Family Finding Oct. 2014



What's New In Family Finding?

Family Matters...

We all know that family is the backbone for a stable transition from childhood to adulthood. Below is an excerpt from a recent meta-analysis from Australia reviewing studies from the US, UK and Australia about the impact of positive relationships with relatives during and at the time of leaving care.



"Those young people who are able to establish positive relationships with their family in care and/or when transitioning from care are more likely to enjoy a positive self identity and self-confidence, and overall better outcomes. It is important for young people to be helped via counseling and mediation to establish and/or maintain links if possible with immediate and extended family prior to leaving care. Those who enjoy stronger relationships whilst in care are also far more likely to receive family support after they have left care, and to achieve healthy well-being and functioning. Conversely, those who lack family support may find it harder to establish other relationships (Aldgate, 1994; Avery & Freundlich 2009; CSP, 2001; Lonne, Parton, Thomson & Harries, 2009; Smith, 2011; Stein, 2004)."

It Takes a Village...

Our Family Finding program would not be as successful as it is without our great dedicated volunteers. Volunteers do everything from the initial file search to internet searching, to organizing the family meeting! Not only that, most of our family finding volunteer opportunities can be done from the comfort of your own home. **Our next training will be held in our office at 1675 West 11th on October 18th from 9am-noon.** If you are interested, please click on the link below to our volunteer page and one of our staff will be in touch with you soon!



We are accepting volunteers for the following Family Finding

duties:

- **File Mining**

Goal: To search for information and possible connections in the youth/child's DHS file, seeking out family members and other individuals who have lost touch with the youth since they entered the child welfare system.

- **Internet Research**

Goal: To find the current contact information for known relatives, and to identify other relatives and associations on several search sites as well as social media.

- **Calling and Engagement**

Goal: Making the initial contact with possible connections for the youth from information gathered from file mining and Internet research.

- **Family Trees**

Goal: Every child gets curious about their family history at some point in their lives, much more so with children in foster care who may not have a family member to ask. Not only could you reunite a child with a long lost family member, you could also give them a sense of belonging that they may not have had.

- **Life Books**

Is scrapbooking your passion? Why not spend a few hours a month transforming your hobby into a life book for a child in foster care. Childhood photos are something that we all cherish, but for a child in care something as simple as a baby photo may not be available. Our volunteers reach out to birth parents on behalf of the child and create life books for the child to treasure for years to come.

[Click here to be redirected to our volunteer page](#)

**[5th Annual
Home For
The
Holidays](#)**

A Family For
Every Child
will be holding
our annual
event on



Thursday November 13th at the Valley River Inn from 5:30 to 9:30. Tickets are \$75 and include a delicious dinner and fine wine. All proceeds go to benefit foster youth in the Northwest. To register for our event [click here](#). Many local businesses in the area are partnering with our organization to donate items to our silent auction. If you are interested in this please [click here](#) and one of our event staff will be in touch! So save the date and come out to support a great cause!

Stay Connected



