



A Family For Every Child  
Family Finding

"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family.  
Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one."

## It's That Time of the Year Again!



With the holidays quickly approaching, many children are starting to put together Christmas wish lists and curiously awaiting to see what Santa brings them in their

stocking Christmas morning. Sadly, while most of us are sharing these special holiday moments with our loved ones, many foster children often have no where to go for the holidays, especially young adults (18+) who have "aged out" of foster care meaning that they are legally adults so no longer needing a foster placement. This is one reason why Family Finding is so very important. Children come into care for a variety of reasons, ultimately for their own protection. While they are being removed from birth parents, an unfortunate consequence of this is that they are also taken away from grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, or close family friends that

have developed a special bond with them. Our very dedicated Family Finding volunteers and staff spend countless hours going through old records, conducting internet research, and making phone calls reaching out to long lost loved ones who at one point had taken an interest in this child's life. Often times these children think that their extended families had forgotten about them, so finding out that there has been people loving and caring about them the whole time can make all the difference in the world to a kid growing up in foster care!



A Home For The Holidays

A big thanks to all that came out and attended our winter event this year, as well as the many generous sponsors and donors that supported us!

**DONATE**

If you spend on Black Friday or Cyber Monday, please consider kicking off your holiday giving season with an end-of-year charitable gift to A Family For Every Child. We appreciate all of our generous donors, whether it be \$10 or \$100, your tax refundable donation will go to recruit an adoptive, loving home for a foster child this holiday season.

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Are you interested in making a significant impact on a child's life? Do you want to be part of something bigger than yourself? Become a family finding volunteer!

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. 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:

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### 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.

[Volunteer Opportunities with AFFEC](#)

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