

**A Family For Every Child**  
**Adoption Agency**



*"Adoption is not about finding children for families, it's about finding families for children"*

### **Welcome Kim Esser to the AFEC Adoption Agency!**

After several years overseeing the adoption agency, Associate Director Linzy will be shifting her focus elsewhere within the organization. We are happy to welcome Kim Esser who will be working along with Jenell Koelblin for the Adoption Agency. Kim is excited to work with our AFEC Families and continue to grow the agency, finding more families for children who are waiting. We are excited to see where the adoption agency will go in 2015. If you have any questions about the adoption agency or beginning the adoption journey you can contact Kim at [Kim@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:Kim@afamilyforeverychild.org) or 541-343-2856

### **Meet Kim Esser!**

It's a great time to be a duck fan!! Moving to the Pacific Northwest 17 years ago from Hawaii meant changing our way life and our views on college sports. Growing up in California meant we were pro sports fans and some of my favorite memories revolve around time spent with my dad at a stadium. In just a few short years we were college sports supporters and proud Duck faithful. We moved to Junction City, from Hawaii, when my son was 10 months old. While we loved Hawaii we wanted our child to be raised around his family Oregon was exactly in the center of my husbands family to the North and mine to the South.



Now, all but one sister (who is in Missouri) live within 45 minutes of Eugene/Springfield and we wouldn't want it any other way. We have hosted exchange students from around the world and are blessed to be considered

family by many of them.

I hold a Masters of Business Administration, I've held positions on Boards including The American Red Cross, Vida McKenzie Community Center, Capital City Bird Club, Parents Participating Positively and President of the McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce. Community service is an important part of my beliefs. Organizations I have, or currently volunteer with are Citizens Review Board, McKenzie Mobile Meals, Womanspace, Cub Scouts, and Lions, receiving an award for International Citizenship from Lions International. I spent 7 years with U-Haul International drafting strategic planning, long range goals, and product utilization. For the past 3 years I've specialized in Management and Product Liability Insurance. I firmly believe that team work and open expression are the keys to building a profitable, respected, and successful program. I look forward to what we will accomplish together.

## Older Child Adoption

### What is older child adoption?

Adoption of children over age six is considered "older child adoption" While babies can be cute and sought-after, older children come with their own personalities and histories that can present both challenges and opportunities to adoptive families. [Click here](#) for an excellent overview of older-child adoption from the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange.



### What are some of the benefits and challenges of an older child adoption?

There are many wonderful benefits to adopting an older child, while challenges can also occur. [Click here](#) to read the Huffington Post's "The 7 Best Things About Adopting an Older Child" and [here to read](#) about one family's experience with adopting older children through the foster-care system. Challenges can include trust issues by the child and an increased chance of RAD. [Click here](#) or [click here](#) for more information on RAD.

### Here are some tips and recommendations for adopting an older child.

- Maintain contact with key people in the child's life from before the adoption.
- Expect your child to exhibit some degree of self-consciousness. Older

children are more aware of feelings like "I don't belong" or "I look different from my family."

- Treat your child like any other family member of the same age. If siblings have chores, assign similar duties to your new arrival.
- Be patient, firm and compassionate. Kindness proves you can be trusted, establishing boundaries helps your child fit into the family dynamic, and patience with yourself and your child in this time of transition is essential.
- Ask for help if you need it. There is no shame in enlisting the help of professional counselors, therapists and psychologists if your child is having difficulty forming positive relationships.

[Click here](#) for more ideas on preserving your child's past.

[Click here](#) for listings of children's therapists who specialize in adoption in the Portland area.

More resources for older child adoptions:

[OlderChildAdoption.com](http://OlderChildAdoption.com)

[AdoptiveFamilies.com](http://AdoptiveFamilies.com)

[Adoption.com](http://Adoption.com)

## **Oregon Families**

**Open your heart and experience the joys that follow!**



Are you thinking about adoption? There are currently over 450,000 children in foster care who are searching for their forever family. We are searching for Oregon families who would love to open their hearts and their homes to these wonderful children. These children are simply looking for someone to love and care for them, to provide them a sense of permanence and security, in essence, a family to be committed to them forever. These children need a family to help them with their homework, to attend their sporting events, graduations, and weddings. You do not have to be the perfect family to adopt a child. These children will love you just as you are!

We would love to help your family begin the adoption journey! We work with families all over the state of Oregon. We can set your family up with an informative orientation, complete a Homestudy for your family, and provide

support for your family throughout the entire process.

If you are interested in adoption and would like more information please call  
(541) 343-2856 or email

[adoption@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:adoption@afamilyforeverychild.org)



## **Save the Date!**

Hero for a Day is a special event, taking place on Sunday, February 15, 2015 from 12-3pm, that allows foster children to be transformed into heroes for one special day. Hero for a Day is

for children ages 2 to 18 and is a day filled with tons of fun activities designed to create not only an educational and fun experience for local children, but raise awareness about the foster care system. This event is free for children in foster care and 50 dollars for community children.

[Click here to find out more or to get registered!](#)

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## **It Takes a Village and We Need You!**

We want and need your help to spread the word! Let everyone know about A Family For Every Child and our mission. You can tell families you know that want to adopt, friends you know who want to help great kids by becoming a mentor, or even students that you know who want to volunteer some time to a great cause. Everyone can help in one way or another!

Here are some other ways that you can help:

- **Become a volunteer** - we have lots of different areas that you can showcase your skills and abilities -contact: [info@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:info@afamilyforeverychild.org)
- **Become a Mentor** - there are wonderful kids here in our community who are waiting for you contact: [mavis.sanchez@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:mavis.sanchez@afamilyforeverychild.org)
- **Host a Heart Gallery** - all you need is some space to showcase wonderful foster children who are waiting to find their Forever Family - contact: [recruitment@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:recruitment@afamilyforeverychild.org)
- **Email us** - supports, training's, activities, events, or anything else you think might help - contact: [adoption@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:adoption@afamilyforeverychild.org)

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