



March 2015



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."*



**Family Finding is Now Expanding to All 50 States
...And At No Cost For a Limited Time!**

A Family For Every Child's Family Finding program finds and engages relatives and kith connections of children who are languishing in the child welfare system or at risk of entering foster care. This is a community based program which serves the goal of the new federal and state mandate, HR 4980 & SB 964 of Strengthening, Preserving, and Reunifying families, and has successfully assisted Oregon in implementing differential response methods for both front end and back end cases. Since 2007, we have seen these efforts so successful here on a local level that we are excited to expand and go nationwide with the Family Finding program! We are currently currently accepting cases from all 50 states and for a limited time we are offering these services free of charge to any child in care, so please take advantage of this great opportunity for a child or sibling group on your caseload in need of permanency!

It is a simple referral process; we except all cases and don't currently have a

waiting list. We routinely find over 40 family members for each case referred. Our services include, searching for loved ones, engaging family members, family meetings, and at least a year of follow up. Our Family Finding services are offered free to children/sibling groups in care, or those at risk of entering care for a limited time only, so please don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity! Please [click here](#) if you would like to learn more about bringing AFFEC's Family Finding services to your area .

To refer a case to Family Finding or if you have any questions about the process, please contact AFFEC's Permanency Director,

Rochelle Lewis at:

1-877-343-2856/ 541-343-2856

or

famfind@afamilyforeverychild.org

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.

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 every found

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please complete an online volunteer application via our website at www.afamilyforeverychild.org.

6 Steps to Family Finding:

[Step 1: Discovery](#) Identify family members connected to the youth.

[Step 2: Engagement](#) Engage individuals who know the child best or have had an historic connection to the youth.

[Step 3: Planning](#) Hold meetings with kith and kin connections, case staff, and those who love the youth in order to plan for the successful future of the child.

[Step 4: Decision Making](#) The team with the social worker will make timely decisions that provide the young appropriate, enduring connections.

[Step 5: Evaluation](#) Create an inclusive, individualized, and unconditional plan to achieve legal and emotional permanency.

[Step 6: Follow Up](#) Our highly trained staff will follow up with all parties involved in the child's life to ensure that permanency is

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

being upheld.

Would You like to Refer a Child to Family Finding?

If you are a 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 famfind@afamilyforeverychild.org

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We look forward to hearing from you!

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

Princess for a Day 2015 - It's Almost Here!



The Princess for a Day event on Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 is an opportunity for Oregon girls 2-18 to be treated like a princess for a day. It is designed to be a gift for foster children in the community, as well as to raise awareness of local foster children. The day of princess pampering includes:

A Family For Every Child

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Executive Director:

Christy Obie-Barrett

info@afamilyforeverychild.org

- Hair and Makeup
- Glamor Photo Shoot
- Princess outfit to keep
- Tea Party Lunch



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This is a great community event that everyone can take part in by either attending the event with their princess, donating needed princess items, or sponsoring the event. Click the links below for more information:

[General Info](#)

[Register](#)

[Donate](#)

[Sponsor](#)

[Volunteer](#)