

A Family For Every Child Matching Assistance



*"We should not be asking who this child belongs to,
but who belongs to this child."*

Matching Assistance Program Newsletter July 2015

Join Our Free Matching Assistance Program!

If you are a home study approved family seeking to adopt from foster care, join our free Matching Assistance Program! Our goal is to work alongside families, providing them with one-on-one communication, assurance, and support during the submission and waiting process.



As a member of Matching Assistance you will enjoy benefits, such as:

- Submission autonomy for over 2,000 waiting children featured on our photo listing site
- Recruitment services to connect you with caseworkers
- Suggested child matches via email
- Recruitment updates on children you submitted for
- Caseworker contact information post-submission for easy follow up
- Access to helpful adoption resources
- Access to online support group to connect with other MAP families

And more!

Coming soon to MAP: Our *MAP Express Registration* form. Our new form is shorter and allows home study-approved families to sign up for MAP in less time.

[Sign up today](#) to take full advantage of our free program!

Supporting LGBT Foster and Adopted Youth

Foster and adopted youth already face unique challenges, but a LGBT foster or adopted youth may face even more challenges and discrimination from their peers. According to Lambda Legal, LGBT youth are in our child welfare system in disproportionate numbers [\[Source\]](#). One of the biggest challenges LGBT youth face is coming out to their caregivers. The fear of a negative reaction to their coming out is one thing that may hold them back from revealing their sexual identity. LGBT youth are also more likely to suffer physical, emotional and sexual abuse, bullying, and suicide attempts than their peers. As caregivers and adoption professionals, these are some things we can do to support LGBT youth:

- **Create an open and safe atmosphere** - Youth need to know they can talk to you without feeling judged, or that you are going to try and "fix" or "change" them. Create an environment that lets your child know they can talk to you about any subject without judgment, while still respecting their need for privacy.
- **Educate yourself** - Read books, attend webinars and seminars, speak with LGBT adults in your community, and attend events to learn more about the issues facing LGBT youth and adults. Find out how you can become an advocate and an ally for your child.
- **Join a support group** - All foster and adoptive families should join a support group in their community, but it may also be beneficial to join a support group of families who are raising LGBT youth to discuss challenges facing your child and family, and local and national resources.
- **Be mindful of your reaction** - How you react to your child coming out to you will affect them, either in a negative way or a positive way.
- **Examine your personal beliefs and attitudes** - Ask yourself if you can accept a LGBT youth into your home and family. Make sure your beliefs will not have a negative effect on your ability to support a LGBT youth.
- **Locate resources** - Find resources both locally and nationally to support you and your child.

For more suggestions on how to support LGBT youth and for additional resources, click [here](#).

LGBT Youth Resources

Family Builders by Adoption - [Guidelines for Managing Information Related to the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression of Children in Child Welfare Systems](#)

Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center - [Advocating for LGBTQ Youth](#)

Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center - [For Youth: Who Am I? Exploring Your Sexuality](#)

Gay-Straight Alliance Network - [Home Page](#)

Lambda Legal - [Tools to Support LGBTQ Youth in Care](#)

Waiting Agency Family



Meet Deborah and Oscar!

We are open to any nationality; however, we feel we are the best fit for a child (boy or girl) of Latino or Latino/Anglo heritage or sibling group of two under the age of 6. We share a love for bicultural Spanish/English language, food, music and dance. Oscar loves to play soccer, work in his wood shop, take photographs, cook from scratch and play the guitar or listen to music. Deborah enjoys dancing, swimming, hiking, biking, gardening, finding new healthy recipes and doing almost anything in nature. We both enjoy taking weekend trips to the coast or mountains and also traveling almost anywhere there is sunshine. We both currently work full-time but we are lucky to have completely flexible schedules.

We live in a small family friendly college town in Oregon in a great neighborhood with wonderful neighbors. We have a loving black lab named Luna and 4 free-range chickens. We would love to introduce our child(ren) to the local farmers market, play in the garden, go to the park, go for bike rides, seek out festivals (we particularly like international festivals) and free music in the parks, travel local and far, play in the woods, cook, story time at the library, go to the pool or river for a swim and read together.

Oscar comes from a large family and was taking care of his younger family members from a very early age. He has coached girl's soccer and enjoys spending time with our friends' children. Deborah started caring for kids in her teen years as her first job and has always enjoyed spending time with her friend's children. She also cares for kids in her private practice.

We are ready to welcome a forever child or sibling group of 2 into our lives. We know that it will be difficult at times, however we are surrounded by support of friends and family and trust the rewards will be endless. [Learn more about Deborah and Oscar!](#)

Waiting Matching Assistance Family



Meet Janessa and Luke!

We would like to adopt a child between the ages of 1 and 13. We are open to boys and girls, and we believe we can accommodate a sibling group of up to 4 children. We prefer to adopt a child of Black, Biracial or Mixed ethnic background, but we are open to Caucasian children as well. We have two children who are 2 years old and 9 months old. Janessa works as a Behavior Focus Student and Family Advocate and has a flexible work schedule. Luke works as an Internet Sales Tech and also has a flexible schedule. We go on bike rides, swimming in the summer, bon fires, church every Sunday, family connection group, we go out to eat together, we go to the park together, school family nights, family vacation, and several other outings together. We live in Iowa, so our schools are ranked nationally and do well as far as education is concerned.

We are very good at dealing with younger children and are continuing to gain experience in dealing with older children as well. We have experience in setting very firm boundaries and expectations for our 10-year-old foster daughter. We both have experience working in either schools or residential facilities with foster youth so we understand a lot about behavior management and how to deal with behaviors in general. We also are apart of an online foster and adoptive community who understands the challenges that come with foster care adoption and we are looking forward to remaining a part of this community.

We are really excited with the possibility of being matched with a child or sibling group to commit to and to love on for the rest of their lives. We understand that love alone is not enough to maintain a commitment and that we must work hard to stay connected and persevere because as we have learned in the short time that we have been doing foster care; it is NOT easy, but the rewards are priceless. [Learn more about Janessa and Luke!](#)

June and July Matches/Placements!

Congratulations to our MAP families who were matched and placed in June and July!

Total number of families matched - 13

Total number of families matched with in state children via our site - 2

Total number of families matched with out of state children via our site - 3

Total number of families placed - 5

Create a MAP for Adoption Workers Account!

If you are a family adoption worker and have not created a MAP for Adoption Workers account yet, we encourage you to create one today!

By creating a free account, you will be able to:

- Quickly submit a family's home study
- Private message child's caseworker
- View a family's recent submissions
- Submit a family's home study
- Recommend children to your families

And more! [Click here](#) to create an account now.

Create a MAP for Social Workers Account!

If you are a child's social worker and have not created a MAP for Social Workers account yet, we encourage you to create one today!

By creating a free account, you will be able to:

- Browse through over 300 waiting family's profiles
- Request recruitment services for children on your caseload
- Quickly list a child
- Easily update a child's recruitment status
- Search for home study-approved families

And more! [Click here](#) to create an account now.

Register for Online Matching Events

A Family for Every Child offers both online Child and Family Matching Events. During **Child Matching Events**, caseworkers present the biographies of waiting children on their caseload to home study

approved families. In turn, families may ask the caseworker questions about the child, and then submit their home study at the end of the event for any children they are interested in. During **Family Matching Events**, families present themselves to caseworkers, allowing caseworkers to ask questions and connect families with children on their caseload they feel would be a good match for the family.

You may register for upcoming matching events and view past events from our [matching events home page](#).



VOLUNTEER

The Matching Assistance Program is seeking motivated Family Adoption Specialist volunteers and interns in Eugene to assist with our Additional Services Program! As a Family Adoption Specialist you will work with a small caseload of families, sending them monthly child searches, following up on child submissions, assisting with home study submissions, encouraging participation in family recruitment services, and providing support and guidance as needed. This position must be done from our Eugene office.

Desired qualifications include:

- Customer service experience
- Computer skills with proficiency in Microsoft Word and the Internet
- The ability to work with minimal supervision while completing work in a timely manner
- Excellent verbal and written skills with the ability to communicate across diverse populations
- The ability to provide support, empathy and resources to adoptive families

provided. A three-month minimum commitment is required.



