



**AFFEC Adoption Agency:
Serving Oregon &
Washington Families;**

Matching Assistance Program Newsletter

February 2016

Join Our Free Matching Assistance Program!

If you are living in Oregon or Washington and are considering adoption, now is the time to contact A Family for Every Child's Adoption Agency! We are an all-inclusive, full-service agency whose goal is to reduce the barriers to adoption by providing excellent customer service, while keeping the process low-cost. We can set your family up with an informative orientation meeting, complete an adoption home study, oversee placement, provide post-placement services, and provide **support** during the entire adoption process.



If you are a home study-approved family seeking to adopt from foster care, sign up for our FREE Matching Assistance Program using MAP Express! With our new registration form, families can quickly and easily sign up for the Matching Assistance Program.

Our goal is to work alongside families nationwide, 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 many benefits, including:

- **Submit your home study** for thousands of nationwide waiting children on our site, with the guarantee that your home study is sent directly to a child's caseworker.
- **Caseworker contact information** post-submission for certain states, allowing you to follow up on your submissions
- **Recruitment services** that connect your family with a child's caseworker.
- **Suggested child matches** via email, with a link to submit your home study
- A private online **support group** to connect with other waiting MAP families
- Low fee **Additional Services Program** with an Adoption Specialist
- Access to **helpful resources** on a variety of adoption topics

[Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help grow your family through adoption!

[And more!](#)

**Create a Free MAP for
Adoption Professionals
Account!**

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

If you are a family adoption worker or a child social worker, and have not created a MAP for Adoption

Creating a Family Profile

What is the Family Profile?

Your family profile (also known as a "family biography" or "family narrative") is typically the first thing a caseworker will see when they review your home

Professionals account, we encourage you to create a free account today!

Our **MAP for Adoption Workers** account allows you to quickly submit a family's home study, recommend children to a family, view a family's recent child inquiries, private message a child's social worker, and more.

Our **MAP for Social Workers** account allows you to quickly list children and update their recruitment status, search for home study-approved families, private message a family and/or their adoption worker, request child recruitment services, and more.

[Create a free MAP for Adoption Professionals Account!](#)

**Adoption Specialist
Volunteers & Interns
Needed!**

We are seeking motivated volunteers and interns in Eugene, Oregon to assist with our Additional Services Program! As an 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,

study. A well-written family profile can make a big difference in whether or not a caseworker inquires further about your family as a potential match. Every family profile includes good-quality photos, and a strong family narrative.

Choosing Photos

During the application and home study process, you should begin compiling a folder of good-quality photos to include in your family profile so you are not scrambling to find photos when you are ready to start inquiring about children. The photos should show something about you: your hobbies, interests, favorite family activities, celebrations, etc. Your photos should be authentic. Do not feel as though you need to include only photos of you dressed up, for example, if that is not an accurate representation of you. A child's caseworker wants to get to know the real you, as that helps them make a better match. Action shots are great, as it invokes a stronger personal connection. For example, if you enjoy kayaking, take a picture (or have someone take a picture) of you in your kayak on the lake.

Your photos should be clear, and of good quality. Limit the number of photos where people are wearing sunglasses, as it can be hard for a caseworker to make a connection with you if they cannot see your eyes. Photos of you with alcohol should also be avoided; either crop out the alcohol or use a different picture.

Finally, while it is completely acceptable to include pictures of your pets and/or other children, do not inundate your entire family profile with only photos of your pets or children. A caseworker may wonder if you have room in your life for another child, so include mostly photos of you and your child doing things together, rather than only individual photos of your child.

The Family Narrative

For a lot of families, writing about themselves is really difficult. How do you describe your family, your community, and the life you hope to share with your future child in just a few paragraphs? To start, keep the tone of the narrative conversational. Your family narrative is much more relaxed than your home study, so you can truly let your personality shine. It may help to record yourself talking about your family first, and then writing your family narrative. If you are part of a couple seeking to adopt, write your narrative in the 3rd person. Keep your narrative descriptive, but short. Remember: a caseworker still has to read your home study!

Just like with your photos, it's important to be authentic in your family narrative. Keep in mind that there is a caseworker out there that is looking for a family exactly like you for a child, so be yourself! Try and give specific examples of what you like to do, where you live, what your parenting experiences are, what you hope to share with a child, etc. Remember to use adoption-friendly language, as your narrative may be shared with a child during the matching process.

A Family for Every Child recommends you have the following sections in your family biography: an introduction; home and community; parenting experiences and training; support network; child preferences; and motivation to adopt.

and providing support and guidance as needed.

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
- Three-month minimum commitment

Training will be provided. Contact the [Matching Assistance Director](#) for more information.

Register for Online Matching Events!

A Family for Every Child offers two different online matching events:

Child Matching Events - Caseworkers present children on their caseload to home study-approved families. Families can ask

Other Suggestions

- When you are creating your family profile, keep in mind how it will be shared. It may be easiest to create a profile on your computer through a scrapbooking website, PowerPoint, or A Family for Every Child's Matching Assistance Program. This allows you to easily share your family profile with anyone who may need to see it.
- Keep your family narrative light, conversational, and brief. Your home study will go over the nitty-gritty of your life. You can think of your family profile as your "cover letter", and your home study as your "resume".
- Have fun with it! Your family profile is a reflection of your interests, and the life you hope to share with your child.

Family Profile Resources

Adoption.com - [More Than Just a Picture](#)

Adoptive Families webinar - [Creating Your Adoption Profile](#)

A Family for Every Child - [Lifebooks, Welcome Books, and Scrapbooking](#)

A Family for Every Child - [Matching Assistance Program](#)

My Adoption Advisor - [Top 3 Adoption Profile Tips](#)

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange - [Family Profiles Tips](#)

[Hoping to Adopt: How to Create the Ideal Adoption Profile](#) by Russell Elkins

[How to Create a Successful Adoption Portfolio](#) by Madeleine Melcher

MEET LOURANAH!

My family consists of myself and my biological son, Kove. I work fulltime weekdays. My son is 20 years old and goes to college in New York. I am hoping to grow my family by a single child. I am open to any age, but am especially feeling drawn to the tween and young teen age years. I am open to any race.



**Louranah
Oregon**

My favorite things to cook are Japanese food, plantains, and spaghetti. I also like to bake (orange cake and peanut butter cookies are two of my favorites). In my free time, I enjoy hanging out around the house gardening, cooking, working on home projects, and watching old movies. But, I also like to get out. My town has a lot of music, plays, and cultural events. And our Saturday Market is fun, too. I also like to get away and go camping or go up to Portland or Seattle for a fun, short vacation.

the caseworkers questions, and submit their home study after the event is over.

Family Matching Events -

Families present themselves to listening caseworkers, who can ask the family questions. After the event is over, caseworkers can request the home studies of families for specific children on their caseload.

Learn more about our online matching events and register for upcoming events [here](#) !

New Adoption Resources

The following are some resources the Matching Assistance team found for foster and adoptive families:

- **Adoptive Families webinar** - [Imagining Your Future Child](#)
- **Adoptive Families webinar** - [Parenting the Hurt Child 3/9/16](#) (free)
- **Child Mind Institute** - [Calm Voices, Calmer Kids](#)
- **Child Mind Institute** - [How to Give Kids Effective Instructions](#)
- **NCTSN** - [Children with Traumatic Separation](#)
- **NCTSN Webinar** - [Understanding and Addressing Medical Manifestation of Posttraumatic Stress](#)

I have been a single mother since Kove was one-years-old. Over the years, I have hosted homestay students through the University of Oregon's AEI program. The students were college students, between the ages of 18 and 20. I was their homestay mom. I loved them all and one, particularly, I consider my other little boy (he calls me "mom" too and he calls Kove "brother"). As my friends have had and adopted children, I get to watch over them every now and then. My favorite times have been when my friend's daughter, comes over to play games and bake cookies. Over the years, I have read lots of parenting books (especially those for mothers raising sons) and have taken classes/trainings as they have been offered around town.

Raising any child is hard work and there will always be challenges, no matter what the situation, because life is hard and it's love, giving love and feeling loved, that makes it worth while. I feel that I have the energy and the love to raise another child. [Learn more about Louranah!](#)

MEET PATTIE AND ISAAC!



**Pattie and Isaac
Florida**

Our names are Pattie and Isaac. We have one son, named Kayden. He is 11-years-old. We would like to adopt a child/ren who are less than 14 years old. We are open to boys or girls. We feel we can accommodate a sibling group of up to 3 kids. Pattie enjoys shopping, gymnastics, blogging, and gardening. She is a stay-at-home mom. Isaac enjoys fishing, and designing things on the computer and then building them. He works full time. We love to cook, travel, watch favorite TV shows, and watch movies together as a family.

We live in a suburban neighborhood in Florida. We play board games, put puzzles together, read series of books together, play dough, baking, gardening, trampoline games, tennis, fishing, swimming, walks, scooter rides, jogging, shopping, go to Disney World, go to the beach, get togethers with our neighbors, lego building, arts and crafts, making youtube videos (baking), hiking, archery, parks. We live 2 blocks from a park that has basketball, tennis, ball fields, playground, racquetball courts. There are many opportunities for outdoor activities including trails for horseback riding, golf courses, swimming, fishing, and tennis.

We understand that all children are different and because of this, we have taken the time to think about parenting in a way that can be flexible to fit each challenge given to us. We are also not opposed to asking for help from outside help. Our support group from the adoption community and also our friends and family is large. We have a group called Cares that is in our area to help after adoption with helping parents find resources.

We have always had it in our hearts to adopt. We will always be there for

[Disorder](#) (free NCTSN account required)

our child/ren. No matter what shall come up they will always have their forever in our family. [Learn more about Pattie and Isaac!](#)

- **Understood** - [At a Glance: 4 Ways Brain Structure and Chemistry May Effect Processing Speed](#)

- **Understood** - [Checklist: Questions to Ask During Your Child's Next IEP Meeting](#)

- **WI Adopt tip sheet** - [Effective Management of Crisis Behavior](#)



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