

A Family for Every Child

Our Programs



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www.afamilyforeverychild.org

HEART GALLERY (Oregon & Washington)

Our photo exhibit has grown from one location to forty! Since our inception, over 300 children have moved through the Heart Gallery on to their forever families. Sincere gratitude is offered to the photographers who have donated their talent and time to take compelling photos of children in foster care.

- **BUSINESS ADVOCATE PROGRAM** - This program is a very simple way for businesses to feel that they are helping to make a difference in children's lives by allowing space in their place of business to highlight a child
- **MEDIA-HEART GALLERY CHILD OF THE WEEK/MONTH**- Our Heart Gallery Child of the Week/Month program combining radio, TV and print has been incredibly successful with 80% placement of featured children.
- **FAITH BASED HEART GALLERY**- designed to reach out to local churches and faith based organizations which the Gallery in a different place of worship each month.

HEART GALLERY ADOPTION AGENCY-The Heart Gallery Adoption Agency was founded with the goal of assisting children waiting in foster care to find their "Forever Families." The Heart Gallery Adoption Agency is different than many existing agencies because the focus is entirely on special needs adoptions – children over six years old, sibling sets, ethnic minorities, or children with a physical, mental, or emotional disability.

WEBSITES -While the web can go hand in hand with the Gallery, it can also be a simple stand alone tool. The same photo from the Heart Gallery is put on the web with a short biography. With the case workers approval and a picture, the child can be on line within 24 hours. If a child is able to be placed out of the state, it opens the door for many more home studies, yet we also have luck on the web within state placements. Our two websites receive over 300 inquires, and over 120 home studies submitted to caseworkers a week. The majority of these come from out of state families; from all over the country.

MENTOR PROGRAM -This program resulted from a huge response from our community a little over a year ago for 3 special teens in the Heart Gallery looking for a mentor. We now have 50 youth/mentor pairs. Our mentors are dedicated to investing their time in their youth, to instill independence, confidence and everyday life skills.

FAMILY BUILDING PROGRAM-It is nationally recognized that 75% of the families that begin the adoption process get discouraged by the lack of support. We are a resource for adoptive families, providing services, information and support. We have two main goals in this area – to keep potential adoptive families in the process and the other is to ensure that completed adoptions do not disrupt There are 2 goals. One is to keep potential adoptive families in the process and the other is to ensure that completed adoptions are not disrupted. Our core belief is that one cannot ask a family to step up if no one is willing to support them.

FAMILY FINDING PROGRAM -This is a search and reconnecting process to help find lost relatives and others who may have been in the lives of foster children when they entered care. This is done through researching DHS case files, combined with an internet search and followed by contact, connection and follow-up. After making connection with people who have cared in the past for the child, a plan is developed for ongoing connection. The benefits for children who are a part of the Family Finding process are that they are in care for a shorter period of time and leave with a solid support system and family base.

MATCHING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM -This program was created to aid families through the adoption process. We are committed to assisting families, caseworkers and adoption workers in the effort to place children in adoptive homes. With a special Log on Web sites geared towards parents, a liaison they can call, and an ever growing "private Listing web site" of many more Children that can't be seen on a public site, AFFEC assists these struggling families.

LIFE BOOKERS-Each child leaving foster care must have a Life Book which is created for them to preserve their past. Caseworkers are happy to have someone do this large task for them and scrap bookers are pleased to find a way to contribute.

FOSTER TO ADOPT-- No matter what age foster kids are, finding permanent parents for them before they exit foster care is the best and most effective youth development program there is. The focus of this project is to find permanent adoptive parents for teens, siblings and minority children that need a permanent placement, or to find permanent supporters for them, that they don't leave foster care in danger of becoming homeless upon being discharged from foster care.

EXTREME RECRUITMENT- Currently a program we are just starting to seek funding for in 2011.

These are the principles of Extreme Recruitment

- Efficient and effective weekly team meetings;
- Emphasis on diligent search of family and other connections of the child; and
- Coordination of all permanency efforts at once, including preparing the child for their forever family

So what is Extreme Recruitment, it is a 12 to 20 week individualized recruitment effort that includes:

- Conducting diligent searches to reconnect the youth with relatives or kin;
- General, targeted and/or child specific recruitment and support services; and
- Looking at all areas of a child's life that impact their readiness for permanency.

Ultimately Extreme Recruitment is an integration of all our Organization permanency and recruitment programs. In one efficient, individual timeline to seek permanency for each child

Let us know how we can help your kids find their forever family!