



A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD

STRATEGIC PLAN 2010





Team and Timetable

- Strategic planning for AFFEC was a 6 month process that ended in March 2009.
- The planning team consisted of 3 students from the University of Oregon Planning, Public Policy and Management program focusing on non-profits as well as members from the Board of Directors.
- SOARS were performed internally with staff and board members and externally with clients, DHS workers, mentors and caseworkers.



AFFEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2010

Andrea Rippee-President-2006

Andrea is one of the founding members of A Family for Every Child. She came on board during the year of its inception in 2006, became Vice-President and now serves as President. Over the years she has been involved in many aspects of AFFEC including working with the faith-based program, the Heart Gallery, mentor program and Family Finding. Andrea also has served on the Executive Committee of the Lane County Home Builders Association so she has had many years of experience in working with nonprofit boards. As the owner of a homebuilding business, she understands what it takes to run a successful business.

Gina Jensen-Vice President-2008

Gina has served as a counselor in group foster homes, counseling abused and neglected teenagers. Her career as a catering manager and travel agent puts her in daily contact with many local businesses and community leaders. Gina's experience in group event planning, coordinating and fundraising makes her a valued member of the AFFEC team. She and her husband have attended and completed the State of Oregon DHS adoption/foster classes and they are intimately familiar with the foster care environment. They hope to foster or adopt in the near future.

Delores Mord-Treasurer-2006

Delores is the Chief Financial Officer at Obie Industries. The many decades of work in the bookkeeping/financial field enable her to take care of the organization's financial records, balance sheets and profit/loss statements. She has been involved with AFFEC since its inception and has been a key player in assisting us to successfully expand.

Jo Ann Cook-Secretary-2009

Jo Ann has been involved in the Development/Fundraising world for years, working with many large local businesses. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the board through her years of experience in raising money and in-kind donations, as well as her people skills and organizational expertise.

Martin Hall-Board Member-2008

Since the 1970s, Marty's professional background has been in real estate and finance. He has also continuously owned and operated several creative businesses involving professional and web-enabled video and audio production, which led to his volunteering technical support to AFFEC during its early times. He is moved by the unique potential AFFEC offers to fundamentally and constructively elevate the human condition in lasting, loving and valuable ways.

Mike Mercer-Board Member-2009

Mike has over 25 years of experience in the financial services industry. During this time he served on many non-profit boards, including President of Junior Achievement, President of the Oregon Club of Eugene, Treasurer of the Eugene Active 20-30 Club. He also serves as the Chairman of the Deacons at his church. In addition to being very active in the non-profit world, Mike is also an adoptive parent.

Ed Madison-Board Member-2009

Ed has a 27 year track record as an executive producer/director of network television, film and commercial projects. At age 22, he became a founding producer for CNN. Ed brings a wealth of knowledge to the board. In addition to being an adoptive father himself, Ed's expertise in video and producing has been a major asset in assisting us with putting children in their best light. His talents have enabled us to highlight our children through incredible videos.

Christy Obie-Barrett-Executive Director-2006

Christy created the agency through dedicated and insightful leadership. She has the unique perspective of an adoptive parent, a business person and a community partner and brings all of that wisdom together to motivate others toward positive outcomes for children. Christy is also the 2010-2012 President of the Heart Gallery of America.

A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD

Strategic Plan 2010

Mission:

A Family for Every Child is dedicated to finding loving, permanent homes for every waiting foster child.

Vision:

Our vision is to illuminate the plight of America's vulnerable and forgotten foster children making foster care truly temporary.

Integrity is significantly valued by AFFEC. We pursue our mission with honor, fairness and respect for every individual. We uphold the values of AFFEC in every action and decision. We are committed to act in good faith, to comply with the rule of the law and AFFEC policies and regulations.

As our name reflects, our core value is that every child truly deserves a loving home! We are dedicated to a single purpose which is fueled by our commitment to the children we serve. We serve responsibly as members of all of the communities in which we live and work.

We are here to assist families, case workers....everyone and anyone who is involved with getting children out of the foster care system in the United States. We hope to change the foster care system in our country one step at a time!



A Family For Every Child

History

- A Family For Every Child was founded in 2006 and became a 501c3 agency in May 2007.
- Volunteers and partnerships with other organizations are key to our mission.
- Programs have been developed in response to the unmet needs of children in Foster Care.



S STRENGTHS

O OPPORTUNITIES

A ASPIRATIONS

R RESULTS



STRENGTHS

☐ **GENERAL STRENGTHS**

☐ **HOW WE MEASURE OUR
SUCCESS/STRENGTHS**

☐ **BOARD STRENGTHS**



STRENGTHS

GENERAL STRENGTHS

- ☐ All members of organization are hard working, motivated and dedicated.
- ☐ Ability to engage local community through media, Heart Gallery, etc.
- ☐ Finding “forever families” for children as we believe all children deserve a family and deserve to be loved.
- ☐ Rather than giving up, we will find a different door to enter
- ☐ Having the right priorities...children first!
- ☐ Making a recognizable difference in the community every day
- ☐ Using a unique opportunity to make the world a better place
- ☐ Transforming children’s lives and providing us all with renewed hope
- ☐ Reconnecting lost family members
- ☐ Valuing both families and other community supporters by engaging them as part of the solution; providing ongoing support, information and assistance to families, caseworkers, adoption workers, etc.
- ☐ Ability to raise funds through outreach and grant writing to continue to make an impact on bettering our community
- ☐ Partnering with agencies and individuals to improve the welfare of our children
- ☐ Organizing and motivating the community around our issues
- ☐ Finding solutions to problems of our community
- ☐ Finding innovative and collaborative means to improve the plight of our children differently than other organizations, as we recruit families for the children!



STRENGTHS

HOW WE MEASURE OUR SUCCESS/STRENGTHS

- ☐ The number of recruitment opportunities and child placements that we are able to facilitate
- ☐ Statistics from various programs (Family Finding matches, Mentor matches)
- ☐ Tracking system on the website
- ☐ Salesforce tracking system
- ☐ Number of community partners/volunteers/individuals that we engage



STRENGTHS

BOARD STRENGTHS

- ☐ Providing guidance and acting as a sounding board for the Executive Director.
- ☐ Contributing to the operational capacity of the organization through implementation of policies and procedures.
- ☐ Providing ongoing inspiration for our guiding mission and vision.
- ☐ Building relationships with partners in our community, state and beyond.



OPPORTUNITIES

Building Capacity (programs and services)

- ❖ Recruiting for **ALL** children
- ❖ Providing home study services
- ❖ Recruiting, training and utilizing our volunteers more effectively
- ❖ Planning and creating guides for each department in order to have a system in tact in preparation for leadership changes at all levels
- ❖ Providing new technological advances to automate our services making child placements more efficient and in the long run helping us to achieve our ultimate goal of shorter time in foster care
- ❖ Expanding our services and increasing our capacity by adding new staff
- ❖ Overall, creating an evolved infrastructure: technology, accounting, operations, support services, effective volunteer base and programming



OPPORTUNITIES

Partnerships and Outreach

- ❖ Partnering with more local, statewide and national organizations as well as individuals
- ❖ Sharing resources and providing better tools and information to groups we work with (SNAC, DHS and CASA)
- ❖ Expanding our reach to statewide elected officials and statewide media as well as strengthening the current relationships at the state level
- ❖ Expanding our faith-based outreach
- ❖ Creating streamlined materials to take a cohesive message out to the community (presentations, brochures, fliers, etc.)
- ❖ Being a role model to all agencies nationwide



ASPIRATIONS

PROGRAMS

- Increasing the number of foster kids placed into safe and permanent homes (quicker and more efficiently)
- Ability to recruit for all types of children
- Children can be seen on the web all over the country
- Having time to create opportunities for other kids to be matched with families
- Pipeline programs (i.e. mentor, family finding) and post adoption support programs in place, successful and measurable
- AFFEC is a well established and recognized adoption agency offering a wide range of programs.
- Providing ongoing support and connection for families to lessen the possibility of disrupted placements



ASPIRATIONS

NATIONWIDE MODEL

- We are the role model for how all agencies should be managed and overseen.
- We will create an AFFEC template/prototype and disseminate to over 100 cities nationwide.



ASPIRATIONS

STATEWIDE EXPANSION

- Continue to grow the organization throughout the State
- Have statewide programs in Family Finding, Foster to Adopt and Mentoring
- Replicate the Heart Gallery in all counties all over the state, which will result in new education and engagement of potential parents
- Hold several successful matching events statewide
- Provide training for other areas and be recognized as a leader in Family Finding in the state and nationally



ASPIRATIONS

Efficient Organization

- Be very clear in our objectives
- Have a smoothly running efficient organization
- Organization will grow in depth as well as width
- Evolve into a self-managing operation with procedures, policies, protocols and processes well in place and documented
- Help link evidence-based research to practice



ASPIRATIONS

FACILITY

- Have our own building with room for offices, fundraising events and classrooms for learning experiences for both children and parents
- Have a life skills learning center for older children
- Have plenty of space to grow
- Begin a capital campaign for permanent office space



ASPIRATIONS

TECHNOLOGY

- Able to take advantage of new ideas and new technology as it presents itself to help train/support families, educate communities, create awareness and place children
- Have the appropriate technological services that support both AFFEC and partners such as DHS
- Have a site that lets families with home studies and adoption workers log on and get current bulletins and information on children. It will also allow home studies to be uploaded and case workers can search for their families nationwide.
- Have a much more automated system to make sure that families and kids don't fall through the cracks!



ASPIRATIONS

FUNDING

- All programs and positions will be well funded by stable funding sources that will include having fund raisers as well as major donors.
- These will all be headed by our new Development Director.
- Have a way to fund all of our fundamental operating expenses



ASPIRATIONS

STAFF

- We will be able to maximize our staff to fill all of the positions needed to fully meet the needs of the children we serve.
- Full-time grant writers
- A full- time volunteer coordinator
- Have sufficient funds to hire really amazing experienced people to take us to the next level
- Be able to offer health benefits to our employees



ASPIRATIONS

VOLUNTEERS

- Able to maximize our volunteers to fill all of the positions we need to meet the needs of the children.
- Have dedicated volunteers.
- Have developed a full fledged volunteer program.
- Have a full-time Volunteer Coordinator with a recruitment plan, training schedule and a high retention rate.
- Establish a national volunteer program



ASPIRATIONS

BOARD

- Have a strong diverse Board of Directors
- Board serves as systems checks and balances for the organization
- Board supports the Executive Director
- Board helps AFFEC prosper into a successful non-profit organization
- Board follows the policies and procedures already in place
- Board adheres to our By-Laws
- Board works effectively and efficiently and together



MEASURING RESULTS

PROGRAMS

EXPANSION / NATIONAL MODEL

PARTNERSHIPS



PROGRAMS-MEASURABLE RESULTS

RECRUITMENT

- Number of kids getting out of foster care and into successful placements/adoptions
- Number of children referred for Heart Gallery, Mentor, Foster to Adopt and Family Finding
- Increasing the number of children who find adoptive resources
- Number of special needs children placed



PROGRAM-MEASURABLE RESULTS

FAMILY FINDING

- Number of recruitment opportunities we are able to generate
- Number of Family Finding discoveries who convert to placements
- Time it takes to recruit for a child
- Time it takes to place a child



PROGRAMS-MEASURABLE RESULTS

MENTORING

- Number of mentor matches
- Number of mentor/potential placements we make
- Number of parent mentors
- Number of child mentees
- All mentors report once a month and participate in various trainings
- Number of mentors who end up adopting



PROGRAMS - MEASURABLE RESULTS

SUPPORT

- Number of therapeutic support opportunities
- Number of families at orientation
- Number from that who go on to complete DHS classes and adopt
- Number of inquiries and calls we receive-Results from those, home studies received, children on whom we submit, how many are picked for committee and are chosen as a family for a child



PROGRAMS--MEASURABLE RESULTS

EXPANSION/NATIONWIDE MODEL

- Number of new Heart Galleries started
- Number of Family Finding Programs we help facilitate in other counties
- Training programs statewide and bringing training to all counties including remote areas
- Creating an AFFEC template and disseminating it statewide and nationwide



PROGRAMS – MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

PARTNERSHIPS

- Number of DHS caseworkers that engage our services and trust us
- Number of DHS offices and private agencies we can build relationships with and trust us to help with their clients.



- CURRENT SITUATION AND STATISTICS
- CURRENT STAFF
- CURRENT PROGRAMS
- ORGANIZATIONAL MANDATES



CURRENT SITUATION AND STATISTICS

- AFFEC has been incorporated and operating as a nonprofit organization since July 2006.
- 77% of the kids recruited for placement find a home within 3 months.
- Potential adoptive parents in the pipeline: there have been over 5000 inquiries over the last 12 months.
- 220 children are currently being recruited for via the web.

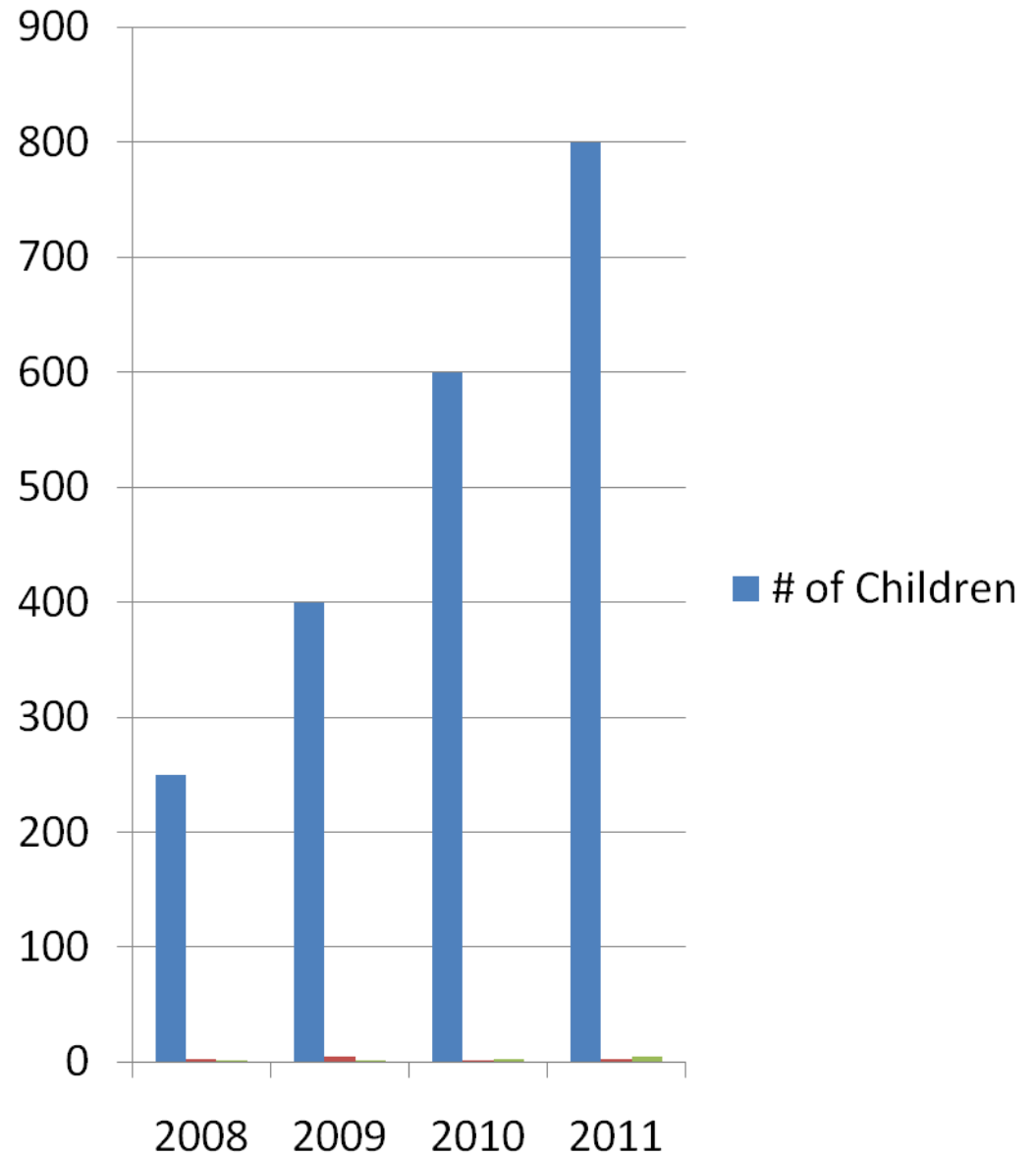
**Children recruited for
placement by year:**

2008: 250

2009: 400

2010: 600

2011: 800(projected)





CURRENT STAFF

- Executive Director
- Mentor Director
- Family Finding Directors-local and statewide
- IT Director
- Heart Gallery Director
- Agency Director
- Support Coordinator
- Development Director
- Matching Assistance Director
- Adoption Workers
- Volunteers
- Interns
- Office manager



CURRENT PROGRAMS

- Mentoring
- Family Finding
- Family Building
- Matching Assistance Program
- Foster-to-Adopt
- Heart Gallery
- Heart Gallery Adoption Agency
- Website/Recruitment
- LifeBook



ORGANIZATIONAL MANDATES

- Recruit families for children
- Stewardship of Donor intent
- Offer support and preparation for families
- Work in partnership with Department of Human Services
- Confidentiality and privacy
- Tracking/record keeping
- IRS/Bookkeeping
- Provide adequate training for staff and volunteers
- Agency obligations and statutes
- Abide by AFFEC By-Laws
- Abide by AFFEC Human Resource Manual
- Background checks/safety for children
- Ultimately to change foster care system in our country one step at a time!



DRIVERS OF REVENUE GROWTH

- ✓ After much evaluation during the strategic planning process as well as board meetings, AFFEC knew that in order to achieve the breadth of what we want and need to do to continue to make a significant difference, we needed to hire a Development Director.
- ✓ Kassey Carter-Young started with us June 1, 2010.
- ✓ She is organizing a signature event to occur in November 2010. In addition, she is contacting our many past and present donors as well as preparing for new asks beginning July 1, 2010!
- ✓ We also have greater diversity in our board members who all bring a different background/piece to this puzzle.
- ✓ There will be more active marketing to the community and ultimately to legislature which will raise public awareness of our programs.
- ✓ We have broader and longer term ambitions for continued growth and impact!

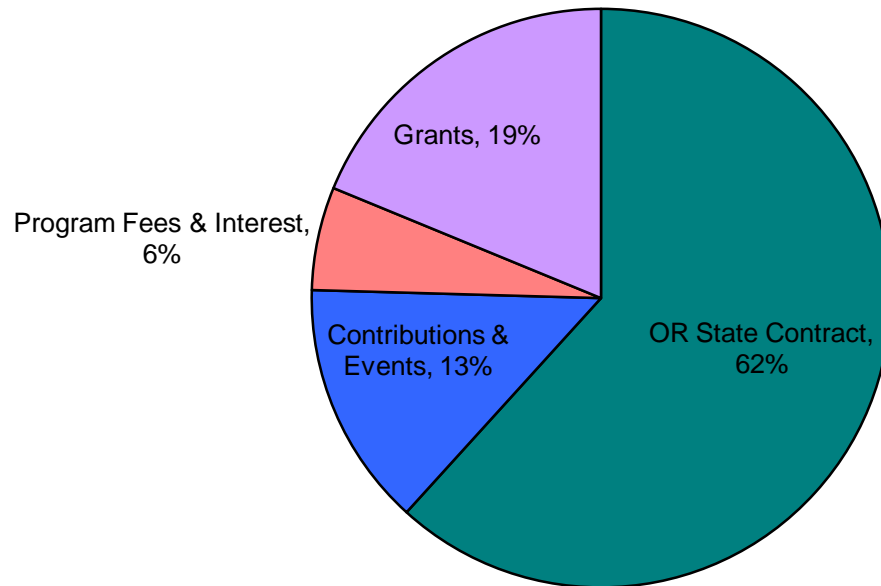


DRIVERS OF REVENUE GROWTH

- ✓ We will generate sustainable revenue streams through program services:
- ✓ Matching Assistance Program
- ✓ Heart Gallery Adoption Agency
- ✓ Heart Gallery Venue sponsors
- ✓ Video family profile program
- ✓ We will also continue to explore state and federal funding options.

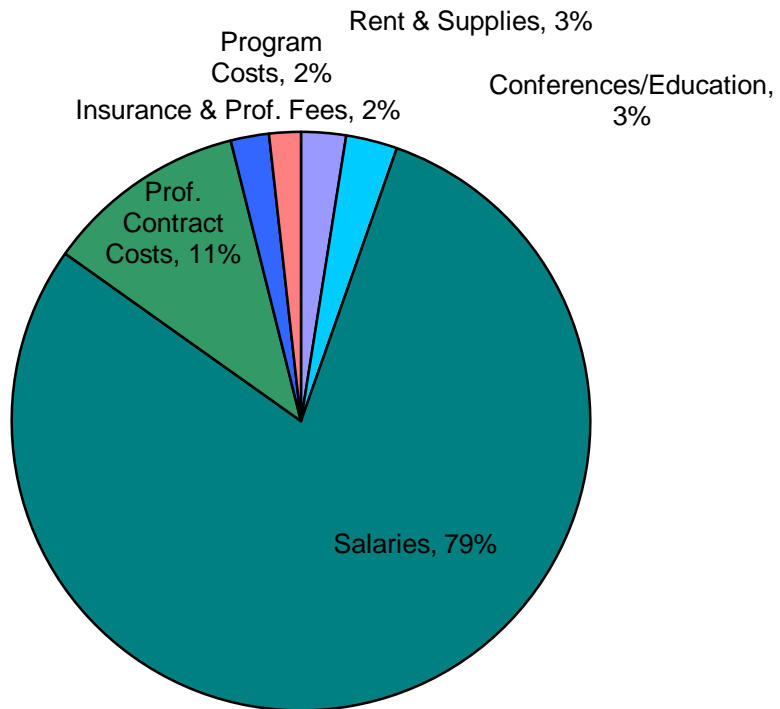


2009 Income





2009 Expenses





❖ APPENDIX

❖ SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

❖ PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



A Family for Every Child

Our Programs

HEART GALLERY - Our photo exhibit has grown from one location to 30 in 3 years! Since our inception, over 300 children have moved through the Heart Gallery into their forever families. Sincere gratitude is offered to the photographers and framers who have donated their talent and time to take/frame compelling photos of children in foster care.

❑ **FAITH BASED HEART GALLERY**- designed to reach out to local churches and faith based organizations which house the Gallery in a different place of worship each month.

❑ **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.

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 with in-state placements. Our 2 websites receive over 300 inquiries a week from out of state families who already have completed home studies and 120 submitted home studies a week from around 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 to instill in their youth independence, confidence and every day life skills. This is done through unconditional support that will in turn create everlasting bonds.

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 also are a resource for services and information that is available for and is needed by adoptive families. 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.

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.

LIFE TIME COMMITTED PARENTS - Finding permanent parents for teens before they exit foster care, no matter what age they are, is the single greatest positive youth development program there is. The focus of this project is to find permanent adoptive parents for teens that need a permanent placement, or to find committed permanent connections who will morally adopt teens who are not emancipated but are in danger of discharge from foster care to homelessness.



A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

A Family For Every Child (AFFEC) was founded in 2006 to find loving, permanent families for every waiting foster child. We began in Lane County with a single program called the Heart Gallery (HG), which provided a venue for photographs and descriptions of foster children and youth waiting for their forever families. From this initial program, our organization has expanded to continue to meet the needs of foster children. We now have eight programs that are committed to finding permanent families for foster children/youth. We help find families for foster children throughout Oregon and we provide support to families in all parts of the state and country who are interested in adopting children in foster care.

Our organization was developed to meet a tremendous need. In Oregon, over 11,000 children are in foster care and about half of these children are eligible for adoption because their family connections have been terminated by the courts. Many of the children who are eligible for adoption are considered hard-to-place because they are more than 10 years old, part of a sibling group or have other challenges. Our experience with the Heart Gallery has shown that if the children are made visible to the community, adoptive families will step forward. These children CAN find their forever families.

Why is this so important? Studies have shown that if children are in long term foster care and “age out” of the system at age eighteen without having a family or committed adult in their lives, they are poorly prepared to meet the demands of adulthood. Children without permanent family connections are less likely to graduate from high school or continue on to college, which significantly affects their long term earning potential. Such children are more likely to experience homelessness and are at risk for substance abuse and domestic violence. The recently published Child and Family Services Review for the State of Oregon, prepared by the federal government, indicates that Oregon did not meet federal standards relating to permanency for children served by State welfare agencies—including completing adoptions in a timely manner and finding permanent placements for children who have been in foster care for a lengthy duration. Clearly, more help is needed to find permanent homes for children who are languishing in foster care. At AFFEC, we are working to recruit and support families interested in adopting these children in need.

In 2008-2009, 300 children in Oregon were adopted through community partnerships and recruitment efforts. There were 102 “hard to place” children who were referred to AFFEC/HG, through a State contract with Oregon. Of those 102 children, 33% were matched with families that could be taken to Committee for final approval, within 90 days of implementation. The remaining children took a little longer, but within one year 73% had been matched with families. We expect similar results in the state of Washington .

Through our recruitment we were able to reduce the average foster care placement of 40 months by 50%. We hope to serve 300 foster children per year and produce an average of 3 viable prospective families per child.



A Family For Every Child Presents The Matching Assistance Program

We would like to introduce our new Matching Assistance Program. This program was created in order 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. We understand that adoption workers, and caseworkers as well, have very high case loads and many simply do not have the time and resources to recruit for one family day in and day out. That is where AFFEC steps in. With the Matching Assistance Program, families now have options!

Option #1

Photo Listing

Our first option gives families the ability to show caseworkers their personality and character through pictures and a bio page.

- You will be able to photo list yourself on our new, private, password protected website.
- You can create a biography page about your family, as well as upload pictures. This gives caseworkers the ability to see your family's personality.
- We have many templates of biography pages that you can choose from as well as some examples with great ideas and ways to bring your home study to life.
- You and your agency will have the ability to upload your home study to your profile, this way caseworkers have access to all contact information and family information while searching for family matches for children on their case load.
- You will also have access to view and submit on children who have not been approved for our public website, but we are able to show on our, private password protected website.

All of these options included for only \$30.00 a month. You can compare this to other current web services which charges \$100.00 a month for the same services.

Option # 2

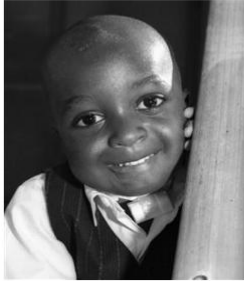
Matching Assistance

Our second option supports your family during your journey to adoption. Many families have a difficult time finding children to submit on as well as being considered and notified by the caseworkers, here is where we come in. With this option your family receives everything that is included in the photo listing option as well as:

- A point person at our agency that you can rely on to keep you updated and

A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD - HEART GALLERY ADOPTION AGENCY

CHANGE THE LIFE OF A FOSTER CHILD ... BECOME AN ADOPTIVE PARENT TODAY!!!



Many of Oregon's foster children are at risk of spending their entire childhood in multiple foster care placements. These are wonderful kids who need to find their "forever families." The Heart Gallery Adoption Agency specializes in finding homes for Oregon's special needs children. A child is usually considered "special needs" if they are over 6 years old, part of a sibling group, have some physical, mental or emotional disabilities, or are part of an ethnic minority. Of special concern are children who are at risk of "aging -out" of foster care. These are the hardest to place children who have been in the system the longest. Because they lack the support system that most young adults take for granted, they are at higher risk for dropping out of school, homelessness, poverty, and young parenthood. They do not have any more time to wait.

How do I become an adoptive parent? What is the process?

The process begins when prospective parents inquire about a specific child or adoption in general. This is done by completing an online Adoption Inquiry Form or by contacting the agency directly in-person or via telephone. You can provide a copy of their completed home study or, if you do not have one yet, you can request information about how to obtain a home study. If you are interested in Heart Gallery Adoptions completing your home study, an application is submitted and upon approval, Heart Gallery Adoptions will schedule an orientation. The family can then move forward with the home study process. After you have a completed, approved home study you will begin the process of child selection. When you find a child (or children) that would fit well into your family, the homestudy is submitted to the child's social worker. The child's social worker then selects between one and three prospective families, all of whom are able to meet the child's special needs, and these families go forward to the committee process. When a Heart Gallery family is selected as a prospective adoptive family for a specific child, Heart Gallery Adoptions will represent the family at the State of Oregon Adoption Committee. We understand that this can be an exciting, although somewhat confusing, time for prospective parents. Support and information are vital for success. We at Heart Gallery Adoptions are committed to providing the information and support necessary to help our families succeed at Special Needs Adoption.

For more information, visit us online @www.afamilyforeverychild.org

or contact us toll free at (877) 343-2856:

Christy Obie-Barrett

A Family for Every Child
Executive Director

(541) 343-2856

christy@afamilyforeverychild.org



BECAUSE A CHILD NEVER OUTGROWS THE NEED FOR A "FOREVER FAMILY"



A Family for Every Child Heart Gallery

"A picture is worth a thousand words."

www.afamilyforeverychild.org (541) 343-2856 (877) 343-2856

We are inviting you to partner with us to help Oregon's foster children find their Forever Families!



A variety of display options are available.



Hosting the Heart Gallery at your venue is...

-Completely Free: all needed materials supplied, delivered, and maintained by Heart Gallery volunteers.

-Low Maintenance: all we need is some wall space and our volunteers will keep photos and information updated monthly.

-Rewarding: Heart Gallery photos are cycled as children are placed into their Forever Families, allowing your business and its clientele to see the direct impact that hosting has on the lives of children and families in your community.

Who are the Heart Gallery Children?

They represent the 500,000 children in foster care in the United States, 10,000 of whom are here in Oregon, waiting for a permanent family to love and care for them.

What is the Heart Gallery?

The Heart Gallery is a traveling "art exhibit" of beautiful professional photographs of local children who are currently in foster care and awaiting adoption. Our mission is to find a safe and permanent home for every waiting child.

Hosting is a great way to serve your local community and the children who will grow up to be tomorrow's leaders. Over 200 children have passed through the Heart Gallery and on to their Forever Families.

And your Business can help!

☐ *Yes! I would like to help Oregon kids find their forever families. Please send me more information.*

☐ *At this time we are not able to accomodate an exhibit. Please put us on your mailing list for future opportunities.*



Heart Gallery Mentor Program

The mission of the Heart Gallery Mentor Program is to provide a foster child with a dedicated, nurturing, caring individual who will be a friend to talk to and a companion to have fun with. It is essential that any child has a reliable support system in their lives and a mentor has an opportunity to be a constant source of stability and encouragement to a foster child in need of guidance and direction. By being a positive role-model, a mentor can help instill in the child the confidence and creativity that will allow them to succeed in life.



Can you make a commitment to a child?

"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself."

-Oprah Winfrey

Consider taking part in a fun and fulfilling experience. For applications visit our website: www.afamilyforeverychild.org



A Family For Every Child Heart Gallery

Phone: 541-343-2856

Fax: 541-343-2866

Online: www.afamilyforeverychild.org

All mentors are asked to meet the following criteria:

- One year commitment-we would hope and encourage a lifelong relationship
- Spend 10 hours a month together (or more)
- Talk once a week via phone, email, text message



A Family for Every Child FAMILY FINDING PROGRAM

A partnership between *A Family for Every Child* and the Department of Human Services

What is Lane County Family Finding?

Family Finding is an intensive relative search model with the ultimate goals of achieving permanency and supporting enduring family connections for children in the foster care system. Lane County, DHS and *A Family for Every Child* have joined together and have created a program we believe will make a difference in the lives of local foster children.

History

The *Family Finding* model was originally designed to target children who have been in foster care for many years and who have lost contact with family members and other significant adults in their lives. The Lane County *Family Finding* evaluation will randomly assign children who are just entering foster care and in the beginning stages of the court dependency process to receive family-finding services.

How will this work?

How can I help?

There are three different volunteer positions available. Volunteers typically will do all of the steps for Family Finding, but the option to partner or do just one of the steps is available:

- **File Mining:** *Research the files for information.* Spend 1-4 hours a week at a DHS office.
- **Internet Research:** *Be a detective!* Search for lost connections for foster children. Spend 1-6 hours a week or per case at your own home on your own computer.
- **Contact / Follow-up Volunteer:** *Call identified potential family or other individuals* associated with the foster child. Spend 3-10 hours a week or per case at your home at your convenience. This position is also involved in the 'Follow Up' phase, to assure that the plans that have been developed are being implemented.

Contact Information:

Helen Lucas | A Family for Every Child, Family Finding Director
729-1458 or 343-2856 | helen@afamilyforeverychild.org
www.afamilyforeverychild.org

A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD

FAMILY FINDING

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AFPEC AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

WHAT DOES **FAMILY FINDING** SUCCESS LOOK LIKE - CARLY?

When children enter their teens, their drive to know who they are and where they come from increases dramatically. Carly is a prime example of a young woman determined to connect with her parents no matter what the consequences.

The teenage Carly was a bit rebellious and was having difficulty in her placements. She had been in and out of the local Safe Center several times during her adolescent years and seemed restless. The case was referred to Family Finding by the DHS caseworker, with a focus on the paternal side of the family.

In the interim, Carly decided to take matters into her own hands. Having a name and location, she ran away to Idaho to find her biological mother. She was successful. Unfortunately the experience was less than what she expected and she ended up being restrained and unable to get back home. Her biological mother's lifestyle had not improved much from when Carly was a child when parental rights were terminated. Carly eventually managed to get away and returned home more traumatized than ever.

While this was occurring, the Family Finding volunteer was hard at work investigating the files, researching the paternal side of the family and making connections. Parental rights for the father had been terminated when Carly was 2 years old. Dad lost custody to the maternal grandmother when he was unable to maintain a safe, drug free environment for his children. He had not seen nor heard about Carly since.

The Family Finding volunteer first spoke with Carly's paternal grandmother who filled in the family tree and shared phone numbers and contact information for two sisters and Dad. When the family was contacted, they expressed excitement that Carly had finally been 'found'. However, there was nobody more surprising (or surprised) than Dad. A quiet and reserved kind of man, he spoke at length about how his life was out of control when Carly and his other children were born. He admitted mistakes but had made a serious effort to turn his life around which was evidenced by the powerful references provided to the Family Finding volunteer. He was remarried, held a successful job and led a quiet life in another state.

Although the caseworker was reluctant to proceed with the connection after the profound incident Carly had experienced with her mother, eventually a meeting occurred and Carly was re-connected with her father and the other safe family members who so much wanted her in their lives.



(Note: Names and locations have been changed)



Princess For A Day!

Share the magic March 7, 2010 at the Holiday Inn @ Gateway

The magic begins in the Princess Salon, where your Princess will have her hair and nails done.



Then it is over to the Princess Portrait Studio for a Royal Photo that will be placed in a Princess Folder for a special keepsake of her day.



Our Fairy Godmothers are here to help and entertain our Princesses.

Tots to Teens



Next, you will escort her to the Dressing Room, where she will pick out her gown, slippers, and other Princess accessories which are hers to keep.



Your Princess now heads down the Runway and arrives at the doors to her Special Tea Luncheon with you, where one of our Princes or Fairy Godmothers will seat you.



Nearly 200 girls across Lane County became a Princess for a Day in March 2009 at the Holiday Inn at Gateway. The event was designed to be a gift for foster children in the community as well as to raise awareness of foster children in Lane County. It is a special occasion where girls both in foster care and general admission can come and be pampered. Due to limited space, only one guest per Princess so please leave princes and wicked step sisters at the Castle!

Cost: \$50.00--Includes event for Princess and lunch for her guest

Foster Children are admitted free for this event with advance registration

A gown, accessories and 6 x 4 photo in Princess Folder for all girls to keep.

TICKETS - Purchase and register at :

A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD/LANE COUNTY HEART GALLERY

4211 W. 11th AVE., EUGENE, OR

Local 1-541-343-2856 or 1-877-343-2856

Corporate Sponsor



A Family For Every Child, a nonprofit organization, was started by Christy Obie-Barrett and dozens of dedicated and passionate volunteers. In 2006, AFFEC was formed and developed into an organization focused on finding permanent and loving adoptive homes for Oregon's waiting children. Our intention is to develop programs that assist special needs challenging-to-place foster children in finding their own Forever Families.