



A Family For Every Child 2012 Annual Report



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A Letter from the *Executive Director*

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 Heart Gallery, 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 three main area of focus, and within each you will find multiple efforts.

- 1) **Permanency Programs** - Our permanency programs are focused on children living in foster care. These children are not on the adoption track, yet they still have needs and are awaiting permanent placement. Under this effort are our Family Finding/Re-connections, Extensive Team Recruitment, Family in 30 Days, and our Mentoring Programs.
- 2) **Recruitment Programs** - The focus of our recruitment programs is on adoption recruitment. This includes photo listings on multiple public and private web sites, Heart Gallery, professional photos and videos for recruitment, matching events, targeted outreach and anything helping us identify adoptive/forever families.
- 3) **Family Services** - These services help prepare families for the process of adoption. Our Adoption Agency is growing fast, our Matching Assistance Program serves over 500 families nationwide, and our local support group is hands-on in supporting our families during the adoption process.

Our organization was developed to meet a tremendous need, for there are over 11,000 children in foster care in Oregon. About one-half of these children are eligible for adoption because their family connections have been terminated by court action. Many of the children who are eligible for adoption are considered hard-to-place, because they are more than 10 years old, they are part of a sibling

group, or they 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 they are at risk for substance abuse and domestic violence. The recently published Child and Family Services Review for the State of Oregon, which was prepared by the federal government, indicates that Oregon did not meet federal standards relating to permanency for children served by state welfare agencies. Among the federal standards not being met in Oregon are the completion of adoptions in a timely manner and finding permanent placements for children who have been in foster care for long periods of time. Clearly, more help is needed to find permanent families for children who are languishing in long-term foster care. At AFFEC, we are working to recruit and support families interested in adopting these children in need.

AFFEC has expanded its scope by engaging other community partners, including Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Casey Family Project, Heart Gallery of America, Boys and Girls Clubs and many others. We collaborate in engaging our community to be part of a solution for the thousands of children living in foster care in Oregon and the many more thousands of children living in foster care nationwide. We have also expanded our focus to assist, educate and advocate for those families who are willing to support and commit to these children. One cannot have a family without a committed parent.

We continue to be extremely grateful for our amazing volunteers. With over 900 volunteers in our database, our work is unquestionably a community effort of the very best kind. Our volunteers represent the very best of our community’s heart and intention.

Our success is in no small part due to our early and wide adoption of technology. Our use of social media, advanced database systems, large-scale electronic communications and process controls all aid us in connecting those in need with the resources needed to measurably improve the face of child well-being. We foresee continued use of high-tech tools and processes to improve our delivery of services helping foster children find their forever families.

2012 also marked the expansion of our role in attempting to effect changes in the Oregon foster care system itself. We reached out to community partners, agencies and the Oregon Legislature in trying to gain traction in improving a system as a whole. While we recognize this as being a long and slow process, we are committed to investing our energy and experience in advocating for systemic changes aimed at helping reduce the number of children languishing in long-term foster care. We are making a difference.

Sincerely,

Christy Obie-Barrett
Executive Director & President

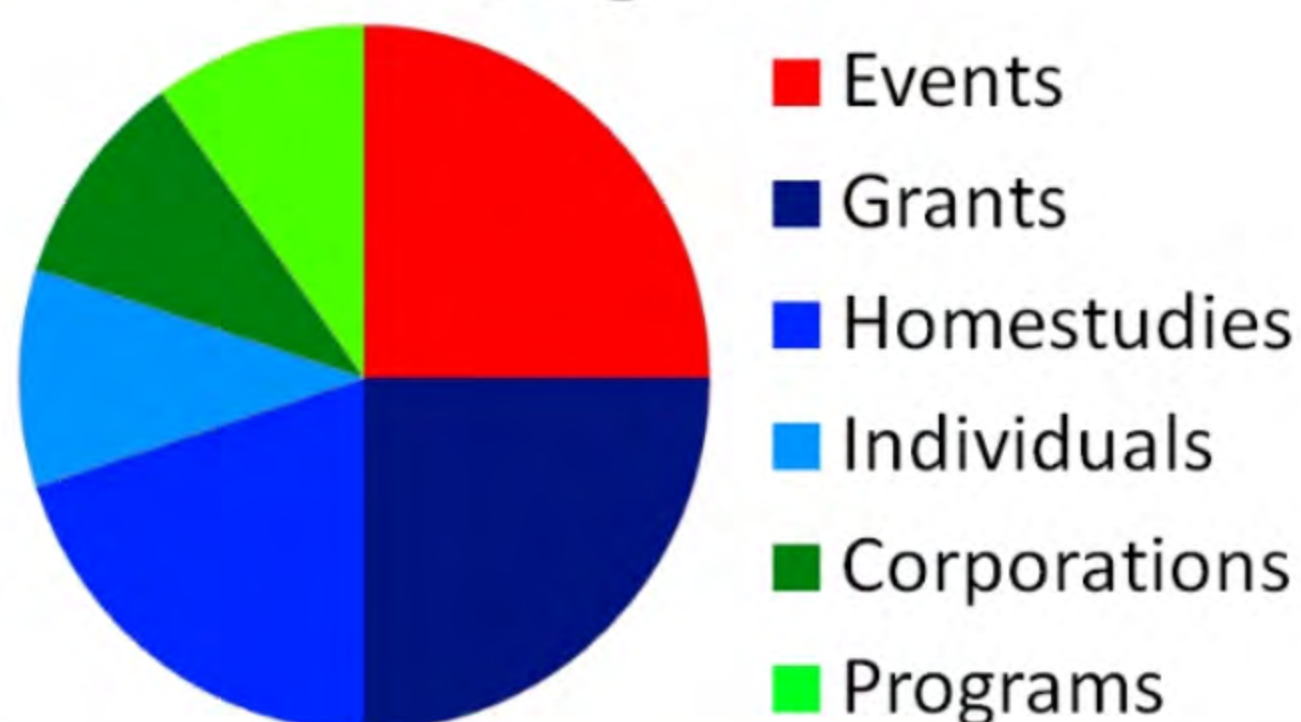


Financials For 2012

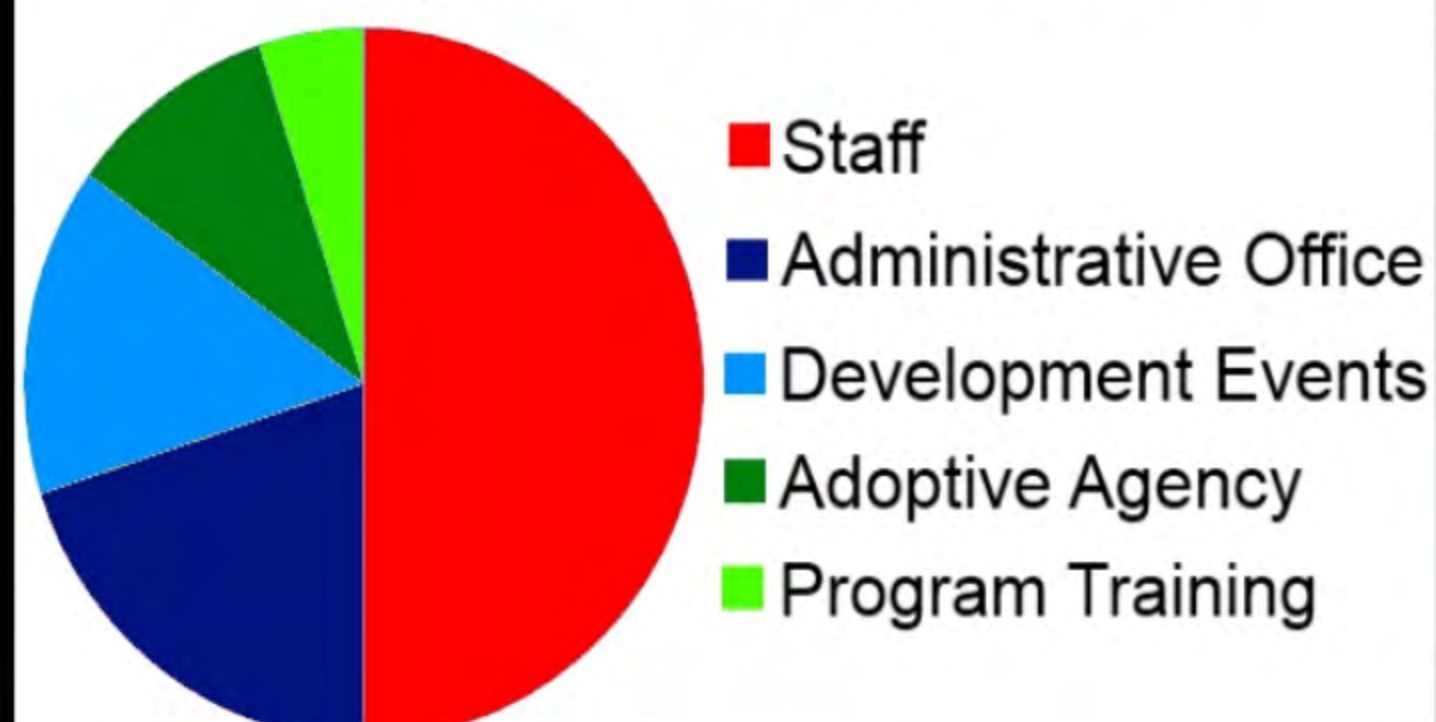


These graphs represent the percentages of resources A Family For Every Child recieved and spent in 2012.

Funding for 2012



Expendetures for 2012



Estimated Alleviated Costs of Foster Care via A Family For Every Child

Children Placed and Estimated Savings	
Children new to AFFEC in 2012	2500
Children placed 2011- March 2012	500
Savings for one year to the public for children placed 2011- March 2012	7.74 million dollars
Children placed since AFFEC began	1300
Savings for one year to the public for all children placed 2006-March 2013	20.14 million dollars

These figures are based off of the national average cost of supporting one child in foster care per year (Zill 2011).

A Family For Every Child works to get children out of the foster care system. The byproducts of children finding their forever families are financial, social, and individual betterment. We will go into further detail of this on page 6.



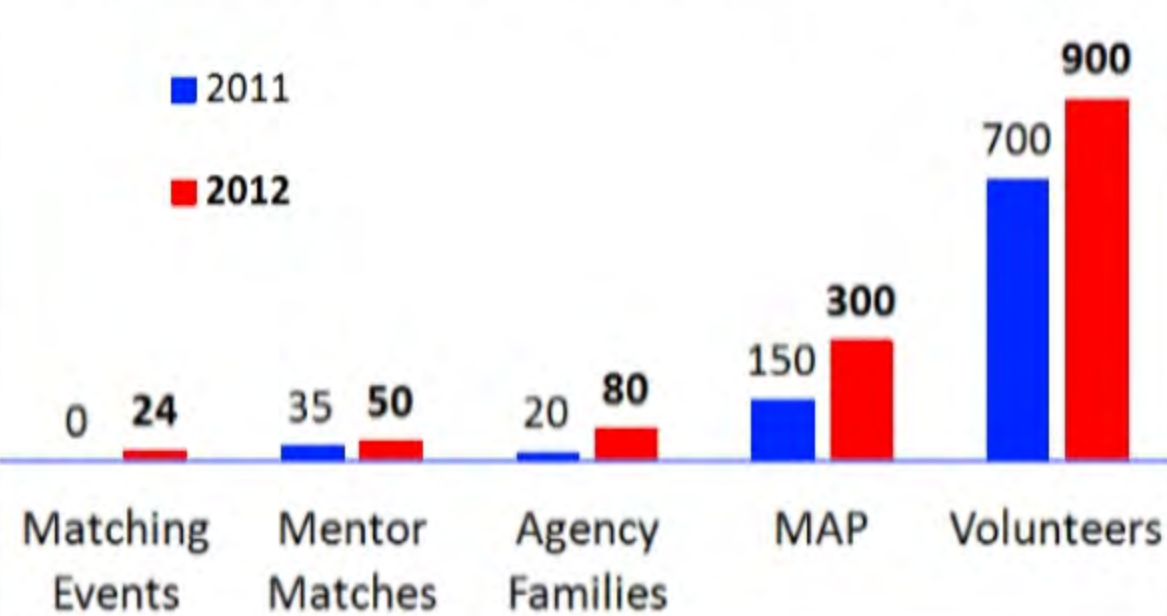
The People That Make A Difference

A Big **THANK YOU!**

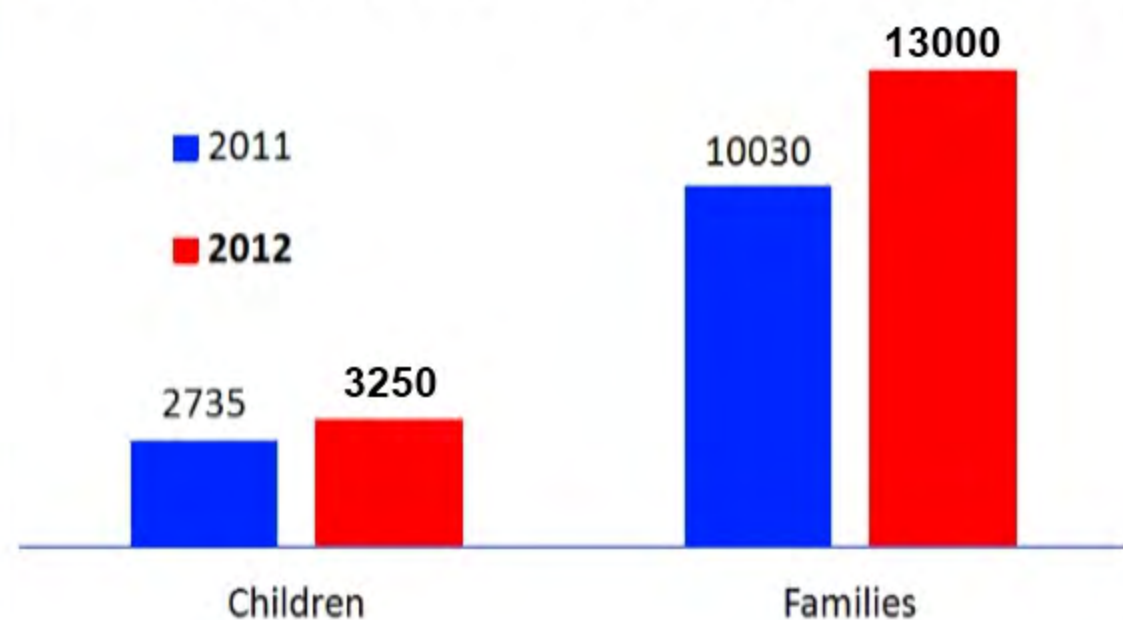
To all the volunteers and sponsors that help AFFEC thrive.



Number of Participants in Programs



Children and Families served by AFFEC



After being in the final selection process more than twice, getting very excited to meet our newest family members, and then being told we were not selected, it was hard to be positive some days. But, we kept at the process, submitting our inquiries and home study, praying (lots and lots of praying) and continued to keep a positive attitude.

We were recently selected, exactly six months after our home study was approved and after inquiring on over 250 groups of siblings. We are beyond thrilled with our match of three siblings, 2 boys and 1 girl, who were living in different foster homes until we were all matched together.

We all fell right into place as a family during our first visit and we could never have dreamed of this day finally coming. It seemed like a very long road (and sometimes a disappointing road) to get here, but when the fit was right for everyone, it was absolutely worth every moment we waited.

Written by Kristine and Josh Habetler

Here's another success story about Niveah and her forever family.



"It takes a village to raise a child." -African Proverb



Permanency Programs

Family
Finding

Family in
30 Days

Mentoring

Extensive
Team
Recruitment

Lifebooks

Our permanency programs are focused on children living in foster care. These children are not on the adoption track, yet they still have a need for connections and opportunities for permanent placements.

Recruitment Services

Heart
Gallery

Matching
Events

Targeted
Outreach

Photos &
Video

Social
Media

The focus of our recruitment programs is to search for adoptive families for children who are free for adoption. This includes a wide use of technology, social media, and anything else that helps us identify adoptive families.

Family Services

Adoption
Agency

Matching
Assistance

Support
Groups

Welcome
Books

Family services focuses on assisting waiting families with the adoption process. Our Matching Assistance Program serves over 500 families nationwide, and our local support group is hands-on in supporting our families during the adoption process.

Looking Outwards for 2013

Pairing with the Department of Human Services

A Family For Every Child proposes a pilot pairing program with the Department of Human Services for the year 2013. This pilot program would allow AFFEC to help unburden the Department of Human Services and, most importantly, help children find their forever families. It would also determine if further concord would be feasible. Allowing AFFEC access to children that have been stuck in the foster care system can only help those children's odds of finding their forever family, and presents a financial mitigation to the costs of services of the DHS of Oregon. Below are some statistics on the "costs" of foster care.

The Costs of Foster Care

Physical

- Foster care costs tax payers over 9 billion dollars annually
- \$25,000 per child per year spent in foster care

Societal

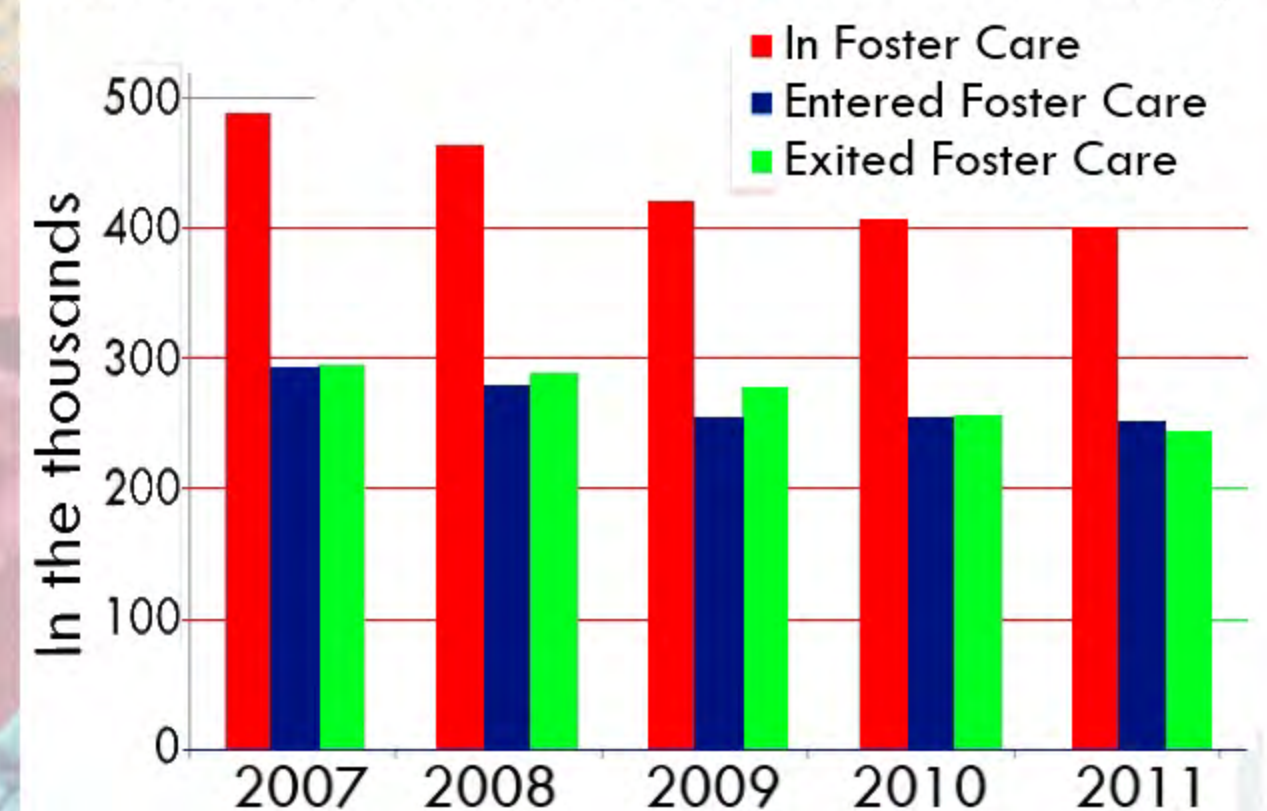
- Aged out foster youth make up at least 30% of the homeless population
- 70% of inmates were once in foster care
- 25% Never get a high school diploma or GED
- 70% of girls become pregnant at least once before the age of 21
- Males are four times more likely to be arrested
- Females are ten times more likely to be arrested

Cost to Child

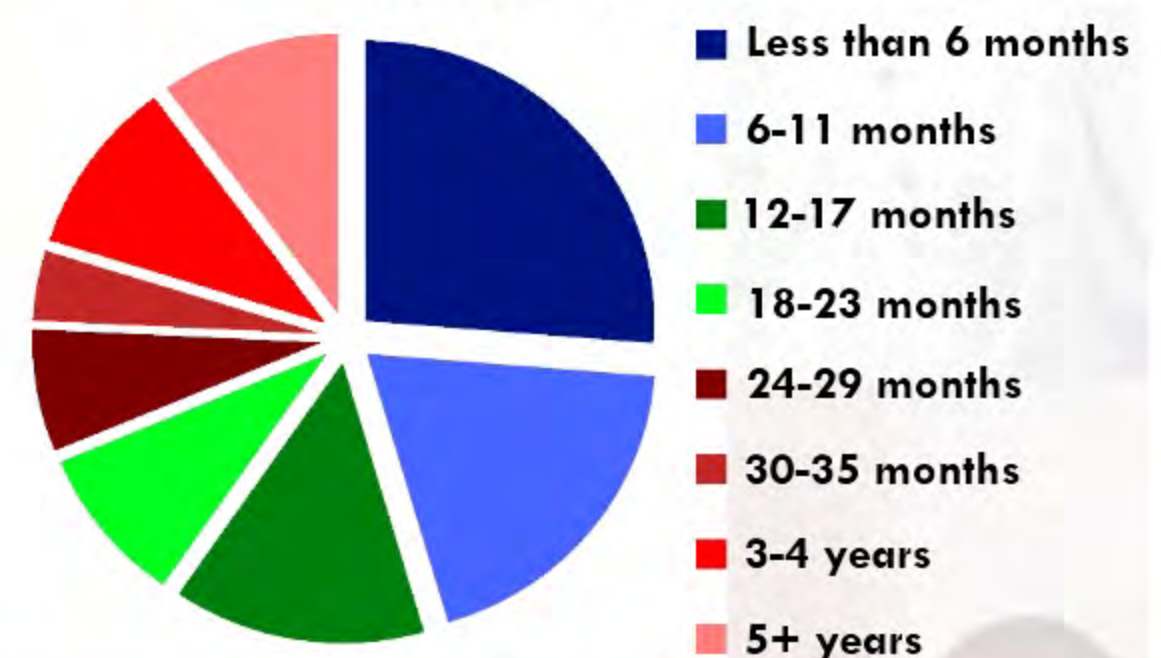
- Immeasurable

Statistics from the Children's Bureau AFCARS report, 2011.

Number of Kids in Foster Care Nationally



Average Time Spent in Foster Care



The Department of Human Services in Oregon has not been accessing millions of dollars in federal adoption incentive funding due to children languishing away in foster care. AFFEC wants to help find permanent, safe placement for these Oregon children, and quickly! The more DHS allows AFFEC to help, the more AFFEC can do what it does best: get children the families they deserve.

