



A Family For Every Child

880 Beltline
Springfield, OR 97477
541-343-2856
www.afamilyforeverychild.org

2010
Annual Report

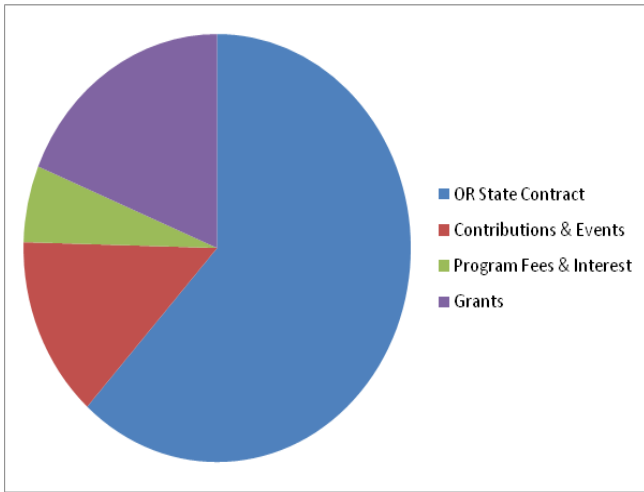


Figure 1—Income

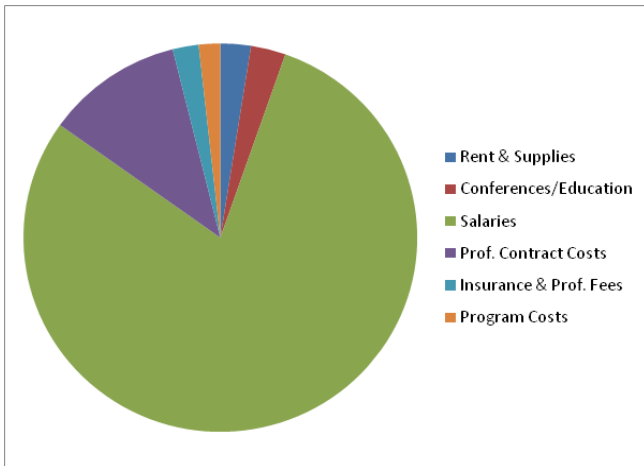


Figure 2—Expenses

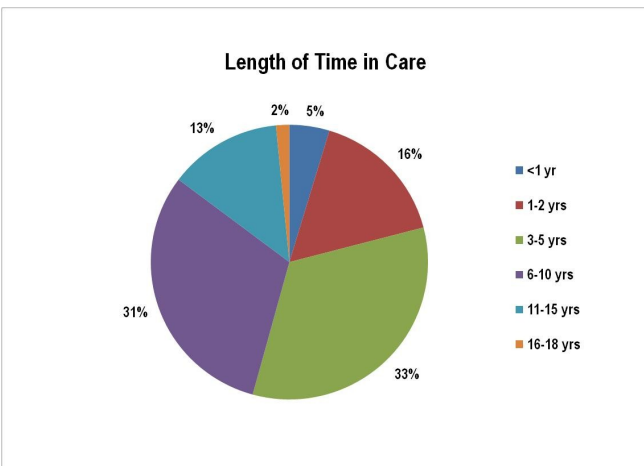


Figure 3—Length of Time in Care

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, they are 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 & 2010 500 children in Oregon and Washington were adopted through community partnerships and recruitment efforts. Using our web site we now currently are recruiting for 1000 children at any given time. We have expanded partnerships with Washington, New Jersey and several other states. We do many of the same recruitment tools in Washington, that we do in Oregon, and have seen similar results in placement for Children in Washington State.

Through our recruitment we were able to reduce the average foster care placement of 40 months by half. 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 541.343.2856 | 1.877.353.2856

Our Programs www.afamilyforeverychild.org

NORTHWEST HEART GALLERY

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.

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. 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 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. 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. Case-workers 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- 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.

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