



# A Family For Every Child

Celebrating 5 years of helping children and families



# A Family For Every Child

## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



March, 2012

## A Letter from Executive Director Christy Obie-Barrett

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### Board Members

#### Executive Director & President

Christy Obie-Barrett

#### Vice President

Martin Hall

#### Treasurer & Secretary

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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 eight programs committed to finding permanent families for foster children and 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. About 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.

This includes completing adoptions in a timely manner and finding permanent placements for children who have been in foster care for long time. Clearly, more help is needed to find permanent families 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.

**A Family For Every Child is  
dedicated to finding loving,  
permanent families for every  
waiting foster child**

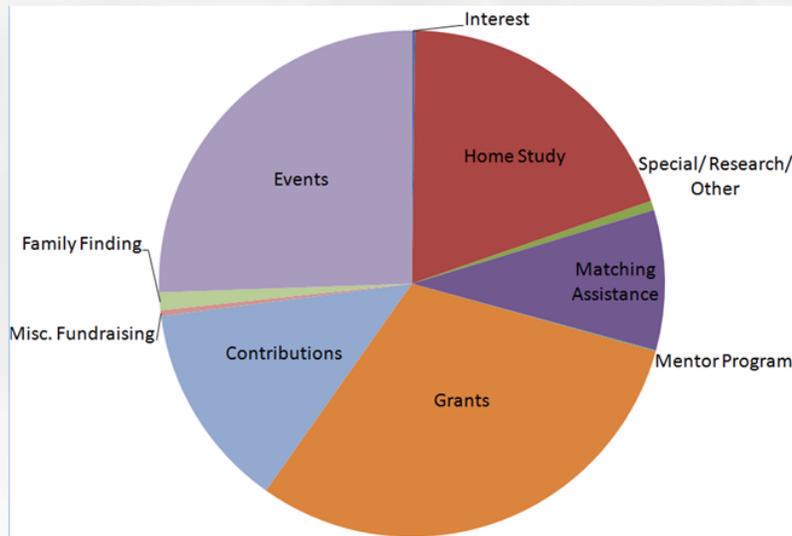
AFFEC has gone on to expand our scope by engaging other community partners, including Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Casey Family Project, Heart Gallery of America, Boys and Girls Clubs and more to collaborate in engaging our community to be part of a solution for the thousands of children living in foster care in Oregon and the many more 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. You cannot have a family without a committed parent.

With over 900 volunteers in our database, our work is unquestionably a community effort.

Christy Obie-Barrett  
A Family For Every Child  
Heart Gallery

# 2011 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## 2011 Income



- Interest \$640.04
- Home Study \$63,747.25
- Special/ Research/ Other \$1,954
- Matching Assistance \$29,218.53
- Mentor Program \$181.04
- Grants \$99,662
- Contributions \$43,025.01
- Misc. Fundraising \$1,218
- Family Finding \$3,690
- Events \$83,492.45

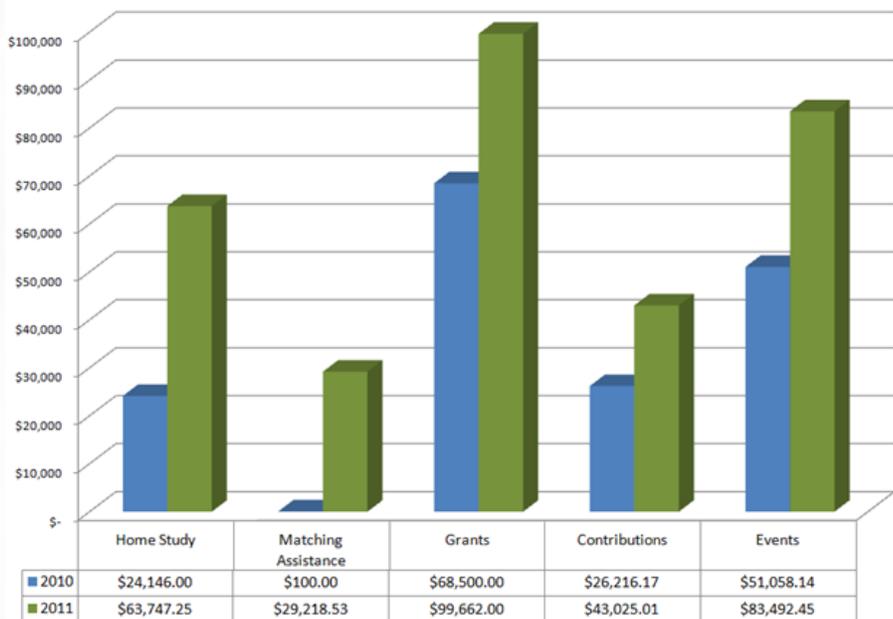
Total = \$326,828.32

**2011 Net Income**  
\$71,325.29

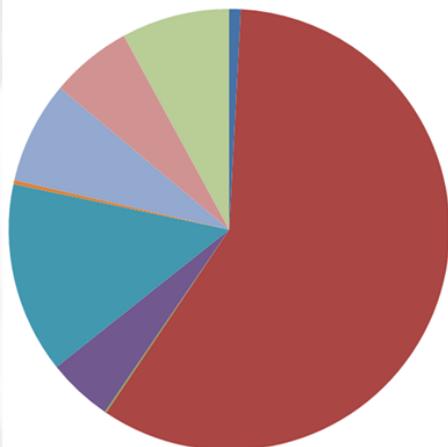
### We Are Growing !

- From 2010 to 2011 our total income increased by 55% and our net income increased by 163.6%.
- Our Matching Assistance Program alone saw a 291% increase in income.
- Almost one-third of our 2011 income came from grants.

Income Comparison 2010-2011



## 2011 Expenses Total = \$255,503.03



- Professional Fees \$2,156.67
- Staffing \$149,714.05
- Research contract work \$300
- Events \$12,181.89
- Home Study Contract \$35,710.74
- Insurance \$777.20
- Contract work \$19,090.89
- Office Rent & Utilities \$15,279
- General/Admin \$20,292.59

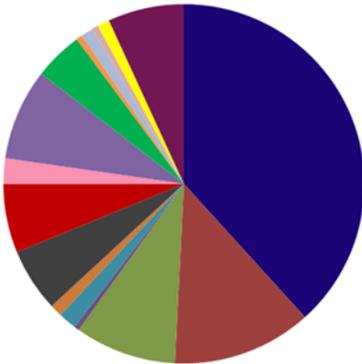


# NEVEAH'S STORY

## Our Amazing Volunteers!

In 2011 our volunteers contributed a total of **21,945 hours**

2011 Volunteer Hours by Program



- Mentor Program - 8400 hrs
- Heart Gallery - 2750 hrs
- Matching Assistance - 2000 hrs
- Adoption Agency - 100 hrs
- Web Support - 360 hrs
- Photo/Videography - 240 hrs
- Administrative Support - 1250 hrs
- Interns - 1360 hrs
- Social Media, Marketing & Newsletter - 500 hrs
- Child listing & Recruitment - 1800 hrs
- Family Finding - 960 hrs
- Database - 120 hrs
- Family Support - 240 hrs
- Lifebooks - 125 hrs
- Development & Grant Writing - 240 hrs
- Events - 1500 hrs



Many times I am asked, "How can you do what you do?" Most of the time this means my working such long hours or my working with such sad stories. But what I need all of you to know is that I am the most blessed! I *get* to do something that makes a difference. It is only a "sad story" when you can't find or won't look for a happy ending. What I and WE at AFFEC do every day is to fight for the happy ending, with the family united and the children in a forever home.

I want to share with you one sample of one simple way we *get* to help!

Neveah is a very special, special-needs child for whom we had been asked to recruit a family. Granted, this was a hard task and one I was less than hopeful about accomplishing. After one targeted email (an email we send out to all our families who might be a potential match for a child) sent to all our Washington families, my heart was overwhelmed with the response and love of many families *wanting* her.

One email that took one volunteer less than one hour to create found Neveah a family!

### Neveah's Forever Family:

"We feel so blessed to have her here, and I wanted to let you know and to thank you for the part you played in bringing her to our attention."

### Neveah's Caseworker:

"This child will realize her fullest potential within this loving and amazing family you found for her!"



# CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVED

Total number of children served in 2011: **2,735**  
 Total number of families served in 2011: **870**



Program	Children Served	Families Served
Mentor Program	70	—
Heart Gallery	250	—
Matching Assistance	—	100
Life Book	150	—
Adoption agency	60	50
Web Recruitment	2,000	500
Family Finding	100	150
Foster-to-Adopt	40	30
Support Program	65	40



# Our Programs

## **NORTHWEST HEART GALLERY**

The Heart Gallery Program places photographs of children with the greatest need for adoption in 50 locations throughout Oregon and Washington. This program not only helps these kids to find their forever families, but it also raises community awareness of the needs of foster children.

**MEDIA—HEART GALLERY CHILD OF THE WEEK/MONTH** Our Heart Gallery Child of the Week/Month Program combines radio, TV and print media to help find forever families for children in foster care.

**FAITH-BASED HEART GALLERY** This gallery is designed to reach out to local churches and faith-based organizations.

**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 groups, ethnic minorities, and children with a physical, mental, or emotional challenges.

## **WEBSITES**

The same photo from the Heart Gallery is put on the web with a short biography. Our two websites receive over 300 inquiries and over 120 home studies submitted to caseworkers per week, the majority of which come from families outside Oregon.

## **MENTOR PROGRAM**

The Heart Gallery Mentor Program brings enthusiastic, dedicated, caring adult members of our community and unites them with youth in foster care who would benefit from added support and companionship.

**FAMILY BUILDING PROGRAM** 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 to ensure that completed adoptions do not become disrupted.

## **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 it is followed by contact and connection. 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 Program 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 with adoptive families. Services include web resources for parents, a private-listing website and an adoption liaison.

**LIFE BOOKERS** All children 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** The focus of this program is to find permanent adoptive parents for children who need a permanent placement. It is also to find committed permanent connections who will morally adopt teens who are not emancipated but are in danger of discharge from foster care into homelessness.

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

