



A Family For Every Child 2013 Annual Report



OUR MISSION:

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

Board of Directors

Christy Obie-Barrett
Executive Director
and Board Member

Martin Hall
President

Delores Mord
Treasurer

Daneen Wolf
Secretary

A Family For Every Child (AFFEC) started its journey in 2006 with a single program aimed at helping find "forever families" for children stuck in perpetual foster care. Founder Christy Obie-Barrett, now AFFEC's Executive Director, has been a visionary in pushing against barriers these children encounter. The results of her efforts and those of AFFEC's staff, hundreds of volunteers and generous community supporters are evident in such terms as the number of foster children and families AFFEC has served 20,000 families. More important, AFFEC's results can be seen in the faces of those beautiful children whom we have helped find permanency outside of a foster care system which drastically challenges them and diminishes their chances to succeed later in life. This is especially true in the cases AFFEC specializes in addressing: children with special needs, sibling groups, older children and minorities.

AFFEC's programs fall into three basic groups, each addressing different needs:

Permanency Programs The focus of this group is on children living in foster care. They are not on the adoption track, yet they have an array of needs while they are waiting for some form of permanency. AFFEC's programs in this group include Family Finding/Reconnections, Extensive Team Recruitment, Family in 30 Days and our Mentor Program.

Recruitment Programs This group of programs focuses on adoption recruitment, which includes photo listings on multiple public and private websites, the Heart Gallery, professional photographs and videos for recruitment, matching events, targeted outreach and other efforts which help us identify adoptive forever families.

Family Services Families need an array of services and support in the process of adoption. Our Adoption Agency is the largest in Oregon, and we support children and families nationwide. Our specialty and scope are limited to children in foster care are the hardest to place, being older, a large sibling group, a minority or have high special needs.

The need AFFEC addresses is huge. There are over 11,000 children in foster care in Oregon and over 500,000 nationwide. The system struggles to serve the needs of these children, and those with special needs face even greater challenges. These are AFFEC's children. While the system considers them to be hard to place, experience shows us that there literally *is* a family for every child. The difference between children growing up in foster care and children growing up with committed, loving adults is dramatic and underscores the need for the work AFFEC does.

Studies show that if children "age out" of the foster care system at age 18 without family or committed adults in their lives, they are likely to struggle and fail to meet the demands of adulthood. They are far less likely to graduate from high school or go on to college, far more likely to experience homelessness, substance abuse, poverty, domestic violence, incarceration and unplanned pregnancy. Aging out of the foster care system effectively delivers disaster to the doors of these children.

We need to remember that children are not in foster care because of anything they did. They are the victims of abuse, neglect or being endangered by others. While there are good intentions for the system to help them, there are wide gaps in the implementation of those good intentions. These gaps give rise to AFFEC's programs.

2014 represents a year of stability and expansion for AFFEC. We have been awarded significant grants which help us move to a higher level of service and push the traditional barriers to improvement of foster care. We have aggressively expanded our Adoption Agency to serve children and families outside Oregon. We have done these important things while maintaining prudent financial practices, including having provision for periods of uneven cash flow.

Fruits of on-going initiatives are appearing in 2014. In 2013, we formed an Associate Board, from which a broad array of interests, specialties and resources was focused on selected topics and areas of particular interest and value to AFFEC. One example is our forming a committee to consider foster care system change. To make the foster care system better, we have to understand it in depth. We set about engaging with the stakeholders in the system, meeting with them to learn their perspectives, challenges and success strategies. Some of those stakeholders include the Oregon Legislature, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), the Oregon Foster Parent Association, the Citizen Review Board, the Oregon Department of Human Services and several others. While that process has not yet concluded, the interaction has already proven to be constructive and helpful. Our goal is to cultivate improvement in the system serving our foster children and their families. AFFEC plays an important role, but the system as a whole is only as strong as its weakest link, and therein lies the task.

We continue to engage our community partners, just a few of which include CASA, the Casey Family Project, Heart Gallery of America, and Boys and Girls Clubs. The quality of our connection with the community largely shapes the quality of our results. The faith-based and Native communities are among our strongest partners and help us do what we do.

Technology remains central to our organization and its success. Social media, databases, electronic outreach and communications all contribute to better and more timely outcomes for the children and families we serve. Staying informed of technological changes and implementing appropriate technological improvements play larger and larger roles in accomplishing our mission. We continue to develop tools (e.g., database templates, electronic communications methods) designed to improve our performance, and that process will expand over time.

2014 is an exciting time for AFFEC. We are gratified and humbled by the astonishing support we receive from the communities we serve, and we pledge to do our best to continue accomplishing our mission: Finding loving, permanent families for every waiting foster child. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christy Obie-Barrett
Executive Director

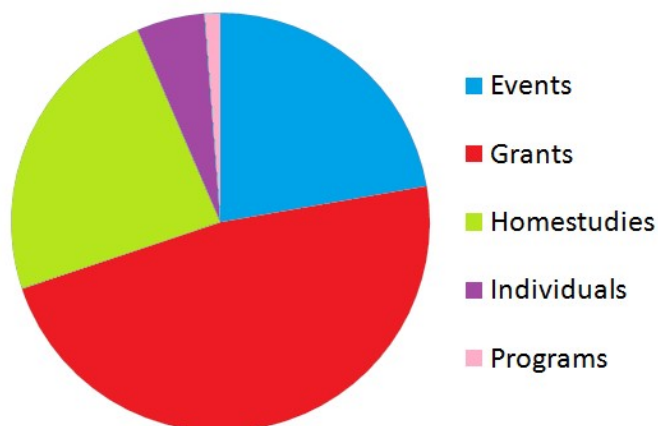


Financials For 2013

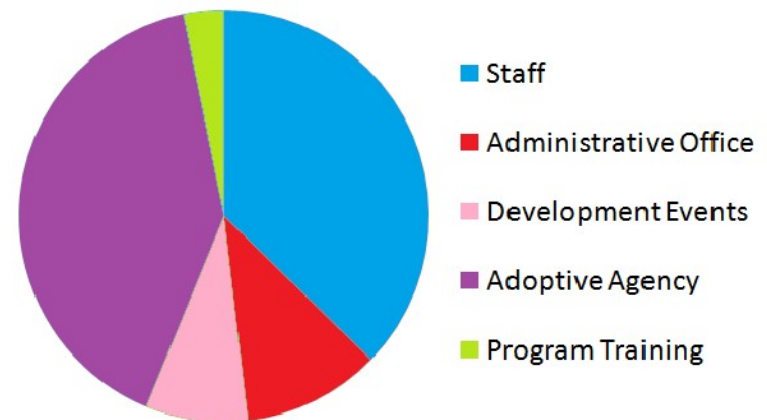


These graphs represent the percentages of resources A Family For Every Child recieved and spent in 2013

Funding for 2013



Expenditures for 2013



PLACED

3,119 CHILDREN
1,008 SIBLING GROUPS
1,172 MINORITY CHILDREN
995 TEENAGERS
295 OREGON CHILDREN



SERVED

637 CHILDREN PHOTOGRAPHED
282 MAP FAMILIES MATCHED
230 MENTOR MATCHES
120 FAMILY FINDING CASES
52 HEART GALLERY VENUES
127 CHILDREN TURNED INTO HEROES FOR A DAY
945 CHILDREN TURNED INTO PRINCESSES FOR A DAY



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 Who Make A Difference

A Big **THANK YOU**

to all the volunteers and
sponsors who help AFFEC
thrive.



Here at AFFEC we fight for that happy ending, a family united and a child finding their forever home. We want to share with you a recent happy ending that came true for one little girl.

Nevaeh, a special-needs child, would typically be deemed a difficult case to find a match. However, after one targeted email (an email we send out to all our families that might be a potential match for a child), we were overwhelmed by the response and love of many waiting families for this young girl.

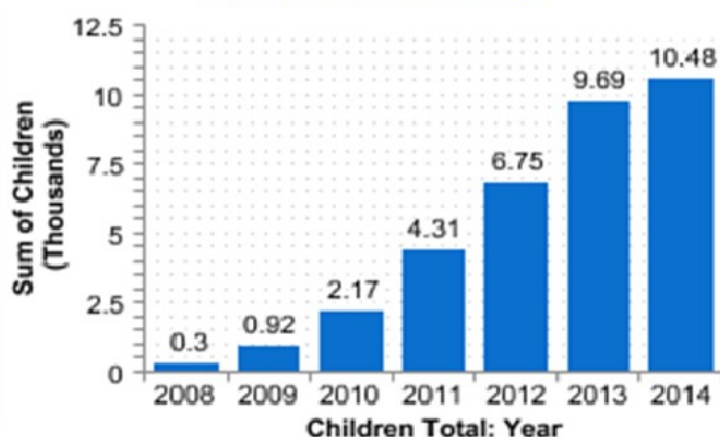
One email that took one volunteer *less than one hour* to create, found Nevaeh a home. We are thankful for everyone that believes in and makes these happy endings come true.

"For the last eighteen months I've loved this kiddo and fallen more in love with her everyday. I've been humbled and amazed by her. I've learned so much from her. Today I can promise her that I will be her mom forever!"

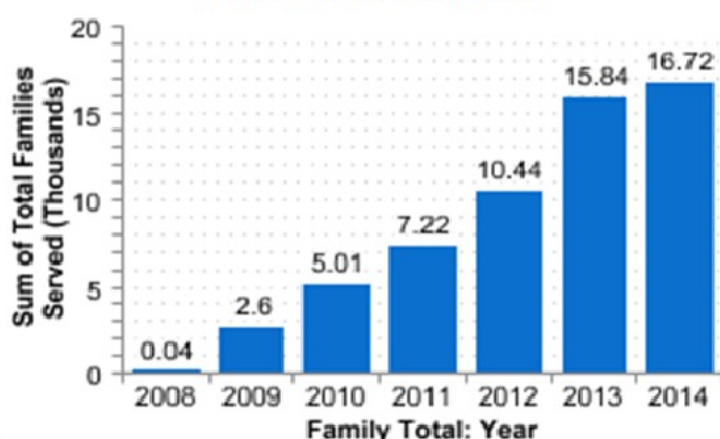
- Nevaeh's Mom



Children Served



Families Served



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



Permanency Programs

Family
Finding

Family in
30 Days

Mentoring

Life
Skills
Classes

Education
Mentor
Program

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 focus on assisting waiting families with the adoption process. Our Matching Assistance Program serves over 750 families nationwide, and our local support group is hands-on in supporting our families during the adoption process.

Looking Outward for 2014

2014 marks a period of stability and growth for AFFEC. Since our inception in 2006, we have faced and risen to many challenges and obstacles. Now, through the consistent and humbling devotion and generosity of our volunteers, staff, families and donors, we have found ourselves in the enviable position of feeling secure financially and prepared for expected periods of uneven cash flow. We are, for the first time in the organization's life, able to take on challenges which have the potential to truly change the nature of foster care.

The Costs of Foster Care

Physical

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

Societal

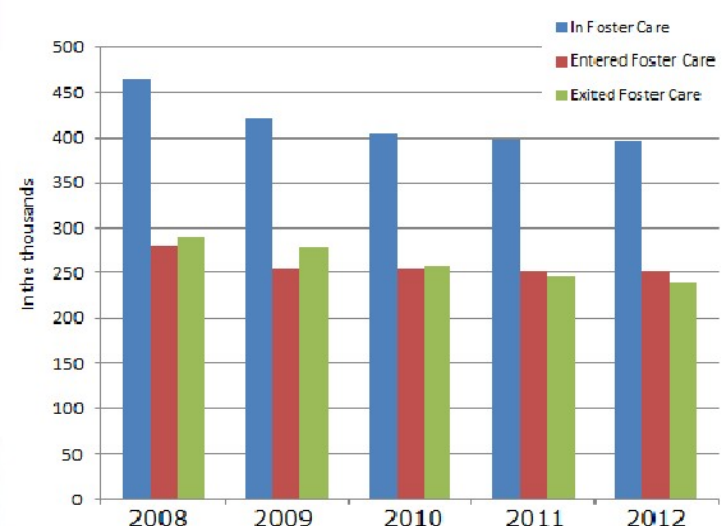
- Aged-out foster youths make up at least 30% of the homeless population
- 70% of inmates were once in foster care
- 25% never get a high school diploma or GED
- 70% of girls become pregnant at least once before the age of 21
- Males are four times more likely to be arrested
- Females are ten times more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

Cost to Child

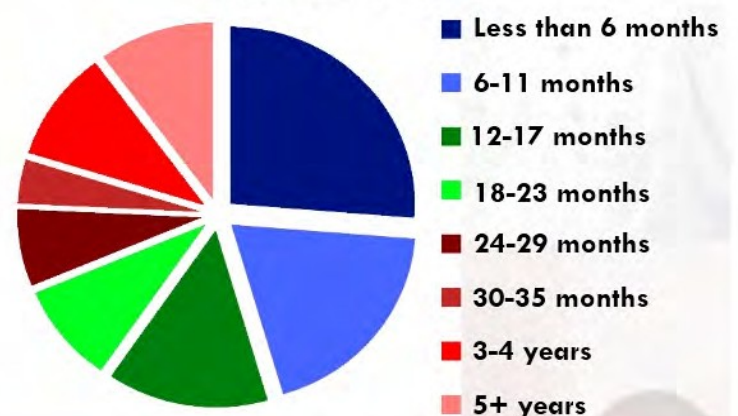
- Immeasurable

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

Number of Kids in Foster Care Nationally



Average Time Spent in Foster Care



One such challenge is designing and deploying original programs which offer the potential to deliver family services very early in the process, even before foster care begins, with the goal of reducing the number of children who find themselves thrown into the foster care system. In 2013 we were awarded a significant, multi-year grant which represents a giant step in that direction, an expansion and new application of AFFEC's Mentor Program. By working directly with school districts to identify those children and families who will benefit by services we may facilitate for them, we expect to improve the foster care system by helping reduce the number of children entering it in the first instance. For those children who do enter the foster care system, we expect to reduce the time they are there.

Looking Outward for 2014

Another such challenge is working to facilitate change in the nature of the foster care system itself. In the second one-half of 2013 we formed an Associate Board of Directors, the intention being to broaden our resources in stepping up to such challenges as effecting system change. Realizing it is unrealistic and unproductive to expect to change a system which is not well defined, from the Associate Board came a group which is reaching out to the stakeholders in the foster care system itself (e.g., the Oregon Legislature, the Department of Human Services, the Oregon Foster Parent Association, the Citizen Review Board, Court Appointed Special Advocates, to name a few) to learn, share experience, define obstacles and explore potential solutions. This is an ongoing, iterative process and one AFFEC is dedicated to continuing.

Our mission is to find loving, permanent families for every waiting foster child. As AFFEC grows, so do the boundaries of our mission. 2014 is an exciting time and one which invites AFFEC to step up to large, daunting challenges, with renewed confidence that our work is important, needed and offers the potential to improve the lives of everyone we serve. We remain profoundly grateful for the generosity, energy and support our growing communities provide. We also assure you that every day we commit ourselves anew to our mission.



The Department of Human Services in Oregon has not been accessing millions of dollars in federal adoption incentive funding due to children languishing 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.

