

EVERY CHILD BENEFITS FROM YOUR SUPPORT.

If you or your company participates in the United Way Contributor Choice campaign, please consider designating your financial support for Every Child, Inc. It's simple, just write in **#929345** on your pledge form -- and rest assured that your money is helping children with special needs grow up in safe, healthy, loving and lasting families. If you don't have a form, please call 412-261-6010 to request one. Thank you!!

A copy of the official and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Every Child, Inc. Board of Directors

Executive Director – Susan I. Davis

Chairperson – Susan Mussman, Partner, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart

Vice-Chair – Sean M. Winters, Attorney, Pennsylvania Superior Court

Secretary – Lenna Edgos, Marketing Development Mgr., PPG Industries

Treasurer – Don Johnston, Partner, Grossman Yanak & Ford LLP

Supporting Board –

Edward Barksdale, Jr. MD, Asst. Professor of Pediatric Surgery, Children's Hospital

Bernard Costello, DMD, MD, UPMC Health System

Robin Dolphin, Customer Service Supervisor, USAirways

Kathleen Helling, Director, Planned Giving, Medical & Health Sciences Foundation

Chris Helmecci, Senior VP, Commercial Banking, LaSalle Bank

Vicky Illar, Parent

Michael Karp, MD, Ambridge Area Healthcare Services

John Mitchell, Coach, Pittsburgh Steelers Football Club

Kwajalein Overton, Healthquest Pediatrics

Advisory Board –

John Skowron, Partner, Deloitte.

D. Geoffrey Webster, Associate Director, Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative

Design, Layout and Writing: *John Miller and Trish Parkhill*
Printing: *Express Press, Inc.*

Fall 2004

Receiving an extra copy
of our newsletter?
Please give us a call.

www.everychildinc.org

412.665.0600

East Liberty Station
6410 Penn Avenue, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Bringing children and families together

every child inc.



Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 5010

THE PERMANENT PRESS



A newsletter from Every Child, Inc.

Fall 2004

Mission:

All children--regardless of age, race, disability, or seriousness of health-care condition--deserve to grow up in safe, loving and lasting families.

Inside:

2 Letter
Volunteer Spotlight
Happy Endings

3 Special Thanks
Family Success Stories
Permanent Family
of the Year

4 2004 Grantors
Thanks to New
Foster/Adoptive
Families

5 Beacon on Board
Doula-Supported Births
Foster Care to Adoption
Waiting Children

6 Family Fanfare
Family Retreats

7 FYI

5TH ANNUAL "EVERY CHILD IS NOTE WORTHY" BENEFIT: A ROARING 20s SPEAKEASY.

Families, flappers and fringe...oh my!

A "Roaring 20s Speakeasy" was the theme for this year's **Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield** 5th Annual "Every Child is Note Worthy" jazz benefit. The fundraising event took place on March 13th 2004 at Heinz Field, with **Aaron A. Walton as Honorary Benefit Chairperson** for the second straight year. Over 350 guests gathered in support of Every Child and our mission to help children grow up in loving, lasting families.

The 20s were definitely roaring back to life in custom AND costume at this swanky event. Early on, Frank Cunimondo jammed some jazz on the piano, and the Grammy-award winning Ashby Brother's Quartet, with vocalist Maureen Budway, followed up with some musical pleasure from the Jazz Age. For other entertainment, guests enjoyed our silent and Chinese auctions and casino "fun-money" gaming all evening long. And between the hors d'oeuvres, various food stations and free-flowing chocolate fountain dessert, everyone was quite satisfied! (Not too full for some flashy dancing, however!)

Sheldon Ingram of WTAE-TV emceed the evening gala. Sheldon introduced events and entertainments, while **Sheila Hyland of Fox 53 NEWS** helped sell Chinese auction tickets and was a celebrity dealer in the casino. Susan Davis, Executive Director, stepped up to the mic to congratulate and introduce **Martha Beamer**, social worker, adoptive parent and the winner of this year's Champion



for Permanency Award. Susan and Mrs. Lee Davis presented the 2004 "Lee and Larry Davis Recognition Award" to **Randy Weinberg** from CMU for his generous contributions to Every Child by providing multiple student projects to benefit overall agency efficiency.

Special thanks to all the sponsors, auction donors, and friends who participated in the Roaring 20s Speakeasy. You truly helped to make this a "swell" and successful benefit. Extra special thanks to our generous sponsors which include **Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield** (title sponsor), **MARC USA, 84 Lumber, Deloitte., Fifth Third Bank, Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort & Spa, Aramark at Heinz Field, DUQ 90.5 FM, Hoechstetter Printing, and Vince's Gas & Welding Supply Co.** Thanks to all of you, we raised over \$118,870.00 in support for Every Child, Inc. (this figure includes in-kind donations). *And because of our sponsor's generosity, 100% of the event proceeds directly benefit the children and families we serve.*

Plans are already underway for our 2005 "Every Child is Note Worthy" benefit. See below for more info!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The following are important upcoming events! Look for more information in the next newsletter.

A Very Merry Evening

Every Child will once again be selling \$10 shopping passes to attend **"A Very Merry Evening" on Wednesday, November 10th, 2004, 6:00-9:30pm, at Kaufmann's downtown.** During this holiday benefit, Kaufmann's will be open exclusively to pass holders for an evening of fashion shows, makeovers, hairstyling, holiday decorating tips, special discounts and more. Contact Ann Posch at 412-665-0600 for details. Merry shopping!

The 6th Annual "Every Child is Note Worthy" Jazz Benefit

Our next **"Every Child is Note Worthy" Benefit will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2005, 7:00 pm - midnight, at the Heinz Field East Club.** Our jazzy-good fundraiser event will carry a Caribbean Cruise theme next year...so get out your "cruise-line" dressy eveningwear and get ready to set sail and party!

Providing individualized, comprehensive support services to children, young adults, birth, foster, and adoptive families.

Dear Friends of Every Child, Inc.,

As always, I want to begin by emphasizing the importance of your participation with the agency. Whether you participate by attending any of our events, or you contribute annually through United Way, or you help 'spread the word' by talking about the agency to others who can help – *thank you*, we sincerely appreciate any and all support of our mission. We must all continue to do 'whatever it takes' to ensure that there's no child who does not get the opportunity to live with a loving, safe, healthy, and lasting family in their community.

You've probably noticed some changes in this new edition of the Permanent Press. Through feedback from readers, we've learned that the stories of children and families we serve help you better understand our work, and that you have an interest in what becomes of 'this child' or 'that family' since the last edition. This issue is filled with stories that illustrate some of the many services we provide. It also tells of successes for many children and parents we serve, and features a story about a child named Randy who was introduced many editions ago. We've also decided to be more diligent in getting the newsletter out on a more consistent basis — so we've made it a little shorter and will try to produce it four-times a year. The newsletter will also be available on Every Child's website for readers not on our mailing list. We had considered producing a paperless edition but heard that many of you enjoy slowly perusing the newsletter, and besides, not everyone has access to a computer. We've continued to recognize our MANY generous contributors — individuals, corporations, organizations, foundations, etc. — but the plan is to utilize our upcoming Annual Report to further highlight all 2003-04 partners and supporters. Please continue to give us feedback because this newsletter is for YOU to learn from and enjoy.

I have no doubt that each of you shares our passion for the value of 'family'. Many of you have put much energy and love into caring for your children, siblings, parents, and those people we call 'aunt' and 'uncle' because they feel like family to us. My hope is that with all the demands on you each day, you will still have a little bit of time and resources left to extend to the children and families we serve through Every Child. We look forward to your continued participation and promise to use your contributions in the most effective and efficient manner.

Thanks again for caring,

Susan Davis
Executive Director
sdavis@everychildinc.org

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BARBARA RUBIS

For the past two years, Every Child has been blessed with the help of Barbara Rubis. Barb had been looking for a charity with which she could be an active participant. Lucky for us, she found Every Child, and has shown outstanding volunteer involvement.

Barb has been an amazing help with our "Every Child is Note Worthy" Jazz Benefits, both in 2003 and 2004. In 2003, she helped organize the silent auction event at Doves on Ninth in Pittsburgh's Cultural District. And in 2004, she co-chaired the Jazz Benefit with Board member, **Shannon George**. Seeing as how our annual "Every Child is Note Worthy" event is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, we were certainly pleased when Barb jumped right in to help.

Barb has also put forth a huge effort in creating Christmas teen gift baskets. In 2002, Barb helped collect items to fill baskets by asking friends and family to donate. She truly put her heart into it and did a wonderful job. When the time came for the baskets the following year, Barb decided she wanted to do even more. So she planned and hosted a luncheon at Atria's, invited her friends, who in turn invited their friends, who invited their friends, etc. To Barb's pleasant surprise, the size of the event just grew and grew. She asked everyone to bring one teen gift to the luncheon as a donation, hoping to collect about 50 items. Her expectations were greatly surpassed when she found out her friends had been collecting items from their friends, from their places of work, and more! This spectacular Atria's luncheon effort helped to raise over \$800, and provided a remarkable 89 baskets for our teens!!

Barb's "real" job is with Xerox Corporation, and in her spare time she loves to go antiquing. But she still plans on dedicating much of her spare time to volunteering with us. She feels that Every Child has definite growth potential, and says, "When you talk to [Executive Director] Susan Davis, you can see the passion she has for her work. I love what Every Child stands for and what they do for children."

Barb, the Every Child family loves the work you do for us, and we want to extend an **extra-special thank you** for all your efforts! We couldn't be happier to have you as a volunteer!

HAPPY ENDINGS COME FROM GOOD BEGINNINGS

*The following is the **Story of 'Randy'** – which is continued from Every Child's 2002 winter newsletter issue.*

When Every Child first met Randy two years ago, he was living in foster care with **Cathy Clark**. He was just two years old, and trying to conquer a load of health problems due to being born premature. Cathy gave Randy a safe home while waiting for the court's decision of where he would be placed permanently. When the opportunity arose, Cathy adopted Randy, bringing him into her loving family consisting of herself and her four other sons.

Today, Randy enjoys living with his Mom and five brothers and gets to see his birth mother, twin sister, and other siblings often. Randy still deals with several kinds of illness and Cathy continues to give him the love and care he needs to make it through whatever comes his way. When first placed, a therapist told Cathy that Randy was very behind developmentally, and it would probably take years for him to walk on his own. But Cathy was determined, and by spending countless hours, was able to help Randy learn to walk on his own in less than six months!

Randy attends Head Start classes, and is progressing well. He knows numbers up to 20, the alphabet, colors and shapes, and he loves to have stories read to him. He may be little—still only 25 pounds at age 4—but Cathy knows how smart he is and recognizes his potential. "He's a very sharp young man," she says.

Cathy, thank you for your wonderful support. We can only hope that there will be many more foster and adoptive parents just like you who are willing to offer a loving home to children in need.



SPECIAL THANKS to those in our community!

The 7th Annual Appreciation Day at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium was a roaring success once again this year! It was Sunday, June 13th, a normal day at the Zoo and Aquarium...until it was flooded! Flooded with people, that is. Over 850 children and adults attended the event and enjoyed a free, fun-filled day of activities. Complimentary lunch was served on behalf of Every Child, Inc. A rockin' DJ and various children's activities helped make it a wonderful day.



Every Child would like to extend special thanks to the following individuals and organizations for making our Family Appreciation Day a success: **Lisa Platt, Bob Monroe and the crew from Service Systems Associates, Chartwells Dining at Winchester Thurston School, Charles Catering and Gourmet Foods, Giant Eagle, Inc., Homestead Shop'n Save, Nickels Bakery, Pepsi-Cola Company, Pittsburgh's Best Ice Cream, Reinhart Foods, Panera Bread, Starbucks Coffee Company, Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, St. Bede School, Pittsburgh Singles Volunteer Network, All Occasions Party Rental, Girl Scout Troop #800 of Penn Hills (Michelle, Sara, Amber, Allison, Gia and Jennifer M.), Franklin Elementary School's Brownie Troop #644 of Ingomar (Rhoda C., Caitlin, Shelby, Jessica, Mia, Jackie, Bret, Nivedha, Emily, Tricia and Vicki), Center for Creative Play, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the Carnegie Science Center.**

Special thanks to **Dr. Barbara Baker**, President & CEO of the **Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium**, for making this annual event possible.

Every Child appreciates all the support we can get. For those who donate their time, money, supplies, and everything else, we thank you.

Thanks to **employees of Chartwell PA** for donating wonderful Easter baskets and for hosting the holiday toy and food drive last Christmas. (**Danielle Kassell, Wendy Chicora, and Sandy Briggs and her Sunday School Class**)

Thanks to **Rachel Mollen** and her **student council officers at North Hills Junior High (Dorree, Val, Colleen, and Danica)** for coming to Every Child's offices to sort through donated clothes and then coordinating the donation of nine large boxes packed with personal hygiene products to fill duffel bags, making them readily available to children moving within the foster care system.

"PERMANENT FAMILY" OF THE YEAR AWARD

On June 30, 2004, **Stefani Novotny** was honored as Permanent Family of the Year at PA Statewide Adoption Network's (SWAN) 13th Annual Permanency Conference in Lancaster.

In October of 2001, Every Child called Stefani to tell her about an infant named Joseph. We explained Joseph's extensive medical needs, and told her that due to his serious condition, he was not expected to live beyond a couple of months. But Stefani was committed and immediately said, "Yes, I will provide him a loving, stable home for as long as he needs one, whether that be a week, a month, or years." She took him in that October, and was able to adopt him the following May.

This coming September, Joseph will be celebrating his third birthday. Stefani has been an ardent advocate in meeting Joseph's medical and social needs, and she has given him the chance to live in a loving home. Stefani adores Joseph, and she can often be heard bragging about his looks. "He's stinkin' cute!" Congratulations, Stefani. You truly deserve the Permanent Family of the Year Award.



FAMILY SUCCESS STORIES

Every Child, Inc. began working with **Crystal** and her family in February of 2003. At the start of services, Crystal was a single mother with two children. Her youngest child at the time was diagnosed with several disabilities and required a great amount of care. While working with Crystal and her family, it was discovered that she was pregnant with her third child. Crystal welcomed a new daughter into the world without incident. Crystal worked with her Permanency Specialist to accomplish the goals of obtaining housing and practicing appropriate parenting skills. The county was able to successfully close her family's case shortly after the birth of her daughter. Today, Crystal is working and caring for her three children successfully.

Yolanda was struggling with her school attendance and performance prior to working with Every Child, Inc. Once a Permanency Specialist began working with Yolanda, her attendance improved and she began to excel in her academics. As a result, Yolanda was successfully promoted to the twelfth grade.

Katie is currently working with Every Child, Inc. She has recently obtained part-time employment at a local business. Katie excels in school and was promoted to the twelfth grade. Thanks to Ronald McDonald House Charities (see 2004 Grantors, page 4) for providing extra funds so Katie could have guitar lessons. Katie has recently joined a neighborhood band where she can play the guitar and sing!

(The above services were provided through the agency's In-Home/Prevention contract with Allegheny County Department of Human Services.)

EVERY CHILD COUNTS ON YOU...

Every Child could not exist without our Donors and Volunteers. Thank you for working with us, supporting us, and most of all believing in our mission—that every child deserves a chance to grow up in a safe, loving, lasting family. We'd like to offer a special thanks to the grantors listed below.

2003-2004 GRANTORS

Staunton Farm – A generous grant from the Staunton Farm Foundation helps to match Every Child's current PA Children's Trust Fund grant specifically targeted to provide support services for pregnant women and teens with mental health disabilities. It also funds training for staff and evaluation of the effectiveness of achieving permanency, safety, and well being for the children and parents served.

PA Children's Trust Fund – We received a three-year grant from PA Children's Trust Fund to help us work with pregnant women with mental health disabilities and other special needs. One of only eight grants awarded across PA, it provides expectant mothers with childbirth education, emotional support and Doula Services, as well as family support services to the expectant mother, her husband/partner, and her immediate circle of support. Services can then be extended throughout the child's first year, utilizing the Parents-As-Teachers curriculum, providing families with parenting instruction and child development information.

FISA Foundation – FISA has kindly provided a second-year grant for continued support of Doula services for teens and women with physical and sensory disabilities throughout their pregnancies, labor & delivery, and

afterwards for a year. It will also help to fund support group sessions for the teens and women served through this project.

Ronald McDonald House Charities – We received a helpful grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities that provides R&R (Respite and Recreation) activities for the birth, kin, foster and adoptive children we serve. These activities allow concentrated time for the children to relax, refuel, and learn new ways to reduce stress in their everyday lives. Children practice healthy behaviors through books, tapes, games and other activities purchased with grant funding. (And parents get a little break as well!)

Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust – A generous grant was received from the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust that helps provide R&R (Respite and Recreation) activities for birth, foster and adoptive families of children with multiple disabilities (primarily cognitive disabilities) and other special needs. R&R is the most requested support from the families we serve, and the resource that has the most positive impact on keeping the family stable and together over time.

Junior League of Pittsburgh – Thanks to a grant from the Junior League of Pittsburgh, we have funds to aid in identifying pregnant teens and women with disabilities in need of Doula Services. These women may lack resources, social support and access to services available to other pregnant women. Our services will provide outreach and education, as well as advocacy, prevention, and other supports and resources for this group of women.

Pittsburgh Social Venture Partners – Thanks to a grant from PSVP, one of only two awarded each year, we are beginning an

exciting new initiative to describe, evaluate, and improve Every Child's model of service delivery. Once we do that, we plan on marketing our model to other child welfare providers. By spreading our best practices across the state, we hope to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of child welfare services.

PA Health Dept. – The Bureau of Family Health of the Pennsylvania Health Department graciously provided a grant to fund our "Every Child Deserves a Home and Family...Making It Happen" symposium, held in both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, in April and June respectively. (The Philadelphia conference was supported through a similar grant to the *PA Protection and Advocacy Organization*.) These day-long events were devoted to finding new ways to ensure that all children with complex health care needs and other disabilities have the opportunity to grow up in loving, lasting families in their own communities. Thanks to this generous grant and collaborators, both events were very successful. (More exciting news to follow in future editions.)

Temple University's Institute on Disabilities recently awarded Every Child a one-time grant for a *Parents With Disabilities Initiative*. Collaborators on the grant include: [UCP Community Service Centre of Pittsburgh](#), the [Disability Connection Office of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services](#), [Sto-Rox 'Focus on Renewal'](#), and [Northview Heights Family Support Center](#). The overall goal of this grant is to improve accessibility (physical accessibility and accessibility in the broadest sense) for parents with disabilities and their children, to benefit from all the resources that Family Support Centers provide to other parents in the community.

BEACON ON BOARD: DON JOHNSTON

Don Johnston's interest in helping children began six years ago, when his newborn son had to undergo a heart transplant operation at Pittsburgh's Children's Hospital. His son spent the whole first month of his life in the hospital, receiving specialized life-saving care. During this time, Don couldn't help but notice that there were children in the hospital that didn't seem to have parents or family staying with or visiting them. Although the nurses did their best, it was impossible for them to do their job and act as parents. It was a very sad thing to see, and Don couldn't help but wonder, "How can we help these kids and their families?"

It was a question that haunted him, until he met Every Child Executive Director Susan Davis when they both attended Leadership Pittsburgh years ago. In talking to Susan, Don found out the children he was seeing alone at the hospital perhaps didn't have permanent families. For those who did, their parents might not have had transportation to get to the hospital, or didn't have someone to care for their other children at home. Susan talked about Every Child's mission of permanency for children with special needs, ensuring loving families, and explained about our extensive services...including transporting families to doctor's appointments and hospital visits. Upon hearing this, Don decided he wanted to get involved with Every Child and that's when he volunteered for a board position. Don has been on Every Child's Board of Directors for over four years and has been the Treasurer for the last 3 years.

As Treasurer, Don's main objective is to help secure Every Child's financial future. He wants to make sure we're still running strong well into the

future. Don plans for this longevity by helping us make smart monetary decisions. It's no secret that our local economy is struggling, and non-profit agencies are facing very difficult times. Don's objective is to keep Every Child alive and going strong to ensure that we can continue to serve the children and families who really need us.



Don works downtown at Grossman Yanak & Ford LLP, where he is a Tax Partner in the Tax Services Group. He is a Certified Public Accountant working with both middle-market corporate and individual clients in the Region. With three children at home, ages 3, 6 and 8, Don really looks forward to the weekends when he spends time with his family visiting many of the local kid-friendly parks and attractions. Don is also an avid runner, and comes into the city most weekdays before work to get in an early-morning run.

Don feels strongly about the work that Every Child is doing, and believes the outlook for the organization is bright despite tough economic times. "I'm really proud of the legacy that Every Child is building in Pittsburgh and in the non-profit community and I hope to be a small part of this success."

We are truly fortunate to have Don Johnston on board with us. Thank you, Don, for all of your hard work and dedication!

SUCCESSFUL AND HEALTHY DOULA-SUPPORTED BIRTHS

Carrie gave birth to Ricky 2-16-04
 Maris gave birth to Sophie 3-6-04
 Genevieve gave birth to Caitlin 1-13-04
 Christina gave birth to Ashley Celine 2-29-04
 Elaya gave birth to Ta'Aliya Debuise 5-13-04
 Stephanie gave birth to Jaylin 1-28-04
 Amanda gave birth to April 6-9-04
 Nicky gave birth to Ky'aun Shemar 4-20-04

Tracy gave birth to Carlos 5-7-04
 Jamie gave birth to Blake Anthony 4-29-04

FOSTER CARE TO ADOPTION

Randy, 4, with Cathy Clark
 Victoria, 11, with Liza and William Bauman
 William, 6, with Karl and Dana Jones
 David, 6, with Rick and Patti Demharther
 Semaj, 2, with Elena Bentley

THANKS TO NEW FOSTER FAMILIES & NEW FOSTER/ADOPTION FAMILIES

Providing transitional foster care to children is such a gift. Thanks to our new foster and adoptive families for giving waiting children a safe and loving environment. Thanks also to all families currently waiting for adoptive or foster placements!

Rochelle Black
 Pat & Velma Covert
 Julie DeJohn
 John & JaNeen Fleishner
 Kathy and Bob Griffin
 Peter & Sheila Harewood
 Marc & Lisa Hutchinson
 Ruby Hutchinson
 Michael & Topias Mundie
 Raul & Sara Murquia
 Connie Murray

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADOPTION AND/OR FOSTER CARE?

Every Child's information gathering meetings are held every third Thursday of the month – Every Child's next intro meeting is September 16th at 7 p.m. To register please contact Pam Caruthers at 412-287-3511 or Maureen May at 412-665-0600. Every Child, Inc. provides on-going training to potential foster care and adoptive parents free of charge.

WAITING CHILDREN

These wonderful children are just a few of the thousands of kids waiting for adoption in Pennsylvania. If you or someone you know would be interested in knowing more about any of these children, please call Every Child, Inc. at 412-665-0600 or 1-888-665-2940. And please check out our website: www.everychildinc.org. If you're interested in learning about the PA Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN), call 1-800-585-SWAN or www.adoptpakids.org.

AARON, 13, Caucasian/African American
 AHMAD, 11, African American
 ASHLEY, 16, African American
 JESSE, 17, African American
 MARY, 14, African American
 TIERRA, 15, African American
 AMANDA, 16, Caucasian
 PASSION, 11, African American



AMANDA



ASHLEY

FAMILY FANFARE

MEDICAL WRAP-AROUND SERVICES

Every Child, Inc. began working with Robert and Stephanie while their son, Robert, was being treated at Transitional Infant Care Hospital (TIC). Robert was born premature, causing several medical complications. Ann Greider, Every Child, Inc. Permanency Specialist, was assigned to work with the family. She made sure that Stephanie and Robert were able to get to and from TIC to visit Robert on a regular basis. The couple was determined to get their son healthy, and kept a positive attitude throughout his medical treatment. As young parents, Stephanie and Robert eagerly accepted the responsibility of learning their son's complicated care. They made it through, even in tough times, by relying on each other, their family, and Ann for support. Shortly after Robert IV was released from the hospital, he had to be readmitted due to an infection. Ann continued to support the family through this complication as well. We're happy



to report that little Robert and his parents are doing very well, and they keep in contact with Ann on a regular basis. *(This service was provided through the agency's In-Home/Prevention contract with Allegheny County Department of Human Services.)*

DOULA SERVICES

Tina came to Every Child, Inc. when she became pregnant with her third child. Tina has bi-polar disorder, and was struggling with the thought of raising three children on her own, as her husband has mental illness and was hospitalized.

Tina got connected with Every Child's Doula staff, which proved to be just the medical and emotional support she needed. Staff attended many of Tina's doctor appointments with her so she wouldn't have to be alone. And when her baby was born, Tina did a great job and benefited from all the physical and emotional labor support.

After the baby's birth, Tina was so busy caring for her children that she wasn't able to make treatment appointments for her bi-polar disorder. She began developing post-partum depression. Staff quickly recognized the severity of her condition, got her back into treatment, and helped care for her three children so Tina could focus on getting better. Now, Tina is healthy, as are her three precious

children. Thanks to Tina's courage and hard work, her family was able to stay together while she got well. Now, Tina is working on other important issues—like cooking, bargain shopping, budgeting and more. Tina is grateful to have added support from Every Child, Inc. *(Funding was provided through Staunton Farm Foundation and PA Children's Trust Fund. See 2004 Grantors, page 4)*

ADOPTION AND POST-ADOPTION SERVICES

At Every Child, it is our mission to give children the opportunity to grow up in safe, loving and lasting families. We believe the benefits of healthy adoption are endless, not just for the adopted child, but also for the family. The following story is just another example of how wonderful family life can be after adoption. It is an essay that was submitted for a scholarship by a young girl...and she won.

Essay by *Chrissy Baldwin

While sitting in my room, on my bed, jotting down notes in a tablet, in walks Lori, my little sister. I had been trying to come up with a personal experience that has special meaning to me. The moment she came into my room, I immediately knew what to write about for this essay. It would be about the adoption of my little sister.

When I was in fourth grade, God sent me Lori to become part of our family on May 27,

1999 (I was nine years old and she was four years old.) As you can see, Lori and I are five years apart. Lori was officially adopted on April 5, 2001 (or as Lori likes to call herself, Lori Elizabeth "Officially Legal" Baldwin). In May of this year, our family will be celebrating Lori's fourth year with us.

When Lori came to our family, I had to learn how to cope with not being the only child anymore. That was the easy part! I suddenly learned how to become a big sister when for the last nine years I had never had a brother or sister. To tell the truth, I'm still learning! I had to start taking care of someone other than myself for once. And I had to realize that I wasn't going to be the center of attention any more. This part wasn't too hard either. To this day, I am still too bossy with Lori. My dad always kids around and says to Lori, "I never knew we had two mothers in our home!" meaning myself (as the big sister) and my mom as being the two mothers. I am still working on that part everyday. Even with our age differences, we get along pretty well. We are both one of the smallest in our own grades, we both do very well in school and we both play musical instruments. But if you look at us, we are the exact opposite. My hair is very, very blonde



while hers is dark, dark brown. I have very fair skin and she has darker tanner skin. But if you looked at my sister, my mom, my dad and me together, you would never guess that my sister was adopted because we all get along so well.

My sister helped me with this essay and she didn't even know it. Before she had even walked out of the room, I made sure to give her a big hug and told her thank you even though she didn't know what it was for. After you've read this, I'm sure you can see how just this one event has affected my whole life and the way I live it.

**Names were changed, because the girls don't want anyone to think of them as anything but "REAL" sisters.*

CAMP LAUGH-A-LOT

Every Child, Inc. and ARC Human Services of Washington County developed a fruitful partnership this summer. ARC Washington County has provided a successful summer day camp for children with disabilities for the last six years. This summer they were asked by the county to include a new group of children who are typically not offered a camp experience, children with developmental delays and emotional disabilities. Because of Every Child's expertise at providing therapeutic services for this population, Mike Reardon, CEO of ARC Washington County, proposed a partnership which would utilize experienced staff from Every Child to develop, help manage, and educate current camp staff,

as well as provide treatment plans and direct counseling for the campers.

Every Child's Bob Panigal and Denny Falo recently spent eight weeks in this very new venture. According to Denny, "This has been a great learning experience for the children as well as for us (Denny & Bob). The children were given a unique opportunity to learn coping strategies and processing techniques to help with behavior issues and, in the meantime, they enjoyed participating in exciting activities with other children at the camp. The diversity of children made it a challenging task for us, but seeing the children grow over this short period of time was very rewarding. It was worth taking on the challenge."



FAMILY RETREATS

Twelve adoptive Mom's got together for three days in February at the Family Resources Family Retreat Center (Cranberry) for another "Mom's Retreat!"

We sent out invitations to Moms whose families are currently receiving post-permanency services from Every Child. The Moms participated in events such as Mask Making and Creative Writing Workshops. Representatives from the Playback Theatre Improv group were there to help our Moms reflect their feelings in dramatic format. We also had massage therapists and a manicure/pedicure specialist on hand. The mom's not only got to bond with each other, but they also got to be pampered as well!

Feedback from the Moms was fantastic -- some are still keeping in touch. Here are a few comments:

"I attended the recent Mom's Retreat, and I'm so glad that I did. I was reluctant at first, but meeting other Moms in similar situations did me a world of good. I don't feel alone anymore." - Tammy

"Many of us stayed up late, talking and sharing about our lives, where we came from and where we are now. We laughed and cried and hugged and walked away with bonds." - Kathy

"The retreat weekend allowed me to share my feelings, both positive and negative, without being criticized. It was refreshing to be able to express myself through the theater arts, writing and the 'mask.'" - Susan

"...The REAL value to me, personally, was the opportunity to spend the time with other moms in similar situations. We laughed and cried and shared and were UNDERSTOOD by

each other." - Karrie

Thanks to all the Moms who participated. We hope to see more of you at our next retreat!

The agency held two other Adoptive Family Retreat Weekends at the Family Retreat Center.

Activities centered around a "Sticking Together" theme, and were designed to build family cohesion in a pressure-free atmosphere. And as always, these retreats were a way for families to meet others in similar situations.

Every Child's adoptive family retreats are funded through a three-year-grant (and this is the second year) from the **Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families: Adoption Opportunities.**

FYI—KEEPING UP WITH WHAT'S GOING DOWN

FREE PRODUCE

The Allegheny County Health Department's Women, Infant and Children (WIC) supplemental food program is offering free produce through the Pennsylvania Farmers Market Nutrition Program. WIC is a federally funded program that provides nutrition counseling and food vouchers to income-eligible and nutritionally at-risk pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children under the age of five. Families enrolled in WIC will be given checks worth \$20, redeemable through November 30, 2004 for Pennsylvania-grown fresh fruits and vegetables sold at participating farmers markets across the state, (including 43 locations in Allegheny County). For more information about the WIC and how to apply for benefits, call the WIC Program at the County Health Department at 412-350-5801, or toll-free at 1-800-WIC-WINS.

PITTSBURGH PARENT MAGAZINE

Looking for something to do this month? Then look for the Pittsburgh Parent Magazine! Pittsburgh Parent is a free publication that is committed to providing parents of infants through teens with resources to enhance all aspects of parenting and family life. Each issue discusses important topics such as health care, education, family entertainment, and much more. There is also a monthly calendar of local events for children and families in every publication.

Pittsburgh Parent is published once a month, and can be found at more than 600 distribution sites throughout metropolitan Pittsburgh area - including grocery stores, hospitals, doctor's offices, churches, schools, libraries, recreational centers and retail stores. For a site nearest to you, call Pittsburgh Parent Magazine at 724-443-1891. You can also view the magazine online at www.pittsburghparent.com.

HELPING TEENS BECOME SELF RELIANT

Living Large is a new service developed in January, 2004 at Every Child as an enhancement to existing services. Since life skills are such an important facet of helping children and teens, Every Child, Inc. staff members Aimee Silvio and Jessica Galbraith sat down to develop a formalized life skills curriculum. Based on "Recipes for Independence," Aimee and Jessica created recipe boxes for each Every Child team. The recipe boxes contain specific activities and interventions to work on with young adults, including nutrition, registering to vote, budgeting, and more relevant life topics. Likewise, there are assessments that can be completed to track progress and outcomes, and also to help get other family members involved. *Living Large* is available to any child currently receiving Every Child services, but was mainly designed for children ages 14 and older.