



THE PERMANENT PRESS



A Quarterly Newsletter from Every Child, Inc.

Summer 2005

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 • REUNIFICATION STORY
• LETTER FROM SUSAN DAVIS
- 3 • DOULA BASKETS
• SPOTLIGHT ON EVERY CHILD STAFFER: EDDIE DEAGOSTINO
- 4 • WELCOME TO THE BOARD
• WIN STEELER SEASON TICKETS
• EVERY CHILD VALUES THE GENEROSITY OF THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION
• SPECIAL THANKS TO THE HIGHMARK FOUNDATION
- 5 • FAMILY DAY AT THE ZOO
- 6 • ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS
- 7 • QUOTES FROM ADOPTIVE PARENTS...

Home is where the heart is... and, if at all possible, where the children should be too.

Every Child's work with family preservation and reunification is central to our belief that every child deserves to grow up in a safe, loving and lasting family. Ideally, that family is their family of origin.

Aimee Silvio, Director of In Home Services, talks about **Family Preservation and Reunification at Every Child.**

What is Every Child's philosophy on family preservation?

"We believe the best option for any child is to remain in their birth family, if possible. We step in when a child is at risk of being removed from the home, often due to abuse or neglect. The child's safety is the first priority, but, if at all possible, we work to preserve the family unit."

What are the first steps?

"We look at the whole situation and tailor services meeting the family's needs. If there's a pregnant woman who needs support, we assign a doula to help her — or perhaps a teen needs help with life skills. Parents are taught, in addition to many other things, how to budget, seek consistent medical care, and access available community resources. For parents under stress, we focus on teaching parenting and coping skills offered by staff certified to utilize the "Parents as Teachers" curriculum."

What are some barriers to reunification that these parents face?

"In family reunifications, often the parent has a specific set of goals determined by the courts which they must accomplish before reunification with their child can occur. Often the goals are related to identifying better housing, ensuring drug and alcohol treatment compliance, and/or mental health treatment. Also parents may need to complete a parenting program or become connected to important community resources. Both the parents and the children need to be competently assessed, prepared, and supported before and after reunification for it to be, and remain successful.

What are some of the causes for parent/child separation?

"Separations occur when Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) finds it absolutely necessary to remove a child from the home. The primary reason for the removal of a child is safety issues but there are a number of causes. Some parents are too young and do not have adequate family support to raise a child, especially a child with a complex disability. Separations also occur because a single parent has been incarcerated. The most prevalent reason for removal of a child is neglect and most of these are attributable to parental substance abuse. We assist in helping children keep meaningful and loving relationships with their parent during their "out of home" placement. We help the kids write letters to their parent, provide educational group sessions and one-on-one counsel-

ing. We'll assist with school issues and offer counseling if needed. In serious situations, Intensive Family-Based Therapy offered by Every Child, may be provided to the child and family.

"Every Child's model of service delivery provides this type of integrated and comprehensive set of needed services for every child and family served."

What's the most important thing to remember and understand about these parents and their children?

"You have to realize that all parents are capable and have strengths and that all children love their parents no matter what the circumstances are.

"All" parents are capable?

Mothers and fathers naturally want to love and nurture their children. Our job is to find and remove the things that are keeping these parents from parenting their children well. It might be addiction, mental health, or other issues. Remove those barriers and problems and usually a strong family forms naturally."



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

REUNIFICATION STORY

LaToya lost custody of her first two children in 2000. In February of 2004, Every Child, Inc. received a referral from CYF to work with LaToya to reunify her with her third child. Rose Hammonds, Every Child Permanency Specialist, was assigned to work with LaToya. Together, they developed a plan and strategy for LaToya to reach her "In-Home Service Plan" goals. LaToya completed individualized parenting instruction and established resources to support her role as a single mother, thus regaining custody of her third child. Ultimately LaToya was able to obtain her own house. Today, she is a confident parent who is managing her home well and doing a great job with her daughters. At a recent court hearing with CYF, the judge decided that LaToya had completed all her goals. Her CYF and Every Child, Inc. case was closed due to her continued success. Rose occasionally keeps in contact with LaToya. In a recent letter to Rose, LaToya wrote "Thank you for helping me through a challenging time in my life. You've given me a lot of hope and support. I couldn't have asked for a better caseworker and friend than you." Congratulations to LaToya on her successful reunification!

Dear families and friends of Every Child, Inc.,

This is an exciting and busy time for Every Child! We are deep into preparations for our 6th annual "Every Child Is Note Worthy" benefit. Join us on September 23rd for a rollicking jazz cruise which will depart from Heinz Field and sail the balmy and beautiful Caribbean Seas of our imaginations.

"Captain" Ben Roethlisberger is at the helm, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield is the lead sponsor, Highmark's Aaron Walton is once again the honorary benefit chairman, and Vanessa Rubin, a popular New York Jazz singer, is booked to perform in the Starlight Ballroom. This event grows every year, but this year will be a real departure. As always, guests will have fun and find great opportunities to support the work of Every Child, Inc. with gaming tables, raffles and a silent auction.

New this year is a live auction. Every Child's generous supporters have truly come through with great auction and raffle items — like a Harley motorcycle; a ski trip with all the equipment; a New York getaway with airfare, hotel, and tickets to the David Letterman show; and a signed Steelers helmet worn by Ben Roethlisberger during his award winning rookie season. **Save the date, don't miss this amazing event!**

A special thank you to MARC USA for all the time and talent they've put into increasing the public's awareness of the comprehensive support Every Child gives to vulnerable children and families in our communities. To achieve this outcome, Every Child Board member Michelle Sinciline and MARC USA associates have created an exciting new image

for Every Child, Inc. They've produced a beautiful invitation and program book cover for the September jazz benefit; a new Every Child, Inc. brochure; Every Child's first Annual Report; and (in partnership with PMI), a short video highlighting stories of the people Every Child serves. The grand unveiling of all these products will occur at the September jazz event.

In partnership with Hosanna House in Wilkinsburg, another new project is to improve the accessibility and general "welcoming" of the Center for parents and children with disabilities from that community. Hosanna House and Every Child are learning from each other and thinking of new ways to share resources. Ann and Darlene, two Every Child staffers, will be providing the Parents as Teachers curriculum to a group of families in Hosanna's Housing program and Hosanna House will provide staff and specific classes to benefit some Every Child families. Both of these programs were funded by grants - one from Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust Fund and the other through Temple University.

Every Child considers partnerships with other organizations vital to our mission. Joining with other organizations allows Every Child to offer additional approaches to ensure that families receive the tools, resources, and supports they need to stay strong, stable, and healthy.

As always, a heartfelt thanks to all of you who remain committed and passionate about our cause.

Fondly,
Susan Davis



From left to right:
Vanessa Capozzi, Every Child Board Member Michelle Sinciline,
Lisa Tristano, Tom Laurent, Barb Stefanis, Denise Dorsey and
Heather Glenn

*** Doula services focus on teens and women with various disabilities and special health-care needs.**

DOULA* BASKETS

Ideally, when a woman has a baby she is surrounded by loving family and friends who support and celebrate the coming of her child into the world. Not all expectant mothers find themselves in this ideal situation. Every Child's doula services step into this void and provide support to a mother-to-be and her family before and during labor. After the child is born, the doula offers care and support to the new mother, infant and family over a years time.

Every Child's good friends at MARC USA saw a need to reach out to these new mothers and infants by creating doula baskets. Seven MARC USA employees formed a committee and collected money and gifts to fill gift baskets with all the things a new mother needs to welcome her baby home. Onesies, bottles, bibs, formula and even car seats and strollers were included with the gift baskets which the Every Child doulas will give to the new mothers upon the arrival of their child. The baskets were gratefully received by both the doulas and the new mothers.

Thanks MARC USA!

SPOTLIGHT ON EVERY CHILD STAFFER: EDDIE DEAGOSTINO

On the frontline working directly with families and children to create, preserve, and reunify families is Every Child's Eddie DeAgostino, Permanency Specialist. DeAgostino visits families at home; linking them to resources in their community, teaching parenting skills, and helping children develop independence and self-reliance. DeAgostino is trained to deal with challenges in the family unit while looking for the numerous strengths the children and families possess.

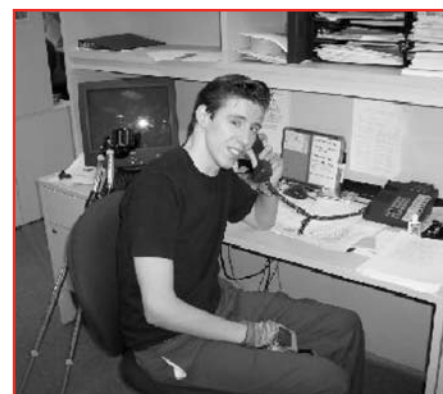
A 2003 graduate of Penn State with a degree in psychology and a minor in human development and family studies, DeAgostino says he has always been interested in family dynamics and studying how a family works. Since joining Every Child he has discovered that he especially enjoys working with the children.

"I have always had a supportive family; therefore I have personally experienced the importance of 'family.' I'd say my favorite thing is working with kids helping to prepare them for adoption," DeAgostino said. "Often there are loss and grief issues, but the kids are excited about their new life." DeAgostino uses the workbook "Preparing Children For Permanence – 'Recipes' for Success," produced by Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN), as a

guide to prepare a child for adoption. Together DeAgostino and the child create a "Lifebook" that contains the child's life story, often pieced together by DeAgostino from records and legal documents.

"The Lifebook lets the kids know who they are and where they came from," DeAgostino said. "They take the book with them to their new home so 'who they are' is not lost in the adoption." Lifebooks are a valuable tool for the children today but are often even more valued as the child reaches maturity and becomes curious about their early life.

Because DeAgostino has only been with Every Child for less than a year, he really values the support of his fellow permanency team members. Each member has responsibility for their own group of families, but they work closely together, sharing insights and expertise. They support each other during difficult times and celebrate successes of the families as well.



WELCOME TO THE BOARD

Bernard J. Costello, DMD, MD, is the Chief of the Division of Craniofacial and Cleft Surgery of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine...and a new member of the Every Child Board of Directors. For Dr. Costello, joining the Board in November 2004 was an extension of the care he gives to his patients, many of whom are children. Trained in dentistry and as a craniofacial surgeon, Dr. Costello is uniquely able to provide help and hope to many of the 7,000 children who are born with or acquire facial challenges every year. Among other professional activities, Dr. Costello consults at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and is a founding member of the Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment Team at Magee-Womens Hospital.

Dr. Costello is originally from Toms River, New Jersey and was recently married to Jackie Sohn Costello, DMD, MDS, an orthodontist practicing in Pittsburgh. By the way, BJ is also a talented saxophone player and we hope to convince him to play at our September jazz event. We are so very appreciative of the time BJ offers Every Child, even with his complex and challenging surgical schedule. In speaking with an Every Child supporter whose daughter receives care from Dr. Costello, it's apparent that his kindness, patience, and respect for families make him an exceptional, professional and fantastic Board member!



EVERY CHILD VALUES THE GENEROSITY OF THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION

The J.B.P. Fund and the James and Idamae Rich Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation have recently awarded Every Child with \$750.00 in grants. These grants will provide cribs and accessories (bedding, bumper pads, mattresses), strollers, gates, and playpens to the families that Every Child serves.

Also, the Krieger Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation recommended a grant of \$500.00 to Every Child for general operating support.

In 2003, The Pittsburgh Foundation, the 15th largest community foundation in the nation, awarded more than \$24 million in grants to charitable organizations. Established in 1945, The Pittsburgh Foundation is comprised of more than 960 funds established by organizations and individual donors.

Every Child is grateful to the J.B.P. Fund, the James and Idamae Rich Fund, the Krieger Fund and the Board of Directors and staff of The Pittsburgh Foundation for these tremendously generous gifts.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE HIGHMARK FOUNDATION - GRANT FUNDS RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Families of children with complex health care needs often have to make difficult child care decisions. From medical care to education to social services, parents are forced to find support from a variety of community and government agencies. With the help of Every Child, Inc. and a \$135,000 grant from the Highmark Foundation, these families will have hope for a brighter future.

Every Child, Inc. and its partners will undertake a research and action program to investigate, analyze and act on the multiple factors that affect families raising children with complex health needs. "Children with complex health care needs currently receive services from a patchwork of agencies and organizations," said Aaron Walton, Highmark senior vice president of Corporate Affairs. "Every Child is breaking the barriers for these families by researching a comprehensive care system."



STEELERS SEASON TICKETS RAFFLE

Larrimor's for Her has donated two Steelers season tickets to Every Child as a raffle prize. The prize was two excellent seats on the 45 yard-line for all ten home games at Heinz Field. Tickets were sold for \$20.00 each and Every Child limited the raffle to 500 tickets.

Proceeds from the raffle will help Every Child provide respite care services to children and families. Respite care (a much needed break) is an essential resource not covered by other funding sources that helps to ensure a family's health and long term stability. Birth, foster and adoptive families, as well as their children, all benefit from much needed recreational and therapeutic breaks.

Special thanks to Every Child's Board members, staff, and others who sold tickets! Lucky winner to be announced in next issue.

FAMILY DAY AT THE ZOO

On Sunday, June 12th, Every Child held its 8th Annual Family Appreciation Day at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Despite the hot, hot 80+ degrees and high humidity weather, 550 family, friends, and staff of Every Child spent the day enjoying each other and the beautiful zoo. Thirty-five gallons of Rita's Italian Ice helped keep everyone cool as we listened to lively music and shared a lunch of fried chicken and hot dogs in the Zoo's garden tent. Face painting, a "Dig for Treasure" game, bingo, and ball toss entertained the young kids while the older children created animal masks, bookmarks and decorated sun visors. Barbara Baker, ZOO CEO and President, (and an Every Child adoptive parent) generously donated the zoo admission, parking, garden tent, and catering staff.

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to this annual event:

All Occasions Party Rental
Rhoda Carmody
Carnegie Science Center
Pat Catan's Craft Centers
Center for Creative Play
Centre Avenue Giant Eagle
Charles Catering Inc.
Chartwells Dining Services
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Donna's Music Express
The Enrico Biscotti Company
Franklin Elementary School's Brownie Troop #644
Pepsi-Cola Company
PNC Bank
Pittsburgh Singles Volunteer Network
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
Pittsburgh's Best Ice Cream
Reinhart Foods
Donald & Sylvia Robinson Family Foundation
Stephen Robinson
Rita's Italian Ice – Aspinwall, Cranberry Township,
Penn Hills and Squirrel Hill
St. Bede School Students
Service Systems Associates
Shop'n Save in East Liberty and Homestead
Starbucks Coffee Company
Steak'n Shake
Wal-Mart



Smiling Representatives from Rita's Italian Ice helped to serve donated "cool stuff".



Every Child staff member Luwaunna Adams and Elena Bentley with her adopted son, Semaj.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

Steelers tickets, air conditioners, gift certificates for volunteers, office equipment, and even a generous offer of free professional labor to help an Every Child family with home improvements - all of these things and many more have been donated to Every Child in recent months.

DONORS

Albright United Methodist Church
Lucille Arnold
John & Helaine Cetorelli
Chartwell PA, L.P.
Lenna Edgos
Great Lakes Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Mary Dudley Guinther
Monica Hoehler
IKEA
Don & Diana Johnston
Joll Enterprises, Inc.
Patricia Joyce
Avi Karp
Mike Karp, M.D.
Betty & Manuel Katz
Georgiann Kortnak
Keelee Kyles
Kennywood's Charitable Fund Committee
Kiwanis Club of Oakland
Larrimor's for Her
John & Daphne Lynn
MARC USA
Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club
Newborns in Need, Inc.
Panera Bread – Squirrel Hill Perspectives
Pittsburgh CLO
Patricia Pollock
Diane Rudov
St. Mary's Church
Swenson, Perer & Kontos
Temple Sinai Youth Group
Tom Schneider at Home Improvements and Repairs

Trust-Franklin Press Co.
Randy Weinberg
Michael Wojtowicz at Michael's Hair Creations
Allen Wolfert, M.D.
Nancy Douglass

OTHER DONATIONS

In memory of Raymond Solomon:

Investhers of Pittsburgh

In memory of Armando Arcenal:

Edita M. Arcenal
Susan I. Davis
Lee Davis

In memory of Larry Davis:

Barbara Davis
Ronald Davis
David & Sandra West

In memory of Allena

Thompson:
Susan I. Davis

In honor of John Pierce's birthday:

Lee Davis
Susan I. Davis

In honor of Susan

Mussman:
Michele T. Cole

In honor of Dr. Bernard J.

Costello:
Nancy U. Douglass

SPECIAL THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS from Chatham College: Allan Brown, Lance Medlock, Gina Sciarretti, and Sommer Temple, and to volunteers from St. Margaret's Hospital: Iris Arndt, Patty Katz, Donna McCormick, and Adele Washington. Other volunteers include Kristen DeComo, Arlyne Fenster, Robin Ittigson, Paul Nagy, and Robert Posch

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA Thank you for choosing Every Child, Inc. as the recipient of one of the service activities during your 74th Great Lakes Regional Conference. Special thanks to Toni Kendrick and Daria Crawley for inviting Susan Davis to participate in AKA's "Spirit of The Everyday Hero" public meeting at the Convention Center. Special thanks also to Dr. Lisa Issac, Della Burt, Barbara McCloy, and the ladies of Alpha Alpha Omega Chapter for facilitating the collection of numerous duffle bags, backpacks, and school supplies for Every Child, Inc., provided by the Great Lakes Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. What a collection - the duffle bags will be given to children with special needs moving into Every Child's foster family care service as they wait to be adopted or reunited with their birth family.

AVI KARP First of all, congratulations on your recent Bar Mitzvah! Thank you so much for thinking of Every Child when planning your service project! Asking for donations for the children we serve is truly one of the kindest and most thoughtful things a child has done for the agency. The gently used books were given to Every Child children at Every Child's 8th Annual Family Appreciation Day. The new books will be gifts given to children throughout the year. The monetary donations (total \$340.00) will help a child or family in need. Please extend our thanks to all your friends and family members who helped make the donations possible.



ADOPTIVE PARENTS RECEIVING POST-PERMANENCY (POST-ADOPTION) SUPPORT EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION

"At our first meeting we were made aware of many things that Every Child offered to us as adoptive parents. We later attended a family retreat weekend. Thanks for a job well done! Your agency has helped us through not only the retreat, the support group, but by the help we will be receiving to make this a successful placement. It is nice to know we aren't alone and we have helped out there!" David and Kathy McCarl

"Thank you for such a great time! Meeting you guys and sharing such a good time with the other adoptive families and enjoying time with all the children makes for great memories. Thank you!" The Murgia family

"This correspondence is in appreciation of the past respite and recreational grant monies that our family has been fortunate to receive. It has benefited our four adopted children emotionally, socially, and physically. The availability of respite resources has helped us the most these past several months. The respite support has given each of us a break from the demanding needs of our family dynamics. The road ahead of us will continue to be full of challenges as our girls grow and face new demands. Our hope has been renewed with each successful intervention and we have been encouraged with our recent provisions of respite. Blessings" Dave and Maria Gerstel

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
Nicholson Graham LLP

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, Chief of the Division of Craniofacial and Cleft Surgery of the
Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh
School of Dental Medicine

Robin Dolphin

Kathleen A. Helling, Esq., Director of Planned Giving, Medical & Health Sciences
Foundation, University of Pittsburgh & UPMC

Chris Helmecki, Senior VP, Commercial Banking, LaSalle Bank

Michael Karp, MD, Family Physician

Claudette Lewis, Special Assistant to Director of Allegheny County DHS

John Mitchell, Coach, Pittsburgh Steelers Football Club

Kwajalein Overton, Registered Nurse and Adoptive Parent

Michelle Sincilene, VP, USA Strategist, MARC USA

Advisory Board –

John Skowron, Partner, Deloitte.

Vicky Illar, Parent

D. Geoffrey Webster, Principal, Value Capture / Value Capture Policy Institute

Save your spot on Our Ship

All aboard for an Island Adventure! We're setting sail for an evening of fun on the S.S Every Child! The East Hall of Heinz Field will be transformed into a cruise ship, complete with all the entertainment you'd expect to find on the high seas: dancing, cocktails, casino games, shopping and an elegant dinner in the Starlight Ballroom. Your Captain, Steelers Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, Cruise Director Susan Davis, Executive Director of Every Child, and our Chair, Aaron Watson of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, will welcome you aboard and help you navigate from port to shining port. Anchors Aweigh!



Departure: 7:00pm on Friday, September 23rd, 2005
Vessel: S.S. Every Child is Note Worthy
Home Port: Heinz Field, East Club Level
Cargo: A rollicking crowd of Every Child supporters and jazz lovers
Destination: The romantic and exciting Carribean Seas...of our imaginations
Passage Cost: \$100.00 person
Tables of Eight: \$700.00
Tables of Ten: \$900.00

Call today and reserve your passage on the SS Every Child Is Note Worthy. 412-665-0600

Summer 2005

*Address update or receiving an
extra copy of our newsletter?
Please contact us.*

Phone: 412.665.0600
Email: info@everychildinc.org
Website: www.everychildinc.org

The Village of EASTSIDE
6410 Penn Avenue, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

every child, inc.


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