

Good News!

Articles & Stories of Interest from Christian Family Care

March 2011

In This Issue

Styles and Smiles

Go Green this Spring!

Accredited for Excellence

He Haunted Me

Upcoming Events

Annual Fashion Show

Burndog Golf Event

Family Fun Festival

Styles & Smiles at Annual Fashion Show



Styles and smiles take center stage at Christian Family Care's 8th Annual Women's Fashion Show & Brunch. Held Friday, April 8th from 9 AM to Noon, this favorite event features real fashions for real women, showcased against the stunning backdrop of Camelback Mountain.

For hostess Sharon Semple, this annual spring event is a labor of love, bringing together more than 250 women in her garden. "It's an intimate way to get to know the friends of CFC," explains Semple. "It's a lovely morning including an auction, great food, entertainment, and lots of visiting with old and new friends."

Semple's real motivation, however, is the connections the event fosters with CFC. Recalling the first fashion show she hosted, she remembers the little girls who were dancing at the event as part of the entertainment. "When they were rehearsing the night before, I told them the story of CFC and why they were dancing. One little girl raised her hand and told me, 'I was adopted from CFC.'"

She sees these kinds of continuing connections made each year at this annual event. Semple notes that last year, more than half of the 250 attendees were new friends of CFC. She is particularly pleased that so many new friends get the opportunity to learn more about foster and adoptive care through the ministry.



Wear your best hat and come enjoy a spring tea in the garden! Individual tickets are \$45 and tables of eight are available for \$350. Both may be purchased online at cfcare.org. Adults only, please.

Go Green this Spring!

As more people look for ways to live "green," the Family Attic Thrift Store offers a practical solution. Shop the store for items ready for a second season of service and get a great deal for your wallet while doing good for the environment - and the children served by CFC.



Tucson Family Attic

James Hughes, Phoenix store manager, credits the store's 73 volunteers for the attractive and inviting displays of goods for sale. According to Hughes, they have an eye for items that are in good condition and ready for more service in someone else's home. These goods include everything from upscale ladies fashions, men's collections, and kids boutique wear to housewares, antiques, seasonal decorations, and appliances.

And for those doing some spring cleaning, Hughes urges them to gift these items to the Family Attic, where all proceeds benefit the children served by CFC. The store's driver will even come pick up large donations; call 602-279-9959 in Phoenix and 520-886-6363 in Tucson to schedule.

Right now, The Family Attic is offering additional savings on clothing, furniture, houseware items, and shoes. These gently used items at gently used prices are a great way to shop green this spring!

Stop in today...

3121 E. Greenway Rd., Phoenix · 602-765-1478

or

1066 S. Pantano Rd., Tucson · 520-296-8398

You can also connect at cfcare.org

Also on eBay at greenwayattic

Facebook at facebook.com/familyattic

Twitter@familyattic

ABEbooks at ABEbooks.com

and Craig's List

Accredited for Excellence

With great pleasure, CFC recently learned that the Council on Accreditation (COA) has reaccredited our ministry. Of the 24 child welfare agencies within Arizona that provide foster and adoptive care; we are one of only four agencies to earn this recognition.



"The COA accreditation is meaningful in that it gives us a credible witness within the community," explains Mark Upton, president of CFC. "The accreditation process is an objective and reliable verification of our trustworthiness. It provides assurance that our agency continues to meet the highest national standards. It demonstrates that we're performing services which the community needs, conducting our operations successfully, and managing our funds effectively."

While the reaccreditation is important, just as valuable is the constructive feedback offered from the Peer Reviewer colleagues present during our site visit. Their observations provide a unique view of our agency as seen through the eyes of highly experienced professionals. Their recommendations will enable CFC to make our services even stronger.

To learn more about the COA accreditation, please visit coanet.org.

He Haunted Me: *The Story of Fostering A Teen Named John*

Peter and his wife, Julie, know something about foster care. In the past six years, they have opened their home to 20 children; most of them short term placements. With four children ages one, six, eight, and nine already in their home, they were reluctant to think about taking in another - especially when this new child was a 16-year-old boy named John.



Peter Bartolini

"He haunted me all summer long," remembers Peter. "I thought about him and what we could do for him with the other kids already living with us. We didn't know anything about teens as all of our other placements have been younger children."

Still, Peter and Julie couldn't forget John. They met with him several times and got to know him on a personal level. They watched as he interacted with their other children. And last December, Peter and Julie took John into their home.

It's a lot of hard work but Peter says they can't imagine their family without John. "One of the things he has discovered is that we're a real family, with warts and smells and great moments and challenging moments and frustrations," Peter explains. "He gets to see how we interact and how we have both good and bad days together."

More than most, Peter and Julie understand the importance of providing a home for teens in Arizona's foster care system. "At 16, he's not going to get another shot at a foster or adoptive home," states Peter. "The clock was running out for John. If we didn't step in, no one else would. And the level of attention these kids need doesn't exist in a group home."

In thinking about John, Peter smiles. "It's a fantastic experience. I help John with his homework every night. No one has ever done that before. He's learning some good skills. As long as he experiences some level of success in our family before he's launched out into the world, we'll be happy."



"Fostering a Teen"

Click the video above to listen as Peter shares in his own words what it means to become a foster parent to a teen. To learn more about fostering a teen through Christian Family Care, [contact us](#) here.