

GoodNews!

Articles & Stories of Interest from Christian Family Care

September 2011

GoodNews In This Issue

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Mom

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Beach Bowling Bash

*Over 200
children are
waiting in
shelters for a
home and
someone to
love them.
Can you help?*

**Announcing
Foster Care &
Adoption
informational
meetings** for
families or singles
interested in
learning more.
There is no
obligation!

We will be meeting:

Saturday,
October 8th, 10:00
a.m.
Desert Springs
Church,
15215 N. Tatum
Blvd. Phoenix

Tuesday,
October 18th,
7:00 p.m.
Red Mountain
Community Church,
6101 E. Virginia
St., Mesa

Tuesday, November
1,
6:30 p.m.
Scottsdale Christian
Academy,
14400 N. Tatum
Blvd. Phoenix

Saturday,
November 5th,

Teacher Turned Mom Offers Lessons In Love



As a junior high teacher, Esther has seen a lot of kids come and go through her classroom. But there was something about Jeff that grabbed her heart. In his 12 years, he had already learned a lot about life - but not the lessons she had hoped. Abuse. Abandonment. Chaos. Anger. Hopelessness. But Esther was determined to teach him something else - lessons in love, trust, and hope!

As the school year progressed, Esther would go home after school and talk about Jeff with her husband, Dan. A youth pastor, Dan was also captured by Jeff's story. In foster care since he was 5 years old, Jeff had already gone through 15 placements - two of them adoptions that fell through. In praying about Jeff, Esther and Dan remembered meeting a caseworker from Christian Family Care several years earlier. They called us the next day, asking how to become a foster and adoptive family for Jeff.

While Dan and Esther began the training and certification process, we began researching Jeff's situation. It turned out he was already living in a therapeutic foster home selected by the state - and the state had no interest in moving Jeff.

But God had a different plan for Jeff's life! Esther continued teaching Jeff every day in class, praying for him and loving him. Soon, it was time for a teacher conference involving Jeff's state foster family, his state caseworker, and school officials. Esther waited for God's timing, and then spoke up about her and Dan's desire to parent Jeff.

12:00
Vineyard Church
North Phoenix,
6250 W Peoria Ave,
Glendale

Monday, November
7th, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix Christian
High school,
1751 W. Indian
School Road.

*Interested but can't
come?*

Please call:
Margaret Soberg
at (602) 234-1935

*God unfolded His plan for Jeff's life in exactly the right time.
Today, Jeff is living with Dan and Esther and they look forward to
beginning the adoption process!*

Through Christian Family Care, Jeff was connected with licensed and loving counselors. He is making real progress in overcoming the emotional scars of his past. With the unconditional love of Dan and Esther, he is learning to trust... love... hope.

Today, there are more than 11,000 children in Arizona's foster care system, yet Dan and Esther are examples of how God can speak to believers about parenting hurting and vulnerable children. They demonstrate the life-changing hope that takes place when Christian families open their hearts to love a child with the love of Christ.

To learn how you can become a foster or adoptive family, contact us today! To steward a gift into the life of a child like Jeff, [click here](#).

The Girl Across the Street



Two years ago, Rebecca was teaching Vacation Bible School and had invited her nephew and niece to spend the week with her and husband Roger while attending. Although their plans were already made, their pastor offered a challenge during the Sunday morning service. "Go find a child and make a difference in their life," Rebecca recalls him saying. She and Roger took that challenge to heart and asked the foster girl across the street to come along to VBS.

After three days of attending VBS together, Rebecca found herself sitting at her kitchen table, looking at this child, and hearing God telling her to adopt her. Rebecca debated with God, reminding Him that her house was already full and she kept quiet, not telling her husband.

The next morning, Roger and Rebecca were speaking about the girl across the street. Roger said, "You know, we could adopt her." Rebecca immediately began researching adoption and contacted Christian Family Care.

*Nine months later, Christian Family Care had helped
Rebecca and Roger complete the certification process.
The girl across the street moved into their home with a plan for
adoption.*

Their journey has not been without challenges. Like many older children, this child had security and trust issues. She was afraid to love, fearful she would once again be abandoned. These fears came out through defiance and anger. But Christian Family Care journeyed through this process with the family and saw God bring resources into their lives to help overcome these emotional issues.

Today, Rebecca says she looks at her daughter and does not recognize the girl across the street that originally entered her home. Last year during VBS, she accepted Christ as her Savior. And this year after VBS, Rebecca watched as her daughter was baptized.

For Rebecca, her daughter is an image of what God does for all of us, adopting us into His family. "I tell my daughter she must have an important purpose because God told both me and my husband separately to adopt her," states Rebecca. "By that same logic, we all are called to be sons and daughters of Christ. We all have a purpose and God loves us."

Right now, there are literally thousands of older children waiting for a loving Christ-centered home. You can connect with one now! You can also steward a gift that makes it possible to provide licensed counseling and other support services to a child in foster care.

A Lifeline to Healing



Anna answers the phone in Christian Family Care's counseling office, taking initial calls from new clients and scheduling appointments for assessments with our licensed counselors. She vividly remembers a conversation with a Spanish-speaking mom desperate to find help for her son.

Through her tears, this loving mom described the trauma her 11-year-old boy was experiencing. A drunken man had entered the boy's bedroom window in the middle of the night. Awakened by the boy's terror, the father apprehended the man until police arrived. The mom was frightened, the boy fearful, and the family had been sleeping together ever since.

Anna listened and prayed, offering a lifeline of hope to this mother as she scheduled their first appointment. Anna remembers the boy first arriving and appearing withdrawn and quiet. But after completing 10 family counseling sessions over six months, Anna saw a very different child leave our office.

Today this young boy is smiling and told Anna he is ready to start back to school. His mom affirmed the boy's assessment, telling Anna things have worked out great and everyone is back in their own bedrooms.

What began as a phone call of desperation turned into a lifeline of healing for this child! Because of friends who steward an investment into Christian Family Care, we were able to offer this family of modest means professional counseling services on a sliding scale. Thanks to this support, the family has worked through their trauma and learned skills that will help them the rest of their lives.

Christian Family Care offers counseling to children and families from all walks of life, addressing more than foster and adoptive situations. Right now, we have several therapy groups available. Please contact Anna Cervantes at 602-234-1935, ext. 136 or go online to learn more!

Bowling Was A Blast!



Thanks to the help of more than 30 sponsors, Christian Family Care recently hosted Beach Bowling Bashes in Tucson and Phoenix, benefitting our foster children and families. Mark Upton, president and CEO of Christian Family Care enjoyed connecting with the children and families we serve.

He recalls one conversation with a foster mom, saying...

"She got a call from one of our caseworkers, asking if she and her family were willing to take in a young boy. As the caseworker described this child and his unique challenges, the mom was fearful, wondering if she could handle his issues.

But she prayed about it. And the more she prayed, the more God assured her that He would provide the resources she and this child needed.

This family ended up adopting this little boy and I had the chance to watch them play together as a family at our bowling event. It was gratifying to see them having a fun day and hearing the mom share how she had allowed God to touch her home and heart, addressing her fear and opening her up to love this child."

Sincere thanks to everyone who made our Beach Bowling Bashes possible! [Learn more](#) about volunteering your time to help with events and services that benefit our foster and adoptive children.



CHRISTIAN FAMILY CARE
Serving Children and Families Since 1982