

# GoodNews!

Articles & Stories of Interest from Christian Family Care

November 2011

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The Arizona  
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*Thank you!  
This is a large  
portion of our  
year-end  
funding.*

## Thankful for "Every"



For many months now, I've been thinking about "every." *Every* family. *Every* church. *Every* friend. *Every* child - like 2-year-old Hailey and 6-month-old Tate, fostered and later adopted by Maureen and Earl. *Every* child like Audrey who has been in 7 foster homes in 7 years. These children are the blessings for which I'm thankful this Thanksgiving season. **And every one of them is the reason Christian Family Care exists.**

As we prepare to gather around a Thanksgiving table with loved ones, I'm **thinking about our larger family** - that of Christian Family Care. This year alone, we've served more than 704 foster children, connecting them to Christ-centered, loving families. We've given more than 132 children forever families, placing precious lives into the waiting arms of loving parents. We've engaged dozens of churches in advocating for the welfare of children and serving vulnerable children and families.

For these hundreds of children who have found hope  
- for the hundreds of believers who have helped extend the love  
of Christ to them - ***we are thankful!***

**And yet there are more children waiting** - more than 10,707 of them in our state foster care system. More than 642 children who "age out" of foster care with no support systems or mentoring. More than 10,271 abortions ending the lives of precious babies. *Every* one of these children is precious. ***Every one of them needs the help of Christian Family Care.***

In the coming weeks and months, we'll be talking more about **every Christian engaging to help every child waiting for a loving Christian home**. But this Thanksgiving, I want to bring to your attention the voice of *every* child - those who are waiting and those who have already received help from Christian Family Care.

As you gather with your own family and loved ones this Thanksgiving, I'm asking you to **remember and pray for "every."** *Every* one of these children belongs to us. Each is a gift from God. And *every* one of them needs and deserves a place at the table this Thanksgiving.

God's Richest Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark".

Mark Upton  
President/CEO

Your generous prayers and stewardship make it possible for Christian Family Care to serve every child! God bless you for stewarding a gift today.

## A Second Chance for Thanks -

It was the first foster placement for Maureen and Earl. With two grown children to their credit, they felt God urging them to share their loving hearts and home with other children.

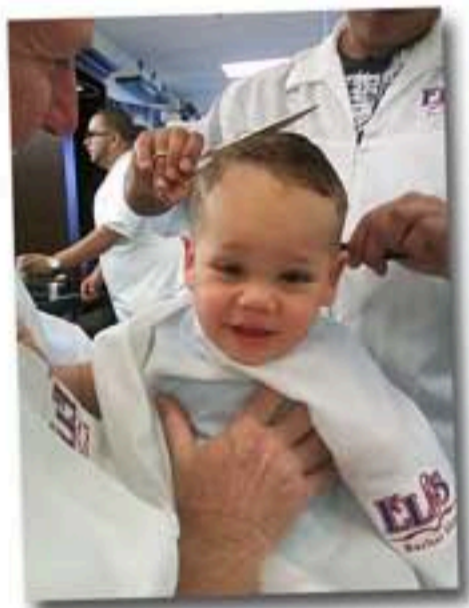
Licensed for only a week, Maureen and Earl got their first call from Christian Family Care. A sister and brother, just 2 and six months, needed a home. With a mixture of excitement and trepidation, Maureen and Earl said yes and prepared to meet their foster children.

Although our licensed caseworker had told them about the birthparent's meth addiction and extreme neglect, nothing could have prepared Maureen and Earl for what was to come. Hailey, the 2-year-old, screamed nonstop, not even sleeping in the night. She went from screaming to outright aggression - hitting, throwing things, and acting out her rage. Her brother, Justin or "Tate" as he is called, was only six months old but watched his sister's anger through big eyes.



*Hailey is thriving, gaining skills as both a gymnast and a daughter in her forever family.*

Christian Family Care was there for the family through long, difficult days. Licensed counselors helped Maureen and Earl bond with the children. Counselors worked closely with Hailey, helping her overcome her fear and anger. From simple tools such as strollers to complex support such as medical care and counseling, Christian Family Care was there to love, pray for, and support this family.



*Tate took his first haircut in stride, thanks to the loving reassurance of his dad.*

Hailey and Tate began to blossom. So did the love Maureen and Earl felt for their two foster children. When the rights of the biological parents were severed, Maureen and Earl knew God had brought Hailey and Tate into their family for good.

This Thanksgiving, Maureen and Earl's table will hold two extra seats - one for Hailey and the other for Tate. Their adoption was finalized earlier this year and they will be celebrating Thanksgiving with their forever family. Maureen looks at her expanded family - at the transformation in Hailey's behaviors - and marvels. "Timing is everything!" says Maureen. She credits God's mighty providential hand in bringing about a second chance for new and unexpected thanks in the lives of her family.

*Learn more about [fostering](#) or [adopting](#) a waiting child through Christian Family Care. Or, [steward a gift](#) that supports families opening their hearts and homes to waiting children.*

## It's As Easy As 1-2-3!



It's very simple - you can pay more in Arizona State taxes or, through the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit; you can give that money directly to help hurting children.

### **The Arizona Charitable Tax Credit is as easy as 1-2-3. Best of all, it's available at no additional cost to you!**

**1 -** If you're a taxpayer filing in Arizona and itemizing your state tax return, you can redirect a portion of the state tax dollars you owe to Christian Family Care - ***all at no additional cost to you!***

**2 -** Simply make a donation up to \$400, married (or \$200 single filers) to Christian Family Care.

**3 -** Claim your charitable contribution on your federal and state tax returns and **claim your credit - directly reducing the amount of state taxes you owe!**

Through the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, you get the benefit today of helping a foster or adoptive child waiting for a forever family. You also get the benefit again on April 15th when you reduce what you owe in state taxes.

**Getting your tax credit is as easy as 1-2-3 - but you must act before December 31st to qualify.** Give today with confidence, and then share this opportunity ([forward this email](#) or [link to our site](#) or [share on facebook](#)) with friends and family. It's a gift that helps you on tax day while offering hope to hurting children all year long!



## 'Tis the Season



In the midst of decking the halls and baking cookies, we often forget about the children who have no home - no hope for the holidays.

### **Christian Family Care is bringing the Hope of Christmas to hurting children. You can help!**

We're making it easy for you to bring Christ to kids this Christmas. Here are just a few ways you can be involved.

- Bring a **toy or book** to Christian Family Care. Your gift will help foster families bring the joy of Christmas to a child.
- Provide **respite care** for foster and adoptive families. A few hours of your babysitting time will allow a foster or adoptive family to Christmas shop for their children, attend office holiday parties, and take part in other seasonal activities.
- Donate **coats and other warm clothing**. Foster children often arrive with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. You can help clothe them, keeping them warm during our winter months.
- **Open your home** to a teen in need of a home for the holidays. Foster teens seldom have a place to go to celebrate the holidays. You can offer them a place at your table and a chance to celebrate the holidays with a loving family.
- Be Santa for Christmas. **A few hours of your time** means donated presents can be wrapped and Christmas cards to foster families can be addressed.

There are so many ways to make the holidays joyful for the children and families served by Christian Family Care. Contact us today to find out about [volunteer opportunities](#).



**CHRISTIAN FAMILY CARE**

*Serving Children and Families Since 1982*