

INAUGURAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT A BIG SUCCESS



The first annual Stone Adoption Charity Golf Tournament was by all accounts an overwhelming success. We had a beautiful July day with weather that was ideal for golf. Paul Boland and his staff did a great job in making the tournament run smoothly and Lorelei Judge did her usual wonderful job in running the golf house facility. The winners of this inaugural event, Paul Kaplan, Brenda Eunson, Danny Brown and Mark Stamoulis will have their names added to the Stone Adoption Champions trophy. The tournament was fully subscribed with 128

golfers, a number that made the pace of play move comfortably. Every tee and green sponsorship was sold and the raffle baskets, which were put together by our volunteers, were unique and fun prizes. In addition, many of our dedicated supporters who could not attend the event made contributions directly to the Fund. After golf, we moved over to the Vesper Clubhouse where Kasey Cummings and her staff put on a reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by a sit down dinner. - *continued on page 3*



Dwyer Family Story

by Kieran Meagher

In early fall 2009, Ed Stone invited Peter Hunter and me to visit a potential grantee of the Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund. Ostensibly, the purpose of the visit was to secure our concurrence in the appropriateness of the proposed grant. I think the real reason was that Ed wanted to give us a chance to share on a very personal level in the success the Fund's work is accomplishing.



I confess that his description of the family we were to visit inspired more trepidation than joy. Ed described Susan as having adopted 7 children and having 2 additional foster children, who were in the process of adoption. All of the

children suffered from profound disabilities, some more disabling than others. I find it very difficult to see children suffer, and I anticipated a house of pain, sadness and suffering.

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Perry Family Story

Bill and Pat Perry have been giving love and care to foster children for 40 years. During this time they have provided a warm, safe and loving home to over 75 children. Although they do not do this for accolades they were once honored as being Foster Parents of the year for the work that they do.

While doing what they love to do, taking care of children, along came a special boy named KK that changed their lives. KK is a severely handicapped boy that lives his life in a wheelchair.

Bill and Pat became so attached to KK that they couldn't imagine life without him and decided to adopt him. They have dedicated themselves to caring for KK and providing a home environment that KK can flourish in.

The problem the Perry's were faced with is that they are advancing in years and it has become more and more difficult to lift and transport KK. To move KK from a car or his downstairs bedroom to the living area of the house required Bill or Pat to manually lift KK. They couldn't bear the thought of giving up KK but they needed some help. - *continued on page 5*

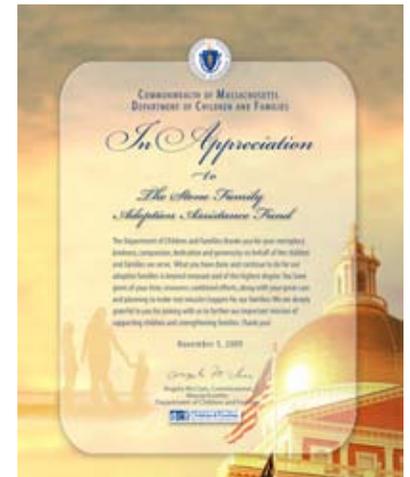
A Message From Ed Stone, Chairman



Welcome to the first edition of The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund annual newsletter. We are pleased to have several wonderful stories to tell you about how your generosity has helped to change the lives of deserving adoptive families and children in Massachusetts. 2009 was a year in which the Fund transitioned from a concept memorializing the life of Andrew Stone to an organization that has made an impact in the adoption community and has bright prospects of helping more families in the years to come.

During the past year The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund provided grants to seven families in Massachusetts. The assistance we provided ranged from the payment of adoption fees to the design and building of major medical equipment to facilitate the care and handling of handicapped children. The touching stories of our grantee families are included in this newsletter. I encourage you to read them. You will feel rewarded that your contribution to the Fund made these stories possible.

We were extremely honored to be recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families for the work that we performed to support children and strengthen families. At our annual Board meeting in November the Department presented us with a framed commendation from the Commissioner for our efforts. We are pleased to have such a solid working relationship with the Department of Children and Families as its role is vital in helping us identify the neediest adoptive family situations.



The inaugural Stone Adoption charity golf event, held at Vesper Country Club, was a tremendous success. The tournament exceeded our most optimistic expectations. The golf was fully subscribed and we even had a waiting list. The raffle drew a lot of participation and the silent auction generated significant interest thanks to the generous contributions of the prize donors and the bidders. In addition, a large number of people who could not attend the event made contributions directly to the fund. After the final accounting was completed we learned that the net proceeds of the event were over \$45,000. This year's tournament will be held on September 20, 2010 at Vesper Country Club.

In difficult economic times when every dollar matters, we are thankful for the incredibly generous support of you, our donors. We understand the personal options you have for supporting various charities and we want you to know how appreciative we are to have your support. As you read the stories in this newsletter, we hope that you are as moved as we have been in helping these worthy families.

As you know, except for minor administrative expenses like postage and required report filings, 100% of your donation goes directly to families. We have been able to do this because of the volunteer efforts of family and friends. Our Board of Trustees has been particularly generous with their time and have been especially supportive in visiting our recipient families with me. It has been a truly rewarding experience for all of us.

Although the Fund had a very successful year and the families we assisted were benefited in life changing ways, the number of families that need our help is great. While performing the mission of the fund we have become acutely aware of the many children in need of a home with loving parents. We have committed ourselves to helping as many as we can in the coming year.

Thank you for all that you've done to support The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund in our mission to help bring more children to loving families. We hope you can join us on September 20, 2010 for our annual fund raising event.

Ed Stone
For the Stone Adoption Fund



www.stoneadoption.org

INAUGURAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT - *continued from cover*

Over 170 were in attendance. During and after the dinner the silent auction generated significant interest thanks to the generous contributions of the prize donors and the bidders. The net proceeds of the event were over \$45,000, an amount that exceeded our most optimistic expectations.



We would like to extend a special thank you to Lisa Colangelo at Classic Flowers for providing the tee box flowers, Sue Sakelarios and Mary Beth Massimino of R & R Trophy and Awards for donating the Champion's trophy. We would also like to thank our many volunteers that spent their day helping to make the event a success. ♦



2010 GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year's charity golf event will be held on Monday September 20, 2010 at Vesper Country Club. Vesper has recently completed the largest golf course renovation in its 125 year history and will once again provide a great venue for our event.

Your support was vital to the success of the Fund in assisting the adoptive families that you see here in the newsletter. We would love to have your support again as we continue the mission of the Fund. There are so many more children in search of a loving home and we can make a huge difference in their lives.

Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Play in the golf tournament on September 20, 2010
 - Sponsor a tee or green
 - Donate a silent auction item
- Make a contribution directly to the fund



For further information or if you would like to discuss how you can help, ***please contact Ed Stone at 781-221-0001 or estone@stonestaffing.com.***

Hope to see you there.

Maria Freccero

There are some exceptional people in this world that you never hear about. Maria Freccero is one of those people. Maria and her family have made a difference with some help from The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund.

The Freccero family is a special family. Maria has a son in college, two older children with significant developmental delays, a ten year old who is well and a six year old that they adopted. The families' top priority has been to provide a loving and nurturing home for the children to flourish in and feel comfortable in.



In January 2010, Maria received an unexpected phone call from an adoption agency. She was told a baby girl was being born that afternoon that will need a special family to go to so that she can avoid going into the foster care system. The birthmother was a homeless woman that was not capable of taking care of the child. Maria needed to decide that afternoon if they would take the baby. Although Maria has endless love to give and has extended family support, they were not financially expecting to bring another child into the family with a few hours notice.

The wonderful coincidence to this story is that the adoption agency that contacted Maria, Adoptions With Love, is the agency that Andrew Stone was adopted through over 20 years ago. - *continued on page 5*

Instant Family

Through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) we were introduced to an exceptional couple that this article is about. Their desire to create a loving home to keep siblings together is inspirational. Stone Adoption was pleased to award this family a grant to assist them in making this story a reality. We would like to thank our Trustees, John and Sharon Beals, for their help in working with this family, whose story is as follows.

It's not uncommon for us to come in contact with couples that are unsuccessful in conceiving a child. This couple, that would prefer to remain anonymous, wanted more than anything to start a family. Through the DCF they explored the world of adoption. They did their research on adoption, attended meetings and had their home study performed. In addition, they did anything else they could think of to prepare themselves. They were then in the unenviable position of waiting.

It took awhile, but when least expected they received a phone call from the DCF that was the first step in changing their lives forever. There was a newborn baby girl in need of a home that was being discharged that day. The birthmother was not able to care for the child. The couple was given the baby's background and medical needs and asked to make a decision on the spot. In one minute they decided. Yes, they wanted this child. The next day they picked up their new baby girl at the hospital and it was truly the happiest day of their lives.

When they brought their baby home they knew from the background report that she had older siblings. They were in foster care and they were together, somewhere in the state. In a short period of time the situation developed that the sibling's foster home needed to be changed. It appeared that the children would be split up and sent to different families in wide ranging locations. There was a real and immediate risk that these children would not only grow up apart from each other but may not have the opportunity to be reunited again.

Faced with this situation, the couple stepped forward and took decisive action. After many discussions with the DCF and the birthmother, they all agreed that in the best interest of the children they should grow up together in the same home. This intrepid couple went from being parents of a newborn to having an instant family of four children, ranging in ages from six months to six years. As this all happened so quickly they needed to re-arrange the house, buy furniture, clothing and everything else a large family of young children requires. Obviously, an expense they had not counted on or planned for.

This family's story didn't stop there however. During the past year they learned that the birthmother of their children was again pregnant and would not be able to care for the baby. This couple didn't need long to decide that the newest baby should be taken into their family to live with their brothers and sisters. Now they have five. ♦

STONE FAMILY ADOPTION ASSISTANCE FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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OUR MISSION



The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund is dedicated to the building of families through adoption funding. We accomplish this goal by raising funds to provide financial assistance to deserving parents that wish to adopt, or have incurred economic hardship through adoption, and do not have sufficient funds to fulfill their dreams.

The Fund was founded in 2007 to commemorate the life and spirit of Andrew Christopher Stone. Before his untimely death, Andrew and his family had discussed ways to help others through a charitable endeavor. As an adopted child, Andrew was particularly interested in helping to make more adoptions possible so that other children could share in the joy and love of being in a family like he experienced. Andrew's family has dedicated themselves to fulfilling his vision by establishing a fund to assist families in the adoption process.

The Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity. Federal Tax Identification #20-8386546

Dwyer Family Story - continued from cover



We traveled together to Littleton, turning down a very quiet lane to its end. Susan has a ranch house which appears small in size from the front. I noted with some surprise the presence of toys on the front lawn, a sign of childhood activity I had not anticipated.

We rang the doorbell and were greeted by one of the visiting nurses who make the job of attending to the children possible. Susan arrived from work a short time later.

My first impression was of children of varying ages from infancy to indeterminate late teens, all with severe disabilities: leg braces, respirators, wheel chairs, etc. The second impression, which immediately began blotting out the first, was of a family of children, wise and skilled beyond their years in the joy of caring for and supporting one another. Susan has a home only modestly less riotous than a comparable house of 9 non-disabled siblings. The children routinely minister to each other, replacing popped out oxygen feeds, cuddling the infant, helping with homework, patting the enormous dog, and all the other things that children in a family do with and for each other, except in this instance many of them were extraordinary because of the doer and the nature of the acts involved. Most importantly, and what perhaps surprised me more than anything, was the happiness and the joy of the children, helping - *continued on page 6*



The Katz Family



*The Katz Family, our original grantee.
Growing and Thriving in Lexington.*

Perry Family Story - continued from cover

We were contacted by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families to see if we could help the Perry's with their problem. After several visits with the Perry's at their home we arrived at a solution to solve their problem. Phil Stone headed the project to design and build an outdoor electric vertical platform lift. The lift was designed to move KK and his wheelchair from the ground level to the living level of the house. It now became possible for either Bill or Pat to take KK from the car or his downstairs bedroom and bring him to the living area of the house.

We feel great that we were able to help the Perry's continue to do what they do best, taking care of children. The wheelchair lift will enable Bill and Pat to do this for many more years.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Rick Castino of Operation Independence who agreed to join this charitable endeavor and install the lift at a discount to normal pricing. ♦

MARIA FRECCERO - continued from page 3

They communicated to Maria that Stone Adoption might be able to help. Maria contacted us right away to explain her desire to adopt the baby and the tight timeframe she was dealing with.

The next day, Elaine and Ed Stone, along with Trustee Nancy Regan went to visit Maria in her home. We were immediately impressed with Maria, her family and the type of home that a baby would be coming into. It was an overwhelming consensus that we needed to act quickly to assure that the newborn baby could avert the foster care system and come to Maria's family.

The Stone Adoption Fund expedited the process so that Maria was able to receive a grant that allowed her to make the adoption possible. The baby girl, whom they named Gianna, is now a thriving member of the Freccero family with a bright future and all the love she will ever need. ♦

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and loving each other. The children have disabilities, but they do not have handicaps.

Susan explained to us the nature of her request. CJ, who is 8, and Timmy, several years older, are not able to walk. CJ spent the first 6 years of his life in a hospital, abandoned and imprisoned in a cocoon of non-communication. Acting solely on a notion that she could improve the quality of CJ's life, Susan brought him home. His size and Timmy's size were increasingly a problem for Susan in transitioning them from wheelchairs into bed and vice-versa. The requested solution, elegantly simple, but beyond Susan's means, was a portable hoist system. A rod is installed in the ceiling, on which rides a portable electric hoist with a manual backup. The hoist utilizes a velcro attaching harness to lift the child out of a chair and put him in bed. I could not have imagined a better grant for the Fund to make.

Several months later, Ed and Peter and I returned to

Littleton. Susan proudly showed us and demonstrated the Waverly Glen Track System installed in the boys' bedroom. The children were as excited and happy about the lift as was Susan and the visiting nurses who use it daily. Again, I was struck by the joy that fills the house and all its family members. It was impossible not to think about how much we had accomplished for so little, and how lucky we were to be given the opportunity to do so. CJ, who is starting to communicate in his own way, was adopted by Susan on November 20, 2009, National Adoption Day.

I did not expect to hear more about Susan and the children unless there was another need for us to address. I was wrong. Just after Christmas 2009, Ed wrote to all of us to say that Susan's children had elected to forgo Christmas presents in favor of making a \$150 donation to the Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund. My reaction then and now was "Wow, these kids really get it." How fortunate we are to have played even a small part in their beautiful lives. ♦

