



## The Stratton Family

We married young, a plumber and a nurse, in hopes to start a family at a young age. After years of trying to conceive and with the understanding that it was going to be a difficult journey of fertility treatments and emotional stress, we decided maybe our life was meant for a bigger plan. I, Heather, had always felt that someday I would adopt a baby but to Steve the idea was a new one. After a lot of praying

and seeking out information the idea started to feel more like a calling. We went from meeting to meeting trying to figure out which agency we would use. We finally decided on an agency in the North Shore where we started our home study in March of 2010. The financial commitment for a process such as adoption was FAR too much for a pocketbook of two twenty-something year olds so we needed a plan. We made the decision that instead of taking out loans we would do fundraising and apply for grants. This would require a lot of patience on our part but we knew it was the only way. - *continued on page 5*

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## MACHELLE RUSHIN

When Machelles Rushin, a hard working single mother of three from Dorchester, became aware that her great niece would be without a home, it didn't take her long to step forward. Aaliyah, a beautiful three year old girl with medical issues was abandoned by her parents and left unclaimed in the hospital and was in danger of being placed in a home outside the family. Machelles immediately made contact with the Department of Children and Families and began the steps necessary to bring Aaliyah into her home and start the adoption process.

The difficulty Machelles was confronted with is that as a working single mother of three children she needed to maintain her employment to support her family. Machelles was able to locate daycare as well as preschool and after school programs for Aaliyah to attend that would allow Machelles to maintain her work schedule. The unfortunate part of public funding is that once an adoption is finalized



the assistance for these types of programs can cease. Although Machelles has endless love and attention to give another child her

financial resources are limited. When we met Machelles we were moved by her strong desire to make sure Aaliyah had a loving home where she would grow up with her cousins. She just needed some financial help to make it all work. We were pleased to provide a grant for Machelles to achieve her goals. Machelles reports that Aaliyah is thriving in her new family and couldn't be happier being with her cousins. ♦

## A Message From Ed Stone, Chairman



Welcome to the second edition of the Stone Family Adoption Assistance fund annual newsletter. Again this year we have several wonderful stories to tell you about how your generosity has helped to change the lives of deserving adoptive children and families. The Fund has certainly gained momentum and is now visible in the Massachusetts adoptive community.

In Andrew's memory, The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund provided grants to seven families. In addition to awarding grants to pay for adoption fees, we helped other families with diverse needs such as a wheelchair ramp and home modifications for a handicapped child in Springfield, physical therapy equipment, educational and learning development aids, medical equipment and after school programs and counseling. We have included many of these stories in the newsletter for you to read. Last year I received so many positive comments from our contributors on the individual stories. My hope is that you will continue to feel good about your role in making these stories possible.

This year we were again honored by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families for the work we did to assist adoptive families in the Commonwealth. At their annual awards banquet which was attended by over 400 people in the Massachusetts foster care and adoption community, the Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund was presented with their Organization of the Year award. Commissioner Angelo McLean spoke in detail about the families we assisted and the relationship we have built to go forward, helping to bring more children into loving homes. All of our Trustees in attendance were honored to be recognized in this way. We are truly inspired to continue our mission.



The second annual Stone Adoption charity golf and dinner event held at Vesper Country Club was a tremendous success. The golf tournament sold out again, the tee and green sponsorships were full and the silent auction with over 50 wonderful prizes was the highlight of the event. It was particularly gratifying that a large number of people who could not be there made contributions directly to the Fund. Over 175 people attended the golf, reception or dinner with net proceeds exceeding \$48,000. This year's event will be held on September 19, 2011 at Vesper Country Club which has recently been named one of the top 100 traditional golf courses in America.

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 very generous with their time and has enjoyed going into homes and visiting our recipient families. All of our Trustees agree that the experience of meeting our grantees in the home and seeing firsthand where our assistance is going is a truly rewarding experience. I would like to extend an invitation to any of our supporters that would like to get involved or volunteer in any way with helping these children.

Although the Fund continues to be successful 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 aware of many more children in need of a home with loving parents. We are dedicated 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. With your generosity and in Andrew's memory, we will continue our mission to bring more children into loving homes. We hope you can join us on September 19, 2011 for our annual fund raising event.

Ed Stone  
For the Stone Adoption Fund



[www.stoneadoption.org](http://www.stoneadoption.org)

## SECOND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & DINNER

The second annual Stone Adoption Charity Golf Tournament was a great success following in the footsteps of the inaugural event. The September date produced a beautiful fall day with abundant sunshine and a little breeze for the golfers to contend with. As usual, Paul Boland and his staff did a very professional job making the tournament run smoothly and Lorelei Judge handled everything in the golf house to perfection.



This year's winners were Ed and Rich Guaraldi, Richard Jupp and Sanjit Korde with an impressive bramble score of 62. Even more impressive was that they donated their tournament winnings back to the fund in the form of golf equipment to be used in next year's silent auction. Their names will be added to the Stone Adoption Champions Trophy along with last year's winners Paul Kaplan, Brenda Eunson, Danny Brown and Mark Stamoulis.

For the second year in a row the tournament was fully subscribed. Each tee and green sponsorship was sold and the themed raffle baskets, which were assembled by our contributors and volunteers, made for a fun and exciting drawing at dinner. Many of our dedicated supporters who could not attend the golf or the dinner made contributions directly to the Fund.

At the conclusion of the golf tournament the event moved over to the Vesper Clubhouse for a wonderful reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The silent auction was gathering the attention of all the attendees featuring over 50 items ranging from golf foursomes at exclusive clubs to sports tickets to artwork from some of our very talented contributors. Dinner, prepared by our Chef, Paul Bellino, was served in the main ballroom and we received many favorable comments on the meal. In total, over 175 people attended and the net proceeds exceeded \$48,000.

2010 Stone Adoption Fund			
1 <sup>st</sup> SB Ed Guaraldi - Rich Guaraldi Richard Jupp - Sanjit Korde	62	8 <sup>th</sup> SA Karen Mungler - Jeff Sorely Dave Leland - Scott Gable	66
2 <sup>nd</sup> SA Patrick McKenna - Dave Goodman Joe Walsh - Tom Thum	65	3 <sup>rd</sup> SA Bill Gaudino - Bob Montgomery Tom McLaughlin - William Lewis	66
3 <sup>rd</sup> SB Peter Brown - STONE STAFF ELL LORDETT - ON BROWN	65	4 <sup>th</sup> SA Ed McKenna - Dave Vinciguerra Todd Chamberlain - Gary Ayer	67
4 <sup>th</sup> SB Angelo Sakalanton - Ben Collier Jon Murray - Justin McCarthy	66	5 <sup>th</sup> SA Paul Kaplan - Brenda Eunson Glenn Bellino - Vincent Hackmeyer	67
LONGEST DRIVE #15 - JASON BRICKMAN	#25	STRAIGHTEST DRIVE #15 - JOEY KINACEK	#25
CLOSEST TO THE PIN #14 - JOHN O'BONNELL	#25	CLOSEST TO THE PIN #12 - LIZ FRIEL	#25

We would like to thank our many volunteers that helped to make the event such a success. A special thank you goes to Lisa Colangelo at Classic Flowers, Sue Sakelarios and Mary Beth Massimino of R&R Trophy and to Rhonda Regan for her wonderful photos of the event that appear in this newsletter and on our website.

## 2011 ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year's charity golf event will be held on Monday September, 19, 2011 at Vesper Country Club.

Vesper was recently named to the Golfweek Magazine Top 100 Classic Golf Courses in America and will 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 19, 2011
  - Attend the reception and dinner
    - 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](mailto:estone@stonestaffing.com).**

**Hope to see you there.**



## The Arias Family



When the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families created an introduction for us to meet the Arias family we travelled out to Springfield to meet them. We were warmly welcomed into their modest home and greeted by a wonderful family. Carlos, a restaurant worker, and Nancy, a stay at home mom, are from Columbia. They have successfully raised several children that are now grown and working. With more love in their hearts to give they decided to take a new child into their home named Jayden.

Jayden is a very special three year old child. He is blind, diabetic, has cranial seizures and is wheel chair bound. Due to these conditions, Jayden is required to make frequent trips to the hospital and to doctor offices. Moving and transporting Jayden through a doorway too narrow to fit his wheelchair and getting him down the stairs to the car can be a difficult process, especially when Nancy does it alone. In a project directed by Matt Stone and with the assistance of local contractor, Geno Whitehead, we designed and constructed a handicap ramp from the back door to the driveway. In addition, the back door was rebuilt to accommodate the size of the wheelchair.



We would like to extend a thank you to Geno at Total Home Services, Inc. for doing the work at a fee that was below cost as his contribution to the project. Carlos and Nancy finalized their legal adoption of Jayden last November. They are totally dedicated to Jayden who loves to be held and loves to be talked to. Like any child his smile and laughter let you know when he's happy. All of us who met the Arias family through this project understand just how special they are. ♦

### 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 has 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

The Fund was able to help one of our favorite families again this year. Sue Dwyer, who many of you had the opportunity to meet at the Stone Adoption event at Vesper, is the intrepid mother of seven adopted children with disabilities.

She has her hands full trying to lift and transport the children



within the home. We have helped to make that job easier with a portable electric mobile lift which is used to lift the children between bed, bathroom and wheelchair.

We would like to thank Edith Fountain and Karen Blake for their generous donation of this piece of equipment. ♦

## Freccero Family Update

Hi Ed,

I hope you and your family are well.

I had to pop in and let you know last Friday we finalized Gianna's adoption.

It was a special day and you, your wife and your son's foundation really helped us in this wonderful journey, thank you!



Gianna recently turned one so I attached some pictures for you and your wife of her and her finalization with the Judge. Ed, thank you for all you have done for us and for so many other people. ♦

Maria & family

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## Stratton Family - *continued from cover*

We had a few very successful fundraisers and felt we were really making a dent in the costs. In December of 2010 we got a call about a baby boy who had been born on my husband's birthday and thought this must be a sign. Foolishly we got our hopes up really high. We waited for two weeks only to hear right before Christmas that we were not chosen. As gut wrenching as it was we felt that there must be a child out there waiting for US. The winter months past and I would say to Steve about once a week "when is my baby coming?" Something started to tell us in our hearts in February that it was coming soon. I can't explain it, we just felt it. Then....I'll never forget the day.... March 1st at 4:30pm the phone rang. I answered and the voice on the other line was our social worker. "Are you sitting down?" Within 24 hours we were standing over a beautiful baby girl weeping the happiest tears we have ever wept, just looking at this 7 day old bundle of TRUE joy, knowing that our lives would never be the same. The technical part of it all was that an agency in Newton, Mass had contacted our social worker in search of a family for this baby girl. We of course knew that in order to call this baby girl our daughter we would have to make the switch from the agency we had dealt with for a year to Adoptions with Love. When all was said and done, the costs were more than we had in our bank account. Amy the new social worker got right to work referring us to different organizations for funding. That's where we met Ed. He was amazing. He drove an hour (at least) to our house and sat down with us genuinely interested in our story. The sense of peace he left us with was one that couldn't be described when he said "you two are exactly who we are seeking out to help". Within a few days we heard back the news that lifted a thousand pound weight off of our shoulders..The Stone Adoption Foundation was awarding us a \$5,000 grant!! Thank you to all who give to this wonderful organization. Its people like Ed, his staff and volunteers like yourself that have made our lives so rich with the new love of our lives Madilyn May Stratton. Thank you Thank you Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. ♦

*With Much Gratitude,  
The Stratton Family*



## 2010 CHARITY EVENT

