

Holly, Daryl and Rosie Van Straaten



"Adoption is an adventure". This is what I find myself saying in response to the flow of questions I receive on a daily basis from strangers, some others I know, and others I love. Now that I have the utter delight of frolicking through my days with my beautiful baby daughter, adoption is the most glorious adventure I could have imagined and when I speak the word, my face glows, my heart pops out of my chest, and my eyes sparkle. There is nothing, not a tear, not a pot of gold that I would trade for any of the things that led me (and my husband) to our child. Today it is May and we've had Rosie since Valentine's Day when she was 2 days old and we got the surprise call that she had been born. Before then, the "adventure" we were on seemed an unrelenting and cruel one. Failed attempts at pregnancy and costly fertility treatments pointed us to the adoption path and even though it felt somewhat like a relief, the adoption process was yet another mountain of emotional and financial commitment, paperwork, waiting, and perseverance. The "adventure" for us included 3 failed adoptions, the worst of which left us handing back a baby boy 3 days after being present for his birth. However sad and difficult our experiences seemed to be, it is difficult to reflect now and feel - *continued on page 5*

The Milo Family

Dear Stone Family,
I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the generous gift provided by the Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund. There are no words to express the joy and sense of relief you have brought to my family. I hope that when my son is well and our focus is no longer on the journey to wellness we can follow in your footsteps supporting adoptive families in need. I adopted my son as a single mother. I planned for a child with special needs to come into my life. My son, Srdjan, was even more special than I expected. When Srdjan came home to me I found that his medical needs far exceeded what was presented. He has an extremely rare congenital disorder that requires multiple and complex surgeries. He regularly sees four specialists at Boston Children's hospital and has undergone four surgeries in a little more than one year. Srdjan's medical bills quickly grew exponentially and I faced impossible financial decisions between treatments, medicines, etc. I was contacted by the Stone Family on Valentine's Day as I sat with my son in Boston Children's Hospital as he recovered from his most recent surgery.



I was overjoyed, relieved, and so very grateful! It seemed so fitting that on this day of caring we were shown such kindness. I wish to thank the Stone Family for helping my son on his journey to wellness. The Stone Family's generous grant helped us regain stability and allow my son to continue to receive the medical treatment he needs. It is my hope that Srdjan will continue to get better and know a life that is not fraught with office visits, medical procedures, and anticipation of the next surgery. I hope that Srdjan will know a life in which he is simply a healthy, happy little boy in a forever family. You have helped a very brave boy along that path. Adoption is a unique and amazing experience. It seems that only those who have experienced it can truly appreciate the struggles and triumphs adoption brings to a family. Thank you for supporting our adoptive family!
Gratefully, Jessie-Sue & Srdjan ♦

A Message From Ed Stone, Chairman



Welcome to the third 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 continues to gain momentum and has helped families with diverse needs throughout the Massachusetts adoptive community.

In Andrew's memory, The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund provided grants to nine families this year. In addition to awarding grants to pay for adoption fees, we helped other families with various needs such as a hearing aid and transmitter for a hearing impaired boy, software and learning tools, specialized medical care for multiple and complex surgeries, and the construction of a developmental and learning area for a family with five adopted Guatemalan children. We have included many of these stories in the newsletter for you to read. In prior years I received so many positive comments from our contributors as they identified with individual stories. My hope is that you will continue to feel good about your role in making these stories possible.

The third annual Stone Adoption charity golf and dinner event held at Vesper Country Club was a great success. The golf tournament was full, the tee and green sponsorships were sold out and the silent auction with over 60 wonderful prizes was the fundraising 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 170 people attended the golf, reception or dinner with net proceeds approaching \$50,000. This year's event will be held on September 17, 2012 at Vesper Country Club which has recently been named one of the top 100 traditional golf courses in America and provides a wonderful venue for our event.



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 17, 2012 for our annual fund raising event. ♦

Ed Stone
For the Stone Adoption Fund



www.stoneadoption.org

THIRD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & DINNER

The third annual Stone Adoption Charity Golf Tournament was a great success again this year. The September date produced another beautiful fall day with sunshine and warm temperatures. The golf course was in beautiful condition and provided a challenge to golfers at all levels. 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.

The 2011 Tournament winners were Paul Kaplan, Brenda Eunson, Vee Hockmeyer and John Costa with a bramble score of 64. This year's tournament was very competitive with only a few shots separating the top eight teams. Their names will be added to the Stone Adoption Champions Trophy along with prior year's winners. Thanks to our friends and supporters we continue to have a full field in the tournament. 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, under the direction of David Mazur. The silent auction, which grows each year, featured over 60 items ranging from golf foursomes at exclusive clubs to sports tickets to artwork from some of our very talented contributors. In total, over 170 people attended and the net proceeds approached \$50,000.



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 and Mark Regan for their efforts throughout the day taking photos of the event that appear in this newsletter and on our website. ♦

2012 ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year's charity golf event will be held on Monday September, 17, 2012 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 17, 2012
 - Attend the reception and dinner
 - Sponsor a tee or green
- Donate a silent auction item or raffle basket
- Make a contribution directly to the fund
- Sponsor the cocktail reception or the luncheon



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.

The Bruno Family

Mike and Lisa Bruno live on a quiet street in Reading. The house is spotless, simply furnished, except for a full complement of baby equipment. Mike and Lisa were waiting for a child to adopt, and their aching to be parents filled the house with an almost palpable feeling of anticipation and joy.



They are young teachers in the Belmont school system. When you meet them for the first time, your first thought is, “Why didn’t I ever have teachers as nice as Mike and Lisa?” They were a little nervous at first, despite assurances that they are not being “inspected,” that the visit is just the Stone Adoption Fund’s way of trying to get to know the families we help. After a few moments, they seemed to lose their nervousness, and they laughed easily when the talk turned to the imminent arrival of Daniel.

Not surprisingly, young teachers who have just bought their first house are not flush with cash. Mike and Lisa were delighted to learn of the possibility of the Fund’s helping with their adoption costs. They had tried various agencies and finally settled on Adoptions With Love, an agency well known to the Stone Family. They reacted as if they were getting a totally unexpected gift, one most important because it got them closer to bringing Daniel into their lives. They were very grateful to the Fund and all its supporters for their good fortune in getting help.

Some months later, with the news that Daniel had arrived, we went back to see Mike, Lisa and Daniel. Lisa had the good fortune to be eligible for a maternity leave, blooming with the thrill of motherhood, and Mike was popping his buttons over his new son. The air of aching to be parents had been replaced by a pervasive contentment, a quiet delight in Daniel and his smiling, gurgling personality.

I think that our getting the chance to see the real results of what the Fund can accomplish is as much a reward for us as is the help of the Fund to our clients like Mike and Lisa. There is no feeling quite so satisfying as seeing the unrestrained joy in Mike’s and Lisa’s eyes, clearly reflected in Daniel’s eyes, who seems very pleased with his choice of new parents. ♦ Kieran Meagher

STONE FAMILY ADOPTION ASSISTANCE FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JOHN AND SHARON BEALS, PETER G. BROWN, JOHN R. ELICONE, PETER A. HUNTER
DONALD C. MAIN, KIERAN B. MEAGHER, NANCY REGAN, MATTHEW P. STONE
PHILIP C. STONE, ELAINE AND EDMUND STONE

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

THANK YOU NOTES FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

There really are no words that can express how grateful I am for the support and kindness you and your Board are offering to our children and families to give them a better life together. Your caring and giving is making such a difference and will have such a long lasting impact. For the better todays and healthier tomorrows you are making possible, I thank you deeply!!!

Take good care and please know that you are a true angel in this world.

Always,
Saf Caruso
Executive Director, DCF Kids Fund

I was visiting with Ilda and her three handicapped children last week and she told me about the van lift being fixed. Ilda said she was initially weary of meeting the Stone Family as she is intensely private and that she does not typically like to accept help from people. Ilda said after meeting the family she was brought to tears by their kindness and so touched by their story. It was really incredible to see her excitement about the interview process. Ilda said that you could not help but love the Stones. She literally had tears in her eyes as she talked about the experience. We are both so grateful!!

A very special Thank You to the Stone Family.

Katy Scammell, Adoption Worker, DCF

Van Straaten Family - *continued from cover*

anything less than complete and genuine gratitude. Surely, no one is more blessed than us who have the most marvelous of babies, a blossoming relationship with her birth family, and a community who has vivaciously embraced our new family. Whatever once felt like misfortune is now a blessing. Along the way, we had the pleasure of meeting the Stone family after applying for their generous adoption grant. I, a theatre teacher, and my husband, a new graduate nurse entering the one of the worst job markets in recent history, were working hard at extra jobs while penny pinching to afford the steep adoption costs. The Stone Foundation offered us significant financial support, awarding us a \$5000 grant, but also awarded our hearts with a spirited reminder of how fortunate we truly are. Our visit with the Stone's was heartfelt. The strength and love they carry in the memory of their son is evident. They offered us reassuring advice, sincere well wishes, and their friendship. We do not take for granted what we now have as a family and we see our adoption journey as a privilege rather than a hardship. I will never know how it is that we got so lucky in this life. Motherhood and fatherhood is even better than we imagined it to be. I only wish that everyone's greatest pain would one day become their greatest joy as it has with us. I wish everyone could feel as happy as we do now. I want to thank the Stone Foundation, Ed and Elaine, for their part in that. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.



LOVE, Holly

2011 CHARITY EVENT



To the Stone Foundation,

The blessings of creating a family through adoption continue to multiply. As a single person looking to adopt, I was warned it might take a while and require work on my part getting the word out that I was looking to adopt. The first blessing came when I got the phone call informing me that there was a birthparent who had chosen me to adopt her baby. I will never stop being grateful to his birthmother for that incredible gift –my son. I began the happy task of raising this beautiful boy. But I knew I wanted him to have a sibling. Three years later, I was



blessed again this time with a daughter. Our family grew together through sharing the little things in life that can give so much joy: playing in the park with friends, walking to the frog pond behind the school, meeting friends for pizza and sharing family holiday celebrations. However, some of the blessings come through unexpected ways and even through life's trials, as many of us know. My daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumor at the age of seven. She is stable, thank goodness, due to the care of wonderful doctors

another blessing. Even this cloud has a silver lining, for she has experienced support from some amazing people dedicated to helping children through such illnesses and she has decided to study to be a child life therapist so she can help children the way she was helped.

So now we have been blessed again, this time by your foundation. Her vision loss presents an additional challenge to accessing the information she needs to learn. Thank you for helping us to purchase the special tools Micaela needs to be successful with her education.

With gratitude,
Nancy Shutt

