

## The Feeley Family



Three years ago we adopted our son, Evan, from a NICU in Toledo, Ohio. Evan was born three months early and spent 7 weeks in the hospital. His adoption was fraught with challenges and fears as well as unconditional love. We lived in Ohio while he was in the hospital, staying at the local Ronald McDonald House. Upon bringing him home, we spent much of the first year at doctor's appointments and adjusting to parenthood. We loved every minute

of it. In the years leading up to Evan's adoption, we experienced much sadness and heartbreak as we underwent multiple failed fertility treatments. We were sold on the idea of adoption when, during the first home visit with our social worker, she stated "the doctors can't guarantee that you will get pregnant, but I can guarantee you a baby, it may take a while, but you will be parents." Those words were so comforting as I realized that it wasn't the pregnancy I wanted, but the baby and the experience of parenting. - continued on page 4

## Anne & Grace - Our Journey

In 2008 I began attending MAPP classes at Lutheran Social Services in Worcester, Massachusetts, hoping to become an adoptive parent. I was a 45 year old single woman with a home in the suburbs, a terrific job, great career and a beautiful dog. There was a hole in my heart that no material object could fill. I completed my MAPP training and was approved to become a foster parent through Massachusetts Department of Children and Families in May, 2008. For the next ten months I waited. I have two empty bedrooms in my home, one painted pink and one blue.

Then came the telephone call that I will never forget. On March 18, 2009 at 1:13 p.m., my social worker from Lutheran Social Services called to tell me that there was a six week old baby girl in DCF care who needed a permanent family. I couldn't believe my good fortune! Eight days later, on March 27, 2009 my daughter came home.



She was seven weeks old and weighed 7 lbs, 8 ounces. She was just like a newborn and the most beautiful baby I had ever seen.

On November 20, 2009, National Adoption Day that year, Grace and I legally became a family. I was totally loving motherhood. I was able to work part time at my job and Grace attended day care just a couple of blocks from my office. She was health and happy and meeting her milestones.

The following Monday, November 23, 2009, I lost my job. Grace was nine months old. The national economy was in downward spiral. There were no jobs to be found anywhere and now that I was a single mom of a young baby, I didn't have much flexibility

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## A Message From Ed Stone, Chairman



Welcome to the fourth edition of the Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund annual newsletter. As in previous years we have several heartfelt stories to tell you about how your generosity has helped to change the lives of deserving adoptive children and families. Through our close working relationship with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, the Fund has been introduced to wonderful families with diverse needs throughout the Massachusetts adoptive community.

In Andrew's memory, The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund provided grants to ten families this year. In addition to awarding grants to pay for adoption fees, we helped families with various needs such as economic hardship, respite care, software and learning tools for an educationally challenged adoptee, and housing assistance for a family that adopted three children at once. We have included many of these stories in the newsletter for you to read. Every year I receive so much positive feedback from you, our contributors, who are touched by individual stories. My hope is that you will continue to feel good about your role in making these stories possible.

The fourth annual Stone Adoption charity golf and dinner event held at Vesper Country Club was a great success. Each year since its inception the golf tournament has sold out. The silent auction with over 60 wonderful prizes has become the fundraising highlight of the event. It's always 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 to the Fund of approximately \$50,000. This year's event will be held on September 16, 2013 at Vesper Country Club which has recently been named one of the top 100 traditional golf courses in America and provides a great 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 would 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 16, 2013 for our annual fund raising event.

Ed Stone  
For the Stone Adoption Fund



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

## FOURTH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & DINNER

The fourth annual Stone Adoption Charity Golf Tournament was a great success again this year. The September date seems to always give us a beautiful fall day with sunshine and warm temperatures. 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 2012 Tournament winners who came all the way from Maine to participate were Ralph Struzziero, Jon Brogan, Shawn Damon and Peter Reilly with a record bramble score of 60. Next year we will be adding a handicap flight as well to allow our higher handicapped players a shot at the trophy. 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 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. Everybody enjoyed meeting our grantee families and the children were the highlight of the evening. The silent auction, which grows each year, featured over 60 prizes 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 each year such as Lisa Colangelo at Classic Flowers and Sue Sakelarios and Mary Beth Massimino of R&R Trophy. A special thank you goes 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. We greatly appreciate what they've done. ♦

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## 2013 ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year's charity golf event will be held on Monday September, 16, 2013 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 16, 2013
  - 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](mailto:estone@stonestaffing.com).**

**Hope to see you there.**

## The Feeley Family- *continued from page 1*

Fast forward two years, Chris and I had been working towards a second adoption. We had completed our MAPP training with the hopes of adopting through the state's DCF adoption program. As we waited for a potential match, we got word from our prior social worker that Evan's birth mother, Angela, was pregnant and asking if we would be willing to adopt again. We had already established a great relationship with Angela and to this day we have nothing but love, respect and admiration for her. We were nervous to learn that she was experiencing many of the same complications that caused Evan to be born early. As a result, Elijah was also born three months premature. Three weeks after learning that Angela was pregnant, she gave birth. Needless to say, we experienced a bit of controlled panic. Financially we were not prepared to adopt privately again, nor had we planned to adopt out of state and face another prolonged hospital stay and medical bills. We were also incredibly nervous about uprooting Evan and keeping our very inquisitive and active two-year old busy while caring for a baby in the NICU. But really, we never thought twice about it. Elijah was our son from the moment we learned that Angela was asking for us. Thanks to Adoptions with Love, The Stone Foundation and the Ronald McDonald House we were able to bring Elijah home. We are forever grateful for all three of these organizations and the emotional and financial support they provided for us as we worked to keep Evan and Elijah together. Not long after bringing Elijah home we learned that I was pregnant and this March I gave birth to a healthy little boy named Emmett. We are now adjusting to life as a family of five and loving every minute of it. One of our biggest supporters has been Angela. She has been genuinely happy for us and loves that we have added one more brother to the mix. Chris and I celebrated our ten year wedding anniversary this month. We reflected back on the long, difficult road we took to become parents followed by the rapid pace of building our family with three boys in three years. It has been an amazing journey, filled with love, laughter and hope. Chris and I are better people because of the hardships and couldn't have made it this far without the kindness and generosity of total strangers. For this we are eternally grateful. ♦

### 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.

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## **Our Journey**- *continued from page 1*

about where I could work. I needed a reasonably short commute so that Grace's day care days would not be exceptionally long. I was unemployed for eight months. Finally, I found a part time job, but the hourly rate for my type of work had plummeted and working part time was not going to support us. I had a mortgage, car payment and utilities that had to be paid. Additionally, I had to pay for Grace's day care. Through working a number of part time jobs over the next two years, we hung on, but Grace's day care bill fell behind along with some of our utilities. We were getting desperate because if I couldn't pay Grace's day care bill, I couldn't work and the house of cards would fall.

My social worker from Lutheran Social Services told me about the Stone Family Foundation and put me in touch with Ed Stone. I am forever grateful for this connection. Ed came to our home and met Grace and I. Shortly thereafter Ed informed me that the foundation would provide funding for us to catch up Grace's day care bill and our utilities. This was exactly what we needed to keep going. It wasn't just the financial support but the idea that someone cared about us and believed in me, as a parent, enough to want to help me support my family.

Well, we did keep going and just this month I found a job near Grace's day care that is much more money than I had been earning. We will still struggle a bit, but we are no longer in danger of losing our home. Grace is still attending the same day care and she is now in pre-school. She loves it and she is growing and learning every day.

If not for the Stone Foundation we probably would have lost everything. I cannot possibly express my appreciation for the kindness and generosity of Ed Stone and his colleagues. I try every day to teach my daughter that the things she does for others matter much more than she knows. ♦

Anne M. English

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## **Thank You letter from the Scoggins Family**

We can honestly say, were it not for the generosity of the Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund we have no idea how we would've been able to secure an apartment for our newly grown family. Ed and his wife Elaine not only assisted us with a grant but welcomed us into their home to hear our story and find out how they could best help. Because of their altruism we were able to come up with the resources to sign a lease on a three bedroom apartment in Cambridge (and a bureau for the boys room) where the kids are doing great in school and we are all happily adjusting to a whole new adventure! We are forever grateful for these wonderful people and this amazing foundation. ♦



# 2012 CHARITY EVENT

