

The Sandri Family

Dear Ed and Elaine Stone and Trustees Sharon and Johnn Beals,

We have always dreamed of becoming parents and talked about adoption from the beginning. Ben grew up with a cousin who lived one town over who was adopted. We have friends who were adopted or who have adopted siblings, and Ben teaches many adopted students. From the time we were young, we saw adoption as a wonderful way to build a family, and we are now lucky enough to grow our own family this way.

We have been together for ten years and are committed to each other and to creating a loving, stable home where our future child can safely explore the world and who they are. To create that home, we are working at jobs we love, are frugal, and have saved for many years. However, adoption is still a huge cost for us. Tessa works as a stewardship manager for a local land trust, working to protect and enhance access to the forest she grew up in. Ben works as a science teacher at an arts-based school. Ben also works a second job as a stone mason, traveling multiple hours on weekends and vacations to get to job sites. Once we are parents, our hope is that Ben will not need to spend as much time working as a mason. We were thrilled to learn about The Stone Family Foundation, and the opportunity it presents to offset adoption costs. In preserving our savings, support from The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund would ensure we spend less time at second jobs and more time together as a family.

Sincerely,

Ben, Tessa and Domenic



DeJesus Home Destroyed in Fire

My name is Heather Johnson and I am an Adoption Worker out of the Lynn DCF Office. I have a pre-adoptive family that is desperately in need of some assistance.

Elizabeth DeJesus is the maternal grandmother of Milani who is one year old, and Jaymian who is three. Elizabeth became a foster parent for her grandchildren after her daughter and boyfriend struggled with substance use, domestic violence and legal troubles. The parents continue to struggle and Elizabeth has been identified as an adoptive parent for her grandchildren, once we complete a trial which is scheduled for mid-October. Elizabeth, Milani and Jaymian, as well as Elizabeth's youngest daughter who is in her early twenties, lived in an apartment in Everett. Recently, they lost their home and all of their possessions in a fire. The family only made it out of the apartment in time because of a neighbor banging on their door. They are safe and are all staying with Elizabeth's oldest daughter who has three children of her own and limited space. Elizabeth is an incredibly generous and kind-hearted person who works for a Community Collaborative in Chelsea. She works hard to give back to those in need, but unfortunately is finding herself in need of assistance at this time. She has changed her whole life to be able to ensure she can raise her grandchildren and provide them the stability and love that they need. The family lost everything they own. She, her daughter and the two children have nothing.

The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund provided the DeJesus Family with a grant to replace their clothes and household items lost in the fire.

A Message From **Ed Stone, Chairman**

Welcome to the 14th edition of the Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund annual newsletter. As in prior years we have many new stories to tell you about how your generosity has helped to change the lives of deserving adoptive children and families. This year we were able to assist a record number of families with their adoption needs. As the reputation of our fund spreads, we still have a backlog of families with requests for aid. My hope is that you will continue to support us in changing the lives of these adoptive families.



In Andrew's memory, The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund provided grants to 15 families this year. In addition to awarding grants to pay for adoption fees and home studies, we helped families with various needs such as special education and ADHD programs, home safety items, baby crib and carriers, and economic hardship from house fire devastation. We continue to be a sponsor of Wonderfund Adoption Events where children in the foster care system can be introduced to parents looking to adopt. We have seen much success from these events

and have awarded grants to families that have adopted children they were introduced to at these events.



Over the past eight years the success of our Annual Appeal has encouraged us to continue it. This is our only fundraising event and we fund all our assistance to adoptive families through this effort. Please read the cover letter and the newsletter section for the details on how you can continue to support us. We can't make these wonderful stories happen without you and we hope that you will join us in our mission to help the large number of families in the adoptive community that need our assistance.



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. 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 will join us with this year's appeal.

Ed Stone



2023 STONE ADOPTION ANNUAL APPEAL

The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund, now in its 14th year, has grown from a memorial concept to an organization that assisted numerous families this past year. It is our mission to provide financial assistance to families wishing to adopt and to families that have incurred economic hardship through the adoption of special needs or foster care children.

We truly appreciate what you, our loyal and dedicated donor's, have done so far. It is the collective effort of generous people like you that has enabled us to help the deserving families you read about in this newsletter. We understand that there are many charities to donate to and we are especially grateful that you feel strongly enough about our mission to choose to support us. It is our pledge to you that except for minor administrative expenses, 100% of your donation goes directly to families. Our fund is an all-volunteer effort of family and friends.

We would like to ask you to join us as we continue to reach out to the families in need. As the awareness and reputation of our fund grows in the adoptive community, there are more and more families that come to us for assistance. Your support will allow us to carry forward as we help to build adoptive families.

Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund
c/o Matthew Stone
PO Box 68
Cataumet, MA 02534-0068

Please make your donation payable to:

Kristian

Good Morning Ed,

I cannot thank you enough for your generosity. I am at a complete loss for words to describe what this will mean for my family, especially in a year that has been particularly challenging. It is an incredibly defeating feeling to know that there are therapies, programs and opportunities that would ease the challenges that your children face, but they are out of reach financially. Thanks to you and your foundation, I will be able to make these wishes a reality for my girls and I will be forever grateful.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart,
Kristian

The Palmer Family

Mr. Stone and Mr. Meagher,

Thank you so much for the generous grant for Carter's medical expenses and our family. We are truly appreciative and humbled for the opportunity. As a parent yourself I am sure you can understand when we say that we have always felt like the fortunate ones when it came to each of our children; and we can't imagine our lives any differently!

Words truly cannot express how grateful we are.

We would be happy to have our picture and a family note in the newsletter. We looked at several of your newsletters online and like the personal touch that the stories and pictures add.

Again, we are grateful to the fund and your family more than you will know; we are excited for the opportunity to pay it forward in the future.

Thank you,
Andrew, Ashley, Cullen, Giavanna, Kane and Carter Palmer



The Le Bel Family

Dear Mr. Stone and the Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund,

We are beyond grateful and honored to have been awarded such a generous grant from your fund. It is a wonderful thing that foundations such as yours exist, since it truly takes a community to care for children, especially those most at risk.

We very much appreciate the assistance as we work to support Jaylana, our third pre-adoptive child, who, like most of those with experience of long-term foster care, has some significant emotional needs given her trauma history. Please rest assured that we will put the funds to good use for her and the family's on-going care and support.

We attach a family picture that includes Jaylana and our now-adult adopted son, Manny.

Yours truly, with a resounding thank you,
Mark, Christine, Destiny, Manny & Jaylana



Thank You from The Massachusetts Department of Children and Families

Hi Ed!

I wanted to let you know that the grant for our Adoption Recruitment Events arrived and we will put it to very good use!! November is National Adoption Month, so our Supervisors and Workers will be thrilled to have your grant to help them with their matching events! Your annual grant for these vital events means the world to us and the children and our pre-adoptive and adoptive families!

I also want to thank you for the generous grants you have been giving for our adoptive and pre-adoptive families to help them with a range of issues to make their adoptions successful!!! Your help is greatly appreciated and makes it possible for these adoptive families to better care for the children. So far, you and your Board have approved each grant request I have sent to you, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart and from our social workers, Supervisors and our adoptive and pre-adoptive families for your exemplary support and your being there just when we all need you!! You are amazing and working with you all these years is a highlight of my life!!!

Take Good Care and I'll keep on sending more requests that come in!!! Thank you so so much!

Always, Saf



The Pimental Family

We cannot thank the Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund enough for the generous grant that you have provided our family to help our son, CJ in his development. Your generous grant will allow us to get CJ sensory chairs and other sensory tools, all of which will greatly help his development. For this we are grateful. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

Khrystyne, Matt and CJ



The Jacobsen Family

Good Morning Ed!

This is wonderful news! Thank you and the foundation so very much for providing this grant for Gabe's education program this summer. We are looking forward to working with his tutor to strengthen and maintain Gabe's education as he will be transitioning to a new elementary school this fall. This will enable him to have the jump start on going into 5th grade with confidence in his schooling, and certainly helps our family financially. We are very grateful for this opportunity, and for your support during this process.

Thank you so much.

Lori and Craig Jacobsen and Family

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





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

