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SUPPORT • HOPE • ADVOCACY • RESOURCES • ENCOURAGEMENT



Connections

Finding and supporting foster and adoptive families since 1985.



Child S.H.A.R.E. Family Christmas Parties

OC/Riverside: Dec. 3rd,
LA: Dec. 10th, 2011

Food, Crafts, Cookie
Decorating, Photos
with Santa and more.



Los Angeles Marathon

LA 5K:
Sat., March 17th
LA Marathon:
Sun., March 18th
Come race with
Team Child S.H.A.R.E.

UPCOMING EVENTS To find out more about upcoming events visit the website at www.childshare.org or call 818.649.8000

26th Annual Child S.H.A.R.E. Gala Honoring Dr. T. Scott Daniels



Over 300 guests packed the ballroom of the beautiful California Club in Los Angeles to attend the 26th Annual Child S.H.A.R.E. Gala, honoring Guardian Angel Award winner, Dr. T. Scott Daniels.

Dr. Daniels is the Senior Pastor of First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena and the Dean of the School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University. He is a staunch advocate for children and for Child S.H.A.R.E.

Highlights of this magical evening included: an enchanting ballet performance by the lovely Moriah Levy, an inspiring presentation of the fourth annual Child S.H.A.R.E. Alumni Scholarship Award to Ms. Esmeralda Lopez-Reed, by Child S.H.A.R.E. founders Dr. Mary Rotzien and Mr. Brian Buchanan.

All enjoyed a sparkling evening with delicious food, fine wine and warm laughter.

The September 24th event raised over \$200,000, to aid Child S.H.A.R.E.'s work to find a safe and loving foster family for every abused or neglected child in the foster care system.

We gratefully acknowledge our generous sponsors and donors for making the night an enormous success.

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year: 2011 Child S.H.A.R.E. Christmas Parties

As we welcome the crisp cool weather of the winter season, Child S.H.A.R.E. staff are busy preparing for the annual Foster and Adoptive Family Christmas Parties. Families from across Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties are warmly invited to join Child S.H.A.R.E. this December to celebrate the Christmas season. The annual Child S.H.A.R.E. Christmas parties are a cherished tradition and the 2011 parties will be filled with delicious food, creative crafts, lively holiday songs, games and gifts, and are sure to fill all in attendance with the joy of the Christmas season.

For more information contact Director of Family Support, Amanda Bell, at 818.649.8016 or abell@childshare.org.

Los Angeles Marathon New Charity Event: "Charity 2-Person Marathon"

Grab a friend, family member or co-worker and take on the Honda LA Marathon together as you raise money for Child S.H.A.R.E.

The Honda LA Marathon is pleased to announce their newest event: the Charity 2-Person Marathon. The Charity 2-Person Marathon will take place at the same time as the 2012 Honda LA Marathon. You and a teammate will join forces and each run or walk 13.1 miles to complete the Marathon distance of 26.2 miles.

For details call 818.649.8017 or visit www.childshare.org/marathon or emalone@childshare.org

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Tonight, as I reflect on this passing year, and the blessings I have seen in the lives of others who have been touched by the incredible work Child S.H.A.R.E. is doing throughout the community, I realize there is still so very much to do. There are literally thousands of children in Southern California who are displaced because of abuse and neglect and end up in the foster care system. We must find loving, stable and nurturing families for every one of these children. We simply must. Yet, the task at times, seems insurmountable.

It is probably very difficult for many of you to understand the life of a child who has been abused or neglected; removed from his/or her home, and placed in a foster home or group home facility. The experience is both traumatic and overwhelming. So many of these children will be disconnected from their siblings and the only community they have ever known, to be faced with the pain of loneliness, confusion and anger. They will give up on the hope of ever living a fruitful life with the love and contentment that a safe, nurturing and stable home can provide. Child S.H.A.R.E. family, Bob and Carlotta Levy provide such a home.

Little Moriah was rescued by the Levy s as an abused and neglected 7-month-old baby. Today, adopted by the Levy s, she is a beautiful, 14-year-old young lady, who practices ballet and entertains hopes of one day becoming a teacher or professional dancer. The Levy s adore Moriah, and believe someday she too will welcome children in foster care into her home with the same love, care and commitment she has come to cherish.

So for me, no, the task is not insurmountable, for I am inspired by Child S.H.A.R.E. stories like Moriah s, and encouraged by the words of Apostle Paul, And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart (Galatians 6:9).

For over 26 years, Child S.H.A.R.E. has continued to labor and do good on behalf of thousands of neglected and abandoned children in the foster care system. This and the coming year shall be no exception. Child S.H.A.R.E. shall not grow weary, in doing good for them, and with your help we will persevere in our quest to find the loving homes they so deserve.

As you take a moment to reflect on even the smallest of blessings you have received throughout 2011, won't you please consider donating a tax-deductible gift to Child S.H.A.R.E., to aid our work in finding a foster/adoptive home for every child in foster care in Southern California? Of course, we could never repay God for His goodness, but surely we can be a blessing to His most precious beings, as a way of thanking Him.

To those of you who have supported us this year, thank you for keeping Child S.H.A.R.E. lifted up in your prayers and through your continued financial support. We know many of you gave out of sacrifice and for this, we are most humbly grateful.

To each of you, may peace, joy and family, be yours now and in the coming new year.

Most sincerely,

April Steele

April Steele
Executive Director
Child S.H.A.R.E.



Moriah Levy and Mary Rotzien, 2011 Gala

2011 Smedes Conference on Foster Care and Adoption

Held on November 5, the Lewis B. Smedes Conference on Foster Care and Adoption featured a diverse array of esteemed and inspiring speakers. Experts in several fields, from psychologists, social workers, pastors, professors, attorneys and youth in foster care provided conference attendees with both information and inspiration.

A signature Child S.H.A.R.E. family support event, the Smedes Conference offers an opportunity for foster and adoptive families, students and professionals to come together to network and develop the specialized skills needed to serve abused and abandoned children.

Child S.H.A.R.E. gratefully acknowledges the support of Supervisor Michael Antonovich and Fuller Theological Seminary President, Dr. Richard J. Mouw, for their sponsorship of the 2011 Smedes Conference. Together, we are fulfilling the Child S.H.A.R.E. mission to offer hope and wholeness to children in the foster care system.



**Our Adoption Story:
Patrick and Kelly Seidenkranz**



Our road to adoption began in the summer of 2008. Although we always knew we were open to adopting, we never anticipated feeling like there was no other option. The devastation we faced as we journeyed through multiple miscarriages and the frustration of simply not getting pregnant drove us to the place of complete surrender. Just about 6 years after the birth of our biological son,

Joshua, we decided we were more than ready to adopt; but looking back, we can't imagine having a second child any other way!

The first baby that was placed in our home was *Melissa. After about 3 months, Melissa's grandmother learned about her and immediately made it known that she was willing and able to care for her. With the generous support from Heart of the Canyons Church, we asked to fly Melissa's grandmother out for a visit in hopes of making the transition easier on both of them.

We said our good-byes as Melissa went to live with her grandmother and brother and we were left with big holes in our hearts. As our hearts healed and we celebrated the safe home and family Melissa found, we opened the door to be blessed with another child who needed to be loved.

On December 2nd, we got word of a 2-day old little girl who needed a home right away.

We all journeyed to a hospital in Los Angeles to pick her up, and Joshua named her Kaylyn on the way.

We found a precious, absolutely gorgeous little angel who was alert as ever and who would fit more perfectly into our family than we could ever plan. Before long, Joshua and Kaylyn became the best of buddies!

The adoption was finalized on Kaylyn's 18 month birthday. We continue to speak with Melissa's grandmother regularly to get updates, and she welcomes our friendship. All we can say is that we are more than blessed.

If you would like to follow in the footsteps of the Seidenkranz family and open your home to a child in need of a family for Christmas, contact Director of Recruitment, Lauren McKinley at 818.649.8014 or lmckinley@childshare.org.

**Name has been changed to ensure confidentiality*

**Volunteer Spotlight: The
Stitch'n Prayer Knitting Group**



The Stitch n Prayer knitting group from Bethlehem Lutheran Church has tirelessly and selflessly served the children of Child S.H.A.R.E. for several years. Each month, they gather to create fleece blankets for children in need of something special to call their own. At each meeting, the ladies gather around a table and partner together to make up to 6 brilliantly colored blankets, each with its own theme dedicated to a special age-range and assembled with care. At the end of the meeting they take the time to pray over each blanket asking that it will not only warm a child physically, but that it will also warm the child's heart. Child S.H.A.R.E. thanks Stitch n Prayer for dedicating your gifts and talents to serve children.

There are many creative ways to serve children in foster care. If you would like to explore how you can use your professional skills, gifts, talents and resources to serve these children, contact Child S.H.A.R.E. at 818.649.8000.

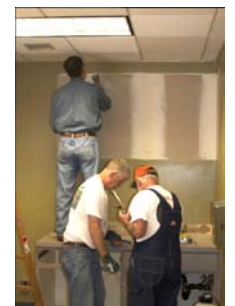
**Faith Community Profile:
First Church of the Nazarene
of Pasadena**

Child S.H.A.R.E.'s success relies on the partnerships we hold with local faith communities who open their doors to serve children in foster care. One faith community partner has embraced the mission of Child S.H.A.R.E. and has launched a thriving ministry that impacts nearly every facet of the organization.

Led by Dr. T. Scott Daniels and supported by Pastor of Service, Selena Holston-Gabriel, First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena (PazNaz) has graciously and consistently answered Child S.H.A.R.E. calls for support over the past five years. From financial resources, facilities, volunteers, backpacks, paint, pulpit time and as Child S.H.A.R.E. Executive Director, April Steele explains, "Anything else we have ever asked, PazNaz has blessed Child S.H.A.R.E. time and time again. Dr. Daniels and Pastor Holston-Gabriel's have twice run 26.2 miles in the LA Marathon to raise foster care awareness and funds for Child S.H.A.R.E."

This September, Child S.H.A.R.E. was honored to present Dr. Daniels with the 2011 Guardian Angel Award at the Annual Gala in recognition of his extraordinary service to the abused and abandoned children served by Child S.H.A.R.E.

Each week, Dr. Daniels challenges his congregation to step up to consider the poor, disenfranchised, and voiceless in our midst. Guided by Dr. Daniels, several members of PazNaz have in fact stepped forward to begin the foster parent certification process. Child S.H.A.R.E. gratefully acknowledges Dr. Daniels and PazNaz for giving a voice to the voiceless and hope to the hopeless.



PazNaz Day of Service at Child S.H.A.R.E.



PazNaz 2010 Christmas Party



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