



Connections

Finding and supporting foster and adoptive families since 1985.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, June 11th Go Go Gourmet

7:00-11:00p.m.
Tustin, CA
Gourmet Food Trucks



Saturday, June 26th L.A. County Summer Family Picnic

11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.



Saturday, July 31st O.C./Riverside County Summer Family Picnic

11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.



**Saturday, October 16th
Lewis B. Smedes
Conference on Foster Care
& Adoption. 8:00-5:00p.m.**
Fuller Theological
Seminary, Pasadena, CA



Saturday, September 25th Anniversary Gala

5:00p.m.
Westin Hotel,
Pasadena, CA



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

Health Care Reform Law Expands Adoption Tax Credit

On March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) was signed into law. Section 10909 of the Act extended the adoption tax credit for one more year (to December 31, 2011) and expanded the program in two ways. For the 2010 tax year, the amount of the credit was increased from \$12,170 to \$13,170. Also, the credit was made refundable for all types of adoption for tax years 2010 and 2011. Families adopting children with special needs may qualify for the credit regardless of expenses incurred. Consult your tax advisor for additional information or to inquire if you qualify for the tax credit.

Child S.H.A.R.E. Families Participate in a Night of Music and Arts



In March, Child S.H.A.R.E. families were welcomed to the El Portal Theater in North Hollywood as *The Orchestra Unleashed* presented *Mirrors of the Soul*, an evening of Biblically-based live orchestral entertainment blending poignant music, fine art, and dramatic readings as well as beloved hymns. The event touched the hearts of Christians and non-

Christians alike through music, art, poetry and Scripture. Child S.H.A.R.E. families attended the event at no cost, thanks to the generosity of Sonya Blake (whose husband, Stephen was a featured composer at the event). Sonya is a cherished Child S.H.A.R.E. volunteer and currently mentors foster youth through the Child S.H.A.R.E. Speaker's Bureau Program.



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1544 West Glenoaks Blvd. Glendale, CA 91201
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714.619.0245 Phone 714.619.0251 Fax

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2295 Eastridge, Riverside, CA 92507
951.571.9571 Phone 951.742.8889 Fax



April, Galen, Sophie and Sage Steele

I like to look at numbers. I enjoy pouring over financial statements, statistics and reports. When I stop to think about why I like this I'm surprised by my own self reflection. It's not really that I'm a fan of paper and numbers, it's that I'm a fan of the stories the numbers tell.

For instance, when I look at the number 900 I don't just see a large number. I see over 900 families that have opened their homes to abused children through Child S.H.A.R.E. since 1985. When I see the number 2,700 it's not simply interesting. It reflects 2,700 real children who have found safety, shelter, love and healing while living in a Child S.H.A.R.E. home.

One of those 2,700 children is Chad Lucia. Chad is 21 years old and is the oldest of 8 children. Chad is part of a big family that is made up of biological children, adopted children, children of different races and children with special needs. His parents, Jeff and Bev Lucia (a Child S.H.A.R.E. family) have committed their lives to caring for kids.

Chad joined the Lucia family an abandoned, 8 day old baby and permanently joined the family at the age of 3 when he was adopted. Chad currently attends The College of the Canyons and plans on transferring to California State University Northridge to study speech pathology.

Chad's life goals and dreams include career, travel, marriage and adopting children. Chad states, "It feels good to be adopted, it's rewarding." He works for the Children's Bureau where he serves as a mentor and tutor to children in foster care.

Chad recalls memories of Christmas parties with Child S.H.A.R.E. where, "Cookie decorating was my favorite." "When I first went to the Christmas parties, they were small," says Chad, "now there are lots of people. It shows how many people are being helped by Child S.H.A.R.E. and how it is growing."

Chad's ambition, success and desire to give back to others make him a perfect recipient of the Founder's Alumni Scholarship for 2010. Chad will be recognized on September 25th at the Annual Child S.H.A.R.E. Gala.

There are so many stories, each attached to a child, with a name, who has hopes and dreams like Chad. Share your foster and adoption stories for inclusion at the Gala at silverstories@childshare.org and plan to join the celebration on September 25th.



The Lucia family



Chad Lucia

Sincerely,

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

Eisner Foundation Awards Child S.H.A.R.E. \$100,000 Grant

Child S.H.A.R.E. received a \$100,000 general operating grant from the Eisner Foundation for Los Angeles operations in the 2010 fiscal year. This grant reflects a long history of partnership between the foundation and Child S.H.A.R.E. The Eisner Foundation, founded by Michael, his wife Jane and their family, exists to provide access and opportunity for children and the aging in Los Angeles County. Child S.H.A.R.E. gratefully acknowledges the Eisner Foundation for their commitment to making Los Angeles a better place for children.



Shoshana currently oversees all development aspects of Orange County and has primary oversight for the 2010 corporate campaign. Contact Shoshana at spuccia@childshare.org or 714.649.0243.

Child S.H.A.R.E. Welcomes Assistant Director of Development

Child S.H.A.R.E. is proud to announce the addition of Shoshana Puccia as the Assistant Director of Development. Shoshana brings a dynamic background in sales and marketing to the Development Department. She is an entrepreneur and a high profile marketing, corporate sponsorship and hospitality industry consultant. Her clients have included the J. Paul Getty Trust, the LA Opera and the Geffen Playhouse.

Shoshana began her career at Universal Studios and brings with her over 15 years of international and domestic sales experience. Shoshana's transition from the corporate world into the social service sector was inspired by her mother, who has welcomed over 60 foster children into her home. Six years ago Shoshana was honored to receive two new sisters and one new brother, who her mother adopted into their amazing family. She is excited to help usher other foster children into loving homes through Child S.H.A.R.E. Shoshana speaks English, Spanish, Italian and French. Shoshana will play a key role in reaching out to the Hispanic population on behalf of Child S.H.A.R.E.

Honoring Our Founders: Child S.H.A.R.E.'s Silver Anniversary Gala



2010 marks Child S.H.A.R.E.'s twenty-fifth year of service to abused and abandoned children in Southern California. To commemorate this milestone, Child S.H.A.R.E. will honor its' founders, Dr. Mary Rotzien and Brian Buchanan, as the Silver Anniversary Guardian Angel Award recipients. Following Child S.H.A.R.E.'s tradition, the award will officially be presented September 25th at the annual Gala. Changing venues to accommodate a capacity crowd, the 2010 Gala will be held at the Westin Hotel in Pasadena, CA.

As Board President Pat Dahlson explains, "Brain and Mary began in their garage with a vision to help

abused children recover, heal and feel safe. Twenty-five years later, the organization they founded is highly successful, serving hundreds of children in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties. Child S.H.A.R.E. is a pioneering model for the effective collaboration of the faith community, local service organizations and the government."

On this Silver Anniversary, Child S.H.A.R.E. will celebrate the incredible impact it has had on the community. Since 1985, Child S.H.A.R.E. has successfully recruited over 900 families, providing stability for over 2,700 children. On any given day, over 800 children are lovingly cared for by Child S.H.A.R.E. families.

Dr. Rotzien's strong commitment to her faith led her to develop a program to address the lack of stable, safe and loving housing for abused children while she was a student at Fuller Theological Seminary. With the financial support and encouragement of Westwood Presbyterian Church, Dr. Rotzien began to find temporary homes in the faith community for children languishing in the foster care system.

Buoyed by the support of her husband, Brian Buchanan, a partner with Haney, Buchanan and Patterson,

LLP, Dr. Rotzien's unique approach to the challenges faced by foster parents gave life to Child S.H.A.R.E. Buchanan has remained an active member of the Child S.H.A.R.E. Board of Directors since the agency's inception. He and Dr. Rotzien remain steadfast in their commitment to serving foster children in the community. Dr. Rotzien is a Clinical Psychologist currently in private practice in Pasadena, CA.

The Gala includes dinner, a live musical performance and silent and live auctions. Tickets for the September 25th event are available and there is special pricing offered to Child S.H.A.R.E. families.

For more information or to reserve tickets, please contact Amanda Turek, at 818.649.8016, or aturek@childshare.org.



Family Spotlight: Jeff and Teresa Verry

Discouraged by the overwhelming cost of private adoption and deterred by the complexity of the foster/adoption process through the Department of Children and Family Services, the Verry's were on the verge of giving up hope of being parents.

The pivotal moment of change came when Lauren McKinley, Child S.H.A.R.E. staff, presented at the Verry's church, Lake Avenue Congregational in Pasadena, CA. Teresa recalls, "Even before Lauren could start talking we bombarded her with questions. Lauren was great at answering questions, getting back to us about things she didn't know, and calling us to follow-up."

The Verrys are pursuing certification with Children's Bureau and are pleased with the process. They have completed their home study and expect to be certified soon. "We don't know where we'd be," reflected Jeff and Teresa, "if Child S.H.A.R.E. hadn't been at our church that day." They realize they are no longer alone in this process.

The Verrys approach their desire to adopt from a place of profound faith. Teresa recalled the moment when Jeff was reflecting on Ephesians 1:5 and they realized that, "As Christians we are adopted into God's family and it is a privilege!" They wrote the verse on their adoptions folder to remind them of God's love and to provide encouragement through their process.

Teresa's advice to future foster/adoptive parents who are not sure if they want to take the plunge or are discouraged about the process is, "Keep in close contact with Child S.H.A.R.E. and the agency they are working with and trust in God."

The Verrys are looking to start with one adoption, but Teresa shared about her openness to do more, "Who knows, for the future we might end up with a house full of kids!"



Jeff and Teresa Verry, a Child S.H.A.R.E. family on their way towards certification.

Child S.H.A.R.E. Receives Recommendation from Denominational Leader of Assemblies of God Church

Child S.H.A.R.E. gratefully accepted a letter of introduction and recommendation from denominational leader Sergio Navarrete last month. The letter, sent to over 148 pastors of the Christian denomination, encouraged pastors to contemplate their local church's involvement and response to children in foster care and encouraged pastors to look to Child S.H.A.R.E. to provide leadership and support in implementing foster/adoption ministries. This recommendation letter has already opened the door to 11 scheduled presentations. "The potential families that will begin the foster adoption process through hearing the presentations could be numerous" said Ellen Joe, Director of Family Recruitment. "We look forward to a sustained and productive partnership with the Assemblies of God churches and are grateful to Pastor Navarrete for his introduction.

Child S.H.A.R.E. Welcomes Gustavo Gonzales

Child S.H.A.R.E. welcomes Gustavo Gonzalez to the family recruitment team. Fluent in Spanish, Gustavo will focus his efforts on building relationships with and finding new families through Hispanic churches. Gustavo's work continues more than a decade of targeted efforts by Child S.H.A.R.E. to find bi-lingual Hispanic homes for Hispanic foster children throughout Southern California. Contact Gustavo at ggonzalez@childshare.org or 714.649.0246.

How Families Find Child S.H.A.R.E.

Families find Child S.H.A.R.E. in a variety of ways. However, the primary way families meet Child S.H.A.R.E. is by hearing a presentation at a local church. Staff provide information about the neglected and abused children living in local communities. Faith communities find it hard to ignore that there are over 50,000 children in Southern California's foster care system and their Christian faith calls them to be part of the solution. If you know of a church or faith community that would open their doors to a presentation by Child S.H.A.R.E., please contact Ellen Joe, Director of Recruitment, at ejoe@childshare.org or 818.649.8004.

Another way families find Child S.H.A.R.E. is through Information Sessions. Information Sessions allow people interested in foster care or adoption to come with questions regarding the process of becoming a foster or adoptive parent. Those who attend leave with new friendships, solid information and the knowledge that with Child S.H.A.R.E., they will be supported.

If you know of anyone considering the foster/adoption process who would like to take the next step in the journey, invite them to:

Upcoming Los Angeles County & Orange County Family Information Sessions:

Sat. June 19, July 17, Aug 28
10:00a.m. - 11:30a.m.
Contact 818.649.8004 or ejoe@childshare.org for more information.

Child S.H.A.R.E. Hits an All-Time Record of Newly Certified Families in 2009

In 2009, Child S.H.A.R.E. celebrated its best recruiting year ever, helping certify 34 new foster families. A typical Child S.H.A.R.E. family welcomes two children from the foster care system into their home. We look forward to seeing these 68 children find safe, loving and stable homes in 2010. These newly certified families join the Child S.H.A.R.E. network of over 400 families providing homes to more than 800 children on a monthly basis.

Riverside Bowling Event a Success

Last month, Child S.H.A.R.E. families gathered at Arlington Lanes in Riverside for bowling and fellowship. The event, hosted by Child S.H.A.R.E., saw children of all ages and their parents rolling the ball for strikes and spares. For more information on similar upcoming events, contact Andrew Henck, Director of Family Support, at ahenck@childshare.org or 818.649.8020.





child s·h·a·r·e 2010
SUPPORT • HOPE • ADVOCACY • RESOURCES • ENCOURAGEMENT

Summer Family Picnic

You're Invited

L.A. County
Saturday, June 26th
O.C./Riverside County
Saturday, July 31st
11:00 - 2:00p.m.



LA MARATHON

Team Child S.H.A.R.E. Raises \$82,000 at LA Marathon

For the 15th consecutive year, Child S.H.A.R.E. participated in the LA Marathon as an official charity. With 51 marathon runners and 33 5K participants, friends, families, corporations and churches sponsored the team to raise over \$82,000.00. Funds raised directly benefit efforts to find and support foster and adoptive families throughout Southern California. Elite team fundraisers were celebrated at a dinner where they heard stories of changed lives from Child S.H.A.R.E. families. Corporate sponsors included: Mayesh Wholesale Florist, Dunlap Property Group, Bank of the West, Stremicks Heritage Foods and 8th Continent Soy Milk.



Special thanks to the National Charity League of Burbank for providing Child S.H.A.R.E. hospitality stops along the Marathon route.

Top Runners/Fundraisers:

1. Pat Dahlson, Mayesh Wholesale Florist
2. Elsa Dunlap, Dunlap Property Group
3. Erin Malone, Stremicks Heritage Foods
4. Steve Hauser
5. Claudia Banas
6. Curtis & Lupe Hafner
7. The Movement of Mission Viejo
8. Team Evergreen Baptist Church
9. Galen, April & Sophie Steele
10. Beth Hodgkiss
11. Selena Holston
12. Francisco Ulloa
13. Lillian Chen
14. Dr. T. Scott Daniels
15. Ellen Joe
16. Tim Anast
17. Amanda Turek



Thank You to Our Donors

Each year, Child S.H.A.R.E. benefits from the generosity of thousands of donors. We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who directed gifts to Child S.H.A.R.E. from November 1, 2009 - May 7, 2010.

Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate and complete. Child S.H.A.R.E. sincerely apologizes for any errors or omissions. Please check the website for a complete listing of all donors.

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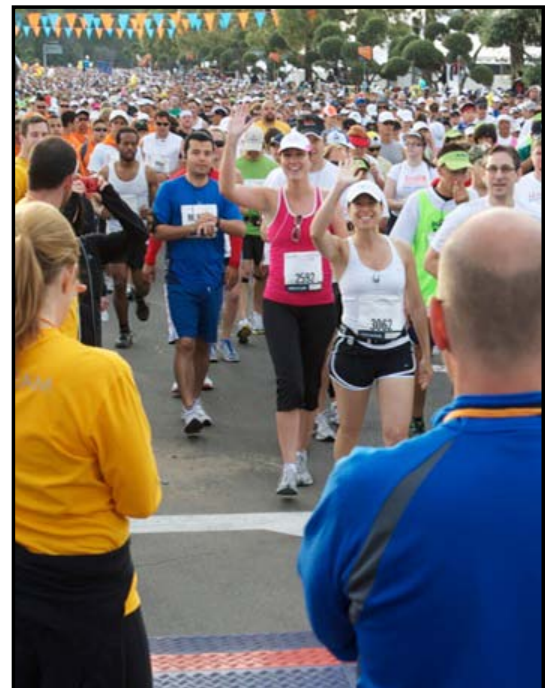
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Child S.H.A.R.E. in the News

- Andrew Henck, Director of Family Support, was recently appointed as the Orange County Recruitment, Development, Support Liason to the Orange County Adoption Consortium.
- Bob and Carlotta Levy and Beverly Lucia recently traveled to Washington D.C. to share their stories of adoption and foster care with interested individuals and members of Congress. They were selected to represent Children's Bureau at the event. Congratulations Bob, Carlotta and Bev, thanks for all you do to advocate for foster and adoptive families.
- Jaci and Eric Hasemeyer were featured in the May issue of *Parent's Magazine*. The Hasemeyers have fostered and adopted for more than a decade and are regularly recognized in political, social and corporate venues for their commitment to foster children. Thanks Eric and Jaci for the attention you bring to foster children and their need for loving homes.

If you have been or you know of a Child S.H.A.R.E. family who has received recognition for their commitment to foster care or adoption, please let us know. Send the information to April Steele at asteele@childshare.org or 818.649.8019.

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