

# Reflections

Acts of Grace Foundation • Small Deeds, Big Difference

## A Note From The Founder

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On August 13, 2007, we met the world of high risk pregnancy. The world of maternal-fetal specialists, magnesium sulfate, terbutaline injections, procardia pills, polyhydramnios, amnioreductions, amniotic fluid testing, betamethasone, fetal fibronectin testing, non-stress tests monitoring, ambien.... Here we are 5 years later looking back on that emotional roller coaster. I still remember details of that time. The details used to come with a lot of bitterness, but now the details have a lot more sweetness to



*Elle (5) and Cal (3) continue to be the joy of our lives.*

them. I laugh with my family about some of the ugly times, smile when I read our journal and wipe away the tear or two that slowly drops when I think about the kindness, encouragement and support we received. I could go on and on about the people that came in our lives during that dark time to shed some light. The Heidis, the Karens, the Lisas, the Beckys, the Carols, the Jens...they continue to shed some light in our lives and I am grateful for that. I fill with pride when I take my kids onto the 2nd and 3rd floors of our local hospitals to show them off to the hospital staff. And then

there are the women . . . oh the women we have met, along with their wonderful families. I keep an album full of notes, announcements, and photos we receive from them. Five years truly has been a bitter-sweet journey. But again, I am happy to say that now it is more sweet than bitter. I thank all of you who have walked beside us these last five years. You have seen my heart heal, my husband shine, my kids turn 5 & 3, and you have been able to see what GRACE really is. It is an honor to have you be a part of our life.

Best,

*Marlena*

## Carnival Night is Approaching!



Come one, come all! Acts of Grace

Foundation is thrilled to announce **Carnival Night at the Children's Museum of Denver** from 6 to 9 p.m. on September 22nd. With this fun, family event, we hope to raise as much money as possible to help pregnant women on hospital bed rest.

Tickets will be on sale August 13 at [www.actsofgracefoundation.org](http://www.actsofgracefoundation.org) for \$25 per adult and \$15 per child. Please note that all ticket prices will

increase by \$5 if purchased after September 10th, 2012.

This amazing night will provide something for the entire family, including dinner, silent auction, door prizes, face painting, babysitting, drinks and more! The Children's Museum of Denver is a truly magical place with inventive exhibits, beautiful views of the city, and 13,000 square feet of fun. Discover, explore and investigate interactive exhibits including Alphabet Soup, Arts a la Carte, the Assembly Plant, Bubbles,



*Face painting is always a popular activity at Carnival Night!*

the Center for the Young Child, Click Clack Train Track, Fire Station No. 1, My Market, Ready, Vet, Go! and Under My Feet and Over My Head!

For more information on how you can get involved, donate items for the Silent Auction, or volunteer your time to make this a great event, contact [marlena@actsofgracefoundation.org](mailto:marlena@actsofgracefoundation.org)

or visit our website at [www.actsofgracefoundation.org](http://www.actsofgracefoundation.org).

***Together, we can make a difference!***

# Reflections

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## A Clean House and a Servant Heart

I quit my job as an accountant in 2011 to stay home with my two sons. However, I slowly learned that staying at home full time wasn't for me. I started a cleaning business in February 2012 because I love to clean and I saw it as a way to get out of the house and do something I enjoy while still using my business skills.



*We are honored to welcome The DirtSmith and owner, Nicole Smith, to the Foundation. What an amazing service to provide for families going through such a difficult time! Thank you!*

While researching how to start a cleaning business, I came across the idea of volunteering my services in the community. I tried to think of who I could volunteer to help and my first thought was to help families with children in the NICU because my oldest spent a week at the Swedish NICU since he was born five weeks early. I called my friend Kim Sandman, who is a nurse at Swedish, and she said she didn't think the NICU would be receptive because it could be a privacy violation. She then

reminded me that she was on the board for the Acts of Grace Foundation. As soon as Kim said that, I knew this was who I was going to volunteer to help. I spent four months on bedrest with my first pregnancy after receiving an emergency cerclage for an incompetent cervix at 19

weeks. Even though I didn't have to spend those four months in the hospital, I still was unable to clean. Cleaning your house is something that has to be done, but it's the last thing you're thinking about when you're dealing with more important issues. It means a lot to me to have the opportunity to help families through the Acts of Grace Foundation, even if it's just by cleaning their home.

Looking for affordable, quality cleaning services? Contact Nicole at [www.thedirtsmith.com](http://www.thedirtsmith.com).

hospital bedrest. Go online to [www.actsofgracefoundation.org](http://www.actsofgracefoundation.org), click on **donate now** and sign up for reoccurring donations. Sacrifice one trip to your favorite fast food restaurant or two grande lattes per month and help us purchase gift bags, ice cream, crafts, meal vouchers, and more!

Together, we are making a big difference in many moms' lives! Thank you!



## The Family with Flower Power

Flowers not only brighten a room, but they bring about the feeling of happiness, good cheer, the receiver feels cared for and thought about. I am sure many of you remember the last time you received flowers. You may even remember what kind and what color they were.

One of our services that AoGF provides is monthly flower arrangements. By providing the gift of flowers we are able to let the ante partum patients know that someone is thinking of them. AoGF has given out 512 since 2008, 124 were received in 2011 and 72 have been given out this year. A huge reason why we have been able to give these out is due to the Jenkins Family.

The Jenkins Family has committed to providing flowers for the ante partum unit at P/SL since 2008. In the beginning stages of AoGF Amy (with her family in the photo) started thinking about how she could assist. With nearly 20 years of experience in the flower industry and the support of her husband Scott, Amy knew just what to do. Once a month Amy makes flower arrangements and delivers them with her 2 daughters to P/SL.

"It is wonderful to place the vase of flowers next to them, bring cheer to their tired faces and brighten their rooms. Although each room looks different to me, each mom shows strength and courage." We appreciate the work that goes into these flower arrangements and are grateful for people like the Jenkins Family.



Join us on the **SEVENTH** of every month by donating **7 dollars** to help pregnant women on



Thanks to everyone who has "liked" our page! One purpose of the page is to reach out to the community, friends, donors, and volunteers informing them of what Acts of Grace is up to, as well as upcoming events. Please continue to encourage people to "LIKE" our page and follow us. Let's continue to grow our fan base and expand our online following!