

Reflections

Acts of Grace Foundation • Small Deeds, Big Difference

Volume 3 • Issue 2 • May 2011

A Note from the Founder



Since spring is a time of renewal and growth, its only appropriate that we

unveil our new website built by Dirk Frandsen and Media Core Design. Please take a look at www.actsofgracefoundation.org to stay up to date on AoGF events and news.

We are excited for the rest of 2011 as we have many great opportunities. Our 2nd Annual Carnival Night will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2011, we will get you all the details as they come. For all the latest happenings please join our Facebook page and join

us at AoGF on Twitter. We are honored to have all your support! The Acts of Grace Foundation donors and volunteers are impacting families not only in Colorado, but throughout the country. With care packages, flowers, gifts bags, and social activities, you are transforming small deeds into a big difference for pregnant women on hospital bedrest!

Thank you!

Joseff Diedrich

Kim Sandman: A Picture Perfect Volunteer



My professional background is in Perinatal Nursing. I worked as a labor and delivery nurse, and I currently do ultrasounds for high risk pregnancies. As a

nurse, I have witnessed the challenges that moms face while on hospital bedrest firsthand. It is so difficult to watch a mom struggle with realizing the loss of her dream of a normal, worry-free pregnancy and wrapping her arms around this new reality of a high risk pregnancy. It is not only the worry for her unborn child that tears a mother up, there are financial factors, such as worry about job loss or loss of income that play a role as well. Often, a mother has other children at home that she cannot be with. Some mothers have never slept away from their home, and now they are in a hospital where everything is foreign, invasive and lonely. Women worry about their family, pets, friends and co-workers.

I first heard of the Acts of Grace Foundation

from my business partner. Jennifer Murton and I are co-owners of Moments Photography. She knew Joe and Mar Diedrich prior to their pregnancy with Grace and Elle. Jen told me about the foundation that they created out of their love for Grace and their passion to help other mothers with similar difficult pregnancy situations. I was touched and ecstatic that FINALLY someone was reaching out to these mothers on hospital bedrest! I was honored when I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors. It was then that I was able to witness the passion that went into the foundation. Every decision that is made takes hospitalized mothers needs into consideration.

Last year, Jen and I felt such a call to action that we created the *Acts of Grace Photography Fundraiser*. For a \$15 donation to AoGF, families were given a 30-minute professional photo session and a free 5X7 of their choice. We met incredible people with amazing stories. Many of these families had been served by AoGF as patients and had inspirational stories to share. A few months ago, we held our 2nd Annual Fundraiser and loved seeing the returning families and reconnecting with them and their precious children. We were thrilled to welcome new families, and hear stories of how AoGF made a tremendous difference to them.

I am humbled to be a small part of a foundation that makes such a big difference to

women during such a challenging time. I love taking gift bags to hospitalized moms and watching their face light up knowing that somebody understands their situation. It is so touching to hear stories from moms about AoGF and how it has changed their lives. I have been so blessed by this foundation and know that every small deed changes a life.

Lend a Hand

The next volunteer opportunity for our quarterly *Lend a Hand* session is on Saturday May 21 from 3pm to 5pm at the Westridge Recreation Center in Highlands Ranch.

We will be making gifts for the pregnant women on hospital bedrest as well as getting many important Carnival Night preparations started.

It's sure to be a great night of creativity, fellowship, and hard work (OK, maybe "fun" work is a better way to describe it). Snacks will be provided. Please contact Marlena at marlena@actsofgracefoundation.org or (303) 278-1362 if you are interested in *Lending a Hand*.

Reflections

Acts of Grace Foundation • Small Deeds, Big Difference

Happy Mother's Day: Letters from AoGF Moms

Have you ever wondered if AoGF is fulfilling its mission of making a positive difference in the lives of the families we serve? Wonder no more.

Throughout the year, we receive hundreds of notes from grateful moms on hospital bedrest from across the nation.

As we celebrate Mother's Day this May, we thought it was appropriate to highlight a few of these treasured messages.

Dear Acts of Grace,

Thank you so much for all the goodies each Sunday and Thursday! Thanks, too, for your friendly faces and words of encouragement! It truly made my 8 1/2 week stay that much better as I always looked forward to seeing you!

Thank you!

P/SL Medical Center Mom
Denver, CO

Dear Acts of Grace,

Thank you so much for the gift baskets and flowers during my 5 week stay at Sky Ridge. It is organizations like yours that lifts the spirits of me and my family during my bedrest.

Thanks for everything!

Sky Ridge Medical Center Mom
Highlands Ranch, CO

Dear Marlana,

In July, I had the pleasure of speaking with you about Acts of Grace. You were kind enough to send me a box of care packages for the women on the high risk floor of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. I distributed the packages and they were received with such pleasure and gratitude. I stayed in the hospital for six weeks, and home on bed rest for two, after which our son was born healthy at 36 weeks. Little things made such a difference to us- and your thoughtfulness helped us through a trying time!

Thank you for sharing your story, and opening your heart to others.

My friends and I will be paying it forward in honor of your daughter. We hope to set up care packages for every women on hospital bed rest at Brigham and Women's this holiday.

Thank you for all that you do.

With gratitude,

Brigham and Women's Hospital Mom
Boston, MA

Dear Acts of Grace,

I received my care package today and I loved it! Thank you so much :-). I turned 28 weeks today, dr is hoping we can hold off delivery until 32 weeks. Today marks 3 wks since I ruptured.

There is another mom here that's been here a couple of weeks longer than me but I don't know her last name. The nurses here said they were going to send you an email.

Lakeview Regional Med. Cntr. Mom
Covington, LA


for Arts of Grace Foundation

We currently have 21 reoccurring donors for our \$7 on the Seventh. Please consider signing up. Our goal is to be at 30! If you are interested please go to www.actsofgracefoundation.org and click on the \$7 on the Seventh logo. Please help us make a difference in the lives of moms on hospital bedrest across the nation!