

# Reflections

Acts of Grace Foundation • Small Deeds, Big Difference

## A Note from the Founder

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Fall is my favorite season. I enjoy the warm days, cool nights, fall foliage, and all the celebrations our family has. It's a time to reflect on the year that has passed and the one that is on our doorstep in a month or so.

My children's birthdays are in the beginning of Fall, Joe's birthday is early November, I am grateful to be able to gather around a table with family or friends on Thanksgiving Day and I love everything pumpkin! Whether it is eating, drinking, harvesting, decorating, or carving a pumpkin: I love pumpkins. So of course I could not miss out on Pumpkin Carving Night hosted by



Patients and families gather for Pumpkin Carving Night at P/SL in Denver.



Moms and their masterpieces!

AoGF at P/SL. Pumpkin Carving Night gives patients and families on the antepartum unit a chance to continue a fun tradition they usually enjoy at home.

The pumpkins that are given to the ladies to carve already have their gooey innards removed.

This allows them and their loved ones extra time to focus on carving their creations while eating the roasted pumpkins seeds from their pumpkin!

The fellowship of this wonderful activity is contagious. There is a lot of giggling and laughing while everyone tries to create the perfect carving. When it is time for the ladies to be wheeled back to their rooms, they

are given a battery operated votive to place in their pumpkin. They now have a glowing jack-o-lantern in their room to remind them of the season. Antepartum patients are often alone and contained to their

rooms, away from the very people who understand their situation best....other antepartum patients. Pumpkin Carving Night (along with other AoGF activities)

allows these women to get out of their rooms, socialize and focus on something simple, but festive. At the end of the day, we hope the jack-o-lantern and our foundation brings a little light to their world. Small deeds, big difference!

Enjoy the season!

Marlena



Little volunteers bring more joy to the event.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Steve Di Paola



As a board member of the Acts of Grace Foundation, I have been able to experience something unique and very rewarding. As parents of two healthy and happy children, my wife Cindy and I experienced very routine trips to the delivery room and then to home after very short stays in the hospital.

By experiencing the trials and tribulations of the mothers on hospital bed rest, I have an even deeper perspective as to this miracle that most parents take for granted. The difficult time

that surrounds the very thought of any pregnancy complication is one that makes expectant parents shudder with anxiety. In a moment, these fears can become a reality and cannot be prepared for in any way. Once faced with a short or longer term stay in the hospital, only the families and close friends are able to share the ongoing stress of this situation.

Acts of Grace is such a wonderful resource for these families based on the very personal experience that is conveyed to those who have shared this unique challenge. As a board member, I have not had as much direct contact with these families as all of the wonderful volunteers, but when I have gone

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## Volunteer Spotlight (from Page 1)

in for Sunday Sundaes it was clear that anything to help with the time spent in the hospital is a remarkable gift. This demonstrates the fundamental value of transforming small deeds into making big differences for these families.

Something that we take for granted, until you see the smile that goes along with these Gracious Acts.

My son has helped with the annual kick-ball fundraising events as a community service activity and he doesn't fully understand the whole hospital bed rest

stuff but he does see what Mar and Joe have given so much of their time and energy and this is how he knows this group is quite special. I guess we can all find extraordinary ways of seeing what we usually take for granted.

Thanks for all that you have done and what I know you will continue to do for this very special way of helping those who might least expect it.



## A Huge Success!

The marketing and coordination was done, the auction items were collected, the invitations were sent...the only thing left to do was to enjoy the fabulous night ahead of us.



September 24th was a night of excitement and we are proud to report that is was also a great success! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your support for our second annual Acts of Grace Foundation Carnival Night.

We had a great crowd of both young and old this year. Over 200 people attended the event and enjoyed all that The Children's Museum of Denver had to offer. Thanks to the generosity of indi-



viduals, businesses and organizations, our group was able to enjoy 54 silent auction items, 150 grab bags, and several door prizes that were given away every 15 minutes. We appreciate the support from all of our sponsors, especially the generosity of our Gold Sponsor Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children at Presbyterian Saint Luke's Medical Center. Without your support, we truly could not hold this amazing event or fulfill our mission. THANK YOU!

Also, thank you to everyone that came out for this great event. Your willing support means the world to us and because of your generosity, life on hospital bed rest for many women will be a bit brighter. Everyone enjoyed the exclusive access to all of the museum exhibits and play areas, a delicious catered meal including

dessert and drinks, face painting, baby sitting and many prizes for the kids. "We look forward to this event every year. Our kids have a great time at the museum and my husband and I always seem to find something fun at the auction. We're proud to be involved with such a great organization!" said Kim Sandman, AoGF volunteer and board member. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talent, and treasure in order to make our second annual Carnival Night a great success! We look forward to seeing you again next year!



Join us on the **SEVENTH** of every month by donating **7 dollars** to help pregnant women on hospital bedrest. Go online to **www.actsof-gracefoundation.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!

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