

Reflections

Acts of Grace Foundation • Small Deeds, Big Difference

A Note From The Founder

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It is heart wrenching to walk into a room while a mom is talking on her cell phone, saying good night to her children at home. A mother's absence from home adds one more emotional climb on the roller coaster of hospital bedrest. Many of the women we meet in the hospital have children at home. Often, they are young children that do not understand why their mommy is not with them.

This is heart breaking for the women that are placed on hospital bedrest. Of course, there are usually family members at home that are trying to cope with the situation. Loved ones begin scrambling to figure out to maintain children's schedules, transportation, child care, meals, bedtime, household duties and other activities. Some families are blessed with

family who live close by and are able to step in and help. Other families rely on close friends to lend a hand.

Another factor to consider is the family's proximity to the hospital, allowing or disallowing the opportunity for children

to visit on a daily basis. Some families live hours or even a day's drive away from the hospital, only allowing for weekend visits. Regardless of their proximity, at some point the children will visit Mom. Our goal is to help ease the confinement of hospital bedrest as much as possible. This means we reach out to the family when we are able to. We include the chil-

dren in on our social activities or provide a meal voucher or food when able. I know there is so much more that we can do, it is just finding the resources to do it.

I was absolutely thrilled when my 14-year-old niece came up with the idea of providing visiting children with *Busy Bee Bags*. *Busy Bee Bags* are filled with hands-on, quiet, creative activities . . . a perfect solution for young children while visiting Mom in the hospital. They can play while Mom rests, they can create art to decorate Mom's room, or they can snuggle with Mom and play with the items in the bag.

What a brilliant and thoughtful niece I have! It's safe to say there will be lots of young artists at Denver area hospitals this Thanksgiving weekend (and hopefully many less-stressed moms as well)!

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Best,

Marlena



Busy Bee Bags will be distributed to visiting children over Thanksgiving weekend this year at Denver area hospitals.



Lend a Hand

The next volunteer opportunity for our quarterly **Lend a Hand** session is on Saturday, November 17th from noon-2 pm at the Westridge Recreation Center in Highlands Ranch.

There is something for everyone at this community service event. Small hands are welcome and encouraged! It's sure to be a great afternoon of creativity, fellowship, and hard work (OK, maybe "fun" work is a better way to describe it). Snacks will be provided.

The more, the merrier! Please contact Marlena at marlena@actsofgracefoundation.org or (303) 278-1362 if you are interested in **Lending a Hand**.

Pumpkin Party!



On October 25th, the 5th annual *Acts of Grace Pumpkin Carving Party* took place at P/SL in the ante partum unit. What a great way to carve out some memories! Thanks to all who participated!



Join us on the **SEVENTH** of every month by donating **7 dollars** to help pregnant women on hospital bedrest. Go online to www.actsofgracefoundation.org, click on **donate now** and sign up for recurring 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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Third Annual *Carnival Night: a Big Success!*

September 22nd was blast! Thank you for all the support for our 3rd annual *Acts of Grace Foundation Carnival Night*, at The Children's Museum of Denver. We had a group of over 250 attendees (many of which were under 4 feet tall). Thanks to the generosity of many local businesses and organizations, 60 silent auction items were donated and bid upon. AoGF grab bags were also a hit—200 were sold. As a result of everyone's efforts, we were able to raise \$10,000 at this fabulous event!

Some of the evening's highlights included Mr. Sandman the miniature therapy horse, the lip-smacking *Chick Fil A* meal, face painting, door prizes, watching the kids high-five the Chick Fil A cow, and finding out who was going to win the highest bid on "the nail basket!"

A HUGE thank you to all that came out that evening and to all of our sponsors and donors. Without you, this event would not exist. We are truly grateful for your talents and treasures.

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| Dan & Heather Shimensky | Littleton Town Hall Arts Center | The Wildlife Experience |
| Dave and Busters | Living Savior Church Ladies | Timbuk Toys |
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| Denver Art Museum | Luminous Imagery by Amanda | Tranquil Massage |
| Denver Botanic Gardens | Manitou & Pikes Peak Railway | Vic & Joan Lozano |
| Denver Center for the Performing Arts | Mardel's | White Fence Farm |



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!