

Family Resource Center

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www.adoptillinois.org

You can find this edition of *small steps* in color
on the web at www.adoptillinois.org

small steps

fall 2003



FRC'S MISSION

To find permanent loving family homes for children, here and around the world, through adoption.

E-MAIL UPDATE

Please let us know if you have a new e-mail address
Just give us a call or e-mail us at :
Adoption@f-r-c.org

Do you want to know about educational programs offered by FRC?

Call the Education Hotline
(773) 334-4258

FRC adoption program participants can call this number to find out about upcoming classes and events.
Classes offered can be used to satisfy foster family home licensing requirements.

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DIRECTOR'S JOURNAL

2003 — Looking back, looking ahead

By *Richard Pearlman, MSW*
Executive Director

This is the time of year when I reflect on what has been achieved at Family Resource Center during the past twelve months. This has been a year in which Family Resource Center (FRC) reached several significant milestones. As 2003 draws to a close I want to take some time to highlight what FRC has accomplished. I am also interested in sharing with you FRC's plans for the "Adoption Learning Center", one of the program ideas that we will be developing in the coming year. The following narrative lists the most significant milestones reached by Family Resource Center in 2003, as well as some general observations.



Richard Pearlman and Kevin M. at the Spring Picnic

15th Anniversary and 1,000 Adoptions

In September 2003 Family Resource Center marked the beginning of its 15th year and this coming March will be the 15th anniversary of Family Resource Center having placed its first infants for adoption. In 2003 FRC completed its 1,000th adoption!

Looking at it from a historical perspective it is important to note that, in addition to having made the adoptive placements noted above, over the past 15 years FRC also assisted another 1,500+ families in adopting children by providing home study services. Overall, since its inception, FRC has played a part in more than 2,500 adoptions. Almost anywhere I go in Greater Metropolitan Chicago, I run into people whose lives have been touched by Family Resource Center. Beyond Illinois, the FRC community has touched the lives of children and families from Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and from China, England, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Russia, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and Ukraine. In a very real sense FRC is "helping children around the world through adoption."

FRC achieved Council on Accreditation approval

Following a three-year effort, in July of 2003 Family Resource Center received notification that it had been approved by the Council on Accreditation (COA). COA is recognized as the premier accrediting body for child and family service agencies throughout the United States and the world. FRC's accreditation by COA serves as an acknowledgement that FRC maintains the highest practice standards. As the United States stands poised

Continued on page 2



Mark and his children Claire and Kevin



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Dear Friends,

In 1993, my wife Lee and I turned to Family Resource Center after deciding to adopt. In 1994 and 1995 FRC's dedicated staff assisted with our adoptions of Claire and Kevin. Lee and I were first attracted to FRC's open and compassionate view of children, birth parents, and adoptive parents. FRC promises to treat all with equal dignity, kindness, and respect; and they deliver on this promise.

After adopting my children I knew that I wanted to give something back—to help this organization bring the same joy to other families, the same future to other children, and the same support to other birth mothers.

Six years ago I joined FRC's volunteer phone team. This led to a role as a China traveler in support of the FRC families who travel to China to adopt. In June 2003, I was proud to become FRC's Board President. The dedication and commitment of all associated with FRC is clearer to me now than ever before.

Behind the scenes, FRC is helping children with special needs; supporting birth parents with no strings attached so that they can evaluate an adoption plan without pressure or coercion; providing round-the-clock assistance to birth parents and adoptive parents; and giving meaningful financial assistance to adoptive parents who could not otherwise afford to adopt.

What I did not realize until becoming a Board Member is that **the placement fees received by FRC are not sufficient to meet its annual budgetary needs.** Every year 15% to 20% of FRC's financial needs must be met through contributions from supporters.

FRC has recently mailed our annual solicitation letter. Your contributions are more important than ever this year. I hope that you will be able to match, or even exceed, your gifts of previous years. Your gift is truly needed to ensure that FRC will continue into the future.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mark Mulert
Family Resource Center
President, Board of Directors
mamulert@comcast.net

P.S. If not us, then who? I urge everyone who has adopted through FRC and everyone who knows a family, child or birth mother who has been helped by FRC to join me in supporting FRC in this 15th anniversary year.

Our Help. Your Decisions.

FRC, an Illinois Licensed, Non-profit Child Welfare Agency

a personal process of examining adoption and its meaning in their lives. Whether or not they vocalize their thinking to their parents, most adopted children are seeking to understand adoption and how it fits into their view of themselves. Many adoptive parents and birth parents report going through a similar internal thinking process. This phenomenon presents an emerging challenge for FRC and for the Family Resource Center community. I believe that addressing the general topic of "understanding adoption" is the greatest challenge facing Family Resource Center in the years to come. Finding creative ways to address this subject is consistent with FRC's mission of helping children around the world through adoption and the organization's culture. In 2003, FRC's response to this emerging need was to create an "Adoption Learning Center."

What is our vision for the Adoption Learning Center?

It will be a place where:

- A free and open discussion about adoption will be encouraged.

- Parents and children will learn to talk about anything having to do with adoption without fear of ridicule or scorn.
- Individuals will learn about the benefits of clear and open communication and the cost of living with deception and lies as it relates to their adoption experience.
- Families will learn strategies for fostering an emotional climate that encourages curiosity and learning.
- Adoptive parents, birth parents, and children will find support for reunions and receive knowledgeable assistance from others who have gone through the process.
- Birth parents and adoptive parents will be able to meet in a safe and comfortable private setting to talk about their hopes and expectations before deciding whether or not to proceed with an adoption plan.
- Young people will meet with other young adoptees and participate in discussion groups facilitated by trained adult adoptees and skilled therapists—to examine adoption with peers who share significant life experiences.
- Birth parents will meet with other birth parents for support, encouragement and personal growth.
- Birth parents can use the center for their own education and discovery.
- Prospective adoptive parents will be able to meet with others, share experiences and gather support.
- Adoptive parents will learn new and creative ways of talking to their children about adoption.

I am confident that this effort will pay dividends in the form of healthier relationships, improved self-esteem, and stronger family ties for years to come. Do I know exactly what will happen in this learning center? No. Do I believe that the effort is important and will touch people's lives? Absolutely yes!



No Vision — No Progress

In closing, looking back to the time before FRC was incorporated, before we had an office, Family Resource Center was nothing more than an idea in several people's minds. We shared a dream about what we wanted to accomplish, but had no clear picture about how to get it done. Now, many years later, I think that almost everyone whose life has been touched by



We Want to Hear from You!

More than ever FRC would like to hear from you! Do you have any stories, thoughts, or photographs that you'd like to share?

Our new website will have a section where we will post stories and photographs of interested FRC community members.

Your participation is welcome. We want to hear from you.

Please write to us at:
Small Steps
 c/o FRC
 5828 N. Clark Street
 Chicago, Illinois 60660

Or contact us via e-mail at:
 SmallSteps@f-r-c.org

Please include your name and telephone/ e-mail so that we can speak with you about publishing your comments.

FRC can see its value. What Family Resource Center has accomplished is beyond the imagination of those individuals who, more than 16 years ago, sat around kitchen tables and in living rooms imagining what could be done.

As 2004 approaches, I welcome and encourage every member of the Family Resource Center community to become involved. There is something that every one of us can do—ranging from contacting us with your ideas, to sharing resources and contributing financially, to joining a "task force" and working on any number of ongoing projects at FRC. There is so much that the FRC community—you and I—will be able to accomplish when we combine our efforts and work together. If you are interested in learning more about the Adoption Learning Center and helping to get it off the ground, or wish to find out about other ongoing projects in which you can be involved, please let me know. Everyone at FRC welcomes your participation and looks forward to hearing from you. ☺

If Not Me?



WHO?



If Not Now?



WHEN?





Family Resource Center needs your support!

Tax deductible contributions further the important work of Family Resource Center

FRC Achieves COA Accreditation!

by Andi Yakovitz, Domestic Program Coordinator

I am pleased to announce that in July of 2003, FRC was granted accreditation from the Council on Accreditation (COA). COA is an internationally recognized organization that specializes in accrediting social service agencies. COA Accreditation acknowledges an organization for its high level of clinical and operational quality and standards.



The process of accreditation took two years and involved FRC's entire staff and Board of Directors. FRC was required to show compliance in the areas of ethical practice, continuous quality improvement, governance, management of human resources, financial management, training and supervision of staff, services to clients, risk management and workplace environment.

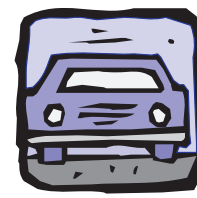
The process included FRC's staff preparing a volume of documents that demonstrated evidence of the agency's compliance with the standards for review and a two-day site visit by COA peer reviewers. During the site visit, FRC staff, directors and clients were interviewed.

It should be noted that the process of accreditation, is designed to aid organizations in developing their own process for continually improving the quality of their services. This was true at Family Resource Center. Applying for accreditation from COA started FRC down a path that formalized our commitment to obtaining feedback from clients and colleagues for the purpose of continually improving our performance and practice standards.

In addition to a plaque on display in our office and the COA logo on FRC documents and correspondence, the FRC community will continue to see a commitment to our mission and experience the quality of services that FRC provides. 🌟

Donate Your Used Car to FRC

by Nancy Carroll



After driving my Chevy Corsica for 88,400 miles, and deciding that I was ready for a newer car, I thought about what I should do with my old car. With the assistance of my nephew and son I looked into purchasing a new car. Both of them pointed out that it was unlikely I would receive anything close to its real value if I traded it in. They also pointed out that I was not the kind of person who would enjoy selling my old car on my own—taking out ads, answering telephone calls, meeting with strangers. So then I thought: What else could I do with my sweet old car?

I found an ideal solution: I asked about donating the Chevy to FRC and they told me that they were happy to receive it. FRC

has a relationship with an auto dealer, Metro Toyota, who assists FRC by taking donated cars to a professional auction. When the car is sold, Metro gives the proceeds to Family Resource Center. FRC provided me with a donation letter for the value of the car, which will benefit me at income tax time. And it was so easy to do!

If you or someone you know is interested in donating your used car to FRC please call Amy Emerzian, who runs FRC's accounting department: (773) 334-2300. Amy will be glad to explain the donation process to you.

Think about it—you can avoid the bother of selling your old car, receive a real tax benefit, and have the pleasure of knowing that the proceeds from your old vehicle went to a good cause! 🌟

Temporary Care Angels

As many FRC families know, there may be a time when a newborn, for a variety of reasons, requires temporary care before he or she can be placed in a new adoptive home.

Would you be interested in providing temporary care for an FRC child who is awaiting an adoptive placement? If you have a currently active foster family license, you can!

Here's All You Need to Do:

- Call Andi Yakovitz and let her know that you wish to be added to the list of folks we can call.
- Foster parents that you are greatly appreciated by the entire FRC community!



FRC extends a hearty "thank you" to everyone on the team! You are wonderful!

FRC acknowledges and thanks our Volunteer Foster / Temporary Care Team

Michael and Kim Amer
Pam Brown and her parents
Vita and Tom Donovan
Paul and Mary Favaro
Larry and Marilyn Lindeman
Fred and Carolyn Mason

Ed and Becky O'Connell
Susan Osborne
Tom and Traycee Simon
Robert and Kathleen Tesar
Tom and Maripat Tropp
Jane Turner

- Children who are difficult to place
- Birth parents who need food and lodging
- Lifelong resources to birth parents, children who have been adopted, and adoptive parents
- Assistance to adoptive parents who cannot afford the fees
- The ongoing spirit of an extraordinary staff who work tirelessly
- A new birth parent resource center, within the Adoption Learning Center, to help with computer knowledge; assist with the exploration of job opportunities; and provide educational opportunities.

FRC offers adoption services with dignity, respect, and holistic care for all involved in adoption. Many cultures and generations come together to weave the dreams of the future. That's what I love about FRC.

It can be done with your help! *If not now, when?* ☺

SAVE THE DATE NOW!

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**Family Resource Center's
15th Anniversary Dinner
and Silent Auction**

Saturday, March 13th, 2004

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More information will be
coming in the mail.

Planning in motion to spring into 2004 at FRC's 15th Anniversary!

by the 15th Anniversary Planning Committee.

In the spring of 2003, we had a wonderful time at our annual Spring Fundraising Gala. This past year was filled with lots of positive memories. Several friendly Chicago Bears players joined us and mingled with the other guests. A wonderful atmosphere of good will surrounded the event. The silent auction items attracted guests who circled and re-circled display tables. The food was delicious and the music just right. Let me tell you right now that the 2004 Spring Gala should be another banner event!

Next spring, for FRC's 15th Anniversary we are inviting children ages 12 and up to attend the gala with their parents. We are confident that in this milestone year guests, parents and some wonderful and mature young people will have a great time. There will be a table with "Kid Bids" items that will pique their interest and be priced just right so guests of all ages will have fun during the Silent Auction. Once again we look forward to having guest appearances from several Chicago Bears Players and other Chicago sports personalities. Most importantly, we look forward to your joining us for a festive evening to benefit the ongoing work of Family Resource Center.

For the 2004 Gala, we are forming a Silent Auction Planning Committee. Already the committee includes FRC alumni, staff members, and friends who are helping to plan this wonderful event. We are looking for additional help. If you are willing, creative, and enthusiastic and want to have a good time—please join us. If you are interested in participating or want further information about joining the planning committee, please contact Angela Bartle at (773) 334-2300 or by email: abartle@f-r-c.org. ☺



Austin Hirsch and Beth Gomberg-Hirsch



FRC Coordinators — Angela, Andi and Sue at the 2003 Dinner and Auction

FRC thanks our Friends at Edward Hines Lumber Company!

Over the years, Family Resource Center has been fortunate to have had support from individuals and businesses that have no direct connection with adoption. These individuals or companies have decided to support our work. This year Family Resource Center extends a heart-felt thanks to the good people at Edward Hines Lumber Company

for their helpful and kind assistance in our renovation efforts.

People at their local stores and corporate headquarters have been very gracious with Family Resource Center—making high quality windows, building materials and kitchen cabinets available to FRC at or below their costs—and at a tremendous savings to FRC.

The people at Edward Hines Lumber have made a difference at FRC this year.

Please join us in thanking them and—if you need building materials and enjoy personal service—why not visit one of their stores and let them know you appreciate their support of Family Resource Center.

If you have ideas or resources you would like to contribute to FRC's renovation efforts, please call our Executive Director, Richard, and let him know. ☺

Story by Callie

PREFACE: Susan and Greg B. adopted their daughter Callie in May of 1995 as a part of FRC's first trip to China (Group 1). They went on to adopt their second child, Elizabeth, domestically.

Susan reports that over the course of time Callie (now age 9) has been developing a story. Just recently Callie came up with an ending that she liked and now her story is ready for publication.

Susan says that, "Callie has always been identified with pandas since they are cute, cuddly, and native to China. Callie talks about China a lot — she is looking forward to returning to China with her family and the other families from Group 1 for their tenth anniversary."

Susan said, "In her own way Callie found a way to accept and include her feelings about her Chinese and American parents." Susan did not feel a need to sit with her daughter and discuss what she had written, Susan thinks that the end of Callie's story was logical and loving.



Callie

THE PANDAS

By Callie

Once upon a time, there was a little panda who lived with her mom and dad. They all lived in a cave, eating bamboo. They were happy until one day a hurricane passed their cave and took the baby far, far away.

The mom and dad panda searched for their baby, but they couldn't find her. They had quite an adventure, though, looking for her. They looked in the desert, and they almost got caught when they looked for her in the zoo. They went to all kinds of other places.

The little panda got out of the hurricane and she found a new home in a field with bamboo. She went inside and took a nap. When she woke up, she saw that some pandas were already living there, and they said that she could live with them.

Eventually the panda's mom and dad came and found a sign that said

"LOST BABY! AROUND THE CORNER"

The mom and dad went around the corner and found the house and they found their baby safe with the new parents. The parents talked and decided that they would all live together in the bamboo house.

And they lived happily ever after.

THE END

Hats Off to the Phone Team



By Angela Bartle, Phone Team Coordinator

Family Resource Center prides itself on being able to have a real live caring person answer its telephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have been providing this essential service for 15 years without a break!

FRC does not use an answering machine, a paid answering service, or a hired person to fulfill this function. We believe it is important that every person who calls after regular office hours — especially birth mothers — find a real human being on the other end of the line. We never say to a birth mother, "Can it wait until Monday?" *Instead, our volunteers offer to locate or provide help now.* Our capacity to answer our telephones around the clock is one of the distinguishing features of the culture at FRC.

The truth is that we could not do it without help. FRC is blessed to have a vibrant team of committed "telephone" volunteers who make our 24-hour hot line possible. FRC invites you to join us in acknowledging and thanking all of these generous volunteers.

Currently the team has 44 active volunteers, including FRC board members, staff members, adoptive parents, birth parents and others who support our work in adoption. Hats off to each and every one of you! Thank you for being a vital part of helping Family Resource Center to thrive.

FRC thanks you and appreciates all of your support!

Volunteer Phone Team

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Angela Bartle
<i>Phone Team Coordinator</i> | Carolyn & Fred Mason |
| Sue Allen | Gail McGraw |
| Sandy Anderson | Elaine Morgan |
| Pamela Brown | Kathy Mosesian |
| Nancy Carroll | Esther Mott |
| Nancy & Tom Cunningham | Mark & Lee Mulert |
| Liz Dietz | Michael Nelson |
| Ben Friedman | Marianne & Steve Nemetz |
| Michelle Glick | Amy Northrop |
| Lori Goldman | Mary Olmstead |
| Steve & Adeline Henke | Richard & Cathy Pearlman |
| Elizabeth Inglehart & Steve Miller | Joan Reardon |
| Jeanne Johnstone | Corynne Romine |
| Nancy & Jeff Kipnis | Mona Rudnick |
| Colleen Kelly & John Hoenemeyer | Laurie Severino |
| Ginger Kunz | Julie & Gary Spangler |
| Diana & Andy Lihosit | Lisa Tentinger |
| Tudy Magnuson | Liz Tuke |
| Linda Marder | Jane Turner |
| Rachael Martinez | Jackie Uhlin |
| Michelle Mascaro | Sherice Whiteside |
| | Andi Yakovitz |
| | Diane Zapp |

Spring Picnic becomes a Family Festival

By Angela Bartle




Save the Date!
The 2004 FRC Family Festival will be held on Saturday, June 12th.

More information about the festival will be sent closer to the event.



For the past two years, FRC has received phone calls from excited families in our community months before the event. "When is the picnic going to be held? We want to plan our spring calendar around it." Our attendance has grown from 250 adults and children in years past to a record-setting 550+ in 2003! The Spring Picnic has created an atmosphere where individuals touched by adoption gather to celebrate children and have a great time together.



ver the past several years, our annual Spring Picnic has grown by leaps and bounds. We can no longer call this event just a "picnic". Rather, it has become an annual FRC Family Festival! Every year this is an event that families and friends, staff and supporters of FRC look forward to.



Special Note about the 2004 Family Festival: We are looking for sponsors! Traditionally this event has been underwritten by FRC. Even though families pay to attend, receipts do not come close to covering the total cost of the event. For 2004 we are seeking 4 families or groups to sponsor this event. Sponsorships are \$2,500 each. Sponsors will be recognized in promotional literature, unless preferring to remain anonymous, and will be invited to participate actively (not required) in event planning. For more information about becoming a sponsor, please call Angela Bartle at (773) 334-2300. Thank you!



This past June's picnic included many exciting events and games. There were three-legged races, a water balloon toss, sack races, pony rides, a Moonwalk, a Velcro obstacle course, face painting and much more! Elmo made a special appearance, much to the children's delight. Please save the date and plan on joining in next year's fun! 🌟





Sarah, Matthew and J.T.

Congratulations to those adopted from FRC this past year!

- Peter & Maria • *Anna*
- Edgar & Laurie • *Ella*
- Jeffrey & Lisa • *Olivia*
- Manuel & Rachel • *Georgia*
- Kevin & Robin • *Clare*
- Michael & Sharon • *Justine*
- Carla • *Zoe*
- Caryn • *Hannah*
- David & Elizabeth • *Naomi*
- Frank & Michele • *Thomas*
- Karen • *Catherine*
- Michael & Susan • *Rachel*
- Eric & Cynthia • *Jennifer*
- Stephen & Susan • *Grace*
- Debra • *Jenna*
- Emmett & Terri • *Ellie*
- Larry & Laura • *Lynn*
- Timothy & Laura • *Mia*
- Clyde & Karen • *Rachel*
- James & Esther • *Liat*
- William & Kristi • *Sarah*
- David & Laura • *Chun Jie*
- Robert & Gail • *Samantha*
- Joseph & Lisa • *Haley Cai*
- Richard & Lu Ann • *Robin*
- Jeffrey & Sara • *Grace*
- Joan • *Molly*
- Mark & Janice • *Hannah*
- John & Catherine • *Elena*
- Christopher & Kimberly • *Ruth*
- John & Kendra • *Mei Li*
- Christer & Kelly • *Karli*



Mary and Jim D. with daughter Anaya

- Joseph & Susan • *Grace*
- Billy & Janine • *Carli*
- James & Elaine • *Kianna*
- Donald & Karen • *Sarah*
- Robert & Sarah • *Chelsea*
- Kevin & Patricia • *Chloe*
- Mark & Shari • *Molly*
- Philip & Jennifer • *Louise*
- John & Maura • *Gaynell*
- Michael & Patricia • *Lillian*
- Allen & Janice • *Emma*
- Marshall & Alana • *Teisha*
- Kenneth & Crystal • *Alexander*
- Dipesh & Rania • *Delenn*
- William & Judith • *Kathleen*
- Edmond & Jennifer • *Meghan*
- Jason & Alyse • *Maia*
- Gregory & Rose • *Jacquelyn*
- James & Toni • *Kendra*
- Craig & Laura • *Catherine*
- Milton & Marci • *Maria*

- Nicholas & Debra • *Anna*
- Eric & Ginger • *Seth*
- Edward & Mary • *Olivia*
- Steven & Susan • *Evan*
- Fred & Carolyn • *Matthew*
- Kirk & Linda • *Paris*
- Lisette & Ritajeane • *Grant*
- Stuart & Mary • *Noah*
- William & Susan • *Tyrell*
- Philippe & Robert • *Dominic*
- Martin & Maryanne • *Kate*
- Pierre & Michele • *Azaria*
- Mark & Catherine • *Evan*
- Shawn & Cheryl • *Mackenzie*
- Axel & Emily • *Peter*
- Martin & Paulette • *Mariah*
- Richard & Christine • *Matthew*
- James & Esther • *Yascha*
- Maya • *Levi*
- James & Mary • *Anaya*
- Sean & Patricia • *Victoria*
- Thomas & Michele • *Anthony*
- Sandra & Elizabeth • *Kristen*
- Marjorie & Hermann • *Tobias*
- Ronald & Lisa • *Madison*
- Karim & Aida • *Aaliyah*
- Brian & Amy • *Kathryn*
- Robert & Minerva • *Samuel*
- Russell & Danielle • *Jackson*
- Jeffrey & Dina • *Natalia*
- Victor & Karen • *Philip*
- Aaron & Abbe • *Max*

FRC'S STAFF & SUPPORT

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Richard Pearlman
<i>Executive Director</i> | Executive Service Corps |
| Sue Allen | Special Project Team |
| Angela Bartle | John Rosenheim |
| Susan Braithwaite | Geraldine Fiedler |
| Kendra Brown | Auxiliary Support Team |
| Pamela Brown | Rod & Denise Basala |
| Nancy Carroll | Jerry Brand |
| Angel Cole | Kyle and Tracy |
| Amy Emerzian | Colerider-Krugh |
| Jean Frankel | Adam D'Auria |
| Benjamin Friedman | Ralph De Stefano |
| Misty Jovanovich | Veronica Drake |
| Robin Kidd | Shawn Du |
| Marilyn Lindeman | LuAnn Greenwald |
| Linda Marder | Sarah Larson |
| Gail McGraw | Kristen Michael |
| Kathleen Mosesian | Joseph Nacsa |
| Joan Reardon | Anne Reusche |
| Mona Rudnick | Renee Wu |
| Michelle Setka | Z...ART & Graphics |
| Jane Turner | |
| Andrea Yakovitz | |
| Laura Zajkowski | |



**Birth Parent Counselors—
Sue A., Laura Z. & Kendra B.**

In Memory of Angela Novatny

Family Resource Center wishes to acknowledge the passing of Angela Novatny—a friend, wife, and mother through adoption. Angela died in April of 2003 after a valiant yearlong struggle against cancer. She is survived by her husband, Kent and her daughter, 11-year-old Kristen.

Everyone at FRC extends heart-felt condolences to the Novatny family. Angela will be missed and long remembered.

Family Resource Center very much appreciated Kent's thoughtfulness in having asked that family and friends make contributions to FRC in Angela's honor and memory. FRC extends its appreciation to all those who sent contributions in Angela's name. ☺



Family Resource Center

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Chicago, Illinois 60660

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adoption@f-r-c.org

<http://www.adoptillinois.org>

seasons greetings!

P

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marveling at its big pools of water, its little pools, and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in the water. The people would declare it sacred, because it was the only one, and they would protect it, so that it would never be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder ever known, and people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty, and to wonder how it could be. People would love it and defend it with their lives, their own roundness could be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.

—Friends of the Earth