

Voices



children & families of iowa

Stories and voices of hope.

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Forever Home

One girl's journey to safety and security.

Tonya is a friendly, smart 16-year old with a bright future. She loves sports and is active on her high school volleyball team. Her older sister recently graduated from college and has hopes of getting her Ph.D. Their family is like many others – happy, supportive and loving.

Tonya's family didn't start out that way. The first five years of her life were full of pain and fear and, in her own words, "until the age of five I had never heard the words 'I love you.'" Her father was an abusive alcoholic and her mother struggled with drugs and alcohol to cope with the abuse. Their home life was chaotic and she often isolated herself in her room to avoid conflict.

After being charged with domestic violence, Tonya's father fled the state with her and her siblings in tow. The day social workers came to return the kids to Iowa will always stay fresh in her memory. Tonya recalls that when the authorities came into her classroom to get her, she was afraid and began crying and screaming. Before

their trip home, Tonya recalls that she only had enough time to grab a stuffed animal and her blanket before she, her brothers and sister piled into a car and began the drive back to Iowa. "I was so scared," Tonya says, "I didn't understand what was happening to me."

Tonya's family was truly broken up that night. Tonya and her sister went to one foster home, one brother to another and the oldest brother to a group home. Eventually the three youngest siblings were reunited and through the support of Children & Families of Iowa (CFI), Tonya's birth mother continued to visit the trio on a regular basis as she struggled to regain control over her life. Throughout it all, she maintained a strong bond with her children and their foster family.

Sadly, Tonya's mother died of kidney and liver-related complications two years after trying to make a better life for her children. Shortly thereafter, her father's parental rights were terminated and her foster family adopted Tonya and her brother. Her sister remained in foster care until she aged out of the system.

Tonya considered herself blessed to have grown up in a loving foster family with the support of CFI to help her family through the transition. Although she misses her birth mother, Tonya is quick to point out that through foster care, her birth mother was able to give her children what she wanted most for them – a chance to have a happy, nurturing family.

Last year, more than 6,000 Iowa children were in foster care. With your assistance, CFI was able to help over 400 of those children through foster care services, with the goal of providing children with a safe and supportive place to live, whether temporary or permanent. Your support helps ensure foster children have a structured system in place and that their emotional needs are met, in addition to basic needs.



Why We Give: Stories of Hope from People Who Give Back

Giving the Gift of Hope and Comfort



Strategic America, a national, full service, integrated marketing and communications agency located in West Des Moines has a strong commitment to community involvement.

Sheryl Rinker, Strategic America's Senior Account Supervisor, and former member on the Children & Families of Iowa's (CFI) Foundation Board of Trustees, has been instrumental in advancing Strategic America's involvement with CFI. The partnership between CFI and Strategic America began in 1996 and has grown to include event sponsorships, the production of two billboards for the Domestic Violence Hotline and the creation of a promotional video highlighting the many services offered through our programs.

As part of Strategic America's 2012 holiday gift to clients, each department created a unique gift. "The accounting department's gift was to organize a donation drive among Strategic America employees, families and friends benefiting CFI's Domestic Violence Services," says Tammy McDowell, Strategic America Media Accounting Supervisor. Instead of a traditional gift, one of Strategic America's clients chose the accounting department's non-traditional gift. By facilitating the donation drive, the accounting department was able to provide a monetary donation to CFI's Domestic Violence Services in addition to over

45 boxes and bags of bedding, household and personal care items for the women living at the shelter. Items donated included: curling irons, women's clothing, shoes, hair brushes, toiletries and towels.

"As an organization, we work very hard to make sure we meet all of the needs of our clients and staff on a daily basis. We support CFI because we believe everyone deserves to have their basic needs met. We feel it's important to give back to organizations that help others when we can," says Tammy. "Our goal with this donation drive was to provide the women and children who use CFI's services with a little hope and comfort. Providing clothes, make-up and hygiene items is something we can do to help survivors become independent. Sometimes the little things in life can brighten our day just a little. The entire agency gathered items for this donation which made it very special."

"The women who come to CFI's Domestic Violence Services shelter often come with nothing but what they are wearing. The gifts of these personal items from Strategic America were greatly appreciated by the women living at our shelter," says Amy Stapp-Arpy, Children & Families of Iowa Director of Development and Communications.

Iowa School of Beauty Students Give Back to the Community in a Fun Way

Iowa School of Beauty has provided cosmetology education from campuses in Urbandale, Ankeny, Ottumwa, Marshalltown and Sioux City since 1923. They first became involved with Children & Families of Iowa (CFI) through Kidsfest and Princess Party fundraising events by sponsoring Hairy Tales Spa. The school's staff and students volunteer their time to create fun makeovers for children with make-up, glamorous hair styles and manicures. Proceeds from the Hairy Tales Spas have raised more than \$9,500 for CFI over the last three years.

Jami Langenfeld, Iowa School of Beauty Academic Recruiter, organized volunteers for this year's Kidsfest Hairy Tales Spa. "CFI is a great nonprofit organization dedicated to helping families in Iowa and Iowa School of Beauty feels it's important to give back to our communities. We instill in our students the impact helping people has. That's why we partner with CFI for these two fundraising events. Each year our students have so much fun doing make-up, hair and nails at the events," says Jami. "Knowing the money we help raise goes directly to families in need is a big reason why we are part of these two events. Students start at Iowa School of Beauty from all different backgrounds and family situations and may even have been helped by the programs and services provided by CFI."



Taylor Pickering, Iowa School of Beauty student, gives Mary Bresnahan a glamorous makeover at CFI's 2013 Kidsfest.



Mark Your Calendar

for these upcoming events

July 26, 2013
Shotgun Start at 8 a.m.
12th Annual Children & Families of Iowa's Ladies' Invitational Golf Tournament

This annual best shot tournament is a favorite event in amateur women's golf and benefits Children & Families of Iowa's programs.

Copper Creek Golf Course
Pleasant Hill, Iowa
To register contact Copper Creek at 515.263.1600



August 17, 2013
6:30 - 11 p.m.

Tango

We invite you to take part in the annual Tango gala to benefit Children & Families of Iowa (CFI). Tango is established as one of the premier social events in the greater Des Moines area. Guests are able to enjoy dining, dancing to live music by Decoy, a gaming area and bidding on great live and silent auction items.

You can make a difference for at-risk children and families by attending this year's event. The ticket price is \$125 in honor of CFI's 125th anniversary. Sponsorships are also available.

Live music by Decoy • Gaming tables
Live and Silent Auctions • Hors d'oeuvres
Attire: Summer dressy

Sheraton Hotel, 50th & University,
West Des Moines, IA

Register online at www.cfioa.org.

September 28, 2013
8 - 10 a.m.

Children & Families of Iowa's Princess Party

Join us for a special breakfast with the little princess in your life! Includes games, children's spa, photo opportunities and lots of fun activities for tiara-wearing sweethearts!

Jordan Creek Town Center
Food Court
West Des Moines, IA

Check www.cfioa.org for 2013 details.



children & families of iowa's

Princess Party

presented by **Panera BREAD**

Visit www.cfioa.org or "like us" on Facebook for up-to-date information and registration for CFI events.

Children & Families of Iowa's

Kidsfest!

presented by **Veridian**

Thank you to everyone who attended Kidsfest 2013!

Over 13,000 children and their parents enjoyed a fun-filled weekend at Children & Families of Iowa's (CFI) Kidsfest, presented by Veridian Credit Union. The event raised \$155,000 for the programs of CFI.

Mark your calendars for next year's Kidsfest on February 28 - March 2, 2014.




children & families of iowa's

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

presented by **EMC**

Boys will be Boys A Huge Success

Thank you to more than 266 children and their parents who joined Children & Families of Iowa staff for a fun filled morning at Incredible Buffet & Fun Center which included a breakfast buffet, an arcade and many superheroes.

 children & families of iowa's



An inter-generational golf tournament to
celebrate CFI's 125th Anniversary

Friday, June 28, 2013

Terrace Hills Golf Course

8700 Northeast 46th Avenue, Altoona, Iowa

Registration includes green fees, lunch and golf cart for two players

All players under 18 must be registered with an adult player and under adult supervision at all times.

Children & Families of Iowa has been restoring hope, building futures and changing lives for 125 years! Join us for an inter-generational golf tournament to celebrate this milestone. Teams will be put into flights based on the age of the youngest player.

Flight 1: age of youngest player 5-9

Flight 2: age of youngest player 10-14

Tee-off times to be assigned between 8:30 – 10 a.m. – 9 holes – \$40/team

Flight 3: age of youngest player 15-17

Flight 4: age of youngest player 18 and up

Shotgun start at 12:45 p.m. – 18 holes – \$60/team

Two person best-ball: Prizes awarded to lowest scoring teams within each flight.

Purchase raffle tickets at the event for chances to win great prizes!

Register today at www.cf Iowa.org

Call 515-697-7961 or email events@cf Iowa.org for additional information.

Proceeds benefit Children & Families of Iowa!



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