

# Valentine Event



**Susan Fisher addresses foster parents at the Help One Child Valentines dinner on Feb 15.**

Susan is a licensed marriage and family therapist practicing in San Mateo County specializing in helping adults find healing from emotional wounds in their pasts. Her talk encouraged parents to pray for their children and to know that God hears their prayers.

**Music and Crafts were lead by Deborah Grace and Morine Briggs**



## Basic Plans for 2003

- Prayer will be the underlying theme for the year, with more prayer support for the children and their families as well as guidance for the ministry.
- An effort to involve more volunteers in recruiting homes and helpers for foster children will be a priority. More churches will be invited to host orientations and CPR/First Aid training.
- The volunteer clearance process will be revamped.
- E-mail and additional volunteer staff will allow the ministry to streamline communications and limit spending.
- Grants will be sought to underwrite the cost of special parenting instruction essential to the needs of foster and adoptive families.

## Comings and Goings

George Cover has recently retired from the Help One Child board. Grateful thanks go to George for 7 years of faithful service as Chairman of the Board and for sharing his accounting expertise. ---

Sarah Carlson our staff clinician is changing her status from part time involvement to helping on an occasional consulting basis in order to spend more time with her young family. We will miss her thoughtful daily participation in all areas of the ministry and her helpful coaching of potential foster parents.

On a happier note the ministry welcomes Julie Gannaway, a recent college graduate, who is rapidly fitting in as a full time ministry intern and "IT manager", helping streamline office procedures with her computer skills.

# Mark Your Calendars !

April 19th  
Eggstravaganza



RAD Support Group meets  
the third Thursday of every  
month at 6:30PM!

July 26th  
Walkathon and Picnic



August 17-22  
Mt. Cross Camp

	Orientation		CPR & First Aid
	7 PM Wednesday	9 AM Saturdays	8:30 AM Saturdays
February	20 *	22	22
March	19	22	22
April	9	12	12
May	14	17	17
June	18	21	21
July	16	19	19
August	13	16	16
September	17	20	20
October	15	18	18
November	19	22	22
December	17	-	-

\* Thursday night at 7 PM

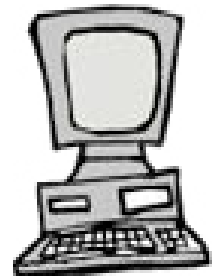
## Merry Christmas Number Nine

Approximately 300 Help One Child foster parents, children, and volunteers celebrated the birth of Christ with the best-party-yet. Staff member Judy Holmes did most of the party planning and made sure there were gifts for each child to go under every family Christmas tree. Sandy Ventura threw all her cooking expertise into a spaghetti feed. Pianist Maureen Driggs provided background music for the diners. A pageant involving all the children who wanted to participate was Sarah Carlson's significant feat. Debra Grace and Karen Geihler oversaw 5 crafts and 15 game sites. Kids cashed in their game tickets at the Toy Store run by the Hohengasser and Eaton families. Dave Maley made a great Santa Claus.

Popcorn Master was Clyde Cummings. Judy Heathman hosted the volunteer lounge. Anne and Hannah Searle facilitated party set-up. The "award" for clean up, the hardest job of all, went to Dave Hauck. Many, many thanks again to the more than 100 volunteers who helped.

## Computers are still

**needed** for foster families. Volunteer Bill Nichols has been faithfully restoring donated computers and printers into working condition. Donations of working computers & printers are always welcome.



## Hughes Seminar Popular

Dr. Dan Hughes spent all day January 11 training more than 100 foster and adoptive parents, therapists, court appointed advocates, and respite providers for Help One Child. He taught how to get to the thinking behind some of the strange behaviors of children with attachment disorder and presented methods to correct that thinking. The event was funded by a grant from the Palo Alto Weekly. Dr. Dan Hughes is a nationally known author and psychologist specializing in attachment disorders. Anyone can borrow books that Dr. Hughes has written on this subject from the RAD library. Call Judy at Help One Child if you are interested: 650-917-1210.

## We Need To:

### Expect Trouble, Stand Firm, Be Productive, Trust God

When Paul wrote the second letter to the Thessalonians, he gave instructions for living in anxious times. With increased joblessness, threats of war, an economy bordering on depression, drastic cuts in social services, now is a good time to heed his advice. In a nutshell, Paul says to know that days will come when evil will run rampant, and that we should hold fast to the teachings of Christ, find ways to be useful, and remember that God who is all-powerful and good will have the final say.

## Dream Becomes Reality

Volunteers Sharon & Larry Langmead decided that they would like to adopt a child someday, so they got their foster care license. While waiting for a placement, they offered to provide respite care for foster parents. They were especially attracted to one of the little girls they were baby-sitting. Learning that the child had a younger sibling, they offered themselves as potential candidates to adopt them both. Social workers agreed that this is a great match. The children are now at the Langmeads' house and the adoption should be finalized this year.

## Adoption Tax Benefit in 2003

Beginning 2003 the maximum credit or exclusion increases to \$10,160. This amount will be allowed for adoption of a child with special needs (most foster children qualify as special needs) regardless of whether the taxpayer has qualifying expenses.

## RAD Campers United

Families who have participated in the last two camps for families dealing with Reactive Attachment Disorder were invited to a RAD Camp Reunion on January 4th. Dr. Don Williams gave the families the gift of daylong parenting training. Dr Williams also voluntarily supports the Reactive Attachment Support Group that meets every 3rd Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Help One Child. Thanks to Dick & Barbara Billings, Debra Grace, Kristi Clarke and others who helped with lunch, crafts, and child care at the reunion.



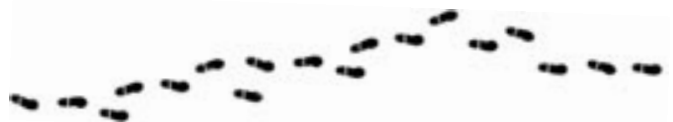
## When Government Cuts Occur

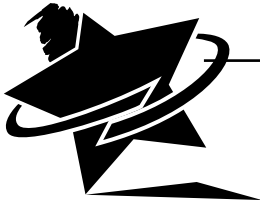
Supportive services, such as those offered by Help One Child, are especially important when government resources are restricted.

San Mateo County has already made cuts in social services staff, and Santa Clara County will have to take similar measures. In order to reduce costs, children who would normally be taken into the system are being diverted to family members or friends who seem safe. Some children are being returned home sooner than they might have been before the budget crunch. Funds have also been cut for therapy and other services for the children. The bottom line of all of this is that more children are at risk. Help One Child continues the call to Churches and Christians to serve in this area of great need.

## Walkathon/Picnic in the Planning

Save the day on July 26 to join Help One Child families for the 10th Annual Picnic and 2nd Walk-a-Thon. We are looking for volunteers to help with publicity, food donations, drawing prizes and silent auction gifts and services. Think creatively. Could you donate a cherry pie? A vacation night or two at a summer or winter home? Tickets to an event? Housecleaning? Painting? Baby sitting? Give Judy a call. We need you! 650-917-1210.





**HELP  
ONE CHILD**

# Dividends

Mission to Children at Risk

February 2003

Issue 43

1-888-KID-HOPE

www.HelpOneChild.org

## Valentines Celebration Kicks off Prayer Theme

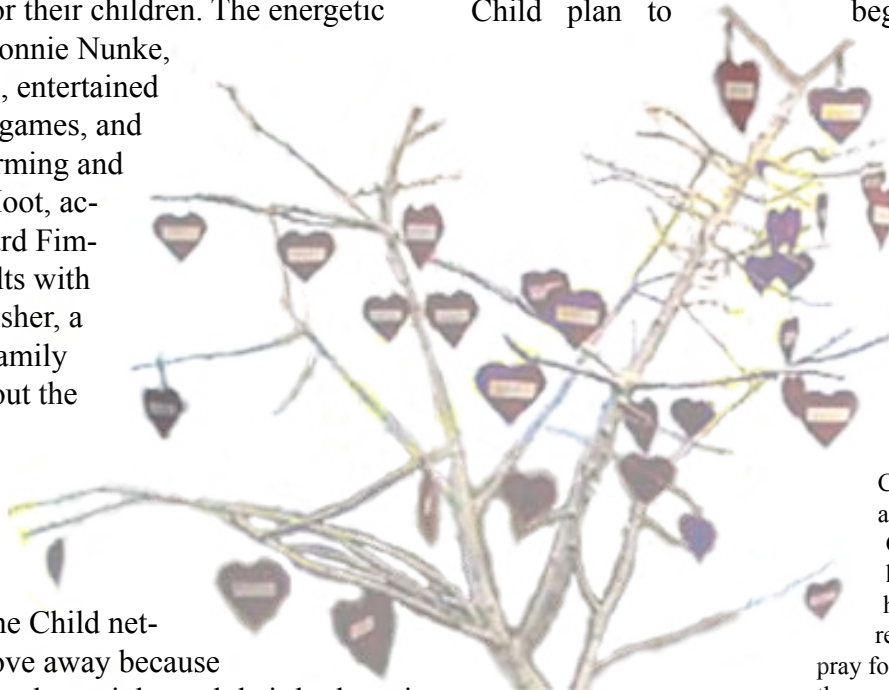
Foster and foster-adoptive families were invited to a Help One Child Valentine night out on February 15 with Chinese cuisine for the adults and a separate pizza dining room for their children. The energetic trio, Debra Grace, Bonnie Nunke, and Maureen Driggs, entertained the kids with crafts, games, and music while the charming and memorable Gosha Hoot, accompanied by Richard Fimmel, wowed the adults with love songs. Susan Fisher, a local marriage and family counselor, spoke about the

critical nature of prayer in the work foster and adoptive parents are doing with children who have been traumatized. Mark Morris discussed the Help One Child plan to

begin quarterly prayer

and pie meetings, so that more prayer support can be provided for families in the network.

This valentine tree was decorated with magnetized hearts bearing the first names, ages, and prayer needs of children in the Help One Child network. Individuals at Union Presbyterian Church (the Help One Child host church) have chosen a heart to place on their home refrigerator as a reminder to pray for "their child" throughout the year.



### We are still

### Here ...

### Are You?

Many in the Help One Child network have had to move away because of lost jobs, and others have tightened their budgets in order to stay. Even so, many of you gave generously to Help One Child at year's end. Funding does not support the expansion that we had hoped for, but because of your giving and because of our faithful volunteers, we are able to maintain most of our basic services. We are thankful.

### Dividends is Moving... To a Digital Format

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