



Update

• CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES of NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN •

—2007...Our 70th Year!—

Walking the Talk *Foster Care Specialist Lives His Work*



*Ed Burley and his family. Front row: Caleb; Raymond Joseph (RJ); Naomi; and Amanda (Amie)
Back Row: Nathan; Kristi, Nate's wife; Matthew; Jessica; Ed; Dana; Rod, Sally's husband, and Celestina (Sally)*

Ed Burley just completed his Master's Degree in Counseling, which he puts to good use in his job as a foster care worker for Child and Family Services. With a full caseload of children in treatment foster care and counseling clients at work, one might argue that Ed has a second caseload at home—eight children plus two that he and his wife, Dana, currently foster.

Ed speaks glowingly about his family, "hers, mine, ours, and the state's," he jokes. It's a large, kinship model of reaching out, of relying on each other for support when they need it. It's the kind of model that professionals are turning to more and more to heal troubled families where children are at risk for abuse and

neglect. Ed is the baby of his family of 5 siblings; his dad had nine siblings, his mom 11, while Dana comes from a family of 4. So it seemed only natural for both of them that they would raise many children.

Ed and Dana met through a Christian singles ad. Ed loved Dana's voice and the fact that she was so straightforward. Her first letter to Ed included a photo of her with her son, who was six at the time; she insisted on letting potential suitors know immediately that she had a child who was the most important person in her life. Their first telephone conversation lasted more than an hour and a half, and they both hung up thinking each was "the one." They were right. Ed popped the question three weeks after they met, and they've been married for 13 years.

Both Ed and Dana brought children from previous marriages to their new life together: Nate, Dana's son, and Ed's three children Celestina, or Sally, Matthew, and Jessica. Then they had Naomi, who's "11 going on 30." When Naomi was 3 1/2 they adopted Raymond Joseph, RJ, who is only six weeks older than Naomi but she let him know who was boss right away. "She ordered him around and he obeyed her every command," Ed remembers with a smile. Then came Caleb, who was 7 months when they adopted him and who's 8 now. Amanda, or Amie for short, joined the family 6 years ago February, and is fascinated by the fact that one of her foster brothers, a toddler, is the age she was when she was adopted.

Ed's job as a foster care worker came serendipitously, when he met another worker through a support group they ran for people with substance abuse, anger, and other life-controlling

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Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to promote the safety and well-being of children, adults, and families by providing services that foster and develop social and emotional healing and growth.

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Our "Family" Album



Mark your calendar!

Monday, September 17
Country Club Classic
Benefit Golf Outing
Traverse City Golf
and Country Club

12:00noon Registration
 1:00pm Shotgun Start
 5:30pm "Afterglow"
 (dinner, music, program)

Monday, November 5
Annual Dinner
Hagerty Center,
NMC Great Lakes
Campus, Traverse City

6:00pm Reception
 7:00pm Dinner & Program

Saturday, November 10
Downtown Traverse
City Shop Your
Community Day

15% of your purchases at participating businesses will benefit your favorite charity (hint, hint!)



A. Rowdy CFS fans (well, some are rowdier than others!) cheer on their favorite team at the Child and Family Services Appreciation Night with the Traverse City Beach Bums last month.

B. Tim Esckelson, with the help of his children Megan and Matt (somewhat hidden!), spearheaded the fundraising and building of a new playground at CFS.

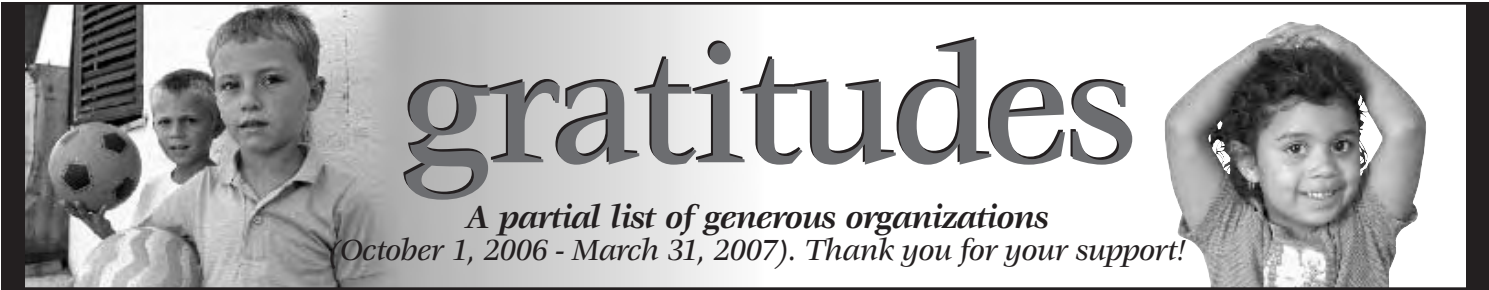
C. Kim Marian (left) and Anne Coulter are the Co-"Queens" (Chairs) for Festival of Tables 2008. It's a huge job, but Kim and Anne have the skills, organization, and energy to take Festival in some exciting new directions!

D. Sharon Richard and Bill Roth (center) of Northwestern Bank donated several gently used computers to Child and Family Services, helping us upgrade our system and keep on top of the paperwork! Director of Donor Relations Kathy Ferguson (left) and Family Resources Specialist Beth Roth (also Bill's wife) graciously accept.

E. Employees, volunteers, and friends help chart the course for the future of CFS at the strategic planning session this spring.

F. EmmLee Clancey and her sweet li'l cherry red "Beemer" led the way for the Child and Family Services entry in this year's Cherry Festival Junior Royale Parade. We're sure all that wonderful applause along the way was for both our good work AND for EmmLee!





gratitudes

*A partial list of generous organizations
(October 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007). Thank you for your support!*

To **Northwestern Bank** for \$2000 to help underwrite the cost of the CFS Annual Dinner.

To the **Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation**, which has been an invaluable partner to CFS with more than \$70,000 in financial support so far this year.

To the **Downtown Traverse City Association** for \$492.84 raised through "Shop Your Community Day."

To **The First Congregational Church of Benzonia** for a local mission donation of \$689.58.

To the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Traverse City** for a \$502 Christmas Eve collection.

To the **May Department Stores Foundation** for \$2,000 to fund the Boys' Creative Outlet Program.

To the **Oleson Foundation** for \$25,000 in unrestricted support.

To our community partner **WTCM Radio, Fletch's of Petoskey**, and **all the contributors** who provided gifts to children and families served by CFS during the "Paper Angels" campaign. Special thanks to **Barbara Allen** and the staff of **Northern Michigan Hospital** for their outstanding support of children and families in the Petoskey/Harbor Springs area.

To **Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc.** for \$812.50 to meet the special needs of children in foster care through their Children's Entitlement Fund.

To the **Kiwanis Club of Traverse City** for \$500 to provide a Christmas Store for children receiving services.

To the **Harrietta United Methodist Church Youth Group** for \$852.15 raised to promote child abuse awareness.

To the **Hitchens Family Foundation** for \$1,000 to cover heating costs for CFS clients.

To the **Allen-Heath Memorial Foundation** for \$5,000 toward the Pregnancy Counseling Program.

To the **Stanton Charity for Children** for \$2,500 in adoption program support.

To the **Bay Harbor Foundation** for \$5,000 toward foster care program support.

To **Christ Child Society** for \$1,000 in support for the CFS Harbor Springs office.

To the **Benzie County Community Chest** for \$2902 to support the Experiential Adventure Program.

To **Consumer's Energy** for \$1,000 toward retooling the foster care program.

To the **Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians** for \$15,000 in operational support.

To **Rotary Charities of Elk Rapids** for \$500 in support of the Safe Haven Program.

To the **Optimist Club of Traverse City** for \$650 in unrestricted support.

To **Rotary Charities of Traverse City** for \$1,000 toward the video project "Strengthening the Fabric of the Family," and \$650 in matching gifts.

To the **Art and Mary Schmuckal Foundation** for \$12,000 in unrestricted support.

To the **parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church, employees of H. Cox & Son, Inc., Mark and Jackie Ribel, Legacy Financial Services, children and parents of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, and other individuals and organizations**, for their contributions to the Christmas Gift Fund.

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GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it as you would any search engine and it's powered by Yahoo! so you get great results. Go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime!

Tell everyone you know—surf with GoodSearch.com!

Help us save a tree and move into the 21st century!

If you choose to support the good work of Child and Family Services by using the enclosed donation card, please be sure to include your email address if you would like to eventually receive this newsletter electronically.

Or, you can email us @ garanki@cfsmail.org.



“Walking the Talk” *continued*

issues. The colleague mentioned a job opening, and Ed applied. It's not easy work, Ed admits; fiscal issues have meant uncertainty about the security of the job, and the work itself is difficult and sometimes as disheartening as it is rewarding. Despite such challenges, Ed is very happy at Child and Family Services. He can't say enough about his supervisor, Kathryn Waldron, a great person and ally, how often she's said to him “go home, take care of yourself and your family, things will be okay here until tomorrow.” “Knowing that you have that kind of support is amazing. I love working here and I love the people I work with,” Ed says.

How does he view living his work and working his life? “Individualism is okay insofar as personal responsibility is concerned,” Ed muses, “but not as a philosophy. “Family and community are most important to me, and I think to most people. What moves people to tears is that sense of not being alone. It's what makes a TV show like Extreme Home Makeover so popular—the things that are possible when we work together. I have a strong faith that that is why I'm here. I want my life to reflect the idea of being a family to many people and of being a positive influence in their lives.”

Ed credits Dana for keeping him grounded. “In our day and age we are so quick to give up on things. We can both be hard to live with but I wouldn't be the person I am if I wasn't married to her. She's made me a better person, a better man. She's made me stronger. She's threatened to kill me a few times but stopped herself because she says the kids need a father,” he jokes.

Ed's now pursuing his PhD (“either that or start paying back my student loans!”), and dreams of creating a place for kids who have no where else to go that provides both a home and education, a place to go for Christmas and weekends and other holidays, even after they have technically “aged out” of foster care. Given the road he has traveled so far with Dana and his family, that dream doesn't seem too far away.

REFINANCING YOUR HOME? BUYING A NEW ONE?



Visit Doug Hart at First Preferred Mortgage Company, who will donate \$50 with every mortgage or refi to your favorite charity-Child and Family Services! Tell others about Doug, too!

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