

# Maggie's Fund

*A legacy of help and hope for families*



February 13, 2011

When my daughter died suddenly on Thursday, February 17, 2005, the Bethany Board of Directors established Maggie's Fund for Children in Need to honor her memory. It seemed fitting since whenever our family cared for infants released to Bethany for adoption, Maggie welcomed and loved each of the newborns. She had a special place in her heart for each of these babies and when it came time for them to be placed with their adoptive families, Maggie wanted assurance that "her" babies would be well cared for. A fund in her name that helped vulnerable children and their families made sense.

Six years have passed since Maggie died. In that time, the fund that you contribute to has reached out to help children and their families. Milk has been purchased; gasoline provided; cars fixed; bread bought; rent paid; medical co-pays met; all done to help children and families who might fall through the cracks of life. And several of the individuals who have been helped over the years have paid back the fund so that it will be there in the future to help others in need. The local chapter of The Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who have lost children, has been aided by Maggie's Fund. The agency's Family Furniture Assistance Program has also benefitted from Maggie's Fund. In 2010, more than 707 articles of furniture received from community families were given to area parents who needed beds for their kids or a table at which the family could gather.

Maggie seemed to realize in the six short years she was given that what matters most is how well we love and are loved and that the true gifts of life are wrapped in all-too-fragile human flesh. In the end, it doesn't matter how well appointed our car is, how big our house, or how fancy our clothes. What does matter is the wisdom that Gottlieb German, Bethany's founder, understood 111 years ago when he and his wife took in an abandoned child and adopted him—eventually adding three adopted children to their three biological children. Each child and every family are important. All of us can make a difference.

Thank you for being part of Maggie's effort to help at-risk children and families. She would be humbled as am I in what you have done in her memory.

Sincerely,

Bill Steinhauser  
Maggie's Dad



P.S. I thought you might like to read what a story from the fund was like.

Maggie's Fund provided critical assistance to a hard working single mother of two young boys. This family originally lived in an African refugee camp where they witnessed war and suffering. Since relocating to this country, the mother has worked a physically demanding job at a factory, the best employment she could find without any kind of formal education. She has created a home for her family. Her children are receiving an education that was never available to her. Recently, her hours were reduced by more than half, making it impossible to make ends meet. Maggie's Fund helped pay her monthly rent during this stressful time so that the family would not again be homeless.