

Reflections

Acts of Grace Foundation • Small Deeds, Big Difference

A Note From The Founder

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My time on hospital bed rest was over 4 years ago, but I still have

vivid images in my mind and can remember details from that time. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend pool therapy 2 times a

day, during the week, and 1 time a day on the weekends. I absolutely could not wait for those pool



Marlena and her daughter, Elle.

moments. Not only was it physically therapeutic to be floating around in warm water, but emotionally therapeutic. I met women from all over Colorado and other states. We all had been on different paths of life, knew we would be heading different directions in the future, but for that time we were all walking the same path together. We would applaud each other when we made it another day, we would pat each other on our backs when our babes gained another ounce and we high-fived one another when

we would reach another week in gestation. I am still connected with some of the women; in fact I

currently have their Christmas photos on my fridge. I will forever be connected to these women. I will forever be grateful to those women for walking with me on the path.

When I attend some of AoGF's social activities I see some of the same relationships developing among the current women placed on bed rest. It makes me smile knowing that AoGF is able to assist in connecting these women and giving them their Courtney, Dolores, Shelley and Suzie.

Best,

Marlena

Reaching Many

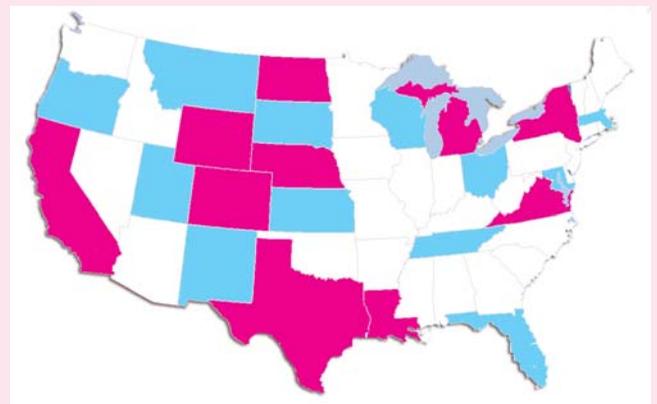
Since April of 2008, Acts of Grace Foundation (AoGF) has been serving pregnant women on hospital bed rest throughout the United States. With efforts originating in Denver-based hospitals, AoGF has expanded its area of services to several states. The states highlighted in blue and pink indicate states with AoGF presence.

While services in some states are more limited than others, the growth of services offered in such a short period of time is remarkable. Many of our moms on hospital bed rest receive gift baskets of items neces-

sary to make their hospital stay a little more manageable. Other moms take advantage of fellowship and networking opportunities, provided by AoGF, in their local hospital.

Events like Craft Night, Sundae Sunday, and other social events often provide a much needed outlet for interaction with other moms who are experiencing the same condition and circumstances. The emotional connection these moms make often provide the foundation for lifelong friendships.

Thank you, to all of our sponsors, volunteers and friends who make our efforts possible. We look forward to reaching as many moms and families as we can!



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Volunteer Spotlight: Jenna Diedrich



Jenna with brothers, Joe and Jordan.

Five years ago, we didn't know what hospital bed rest was. Four years ago, all we knew was that our sister-in-law was on it. Today our perspective is totally different. Since the Acts of Grace Foundation started in 2007, it has grown in infinite ways, but the main purpose has never changed: **Serving mothers on hospital bed rest.** When we found out that Joe and Marlena were starting a non profit organization in honor of Grace, we were excited to help out. We were trained at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Hospital and were glad to be serving mothers who were going through a rough time. The first few times we volunteered were a little nerve-racking. We had a rough idea of what these mothers were actually going through. There is no way to truly know unless you have been in their shoes. We were scared that we would ask them the wrong questions or say the wrong things. We quickly learned that the majority of mothers were extremely grateful for the services and liked to talk about their, **"soon to be born"**, baby or babies. We had a professor at Hastings College, in Nebraska, who was pregnant with twins and was on

bed rest. The AoGF foundation reached out to her and sent her a package. Seeing the change this foundation makes on mothers on bed rest is unlike anything we have ever experienced in our lives. Walking into their room, we can tell they are scared. Showing them that others have been through the same thing and are there to help makes an instant impact. So many mothers we have visited want to know who we are and why we are giving them gifts. When they hear the background of the foundation,

they love that a sad and unfortunate story was turned into a wonderful service for them. The service started out with gift bags and game nights but has expanded to Sunday Sundaes, Pumpkin Carving, Gingerbread House Building, and many more activities. The mothers enjoy getting to meet other mothers in similar situations. Bringing these mothers together and providing fun activities for them brings happiness to the mothers, their families, and to us, as volunteers, which makes it all worth while! The Acts of Grace Foundation has made an impact on many lives, including ours, and has certainly changed our view of hospital bed rest.



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22

6-9 pm

Please save the date for the 2012 Acts of Grace Foundation annual Carnival Night at the Children's Museum of Denver.

We look forward to making this year's event the best yet. With a goal of raising over \$20,000, we need help spreading the word to as many friends, family, and neighbors as possible.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

AoGF's Key Performance Measures

