



**REACH**

Rural Expansion of Adoptive  
Communities and Homes  
A PATH, INC. INITIATIVE

# AMBASSADOR CONNECTION

*Finding Forever Families*

## HELLO ADOPTION AMBASSADORS!

### AMBASSADOR OPPORTUNITIES ARE EVERYWHERE!

As I sit down to write articles for the Ambassador Connection each month, I wonder what you want to hear or what you need. Sometimes I wonder how many of you really read it! I know many of you do and I appreciate the response I get from you. This month I am doing something different. The first three Adoption Ambassadors to e-mail me with the total number of people holding hands in this newsletter (all three lines and the logos) will receive a "Reader's Bonus," -- a crisp five-dollar bill. One per family please.

The main thing we are trying to accomplish with REACH is finding Forever Families -people holding hands in lifetime love and support - for children in foster care. With this in mind we need to speak to people about adoption. Every time we do, we spread the word. Every person who has questions about adoption and wants to receive more information is, for REACH, called an inquiry. And here's another bonus opportunity for you. Any

Adoption Ambassador who sends me six or more inquiries in a month will receive a \$30 honorarium in that month. The inquiry would include name, phone number and address of someone interested in receiving more information about adoption. Members of the same household are considered one **inquiry**. I will send a REACH information packet to them and make REACH available as a resource, but we will not pester them with several contacts or pressure them in any way to adopt. I know we are all busy, but sometimes there are opportunities to spread the word and I hope a honorarium will help do that. Also, Page 3 of this newsletter contains an Activity Log. Remember that REACH pays you for mileage, printing and other expenses related to spreading the word for the waiting children. I have not received many Activity Logs, but I am very pleased to send reimbursements to those of you who are out there sharing information.



**Tim Lorentz**  
REACH Project  
Coordinator

#### WHAT'S NEW?

**Happy  
New Year!**



**FEATURED  
AMBASSADORS  
Meet the  
Kirchers**

**REACHing Out  
to Communities**





## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Is it a new beginning or a continuance of the progress we have made in the last year? If you are anything like me, it is a little of each. By having more children in my home last year than ever before made me realize I could use some reflection time. It never ceases to amaze me with all the trainings I go to and all the events I attend that the place I seem to learn the most is right here in my home. As this year picks up momentum and things sometimes feel as though they're getting out of control, I will remember to stop for a moment or two to realize why these children are in our home. I used to think it was because I wanted to help these children succeed, but I have known for a long time now it's as much for me as it is for the children. I sometimes think these kids are going to drive me crazy. The truth is I might have been crazy by now if it wasn't for the kids I share my home with and of course my wife Heather. So as we sit back and think about the New Year that is somehow already upon us, I remember that we have been chosen to do this and it is the most important job we have. If you would like to contact me for any reason at all my email address is [tlorentz@pathinc.org](mailto:tlorentz@pathinc.org)

### FEATURED AMBASSADOR

#### MEET THE KIRCHERS

We're the Kirchers: Randy, Lu, Amanda, Lindsay, Jenna, Evan, Slade, Sabrina and Keyjuan from Durand WI. We started with PATH as respite providers for Mike and Jody Anderson, and enjoyed their family so much we decided to become licensed. Jenna (14) came to us in 2001. She asked us to adopt her when she turned 17 and was adopted 8 months later. In 2002, siblings Slade (5) and Sabrina (3) came. Through therapy and unconditional love they've have blossomed to beautiful children. They were adopted after two years. Now there is Keyjuan, whom we love soooo much. When he came, he was blind, no hearing, stroke on left side, seizures, cerebral palsy, unable to walk or talk, and tube fed. He's been here for 16 months and I don't know how we got through life without him. We're waiting for a court date to adopt him. He is a wonderful child. He can see and hear. He's had surgery for physical problems. He goes to school and to speech and physical therapy. He talks, moves about and is off tube feeding.

We thank God every day for giving us the possibility to have our family grow. We hope to adopt again and know Jesus will bless us with more children.

### REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES

May is National Foster Care Month and then summer is just around the corner. It might seem a long way off right now but we all know how things can sneak up on us. We need you to be our eyes and ears in your community. I would like to know about events in your area that you feel would be a good place for me to set up our booth, and I would love it if you would join me. Admission and meals would be on REACH, and mileage of course. Let's look for trainings, trade shows, fairs, parades, community picnics, church events. I have great magnetic car signs and 2' X 10' banners for us to use. If you are going to a specific event or would just like to try the car sign for a month or so let me know. We just might get an inquiry out of it! There are so many children waiting and whatever we do at any level, big or small, can help get that information out.. Statistics show for every 100 inquiries received, one turns into an adoption. I need your help; the children need your help. Please contact me with any ideas you feel might work in your community.



For more information  
on adopting a child from foster care  
call 1-866-79-REACH or  
log on to [www.adoptinfo.org](http://www.adoptinfo.org).



**ADOPTION AMBASSADOR OUTREACH ACTIVITY LOG**  
**Month Ending \_\_\_\_\_**



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

*It is critically important to the REACH Project that we track our efforts/outreach and report them to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau for continued funding. We ask that you to please take time to fill out and return this ambassador outreach activity log.*

DATE	HOURS	TYPE OF OUTREACH	LOCATION	PRE-APPROVED MILEAGE*	AUDIENCE	NUMBER ATTENDING

Type of outreach – Please provide details (examples below)

- Presentation (i.e. booth at conference, speaking engagement to business or community organization, presentation at association meeting, speaking to individuals, etc.
- Mentoring
- Media interview

\*Requests for mileage reimbursement must be pre-approved by REACH Project staff.