

“My Next 30 Years”



That Tim McGraw song, “My Next 30 Years”, has been stuck in my head for several months now . . .

*“I think I’ll take a moment, celebrate my age
The ending of an era and the turning of a page
Now it’s time to focus in on where I go from here
Lord, have mercy on my next 30 years!”*

In 2009, Any Baby Can celebrates 30 years of service to the Central Texas community. The history of this organization is rich with dedication, persistence, and passion. The nimbleness of the organization to merger with new partners and develop new programs in response to community needs is impressive. The commitment to high quality, consistent services, albeit delivered in diverse, individualized, often chaotic situations is unwavering. The wisdom of investment in prevention services, or the earliest possible intervention, is proven. It is important that we honor our notable heritage, but as we do so, it is even more important that we focus with dogged determination on our next 30 years (and, Lord, have mercy on our ability to meet the immediate needs in this economic downturn!).

As we begin our next 30 years, we need every one of you to partner with us in this important work. Here are 30 ideas I urge you to consider now:

- 1) Help low income families improve their literacy, math and English skills by volunteering at the Saturday Learning Center.
- 2) Keep a child warm by donating gently used clothes and blankets.
- 3) Help a new parent record her baby’s special moments and developmental milestones. A donation of \$300 will fund the printing of 30 “My Baby Books”.
- 4) Spread the word about Any Baby Can by telling your friends and family to visit our website, www.abcaus.org.
- 5) Warm up by dancing at our annual fundraiser, Rockin’ Roundup on March 28th, so you’ll be ready to make a generous gift during the Pledge Auction.
- 6) Allow siblings of children with cancer to have a fun, therapeutic retreat by funding Camp Grey Dove with a donation of \$3,000.
- 7) Donate food or grocery gift cards for our families struggling to provide nutritious meals for their children.
- 8) Help an at-risk pregnant teen prepare for motherhood. We can cut a DVD and print a set of 8 prenatal education packets with a donation of \$30.
- 9) Advocate for early childhood development issues by writing your local representative, congressman, and senator.
- 10) Hit the courts at the Jeff Bailey Memorial Tennis Tournament on April 24th and raise money for ABC’s Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Program.
- 11) Give a young child a safe place to sleep by donating a new or gently used crib.
- 12) Provide a month’s supply of asthma medication for a child whose insurance has lapsed with a donation of \$90.
- 13) Teach mothers and their pre-school children to read by volunteering at our weekday Family Literacy Program.
- 14) Give ABC children their very own books by organizing a new or used Children’s Book Drive.
- 15) Help the family of a child with special health care needs stay organized, store medical records and maneuver through the medical system with a donation of \$30 to produce our popular “Navigator Notebook.”
- 16) Celebrate the joy of birthdays, Mother’s Day, or Father’s Day, etc. by donating to ABC in honor of a friend or family member.
- 17) Underwrite or volunteer to organize a special event for ABC families. Breaking the social isolation many clients face is priceless.
- 18) Pack a diaper bag for a needy newborn with layette

items, diapers, and a few educational toys. 19) Get up close and personal with our clients by viewing the award winning “Tears of Hope” video on our website www.abcaus.org. 20) Volunteer your professional expertise to plan events, design or translate materials, maintain our landscaping, or teach financial literacy skills. 21) Underwrite one of our licensed mental health counselors for \$30,000 so 15 families can be stabilized. 22) Allow a mother of a child with autism to take a much needed break by funding 9 hours of respite care with a donation of \$300. 23) Spread the word about the work of ABC to both potential donors and clients. 24) Help a toddler and his parents learn to manage a physical disability by funding 1 month of in-home physical therapy services with a donation of \$300. 25) Get a closer look at our organization by calling 454-3743 to schedule a tour. 26) Make ABC your United Way giving designee. 27) If your employer matches your philanthropic giving, make sure the paperwork on your ABC donation is completed. 28) Collect colorful scarves, paper towel rolls, and other household materials, then volunteer to organize them into home activity kits for our “Parents as Teachers” curriculum. 29) Help plan community response efforts for newborns and children with special health care needs during a natural disaster or mass evacuation. 30) Make a long term, transformational gift with a generous contribution to the Any Baby Can Endowment Fund. Join our mission in a way that works for you, and perhaps you’ll start humming (on behalf of yourself or our client families):

*“My next thirty years will be the best years of my life
Raise a little family and hang out with my wife
Spend precious moments with the ones that I hold dear
Make up for lost time here, in my next thirty years.”*

In Celebration and Hope,



Ellen Balthazar
Executive Director
Any Baby Can