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The Gift Of Life Foundation Keeps The Miracles Coming

Ten years of hope, and 24 miracles later, a local woman keeps on giving

by Moira Grainger

*"Hope" is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –*

Emily Dickinson

Hope was the thing that lived in the heart of one exceptional Cincinnati woman while she endured the emotional roller coaster of undergoing 15 years of unsuccessful fertility treatments. Then the moment arrived when her dream of someday becoming a mother ended, as doctors told her it was never to be.

Taking the heartache and disappointment that accompanied the reality she was unable to bear children, a very courageous Mady Gordon turned her destiny into a path of determination and inspiration to bring the precious gift of life to others.

In 1995, Madeleine Gordon founded the Gift of Life Foundation, an organization that helps couples seeking to begin a family but who have been unable to

conceived naturally. Asking friends and family to celebrate her birthday by contributing to something more lasting, Mady Gordon planted the seeds of hope with her foundation that have yielded 24 miracles as of the spring of 2006.

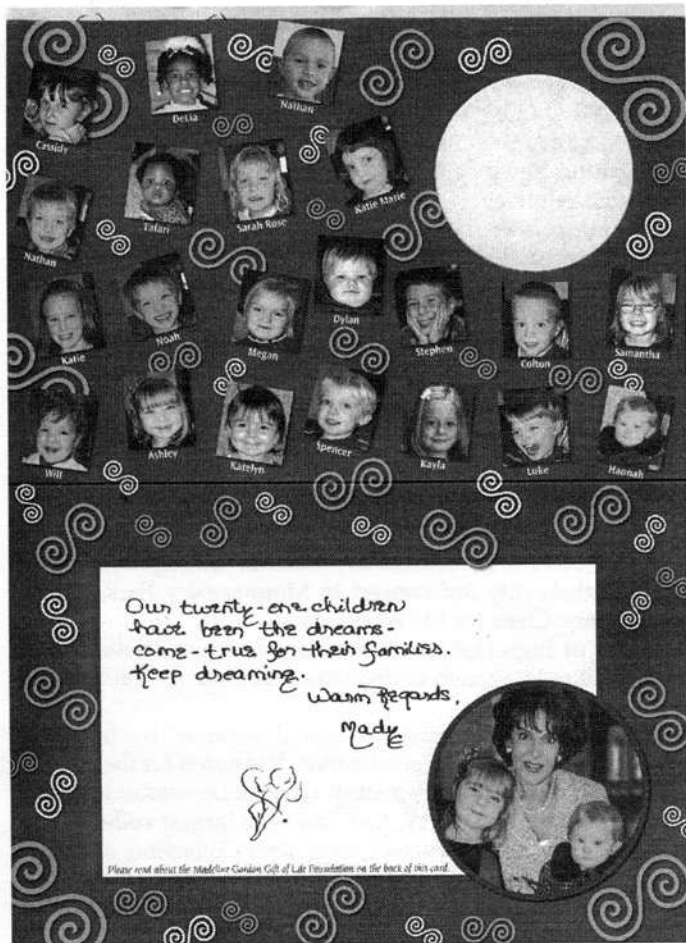
Each year, the Gift of Life Foundation reviews applications from childless couples that have tried unsuccessfully to conceive a child for an average of four to five years. The cost of fertility treatments is prohibitive and is generally not covered by most health insurance plans, leaving many families without the means to



Mady Gordon holds one year old Katie Mulhollen, the Foundation's first baby, as they appeared on the November 1998 cover of Hyde Park Living

pursue medical options when natural means of conception fail.

Eligible couples apply to the Gift of Life Foundation and must meet certain criteria established by the Foundation, including a clear financial need. The applicants' history is then reviewed by an advisory team of doctors at Christ Hospital and the Gift of Life Foundation, who will select the most appropriate candidates. For some couples who make this journey of hope by applying, it is their last option. For the one or two families who are accepted into the program, it is the beginning of a dream that might yield one of the



The December 2005 Christmas card for the Gift of Life Foundation shows the 21 babies born through the efforts of the Foundation

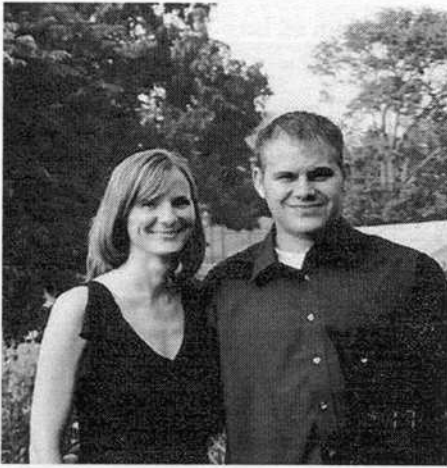


Kristi and Tim Lewis hold brand new Hannah Grace Lewis, a Gift of Life Foundation miracle baby

world's most precious gifts - the life of a child.

Currently, the Madeleine Gordon Gift of Life Foundation has six or more anonymous Indian Hill benefactors whose own children have become parents through invitro-fertilization. While these families have been able to afford the high cost of the medical procedure, the compassion and insight they have gained from this difficult journey has inspired these families to help others

continues on page 36



Melissa and Adam Close are 2006 participants in the Gift of Life Foundation program and hope to have a miracle of their own very soon!

through financial support of the Gift of Life Foundation.

In a way, Mady Gordon's dream of a family has been fulfilled in a way that she might never have imagined. Through her compassion and commitment, 24 families have been created, two dozen miracles have occurred, and as Emily Dickinson's verse so eloquently states, "hope...sings the tune without words...and never stops at all."

This year, a new miracle will occur as Kristi and Tim Lewis, a Hamilton couple whose first child, Hannah Grace, was conceived through The Gift of Life Foundation, will give birth to a second child as a result of the program. Eggs harvested from the first procedure were saved in the event a second attempt was necessary, and modern medical technology allowed the eggs to be preserved until a second in vitro-fertilization was made.

As a famous philosopher once

penned, "Man is rich only through what he gives." If that is true, then Madeleine Gordon is indeed very wealthy, for she has harvested the love and future happiness of so many families and her selfless giving to others.

With the support of local friends and families, The Madeleine Gordon Gift of Life Foundation can continue this mission. For information on how to make a donation to the foundation, readers may visit its web site at www.gordongiftoflife.com
