



ST. ELIZABETH | COLEMAN

PREGNANCY & ADOPTION SERVICES

2500 Churchman Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46203  
(317) 787-3412 • GivingBirthToHope.org

## LOVE NEVER FAILS...

What is love? We can turn to our culture where we are bombarded by answers to this question. Or, we can turn to St. Paul to better understand the true nature of love: “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not seek its own interests ... but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes in all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13)

This is the standard for love that not only every person of faith is called to strive toward, but also the standard that motivates the work of the staff and volunteers of St. Elizabeth | Coleman.

As the leading advocates of adoption in our community, our staff believes that love never fails... it never fails the birthmother who needs guidance in her decision to parent or place her child for adoption; the couple longing to complete their family through adoption; the single, parenting mother who needs the support to raise her child in a healthy, loving home; the adult child who is hoping to reunite with their birthmother.

In our work, we believe that adoption is the most selfless, loving act of a birthmother and the most loving, unconditional act of an adoptive couple—neither seeking their own interests, but only the best interests of the child.

The answer to “what is love?” is demonstrated each day in the clients whom we serve and in our staff and volunteers.

And, it is found in you, our loyal and faithful supporters.

The heartwarming stories in this newsletter and annual report would not have been possible without you, our loyal and faithful supporters. Because of your ongoing commitment to the mission of St. Elizabeth | Coleman, we are able to communicate the Gospel of life and love through our programs, advocacy and services. Your involvement in our agency—whether through time, talent

or treasure—helps us with providing the necessary additional resources for the children, women and families who turn to us for help and deserve the love of which St. Paul spoke.

Sincerely,

David J. Bethuram, MA, M.Min., CFLE  
Agency Director



*Ann Clute and Paul Brumleve, both members of the Agency Council, with David Bethuram, Agency Director, finishing up a round of golf at the Coffman Tournament.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

St. Elizabeth | Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services, rooted in Catholic tradition, believes that every child has a right to a healthy, loving family. We provide life-long services to empower women and families of all faiths by offering support, compassion and professional guidance.

## A COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE CREATES A FUTURE OF HOPE

On a Sunday afternoon, St. Elizabeth | Coleman received a phone call from a volunteer counselor at a Pregnancy Resource Agency who had been working with a teenage girl who was seven months pregnant. The 16 year-old girl, Theresa, lived in a small Hispanic community where her father held a significant position within their church. Because an out-of-wedlock birth would have been a disgrace to her family, Theresa had been hiding her pregnancy from her parents and others. The young girl feared for her life if her father were to find out about her pregnancy. So, Theresa expressed an interest in placing her child for adoption.

Given the special concerns with this case, our birthmother counselor suggested a meeting as soon as possible with Theresa's volunteer counselor, to serve as her advocate, and a translator at her high school. During the meeting, our birthmother counselor discussed the pregnancy, educated Theresa about the adoption process, and inquired about her relationship with her father. Following the meeting, the birthmother counselor scheduled a prenatal appointment for Theresa at the local clinic and researched maternity home options. Child Protective Services (CPS) also was involved to report the safety concerns for Theresa. A CPS social worker

met with Theresa and her parents to discuss her pregnancy and the sensitive nature of her relationship with her father. The meeting went well, but her father demanded that Theresa continue to hide her pregnancy.

Theresa had a very limited support system during her pregnancy. Thankfully, her birthmother counselor, a small handful of friends, and the high school staff provided her the compassionate support she so desperately needed and deserved. With the help of the St. Elizabeth | Coleman staff, Theresa had a new support system and was able to receive prenatal care and counseling. Theresa safely delivered a baby boy at the local hospital where she was able to meet the adoptive couple.

Months after her delivery, the birthmother counselor continues to provide counseling and support to Theresa on an ongoing basis. Theresa has returned to her normal school activities and is looking forward to graduating from high school. Updates about her baby from the adoptive couple are treasured by young Theresa, who remains pleased with her decision to place her child for adoption. She is very happy to know her baby is well taken care of and loved by his adoptive family.

## BIRTHMOTHER SUPPORT GROUP & ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Our 2nd Annual Birthmother Celebration Luncheon was held in early May. The luncheon honors all birthmothers for their courageous decision to choose life for their children through the selfless act of adoption. Two years ago, Birthmother Counselors Cheryl Garlinger and Nadja Radtke envisioned this luncheon as a way to honor our birthmothers. They successfully brought the luncheon to fruition and have ensured a very special experience for all who attend.

The program included birthmother testimonials, poems and Bible verses that spoke to the love these mothers have for their child and the beauty of adoption. An adoptive mother spoke about how adoption has touched and blessed her family and thanked the mothers for their courage and love. The luncheon was accompanied by a harpist and two sisters, Agency Practicum Social Worker, Becca Meyer and her sister, Tabea, performed the "Long Way Home" and "Somewhere over the Rainbow." The program ended with the mothers writing a personal message on balloons and then ceremoniously releasing them as a group.

At the luncheon, we provided the birthmothers with a survey regarding their interest in participating in a Birthmother Support Group. There was an overwhelming need indicated for this type of group among the birthmothers. So, Cheryl Garlinger plans to start the group in late June.

Last year four birthmothers attended the group.

The mothers shared their adoption stories with each other and worked through their loss with mutual support. In the last session, they shared pictures and mementos of their birth children with each other. There were tears of joy and laughter as the birthmothers shared the pictures of their birth children.

Each of these birthmothers told us that the Birthmother Celebration Luncheon and this subsequent support group had a positive impact on them. They expressed that it was the first time they have been able to meet other women who shared similar experiences. The support group was an important step in their journeys of healing and provided them the much-deserved companionship of other birthmothers. We continue to assess the needs on the community and add programs, like this, to support our commitment to offering life-long services.



*Balloon release at the  
2nd Annual Birthmother Celebration Luncheon*



*2nd Annual Birthmother Celebration Luncheon table*

## TWICE-BLESSED

Dawn and Mike had been married for over six years when they began the adoption process through St. Elizabeth | Coleman in late 2008. They had been trying to have a child for over three years at that time and discovered they had medical conditions that doctors advised would make it more difficult to conceive...and that any pregnancy they did achieve would be high-risk. Upon receiving this difficult news, Dawn and Mike made the decision to adopt and continue trying to conceive, as their "ideal" family would include two children. Ultimately, they placed their trust in God.

Dawn and Mike completed both the paperwork and the home study to commence the adoption process in June 2009, and received the call in June 2010 that they had been chosen by a birthmother. Soon after, they met the birthmother and Dawn accompanied her to the next two doctor's visits and even got ultrasound photos! Their birthmother was induced on July 7th, and after 36 hours their daughter, Cadence, entered the world via C-Section. Cadee had a bit of a rough start and spent her first 11 days in the NICU with Dawn and Mike by her side right from the very beginning.

Cadee's adoption was legally finalized on December 2, 2010. Dawn and Mike share a semi-open adoption with their birthmother—sending pictures and letters on a quarterly basis and visiting with Cadee's birthmother twice a year at St. Elizabeth | Coleman.

The day before Cadee's birth, Dawn and Mike were surprised and overwhelmed with joy to learn that they were expecting another child! After a relatively smooth pregnancy, Cadee's little sister, Kelsey, completed their family with her arrival on August 2, 2011.

Dawn and Mike have their hands full with two children under two, but they feel twice-blessed! Dawn and Mike trusted God to create the family for which they had longed—He answered their prayers far beyond anything they could have imagined.



## "BEST CHRISTMAS EVER" CREATES HOPE FOR 31 FAMILIES

Christmas was a busy, wonderful time at St. Elizabeth | Coleman. The phone calls from mothers increased again this year—with each mother simply wanting a gift for her children. The mothers' smiles and tears of joy helped make the Christmas Season at St. Elizabeth | Coleman even more meaningful. This year we were able to serve 31 families which represents 29% more families than last year. The number of children also increased from 82 to 95, a 15% increase. We also referred 15 families with 51 children to one of our sister agencies, and the Catholic Charities Indianapolis Christmas Store.

Again, this year the Daughters of Isabella prepared 39 Christmas-wrapped shoeboxes filled with socks, sippy cups, small toys, and other necessities. The mothers in our support groups love this new tradition.

**We are grateful to the following donors who helped make Christmas possible for 31 families.**

- Daughters of Isabella
- Deputy Don E. Wright
- ERMCO
- Holy Spirit Parish at Geist
- Indianapolis Motor Speedway
- Mercer & Belanger
- St. Jude Parish
- St. Roch Parish
- University of Indianapolis

We welcome your assistance in making sure families have a blessed Christmas. Please call Priscilla Kamrath at (317) 787-3412 to learn more about how you can help.

## THE GIFT OF LIFE & ADOPTION

Living with unanswered questions is one of the greatest difficulties experienced by members of the adoption triad and that is why search and reunion services are part of the life-long services available to our birthmothers and adoptees. Katrina Carlisle, Adoption Search & Reunion Specialist, educates, guides and counsels the adoptees who want to learn more about their biological family; the birthmothers who long to know if their children are healthy and happy; and the adoptive parents who may want or need updated medical information for their children.

The search and reunion services are available only for those adoptions completed by St. Elizabeth | Coleman Adoption Services, Suemma Coleman, St. Vincent Orphanage, Catholic Charities Bureau, Catholic Charities Koko, Catholic Charities Lafayette and Lutheran Family & Child Services.

If an adoption was handled by another agency that does not provide search services, the court can be petitioned to appoint a confidential intermediary. Katrina has been appointed many times as confidential intermediary to assist families.

Last year the Search & Reunion Program helped 212 people with their questions and successfully completed 31 searches. Katrina receives many heartfelt thanks. A gentleman recently sent a letter of thanks which included this sentiment: "In light of all the political debates surrounding abortion and contraception issues, it has made me very aware that I may certainly have not have been given the gift of life and adoption from my birthmother had St. Elizabeth Home not been her option 50 years ago. Thank you for all that you do for the expectant mothers and their babies."

## PARENTING SUPPORT GROUPS

Mothers who parent their children are invited to join a Parent Support Group led by Birthmother Counselor, Cheryl Garlinger. The goal is to educate, support and help the mothers better develop their parenting skills. Topics include child development, child abuse prevention, home safety, nutrition, budgeting and child care. A second group was established this year to expand our program's reach. Its goal is to promote and assist the attendees with transitioning from the services of the original group to becoming independent and self-sufficient.

Last year we served 18 mothers and 58 children through our support groups.

We also help pregnant women and mothers who are parenting their children with donations of basic needs: diapers, newborn and toddler clothing, car seats and other infant and children supplies. Most are single and struggling with life's challenges, are lacking family support and are below the poverty level. Last year we helped 64 mothers and 97 children.

Donation Wish List:

- Diapers: Sizes Newborn, 4, 5, 6 & Pull-ups
- New infant and toddler car seats
- Infant clothing, new or gently used
- Toddler clothing, new or gently used
- Baby wash
- Laundry detergent, bleach
- Toilet paper, paper towels
- Household cleaning products & dishwashing liquid



*The Parent Support Group gathers with Cheryl Garlinger.*

## ELIZABELLA BALL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The 25th Anniversary Elizabella Ball was held on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom. Everyone enjoyed the evening which included dinner, live and silent auctions, entertainment by the Andrew Academy Glee Club, dancing to the music of the Wendy Reed Band and the presentation of the Rose Honoree Awards.

The Rose Honoree Award is given to those who reflect the mission and work of St. Elizabeth | Coleman. This year the honorees included a birthmother, a family and a team of volunteers. In each of their journeys of faith, the handiwork of God is evident.

**“For her love, selflessness and courage.”**

Kristy Powell, a birthmother who chose adoption and parenting for her chil-

dren, had a successful reunion and continues ongoing relationships with the children she placed for adoption. Her perseverance in her journey of reunion with her birth children shows her obvious love for them. Her courage to share her story demonstrates the sacrificial love and selflessness of a birthmother.

**“For their passion and commitment to children...  
believing ‘God will provide’.”**

Darron and Denene Stewart are a family who was blessed with three biological children and decided to welcome more children to the family through adoption. A young boy, who was ineligible for adoption, came into their lives through their volunteer work at a Christian youth home. They felt a bond with this young teen that was equal to the bond with their biological children. The Stewarts began to wonder if God had plans for them to expand their family through adoption. Since that time, they have added three more daughters to their family through international adoption.

**“For their commitment to serve mothers and children  
with compassion and a generous spirit.”**

Jessica Limeberry, Christy Brink and Claire Black were all new mothers when they decided to help other new mothers. They began their weekly volunteer service about four years ago. It started with sorting and organizing incoming donations and became much more – preparing the mothers’ donation requests and obtaining funds for car seats. Now an integral part of the parent support groups, their desire to serve mothers and help change the lives of those in need is a blessing to all.

Special thanks to Paul Okeson, Event Chair, for developing new avenues of support, to Patrick Spencer for adding the race community as supporters, to Emily Hummel and friends for the best silent auction ever and to the Brumleve family for their continued support and commitment.



*2011 Rose Honorees - Darron & Denene Stewart, Jessica Limeberry, Christy Brink, Claire Black, & Kristy Powell*

## 11TH ANNUAL BOB COFFMAN GOLF TOURNAMENT



*Meet the 2011 St. Elizabeth | Coleman team – Paul Brumleve and his sons John, Andy and Eric. They even won a prize! Thank you to the Brumleve family for supporting this event.*

St. Elizabeth | Coleman is grateful to be a beneficiary of the Annual Bob Coffman Memorial Golf Scramble once again this year. The 11th Annual Bob Coffman Tournament will be held at Bluff Creek Golf Course in Greenwood on Sunday, June 24th with registration beginning at 12:00 p.m. and a shotgun start at 1:15 p.m.

Please join us for a fun-filled day in support of our agency by organizing your own foursome. Registration is \$60 per person and includes greens fees, cart and dinner. You may call Valerie Sperka at (317) 592-4072 to register for the scramble.

If you are unable to attend, you can still show your support of the work and mission of St. Elizabeth | Coleman by purchasing a tee sign expressing your sentiments about adoption. Tee signs can be purchased for just \$25 and will be placed throughout the golf course. St. Elizabeth | Coleman will receive 100% of the proceeds of the tee sign sales! Please call Priscilla Kamrath at (317) 787-3412 to order your tee sign. Following are some ideas for verbiage on the tee signs: “We welcomed our son, Luke, into our family through adoption—thank you St. Elizabeth | Coleman for helping to make this possible!” or “Our daughter Madison is the greatest blessing...we are so grateful to her birthmother for giving her the gift of life!”

Please visit our website [www.givingbirthtohope.org](http://www.givingbirthtohope.org) for further details on the golf scramble.

## IN THE PAST YEAR

Our services benefited more than 4,000 people directly or indirectly.

### **Pregnancy and Adoption Counseling: 158 birthparents served**

Professional counselors provide services to birthparents considering parenting or adoption placement and offer life-long post-placement counseling. At St. Elizabeth | Coleman, educating parents on the realities and resources needed to raise a child and be a good parent, and placing the child into the loving home of an adoptive couple are the true choices discussed. In addition, birthmother and single parent support groups help mothers develop their parenting skills.

### **Pregnancy and Adoption Outreach: 164 individuals served**

Birthparents that choose to parent their child are connected with the community resources that support self-sufficiency. As good parenting often requires a network of support, we made 992 referrals to additional community resources and other types of assistance, averaging five referrals per client. We recognize that our services will never provide all that a good parent needs, so we work diligently to develop creative community partnerships to meet their needs.

### **Adoption Awareness and Education: 2,576 individuals**

We believe every child has the right to a healthy, loving family and our services reflect our commitment to professional resources needed to meet that goal. We make presentations to numerous groups to educate women and men on the power of adoption. We follow up with the attendees at each presentation and track how new clients learned about us.

### **Adoption Placement Preparation: 53 individuals (Completed Adoptions: 20 placements)**

A significant part of the adoption process is to prepare couples for their new roles as adoptive families. We follow Indiana requirements to screen

potential parents and offer educational classes to prepare them to be good, informed parents.

We recognize that all those involved in an adoption—birthparents, adoptive couples and the adopted child—need lifetime guidance in navigating through the process. Our professional, compassionate staff is dedicated to walking every step with each of the persons involved throughout their lifetimes.

### **Adoption Searches: 212 search inquiries of which 31 searches completed**

While the State of Indiana keeps a record of all adoptions and information about birth parents and adopted children, both groups must register with the state to agree to release that information. For adoptions that took place through St. Elizabeth | Coleman, our search specialist can facilitate the exchange of information from our records and be present throughout the reunion process.



*Some of the Staff of St. Elizabeth | Coleman at the Elizabella Ball*

## ST. ELIZABETH | COLEMAN ADVISORY COUNCIL 2010-11

### **Officers**

Paul Brumleve, *President*  
Patricia McKay, *Secretary*  
Robert Anderson, *Treasurer*

### **Members**

Diane Clayton • Derrick Carlisle • David Clifton  
Ann Clute • Kathryn Densborn • Karen Ferrara  
Marc Guess • Monica Staples • John Winenger

### **Ex-Officio Members**

David Siler, *Executive Director,  
Catholic Charities & Family Ministries*  
David Bethuram, *Agency Director*  
Renee Hummel, *Director of Adoptions*  
Priscilla Kamrath, *Director of Community Relations*

## ST. ELIZABETH | COLEMAN STAFF

**David Bethuram**  
Agency Director Catholic Charities  
Indianapolis & St. Elizabeth | Coleman

**Renee Hummel**  
Director of Adoption Services

**Priscilla Kamrath**  
Director of Community Relations

**Jennifer Bigelow**  
International Adoption Specialist

**Katrina Carlisle**  
Search & Reunion Specialist

**John DiCico**  
Facilities Manager

**Cheryl Garlinger**  
Birthmother Counselor

**Carole McAtee**  
Finance & Donations Assistant

**Nadja Radtke**  
Birthmother Counselor

**Stephanie Ralich**  
Assistant to International Program

**Carol Sandefer**  
Receptionist & Database Assistant

## 2010-2011 PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

St. Elizabeth | Coleman, an agency of Catholic Charities in Indianapolis, values service quality by promoting strong performance, program goals, and positive outcomes for those whom we serve. The agency sets forth performance expectations each year for operations, program results and client outcomes, which are linked to the overall agency strategic plan. The priorities set by the strategic plan include stewardship, potential services (unmet community needs/expansion of services), community outreach, organizational leadership, staffing, diversity and effective/assessable services.

St. Elizabeth | Coleman achieved desired thresholds in 90% of chosen strategic priority for 2010-2011, including:

- 50% increase in the number of women attending parenting support groups.
- 100% of the clients increasing skill regarding pregnancy, parenting and adoption and demonstrating better decision-making skills.
- 7% increase in the number of people attending adoption awareness or education sessions.
- 58% increase in the number of referrals to community resources and agencies.
- 20% increase in the number of clients receiving pregnancy and adoption counseling.

### Client Satisfaction Results

- 98% of the clients surveyed were either very satisfied or satisfied with the overall care and concern they received by the organization/program.
- 98% of the clients surveyed were either very satisfied or satisfied with staff attention to their needs.
- 92% of the clients surveyed indicated a high level of confidence in our staff.
- 97% of the clients surveyed were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience with the services provided to them by the agency.
- 97% of the clients surveyed were very satisfied or satisfied and would recommend our services to a friend or family member.

### Additional Demographics

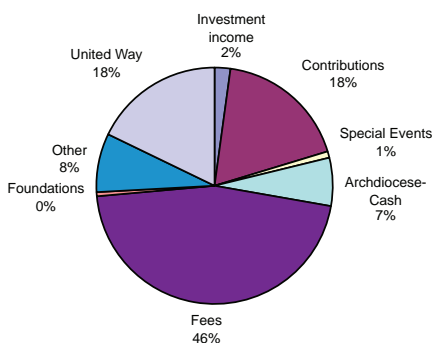
Gender		County Residence		Age	
Male	27%	Boone	1%	0-4	2%
Female	73%	Hamilton	8%	5	1%
		Hancock	2%	6-12	1%
		Hendricks	5%	13-18	12%
		Marion	58%	19-24	8%
		Morgan	2%	25-30	52%
		Other Counties	24%	40-54	18%
				55-64	4%
				65-74	2%

### Race/Ethnicity

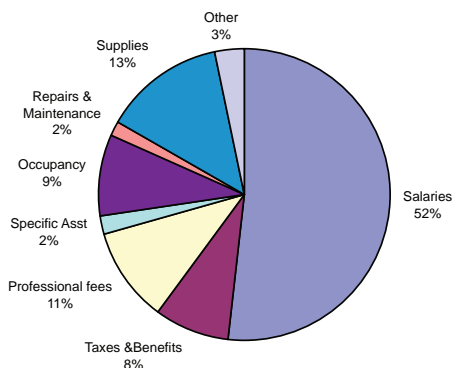
Caucasian	62%
African-American	24%
Hispanic (all races)	4%
Asian	1%
Bi-racial	9%

## 2010-2011 ST. ELIZABETH | COLEMAN OPERATING FUNDS 2010-2011

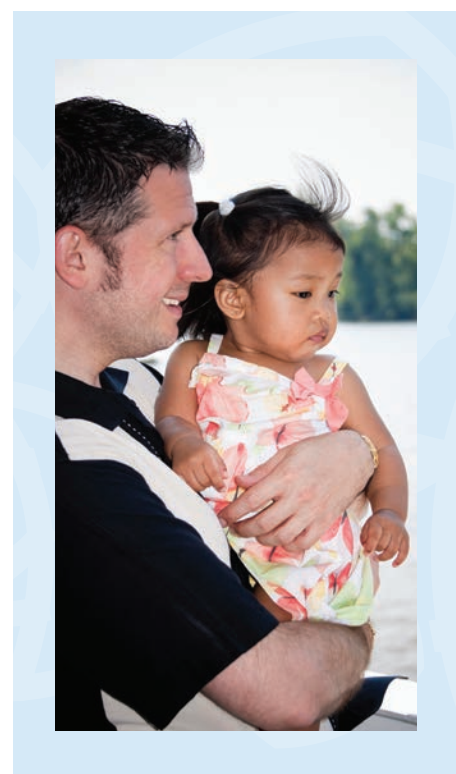
Revenues		
Investment income	15,941	2.16%
Contributions	133,660	18.14%
Special Events	6,435	0.87%
Archdiocese-Cash	48,492	6.58%
Fees	337,525	45.82%
Foundations	4,100	0.56%
Other	59,167	8.03%
United Way	131,347	17.83%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>736,667</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Expenses		
Salaries	341,467	51.02%
Taxes & Benefits	54,805	8.19%
Professional fees	69,315	10.36%
Specific Asst	13,393	2.00%
Occupancy	59,472	8.89%
Repairs & Maintenance	10,617	1.59%
Supplies	88,655	13.25%
Other	21,587	3.23%
Property insurance	9,906	1.48%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>669,217</b>	



Net Profit 67,450





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Services of Catholic Charities Indianapolis



Community Partner



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

*The Church in Central and Southern Indiana*



Holy Spirit Junior High Students happily came to help us on “Junior High Service Day” The event was coordinated by the Joseph Maley Foundation.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day brought volunteer students from IUPUI’s Center on Philanthropy course to help assemble furniture for the mothers we serve, as well as to sort and organize infant clothing and maternity clothes.



Bishop Chatard Community Service Day brought 26 students to help us. They helped with yard work, as well as sorting and organizing of our in-kind donations for the mothers and children.

## YARD WORK HELP NEEDED

This summer, St. Elizabeth | Coleman could use your help with lawn mowing and/or general yard work on our 9+ acres of land. If interested, please call Priscilla Kamrath at 787-3412.

## EMAIL REMINDER & SEC ON THE WEB & FACEBOOK

Please note that the staff e-mail extensions have changed to @SECindy.org. We would love to communicate with you via e-mail to become more resource, time and cost-effective in sharing our good news! Please visit [www.givingbirthtohope.org](http://www.givingbirthtohope.org) where you can enter your e-mail address to securely sign up for our e-newsletter.

To keep up-to-date on all the good work and happenings at St. Elizabeth | Coleman— please visit our website at [www.givingbirthtohope.org](http://www.givingbirthtohope.org) and join us on Facebook!