

Happy  
Easter



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CHRISTIAN • CHILD • DEVELOPMENT • CENTER



## Life Celebration & Generations



I spent a weekend back in March at a "life celebration" where my family celebrated with my Grandmother and two of my Great Aunts. Gramma turned 75, Aunt Rose turned 85, and Aunt Florence turned 90. It was interesting as I listened to the conversations of the guests and other family members. I heard about funny childhood memories, memories of illnesses, memories of snow storms and bad wind storms, and memories of family get-togethers. I also heard about the joy of children and then grandchildren being born. It was a wonderful celebration with cake, punch, laughter, and lots of memories of several generations. After all the guests were gone and the hall was cleaned up we headed back to Gramma's house for the night. One thing that struck me as we were re-hashing the day's events was my own memories that I had involving many of the people who attended. Many family and friends I haven't seen for years brought back so many memories, including my 1st grade teacher. After all these years I knew who she was as soon as she walked through the door. Mrs. Harley! She had been kind to me when I came to her class, almost at the end of that school year. My Dad had chosen not to re-enlist in the Marines and to move us back home from Georgia to Nebraska. I was then placed with Gramma and Grandpa to finish the school year while Mom and Dad found a place to live and started new jobs. Mrs. Harley was nice to me and helped me to adjust to my new surroundings and the fact that I was separated from the rest of my family. And, after 30 some years, Mrs. Harley walked in and my heart warmed. I can't remember any studies I did in 1st grade or anything specific that Mrs. Harley did for me, all I remember is the warm feeling in my heart that was still there after all these years.

It's my prayer that the children who enter Open Arms would soon develop that same warm feeling in their hearts. We have 24 children enrolled as of March 20th. I continue to lead tours and hand out enrollment information. One of the Mothers that I gave a tour to decided to bring her husband to the center so he could see it for himself. When they brought their enrollment papers back, they made the comment that the church was quite busy that Saturday and that they couldn't get over all the generations that were present and working. Resurrection, you truly made an impression on that family! This same family attended our Dedication and Open House and were impressed by how the church was taking such care to launch this ministry. They are impressed by the room sizes, curriculum, and the whole addition. They are not alone with their comments, many of the other tours result in the same type of comments.

Next month I will have an update of our first month's operations. Until then, consider this quote I found, "It takes a Christian congregation of many families to help raise a Christian child in God's loving grace". Thank you for being one of those families who has donated time, money, and prayers to this ministry. Thank you for being one of the Christian families that will help to raise many Christian children that come through our doors. If they didn't know of God's loving grace when they arrived at Open Arms, they will surely know it when they leave!

Tending His Lambs,

Stacy Maier

Director

