

## **ADOPTION: Our Hearts and Lives are Full**

My husband and I have never been so tired in our lives. Nor have we been so happy. Each day our little son discovers something new or makes a new sound and we both fall in love with him all over again. Oh, I know his accomplishments are nothing that a million babies before him have not mastered with ease, but somehow when Connor does them they are fantastically unique. And we would not have had this opportunity to experience the love, joy and wonder of parenthood without the help of Catholic Charities Adoption Services.

Our adoption journey began in November of 2006. Since my husband and I were both 45 at the time we started the process, naturally our first question was "Are we too old to be considered?" We were informed that there is no longer an upper age limit for adoption, so we plunged into the paperwork. We completed the paperwork, the Portfolio, and the Home Study by April of 2007. The waiting began. Just when we had begun to think that maybe we really were "too old" and it was not meant to be, we got the "call". The date was Thursday, January 3, 2008, and by Tuesday, January 15, 2008 we picked up our new son from the hospital.

We were blessed to have the staff at Catholic Charities Adoption Services help us through the application process and answer our multitude of questions. They accompanied us to the hospital and shared in our joy and nervousness as we met Connor for the first time. Our worker followed up with us after "placement" to make sure we were all right. And our worker was with us in the courtroom when we went before the Judge for our "Finalization". We cannot thank these ladies enough for all the help, understanding and encouragement they gave us throughout the adoption process. They brought us Connor, and our hearts and lives are full.

