



December 2011

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Dear Friend of Eddie's Road,

As Eddie's Road approaches its two year anniversary, we pause to reflect on the accomplishments and changes the organization experienced in 2011 and celebrate the possibilities of 2012. Our focus is refined, but our mission remains the same. In order to stop child abuse, the cycle must be broken.

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Children in the child welfare system are assisted in many ways. Shelter, food, education and medical care are provided for most. Once a child turns 18, all of the previously provided support stops and they must fend for themselves. In most cases, they have no family support or proper skills to maneuver successfully into young adulthood. Children "aging out" of the system face almost insurmountable odds:

- 1 in 4 will be incarcerated
- 20% will be homeless
- Less than 3% will go on to finish college
- 30% will abuse their own family members

Eddie's Road intends to change those statistics. Our refined focus is to provide financial support to national organizations and local group homes in the development of mentoring and educational programs targeted at children between the ages of 14-18. These programs will provide young adults with the tools necessary to navigate from the child welfare system into adulthood and increase the likelihood that the cycle of abuse will be broken.

As a result of the efforts of dedicated volunteers, our 2011 fundraising efforts were a great success. On December 14, Eddie's Road was awarded a \$25,000 grant from The QBE Foundation. We are honored that The QBE Foundation chose to support Eddie's Road out of hundreds of employee nominated charities. QBE, based in Sydney, Australia, is the third largest insurance company in the world and maintains a large presence in the United States. Their confidence in our ability to change the lives of abused and neglected children is humbling and energizing. The funds provided will go directly toward our 2012 "aging out" project.

Other fundraising events also raised substantial dollars for Eddie's Road this year:

- The Smoke Chasing BBQ Grand Tour was a huge success raising over \$7,000 for Eddie's Road. A new edition will return in 2012. Visit [www.smokechasing.com](http://www.smokechasing.com) for more information.
- The first Team Lyle 8-Hour motorcycle rally was held in Minneapolis, MN in June and raised \$1,200. This event is growing next year to include similar rides in New England, Georgia and Nevada. For more information on Team Lyle rallies visit [www.teamstrange.com](http://www.teamstrange.com).

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Eddie's Road was pleased to present its first grant in the amount of \$2,500 to Murphy-Harpst Children's Center in Cedartown, GA during a daylong event sponsored by Eddie's Road at the non-profit residential treatment center. Eddie's Road volunteers are currently reviewing grant requests for receipt of awards in 2012.

As we enter into 2012, we know that more important than what we've done to this point is what we accomplish in the coming year. We are very thankful for your past and ongoing support. We hope that you will keep Eddie's Road in mind as you finalize your year-end charitable giving. With the support and generosity of donors and supporters, we expect great results in 2012!

Happy Holidays,

Lisa Erbes  
Chairman, Board of Directors