

## Life Long Connections Through Community Service

When our son was nine and our daughter five years of age we took into our home twin baby girls. The mother had been hospitalized with paranoid schizophrenia, unable to cope – no washing machine or hot water, and now six children. The distraught husband asked the pastor of the church, my husband and I and children attended, to plead for someone to take over the care of some of their children.

At the evening service, the need was made known. My husband and our children sat in a pew close to the front of the church. I sat in the choir loft, not far away, as I directed the choir then. We exchanged looks and indicated that we would take the twins, and the next day we took the babies into our home.

I hurried to sew outfits for the new arrivals and the church women generously showered us with needed gifts for them, most welcome was a diaper service which I later discontinued.

Taking the twins, in 1956, proved to be an expensive undertaking as the milk alone came to \$30.00 a month, and the Government's Children Allowance did not come to us. Also, one of the twins had a club-foot and had to be fitted with special boots and a leg brace which thankfully had corrected the problem completely by the time she was walking.

After the twins left to be with their family, we became very close to them all, joining with them often to have picnics in the park, picking up the twins and a brother and sister for Sunday School, sewing dresses for the twins, at various times. We still keep in touch, with the girls these many years later.