



March, 2010

When I lived in Chicago, I marveled at all the hoop-la about the coming of Spring. There never seemed to be that sudden change in blustery winter that March 21st promised. Yet there was an almost palpable change in attitude—even if snow continued to fall!

It seems to me that Spring is a frame of mind and heart. We humans appreciate the promise of something better, the hope that newness can spring from stuff that is dry and lifeless.

I find new life in our annual Sew-a-thon which will take place on Saturday, March 13th at Pima Community College West Campus. This annual event produces the bulk of the “Bags for Kids” duffle bags we use throughout the year. What a wonderful example of loving service for children in CPS! (See the link on our homepage for more info—join us if you can!)

In the midst of another round of budget cuts, I find new life in the determination and hopefulness of Aviva’s Board and staff. New ideas—born of challenge—are emerging like shoots of green in a brown field. These ideas for new service, consistent with our mission, represent a unique response to needs of children and families connected to Child Protective Services.

Along with these new ideas for service come new ideas for funding. The needs of children who are victims of abuse and neglect should not be sacrificed on the altar of political or fiscal expediency. Aviva’s commitment to the children is unconditional. It goes way beyond funding. If the door of DES funding closes a bit, other doors begin to open. We know you share our concern.

We appreciate everything you do—financially and otherwise—to help make life better for the children. And we are glad that you trust the work Aviva does in your name. Without your ongoing support and involvement, there would be no Spring for the children.

In April, I will share with you a major announcement—one that will change the face of Aviva in the community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Bob Heslinga
Executive Director