

## Marywood Does It Better

### Move Over, Maury:

#### Marywood Does It Better

The media phenomenon of daytime talk shows is accelerating at an incredible pace. There is even a cable program which highlights these shows on a daily basis. "Sensationalism" is the catch-all term to define methods used, by many, to fill an emotion-laden arena. And, unfortunately, adoption issues have found their niche in this type of programming, as well.

Talk shows routinely invite birth and adoptive family members to meet for the first time (sometimes without prior knowledge) in front of thousands of television viewers. Yes, these are touching moments but they are also private moments that tend to get blown out of proportion. With little preparation, people who may have shared a few minutes together 20 to 30 years ago are thrust into the spotlight, like most talk show participants, to purge and heal thoughts and feelings formed in years of silence. Extended family members may also be put on the spot, backed into exposing their own vulnerabilities.

Fortunately, this is not the way most triad members seek each other out. Marywood began offering intermediary services in the late 1980's to birthparents and adult adoptees who had independently contacted the agency expressing their interest in communicating with each other, resulting in a total of 3 or 4 reunions. It became apparent that Marywood could better

serve its clients by creating a post adoption program which offers search assistance when only one side or the other makes this request. Because Texas is a closed-records state, Marywood cannot release identifying information from its files and full disclosure is only achieved after some counseling is received and a consent form is completed by both parties.

In the span of any given week, we receive several letters and phone calls from birthparents and adult adoptees whose lives once intersected at Marywood. Sometimes the courage it takes a birthmother to initiate this contact releases emotions she has long suppressed. Adoptees may tentatively request their medical histories and are surprised and relieved to discover that we offer

contact services. In response to their requests, they are sent a packet of paperwork which includes information on our services, forms to complete, a comprehensive bibliography, and counseling guidelines. Only a handful of



Another successful and happy reunion.

#### Continued Page 7

### In This Issue

"Who Am I?"

Ten-Tuplets!!!!

Support Groups

Marywood Milk Fund

Fabulous Football Photos By Friedman

Foundations Support Expands Programs

### Mark Your Calendars Now

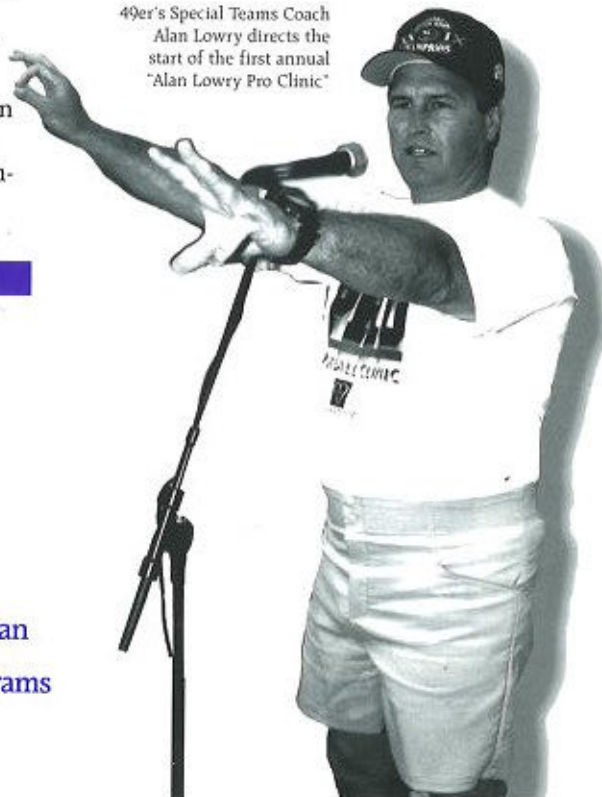
#### Lions, Cowboys & 49ers...Oh, Boy!

Marywood hosted its first annual "Alan Lowry Pro-Clinic for Kids" on April 28th. Alan, seven current and former professional football players: Doug English, Tony Marciano, Jerry Siesmore, Lawrence Sampleton, Dick Lowry, Doug Brien and Leon Fuller instructed over one hundred kids in football skills and drills.

It was a beautiful spring day at St. Edward's University and the lower field was alive with anticipation and pent up energy. By afternoon's end, the energy was depleted, but the kids had a great time because of the generous outpouring of professional instruction and personal commitment by the coaches.

#### Continued Page 7

49er's Special Teams Coach  
Alan Lowry directs the  
start of the first annual  
"Alan Lowry Pro Clinic"



# Potpourri



Jean Keas

Dear Friends,  
Please read this short story...

## THE STARFISH FLINGER

As the old man walked the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the youth, he asked why he was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun.

"But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," countered the other. "How can your effort make any difference?"

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves.

"It makes a difference to this one," he said.

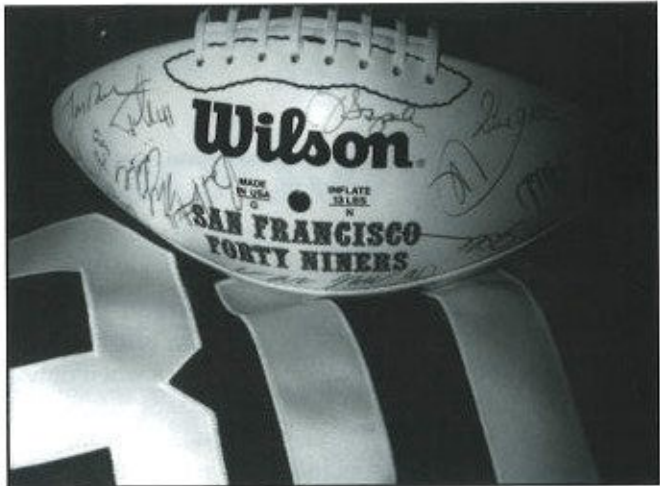
*(Minnesota Literacy Council)*

Daily at Marywood we face the "sobering facts" that the numbers of people in need of our assistance keep growing. The numbers represent the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the personal disappointments and frustrations our staff encounters. However, the numbers don't reveal all the joy and excitement that comes with those moments of triumph when our efforts to fulfill our mission succeed.

I can say no more succinctly than the author of "The Starfish Flinger"...it is when we make a difference in just one life that we become keenly aware of God's sustaining grace. Grace that gives us the strength to move forward with hope and determination.



**Jean Keas, Executive Director**



A Jerry Rice autographed jersey and the 49er autographed football were just two of the items auctioned at the dinner to kick-off the 1st Annual Alan Lowry Pro Clinic.



**MARYWOOD**

*"Miracles Happen On 26th Street"*

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## Generous Support

### Foundations Help Expand Programs & Services

Marywood is poised and ready to join the computer age. Some would say, not a minute too soon! Thanks to a very generous grant from the **Scanlan Foundation**, we will be able to replace our old "286 dinosaurs", or late '80's models. It seems ironic to think of them as prehistoric; however, in this high-tech Mecca, it is not all that unusual. As we brace to jump on the information highway, we can't do it on horseback.

There are very practical reasons for Marywood to update its equipment. With a seventy-plus year history, we need to begin to computerize the volumes of stored documents for easier retrieval, storage and security reasons. In addition, anyone working in the field is aware of the paperwork and documentation required by social workers; loss of this information due to an unreliable computer is a tragic waste of time and effort. We also hope to utilize the computers to network with other agencies and national adoption services to expedite finding homes for waiting infants and children. Recently, we installed a new software package to aid in the search and reunion process...**welcome to the World Wide Web!**

In addition to the Scanlan Foundation, we would also like to say

thank you to Advanced Micro Devices, The Leimandt Foundation, the James R. Dougherty Foundation, the Rockwell Fund and the Burkitt Foundation for their generous grants to help support TARGET: Teens At Risk, Getting Essentials Together and "Baby Think It Over", and to the Seton Fund, for their contribution to help purchase medical supplies for our clients in residence. This latter grant was made in honor of **Sister Rose Ann McNamee**, who directs our classroom education/tutoring program at Marywood.



Staff

## WWW.Adoption

### On The Internet

Adoption has now reached the internet!!! ADOPT-INFO is a collection of information, research, opinion and policy documents related to issues facing adoptive families. The database includes information about adoption agencies, support groups and other adoption related issues. For inquiries, send e-mail messages to [cyfec@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:cyfec@maroon.tc.umn.edu), or call (612) 626-1212. Try this service and tell us what you think.



Staff

## African/American

### Adoption Program

Marywood and Lutheran Social Services are excited to announce the beginning of a joint African American Adoption Program to recruit, publicize and offer homestudy services to African American families considering adoption. Our in-house committee has been working diligently to develop the program and it will officially open on July 1st. Agnes Williams will work as the recruiter in the community. We're looking forward to the opportunity to better serve African American families.



Marywood adoptee having a swinging time.



Staff

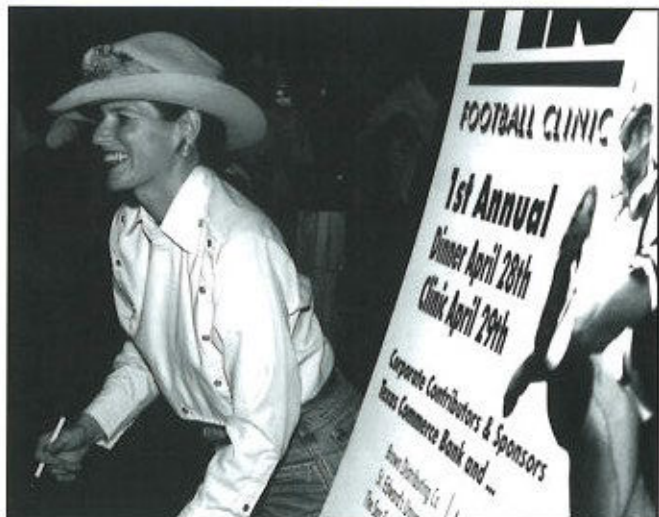
## Salt Lick

### I Bid How Much???

The entree into the activities surrounding our first Annual "Alan Lowry Pro-Football Clinic" for kids was a dinner held at the Salt Lick restaurant the Friday before the clinic. Guests feasted and mingled with professional football players and coaches. People were amazed at the size of Doug English and Lawrence Sampleton and the women fell in love with 49er kicker, Doug Brien. A lively auction was held of 49er, Jerry Rice's signed jersey and an autographed Superbowl ball. To assuage Dallas Cowboy fans, and there were many in attendance, a jersey signed by Bill Bates was raffled, along with other Cowboy memorabilia. Join the fun next year and become a volunteer for this gala event--call Anne Beeson.



Staff



Anne Beeson greets guests with a smile

# A

# Ian Lowry Pro-Football Clinic



## SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Ms. Jean Keas, Executive Director  
Marywood  
510 West 26th Street  
Austin, TX 78705

Dear Jean;

I wanted to write and tell you how excited I am about the upcoming football clinic for kids and thank you for letting me be a part. The benefits could not go to a better cause or to a better organization. I really appreciate the vision and the hard work of everyone involved.

This past year has been very exciting for my wife Donna and I culminating in a trip to the Super Bowl and a victory against the San Diego Chargers. I must tell you, however, that the joy and excitement of a Super Bowl victory does not compare to the joy and happiness we experience every day from the two daughters we received from Marywood. Marta (11) and Lindsay (7) were part of the whole Super Bowl experience and it made it that much more special for Donna and I to have them with us to share the excitement.

Marywood has done so much for so many people like us and it is my prayer that it will continue to grow and serve more people and spread more joy and happiness.

I am very excited that this clinic will allow me to use my experience in football to somehow help in the growth of Marywood, and when successful, I hope that we can make it an annual affair.

Sincerely,  
*Alan Lowry*  
Alan Lowry  
Assistant Football Coach

AL:sc

SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS  
XVI, XIX, XXII, XXIV

Administrative Office  
Marie P. DeBartolo Sports Center  
4949 Centerville Boulevard  
Santa Clara, California 95054-1229  
Telephone 408/ 562-4949  
Fax 408/ 727-4937



## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

For Their Assistance  
In Helping Provide Support For The First Annual Alan Lowry Pro-Football Clinic

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### THE COACHES:

Alan Lowry  
Doug English  
Tony Marciano

Jerry Sleamore  
Lawrence Damphton  
Dick Lowry  
Doug Brien  
Leon Fuller

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Ted and Lisa Scarpinella  
Father Joe Frazer  
Clarke Printing

We would also like to thank the Holiday Inn, Town Lake, for providing accommodations for some of the coaches at the Clinic. Also, our grateful appreciation to the Marywood Board, and staff, Ken Dabs, Joe Chamberlain, Shawn Chamberlain, Boyd Henry, Sandee Bruneman, friends and "significant others" who made all of this possible.



Photographer Henry Friedman (416-1717) donated time and film to bring you these memories.



Coach Alan Lowry  
**PRO**  
FOOTBALL CLINIC

# Challenges

## Ten-Tuplets?!!!



As a result of our article featuring the "Baby Think It Over" dolls in the last issue of the newsletter, we now have two new dolls in residence (thanks to two private donors) and ten more dolls on order.

"Parenting in the '90's" excerpted our article in their June issue.

**Advanced Micro Devices** generously provided us with grant money to purchase dolls for our TARGET Program

and for two area high schools.

"Baby Think It Over" is making loud cries across the country! The makers of the dolls are distributing some of our program materials with each doll they ship out. As a consequence, we received a call from an Oregon newspaper interested in our project. Social workers and school counselors are also interested in our program format.

We are very excited about the

potential of "Baby Think It Over" as a teen pregnancy prevention tool and will expand our program to include some exciting new educational opportunities with the dolls.



Staff

## Milk For Marywood

Sadly, because of nationwide black market dealings of baby formula, the availability of free formula to agencies has been in short supply.

Manufacturers, through their representatives, have helped us in crisis situations, however, we have foster families in need of a steady supply of for-

mula for infants in our care. Because of this critical situation, we are beginning a formula fund — MARYWOOD'S MILK FUND.

Enclosed is a return envelope, if you would like to make a contribution to this fund or make a general contribution to Marywood. In addition, begin-

ning this July, we can charge your donation, adoption-related expenses, or any fees on Mastercard, Visa or Discover Card!

THANK YOU



Staff

## Sobering Facts

### FACT:

There are 11,000 children in foster care in Texas.

### FACT:

Specific children's programs which provide for protection, foster care family preservation and adoption assistance could be lost if proposed legislation is passed.

### FACT:

Child welfare programs in the U.S. will likely be cut.

### FACT:

Each year more children grow up in institutions.

### FACT:

Federal laws which provide minimum protections for foster children may be rescinded.

### FACT:

Six million children in the U.S. today live in poverty and the loss of safety net programs could force more kids into foster care.

### FACT:

Approximately 70,000 special needs children are available for adoption in the U.S.



### Better Continued

therapists are fully aware of the issues that face members of the adoption triad. Our guidelines can provide invaluable assistance when counselors are requested to provide an hour of preparatory counseling, helping our clients successfully navigate through this sensitive and enriching experience and offering support throughout the process. Once the client has completed his or her requirements, contact is attempted. In most cases, the individual contacted is delighted to know of the interest expressed in them by the other party and they will be asked to complete the same requirements. Brief, introductory letters are exchanged and photos are enclosed to replace years of fantasy with vital truth. The immediate shock of family resemblance makes way for more intrinsic similarities in likes and dislikes, mannerisms, career choices, and other links better understood through the study of genetics.

Extended family members are invited to participate in this process, as

well. A birthmother receiving a call from Marywood today, may have informed her husband about the existence of her birthchild but the children they are raising together may not have been told. She is counseled in this area and we can report that most children are excited to have another sibling to share in their lives. Perhaps an adult adoptee is concerned about the impact this process will have on his or her adoptive family. They want to assure their parents that looking for their birth relatives is a way to help them feel whole, not a replacement for all the years of love and bonding they've experienced with "Mom" and "Dad". We recommend *"Courageous Blessing"* by **Carol L. DeMuth** to open discussion when adult adoptees are unclear about their parents' feelings in this matter. We also recommend *"Search, Aftermath & Adjustments"* by **Patricia Sanders and Nancy Sitterly** and *"Birthbond"* by **Judith S. Gediman and Linda P. Brown** to everyone undertaking a search. Copies of

these books are available through Marywood. Support groups are another resource to anyone involved in a search. Marywood hosts a search support group the second Tuesday of each month. Mary C. Rizzo, Post Adoption Coordinator, and David K. Duffey, Staff Therapist, facilitate this open forum discussion for anyone in the community interested in these issues. We can also make referrals to groups in other parts of the state and country.

Reunions are arranged at Marywood, whenever possible. Although loved ones are welcome to come for support, the first part of the meeting is reserved for the birthmother and the adult adoptee to get acquainted.

Agency support does not end once the first meeting has occurred. Even the most well-prepared client may have questions about boundaries and appropriateness as the two families adjust to becoming one. Often, we receive cards and notes of appreciation from

clients overjoyed by the sense of fulfillment these new relationships have created in their lives. Most searches are successful; occasionally, however, we will contact someone who is not prepared to get involved. The door is left open to these clients indefinitely, in the event changes in their life permit the pursuit of a relationship with their birthparent or birthchild sometime in the future.

Marywood facilitates on the average of 30 reunions a year. Not everyone who contacts us about our services follows through at the point of inquiry; however, each individual seems genuinely pleased that these options are available. Occasionally, we receive inquiries from clients who were personally affected by a reunion they witnessed on one of the daytime talk shows and were prompted to call. So, maybe these programs aren't so bad, after all.



Cindee Segal

### Lions, Cowboys...Con't

D.A.R.E. officers and the numerous volunteers who helped make the day such a success.

At the end of the clinic, the "big kids" got into the act, and participants witnessed the coaches demonstrating, in mock plays, some of the skills that made them famous on their respective professional teams. While there was clear favoritism for the "Dallas Cowboys", as evi-

denced by the kid's reactions to a highlight film of the 49'er's Super Bowl victory, nothing could deter from the general awe and respect for the skills and expertise that each pro presented.

Scholarships provided by the individuals, corporations and foundations listed, made it possible for over three-fourths of the kids to participate at no charge.



Anne Beeson



Jean Keas displays autographed football for bidders just prior to auction.

# Marywood Supports You

## "WHO AM I?" Children's Workshops

Supporting the belief that adoption is a lifelong experience, Marywood would like to invite your child/ren to participate in one of our upcoming workshops on adoption. As an agency, we believe that it is important for children to meet other children who joined their family through adoption and to have an opportunity to better understand the issue of adoption and the role it plays in their lives.

Our workshops are planned for Austin, Dallas, and Houston in the coming year and will include children from 6-16 years of age. Below is a response form that will indicate your child/ren's interest; please return this form as soon as possible so that we can schedule these groups.

We think this is an exciting and educational experience for your child and we look forward to nurturing the concept of adoption in your family.

We believe that children's groups should:

- provide a safe place to reflect upon adoption;
- provide an opportunity for positive peer experiences and support;
- build self-esteem and acceptance of self and others;
- promote trust;
- be fun.

(a small fee will be charged)

If you are interested in one of these groups, please return this form to: Carolyn Chamberlain,  
Marywood Children & Family Services, 510 West 26th Street, Austin, Texas 78705

**PLEASE RETURN BY AUGUST 31, 1995**

Name/Age of Child/ren \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home

Work

Location of workshop:     Austin                       Dallas                       Houston

## MARYWOOD SUPPORT GROUPS

### **Birthparent Support Group**

Third Wednesday of the month

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

At Marywood

### **Adoption Triad Support Group**

Second Tuesday of the month

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

at Marywood

### **Marywood Adoptive Parents Groups**

Contact the group in your area or call

Marywood (512) 472-9251

### **Adoption Information Meetings**

### **For Prospective Adoptive Parents**

Held quarterly at Marywood,

call for further information

### **Children's Workshops**

Periodically scheduled throughout the state.

Call for further information (see registration form on this page)



In Memorial:

### **Dr. Joseph Witherspoon**

We wish to thank the family and friends of Dr. Witherspoon for their designation of Marywood to receive gifts in his memory. He dedicated his life to the preservation of life and human rights for all.



**MARYWOOD**

"Miracles Happen On 26th Street"

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