

# Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE  
SUMMER 2014

## Give4Good



Angelica April Bermudez  
April 2, 1977 – March 26, 2014

May 6, 2014 was the first local Give4Good campaign organized by the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation and co-hosted with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence. On this one single day, about 150 local nonprofits raised over \$500,000 through an online social media appeal. Innisfree had 100 donors, including old friends and families and more than one quarter were new donors to our village. We raised more than \$35,000 which included all new donors' gifts being matched

by our Board of Directors. Innisfree also won the Primetime incentive prize of \$750 for having the most donations between 8 and 10 pm on May 6th. Thank you ALL for helping us have such a successful day!



## Strategic Planning

In April, Board and Village met together to launch the Five Year Strategic Planning for our community. The first session was active and insightful, bringing together the cumulative experience of twenty-five committed Innisfree volunteers, families and Board members. Led by Board President, Craig Dreilinger, we completed a preliminary analysis discussing our strengths, needs, opportunities and concerns. We then expanded into various critical

areas that will be the focus of our future meetings. These included:

- Aging and mobility**
- Future Coworker Demography and Recruitment**
- Optimum size and future growth**
- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteers**
- Future Funding Strategies**

Stay tuned for more information as we continue to plan for our future.



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## Loving Angelica

by Nancy Chappell

Loving Angelica did not happen overnight. In fact, some years went by before her charms were really revealed to me and she managed to wiggle her way into my heart. Before that, we had a few showdowns. When I could finally stop intervening when she wore a dress over the top of her pants, crazy socks, the wrong coat and too much jewelry, our relationship improved immensely. Letting her choose her clothes was a hugely empowering thing for Angelica, so why not?

Angelica's presence was always dramatic. I remember being in Halcyon the day she arrived. That was the day Nicky met her and her family. Nicky and she were housemates, almost friends, ever since. In Nicky's mind, the best thing about Angelica is her mother, April. Nicky is pretty sure April comes just to visit HIM a few times a year to spoil him with donuts, Pepsi, pizza and liver.

Angelica always had a way of surprising you with her knowledge or memory. A few years ago she said in a different voice, "Put down the gun, you're only a boy." Where did that come from? "The Sound Of Music," she replied. Now that movie was huge in my childhood, seen dozens of times. But do you remember that line? Lo and behold, it is there.

Angelica had a way of charming strangers. The lady at the doctor's office who gave



April and Nicky

Angelica her earrings after Geli said, "I like your earrings, where did you get them?" The folks at White Hall Store indulged her in

all her wacky comments and answered all her repetitive questions.

Some of the biggest pleasures with Angelica were reading Dr. Seuss with her and waking her up in the morning. She mostly had the books memorized and she would correct you if you messed up and I loved to share the reading with her – me a page, her a page. We were both

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## A Mother's Thank You

It is several months since Angelica left us to fly with the Angels...I still find it hard to believe that I will never see her again, fight with her again but most of all hear her tell me at the end of every telephone conversation "My mummy is the best mummy in the world and I'm not kidding!"



I will never find the adequate words to thank you and all the truly amazing volunteers who have passed through Angelica's life in the last nearly fourteen years, each enriching her life in a different way. So many people for her to love and more importantly, so many people to love her.

I know that you and certainly all the volunteers I have spoken with, recognize that Innisfree is an extraordinary place...but only a parent with a child like Angelica can truly know how special it really is. A place where she could and did spread her wings where

charmed by the pictures and the crazy rhymes. She was often at her sweetest in the morning, waiting patiently in bed but eager to get going. Geli had her little rituals of blessing her medications with, "Daddy's favorite color is, Marcus's favorite color is, Mummy's favorite color is, Alexander's favorite color is..."

It always ended with, "Thank you for waking me up, it was rather nice." Yes, Geli, it WAS rather nice. AND Geli I will tell everyone that you had good behavior and you didn't give any trouble.



*Angelica with her Halcyon family, 2006*

she felt she belonged and was loved, a place where she felt needed...often told me "I want my whole family to come and live here." She told my sisters in Denver and England and other friends who called her, "You MUST come to Innisfree, you will love, love, love it!"

Most of all Innisfree gave her independence and after six years in disciplined communities in other countries, what an amazing gift that was! I have to remember that for nearly fourteen years she was fortunate enough to live in a little piece of heaven, and now, now she lives in the whole of it!

When I visited Innisfree and in the mornings would see Geli off to work, I would stand on the veranda and when she passed in front of Halcyon, all bedecked and bejeweled (in spite of my protestations,) I would tell her to have a good day and to be kind to everyone...and, without even looking back she would say, "Yes, yes" and continue to recite her poetry. And many times as I watched her walk up and over the 'hill' and out of sight, my heart would fill with unexpected joy.

At Innisfree, with Angelica I experienced some



very difficult times, often wondering if perhaps I should come less often...and then she would do or say something wonderful, something so inspiring, some-

thing better than all the riches in the world, and again I would thank God for Innisfree.

'Thank You' is something I always taught Angelica to say to anyone who gave her anything whether it was the person at Barnes and Noble who put her book in a bag, or to whoever made and served her meal. And now, for me 'thank you' seems so woefully inadequate to say for your amazing support during Geli's last two weeks in the hospital, to all the volunteers who spent time sitting with her even after I arrived, to all of you who loved her, sometimes in spite of yourselves. For so many reasons Innisfree and all the amazing people who are blessed to live and work there, will always be part of my heart. Thank You!

*With much love and gratitude,*

*—April*

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## The Story of Angelica

by *Bee (Bridget) Nicholson*

I'm going really to miss Angelica's smile. I remember when Angelica came to one of my art shows. I really miss Angelica. Angelica really did care about everyone. She loved life. Angelica was a wonderful person. Angelica loved people. Angelica loved getting hugs and kisses. Angelica feeling good about HERself made everyone else feel good about THEMSELVES and she did that every day. Angelica was a sweet person. Angelica loved



everyone and this is the thing that we all need to keep in our hearts.

—The End

*ps Angelica just loved the color RED!*



*Angelica finding Trinidad*