

# Agape House Benefits From CFF

On a cold February evening CFF was invited to present a report to the First Church of God congregation in Paragould. After the presentation, a board member from the Agape House, a transitional living opportunity for women overcoming various addictions, asked if CFF would be interested in offering parenting classes there.

I had no way of knowing that this little “experiment” would lead to over 35 classes and more than 25 certificates of completion in such a short time. Our agreement was for five sessions (a complete course) and to return as new residents came to Agape House. Before our first five sessions were



**Agape House Graduation Banquet in October**

complete, we were already welcoming new residents and catching them up on the sessions they had missed.

As the year went by, only one session was missed during the summer for a workshop and another on Labor Day. As of this writing, the most frequent comment from participants is how much fun the class is and how they look forward to Monday morning. These parents really enjoy hearing about how they will see such a big difference in such a short time using these new parenting skills.

Dr. Crain participated in the Agape House Graduation in October and attended their Fund Raising Banquet and Auction in November. One resident who did not finish the parenting course at Agape House called CFF to finish it at the Center.

Lives are changed forever when we change a parent’s way of dealing with their children.



**Sunny Curtis, Agape House Director at Graduation in October**

## Nov. Civic Club Gifts:

Jonesboro Metro Rotary Club: \$1510.75

Paragould Jaycees 500.00

**Helping Us Reach Even More Families**

# Boot Camp Become ba DAD and Continues

Last year, Chris Hughes joined Dr. Crain at the annual presentation to the Childbirth class leaders at St. Bernard’s and pitched a new approach to our New Dad’s events there.

The new event, called ba DAD, uses the successes from the Boot Camp experience (such as the hands on learning) by inviting an “experienced dad” to bring his two month old back to share with the expectant dads in the next event. It also goes way beyond childbirth class by emphasizing how protecting and bonding with your infant will give a father the credibility to teach and train for years to come.

The most frequent feedback from these sessions is the boost in confidence such an

experience provides. Usually a specific teaching also makes the evaluation sheet (like the shaken baby information or post-partum tips for dads).

Without a doubt, the most important part of the experience is the presence of the youngest teacher there...who has only to cry, eat, burp, poop and sleep to be the celebrity. “The dads learn as much by watching as they do by listening,” says Dr. Crain who handled the last three sessions of the year after Chris’ departure. “In fact, I’ve done sessions without an infant present and it just isn’t the same,” he explains.

The final ba DAD for 2008 was held December 1 at the Imaging Center on Matthews in Jonesboro. Look for more sessions next year.



**Certificate #25 given by Dr. Matt Crain to Misty and #26 to Fawn at the Agape House**

