

# A Manner of Speaking

by Bonnie Neugebauer

Possibility. We are empowered when we sense it. We can do anything — confront any challenge, move forward with hope and anticipation. It's something of what Alison (our newly married daughter) and Blake (our newest son) must see when they look into each other's eyes. The air crackles. Even we can feel it — in each other they see everything they need. And in that blessing they will create a strong new family, empowered by all the possibilities.

Surf, sunshine, seagulls, sand, the wedding was intimate and perfect — in our family's most loved natural setting. We've gone in various groupings as family and friends to this favorite Oregon beach for over 23 years. We have so many memories of walks on the beach, dragging sticks to create lines that never end and searching for the tiniest sand dollar, sighting puffins in flight and lying on chilly sand to watch for shooting stars. We want to protect this place and our memories in it; we want to share it with our grandchildren and friends from near and far. We want everyone to care about it as we do.



And this is what our work through the Nature Action Collaborative for Children (NACC) is all about. This project of the World Forum Foundation, which began October 2006 with the Working Forum on Nature Education for Young Children, is about connecting children with something we must care very much about — our planet. Grounded in the belief that children will protect what they know, the NACC is initiating a powerful advocacy agenda to reconnect children with nature, addressing what families, teachers, grandparents, architects, environmentalists, advocates, and organizations can do. To learn more about this work, visit [www.WorldForumFoundation.org](http://www.WorldForumFoundation.org).

Building the NACC has been an exciting project for us. People have been interested and eager to participate. Everyone can see the challenges, but we can also see possibilities. This is a hopeful initiative.

When we confront the issues facing young children and their families around the world, it is not always easy to see the hopeful possibilities. In the process of writing *Conflict to Peace Building: The Power of Early Childhood Initiatives, Lessons from Around the World* (projected release May, 2007), an advocacy project of the International Working Group on Peace Building with Young Children (a continuation of Working Team Belfast), there were alarming news reports from the Middle East of violence impacting children. Writing a book seemed like an inadequate response as book authors struggled with how to respond to these world events. In each other they found answers, reaffirming that we all must do what we can, when the possibilities present themselves.

The work of the World Forum Foundation is about creating hope, about enabling people to move forward by learning from and supporting each other. Sometimes the possibilities are difficult to see. But in each other, we can find everything we need to make a difference and to be all that we can be. We just need to look to find the possibilities.

