



December 1, 2001

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and happy as we ring in the holidays and 2002. This year has been eventful for us in more ways than one. At the end of it all, we are both incredibly blessed to have such amazing, wonderful people in our lives. Let me go ahead and give you the recent updates.

#### *Our First Year of Marriage*

Chris and I have survived our first year of marriage! After three years of living apart, Chris and I had to face living together. I went to bed at 10pm; he went to bed at 2am. I am a tad messy, he likes things neat. I said, "tomato", he said, "tomato". I was slowly adjusting to the Austin move and Chris was working several hours at Elegiant. It took a few months, but we compromised and figured out how to make it work! For instance, we both now go to bed at midnight! The best part of it all is that there is no more traveling and we get to spend much more time together! Woo-hoo! :-D I will say that I have to come to have a great appreciation for the covenant of marriage and respect those who can make it work through all of life's ups and downs.

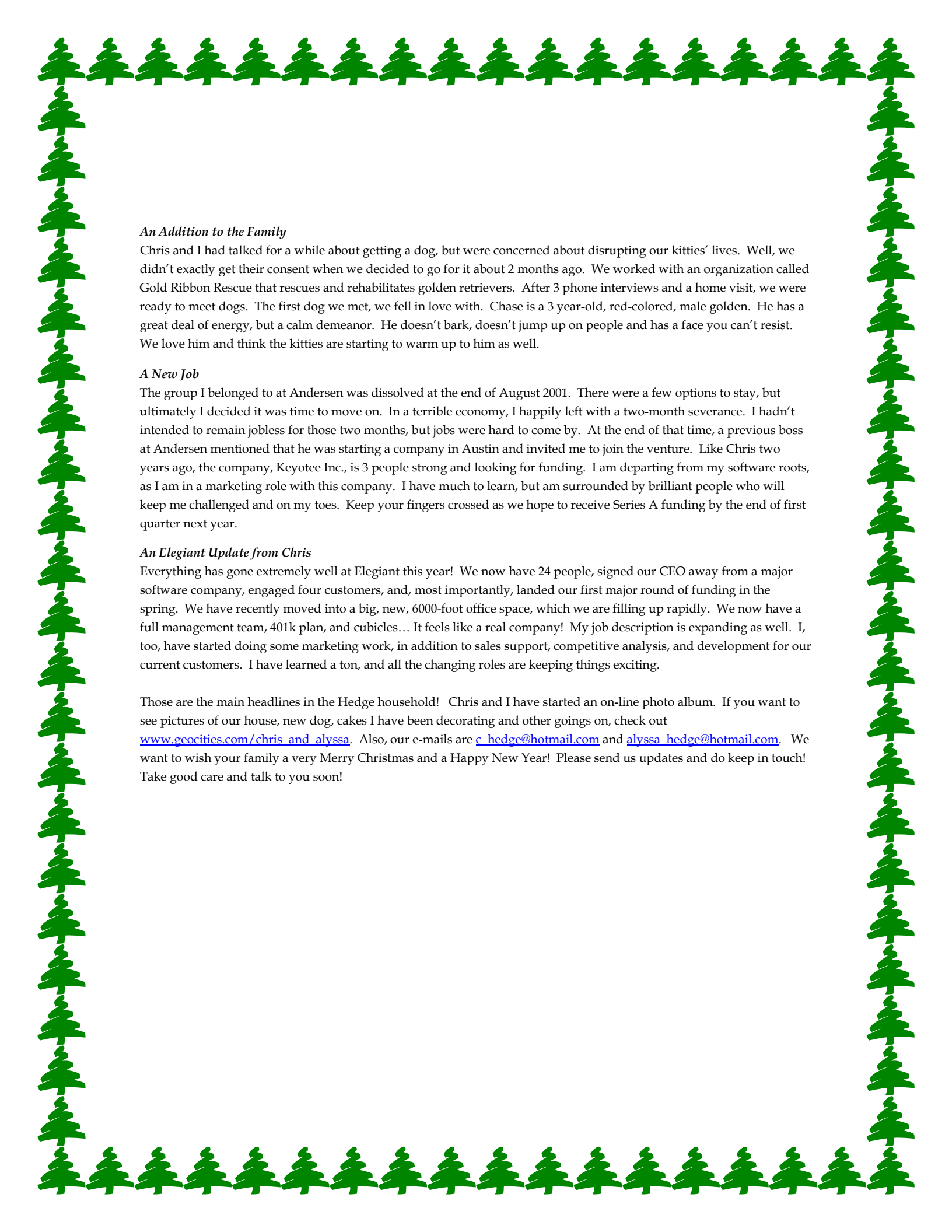
#### *Chris all broken up*

You know, when they said, "in sickness and in health", I did not realize that I would be tested so soon! On April 8<sup>th</sup> a friend and I participated in the Ride for the Roses bike ride. My husband decided to bike the Greenbelt that day. During his ride, he fell from his bike and shattered both his wrists. That day in itself was hectic because we were supposed to put an offer on a house. Chris was taken to the hospital and had titanium rods placed around both wrists to stabilize them. To add insult to injury, Chris had fallen in poison ivy as well and our air conditioning had gone out a few days before. You couldn't feel worse for a person.

We went to see a wrist specialist and discovered that Chris would need another surgery to correct problems in his wrist. Unfortunately, the surgery had to be delayed 4 weeks until the poison ivy cleared up. So Chris was "healing" knowing that he would be back to square one after the next surgery. The next surgery lasted 7 hours. They took a bone graft from his hip to use in mending the bone and inserted metal plates and screws in both wrists. One of the wrist X-rays reveals 10 screws! Chris was amazing through it all and very patient! Those first weeks after the surgeries he had very little use of his hands. It was hard for him to be so dependent on people. After months of physical rehabilitation, Chris is doing wonderful! He has done lots of road bike riding and returned to mountain biking a few weeks ago. He will always have some pain in his wrists and some days are better than others. If he pushes hard, his wrists let him know. Considering the severity of his injury, we are so blessed that he has recovered so beautifully! We have to give a special thanks to our Moms who were there for us night and day and helped us to get through it.

#### *A New Dwelling*

I mentioned that we were supposed to put an offer on the house the day of Chris' injury. Between the chaos, we did and got the house! We purchased a home in North Austin in Allendale Estates. While the neighborhood itself is about 30 years old, our house is 8 years old. It was a great compromise because I love older neighborhoods and Chris likes modern homes. The house burned down in 1991 and was rebuilt in 1993. They updated the house by raising the ceilings and added a new master bedroom and bath suite over the garage. The house is about 1950 sq. ft. It has one living room, a dining room, 4 bedrooms, and 3 full baths. We moved into the house in June of 2000 and love it. We fit perfectly in the house only having to purchase a refrigerator and a washer and dryer! We do have a lovely guest room with a private bath (I am trying to entice you....) and we love guests! Please stop by if you are ever in town and perhaps stay a night!



*An Addition to the Family*

Chris and I had talked for a while about getting a dog, but were concerned about disrupting our kitties' lives. Well, we didn't exactly get their consent when we decided to go for it about 2 months ago. We worked with an organization called Gold Ribbon Rescue that rescues and rehabilitates golden retrievers. After 3 phone interviews and a home visit, we were ready to meet dogs. The first dog we met, we fell in love with. Chase is a 3 year-old, red-colored, male golden. He has a great deal of energy, but a calm demeanor. He doesn't bark, doesn't jump up on people and has a face you can't resist. We love him and think the kitties are starting to warm up to him as well.

*A New Job*

The group I belonged to at Andersen was dissolved at the end of August 2001. There were a few options to stay, but ultimately I decided it was time to move on. In a terrible economy, I happily left with a two-month severance. I hadn't intended to remain jobless for those two months, but jobs were hard to come by. At the end of that time, a previous boss at Andersen mentioned that he was starting a company in Austin and invited me to join the venture. Like Chris two years ago, the company, Keyotee Inc., is 3 people strong and looking for funding. I am departing from my software roots, as I am in a marketing role with this company. I have much to learn, but am surrounded by brilliant people who will keep me challenged and on my toes. Keep your fingers crossed as we hope to receive Series A funding by the end of first quarter next year.

*An Elegant Update from Chris*

Everything has gone extremely well at Elegant this year! We now have 24 people, signed our CEO away from a major software company, engaged four customers, and, most importantly, landed our first major round of funding in the spring. We have recently moved into a big, new, 6000-foot office space, which we are filling up rapidly. We now have a full management team, 401k plan, and cubicles... It feels like a real company! My job description is expanding as well. I, too, have started doing some marketing work, in addition to sales support, competitive analysis, and development for our current customers. I have learned a ton, and all the changing roles are keeping things exciting.

Those are the main headlines in the Hedge household! Chris and I have started an on-line photo album. If you want to see pictures of our house, new dog, cakes I have been decorating and other goings on, check out [www.geocities.com/chris\\_and\\_alyssa](http://www.geocities.com/chris_and_alyssa). Also, our e-mails are [c\\_hedge@hotmail.com](mailto:c_hedge@hotmail.com) and [alyssa\\_hedge@hotmail.com](mailto:alyssa_hedge@hotmail.com). We want to wish your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please send us updates and do keep in touch! Take good care and talk to you soon!