

TRUE TO LIFE

An Evangelical Child and Family Agency Publication



Does God Love ECFA? YES!

Saturday, September 12th – the day dawned very wet and dreary as it had been the last four days in southeast Wisconsin. By 7:15 am, the Bike & Hike 2020 committee and volunteers began arriving at Bethesda Park in Waukesha to set-up for ECFA's 34th Annual Bike & Hike. Everyone was in their masks and rain-gear with umbrellas close at hand. The rain kept coming down, and the forecast called for 90% chance of rain all day.

At nearly 8:40 am, staff and volunteers joined hearts in prayer, (no one held hands this year due to COVID-19) and God was thanked for the day. Praise and gratefulness were verbalized for every good gift He gives us, including the rain as it nourishes us and the earth. Petitions were shared for safety for all participants and volunteers. Requests were also made for needed financial results from the efforts of the participants and donors for the life-giving options presented to those He has called ECFA to serve.

The volunteer, crossing guards were dismissed to the various positions along the Fox River Trail to aid those taking part. Then, as they left, the rain began to subside, blessing those present with an awe of God's love and care for ECFA. By the

time the volunteer crossing guards arrived at their respective stations, the rain was completely cleared away.

As participants arrived, many said, "It's not raining here, but it's raining at my house!" Someone else said, "I was not going to ride because of all the rain, but now I wish I would have brought my bike!" Jim Valentine, Premier Sponsor of the event, arrived with our delicious Cousins lunch sacks that he provided and told us the weather radar displayed a huge clearing of the rain over this area of Waukesha. Praise was given to our God.

The rain waited until we cleaned up and loaded our cars. No one got wet! The sun even came out for people to have their lunch at a park bench or picnic table. The rain started up around 1:15 in the afternoon when all participants and volunteers had left the trail and shelter after their lunch. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

"God's Perfect Vision is Best" was the theme for the event and the chosen verse was Jeremiah 29:11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." This was a fitting verse for the work of ECFA, especially this year.

There were 78 people in attendance to participate, volunteer, or both. As of the writing of this article, the funds raised are more than \$24,000, including a generous \$5,000 match given to the agency from an anonymous source. This match was meant to inspire those participating to encourage



continued on page 2

continued from page 1



additional donations to help sustain the free assistance of Pregnancy Support Services (PSS). Many of them took that challenge and raised funds. If you would like to add to this amazing total and give to this fundraising event, please mark your envelope "Bike and Hike," and it will be added to the total in October.

During lunch, Dorinne Geldon, Adoption Social Worker, told a story about the heartaches and joys of an ECFA adoptive couple. Jennie Tietjen spoke about the work with Pregnancy Support Services. It was such a joy to be able to share these stories with our attendees. Another blessing from God without the rain! Yes, God does love ECFA!



The agency is so thankful for all our sponsors and special friends of the 34th ECFA Bike & Hike.

Anonymous Friends of ECFA with \$5,000 Match

Premier Sponsor – Cousins Subs (6 sites)

2260 N Grandview, Blvd, Waukesha;
2320 E Moreland Blvd, Waukesha;
1700 Pearl St, Waukesha;
6005 W National Ave, New Berlin;
1350 Capitol Dr, Pewaukee;
17900 Bluemound Rd, Brookfield

Financial Sponsors –

Bank Five Nine - Oconomowoc
Thrivent Financial
Walmart – New Berlin

Major Prize Sponsors –

Grady, Hayes, Neary, LLC
Attorneys at Law - Waukesha
My Pillow - Minnesota
Waukesha State Bank
Friends of ECFA

Prize Sponsors –

Costco - Pewaukee
Culver's - Waukesha, W Sunset Dr
Friends of ECFA
Sam's Club - Waukesha

Winners & Prizes

1st – Kathy Misany – Waukesha State Bank - from "the Bank of Friendly Service" with branches in the 5-county area – Prize include: 4 Platinum Marcus Movie passes, \$25 Buffalo Wild Wings gift card, \$25 Texas Roadhouse Gift Card, 4 Culvers Custard Tokens, thermal mug, "pig" hand exerciser, grocery bag, and personal hand sanitizer

2nd – David & Cheryl Dable - \$100 Olive Garden gift card from Grady, Hayes & Neary, LLC

3rd – David Cottrill - \$100 Chili's gift card from Friends of ECFA

Highest number of sponsors – Linda Carlson - 2 MY Pillows - Mike Lindell of Minnesota

New person prize drawing – Todd Benton - 2 MY Pillows - Mike Lindell of Minnesota

Raising over \$400 in pledges – Cousins Subs 20-piece Party Box from participating Cousins valued at \$60 for 10 Winners: **Linda Carlson, Farrell Family, Catherine Faulls, Sue Henriksen, Steve & Sue Imhoff, Bill & Ruthann Johnson, Dino Misany, Carol Yule; two declined their gifts**

2020 Bike & Hike Volunteers:

Bike & Hike Committee: Brian & Nancy Farrell, Ron & Jan Baer, Jennie Tietjen

Volunteer Coordinator: Nancy Farrell

Crossing Guards: Ron Baer, Cathy Bogdanovich, Ruth Farrell, Dorinne Geldon, Micah Knapp, Jim, Meredith, Hannah, Rebecca, & Solomon Libbey, Jerry & Micki Schmitz, & Dave Tietjen

Fox River Turn-Around Hosts: Wally & Anita Julius

MC & Greeter: Jennie Tietjen

Trail On/Off Tracker & Greeter: Sue Carlson

Registration Table Workers: Jamie Olson & Leah Valentine

Prize drawing station & Floater: Becca Schwartz

T-shirt sorting: Micki Schmitz

Shelter, Sign Set-Up & Take Down: The Farrell family, Micah Knapp, Dave & Jennie Tietjen

Trail Runner: Brian Farrell

Bike Check-Up Station: John Misany

Food Prep: Jim Valentine & Becca Schwartz

Photographer & Floater: Sean Schwartz

Nurse: Sue Kusnierz

Sanctity of
Human Life

National
Sanctity of
Human Life
Sunday 1/17/21



ECFA and Unaffiliated Eligible Donor Choice Option #22880

With the fall season upon us, United Way Giving Campaigns are being held with many businesses.



Remember, ECFA does not receive annual program funding from United Way. We only receive funds gifted through the United Way Donor Choice program. If your business conducts a United Way Giving campaign, please consider the ECFA Donor Choice Option #22880. Also, some employers have a "matching gift" program. Check with your HR department. Thank you to all who take part with United Way Giving campaigns through their place of work. During FY 2020, ECFA was gifted \$12,984 through 33 generous donors. Thank you, again!

As the nation moves into the 48th year since Roe V. Wade, the case that legalized abortion in America, many hearts continue to ache and grieve the unspeakable loss of life. If you would like to have Jennie Tietjen or someone from the agency come to your church or group for a brief word or provide literature for that Sunday, please contact jenniet@ecfawisc.org or 262-789-1881.

amazonsmile

The check of \$48.43 arrived from Amazon Smile on August 20th for the third quarter of 2020. The third quarter indicated more than a 150% increase over the previous two quarters combined.

If you are an Amazon.com customer, please choose "**Evangelical Child & Family Agency**" as your favorite charity in the AmazonSmile program. They will donate ½% of your purchase to ECFA of Wisconsin. This does not cost you anything but can make a difference for ECFA. When you shop, make sure your browser is at:

Make sure your browser is:

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Evangelical Child & Family Agency is seeking a Licensed (WI) Master's Level Social Services Supervisor.

Responsibilities include overseeing ECFA's Adoption and Pregnancy Support Services programs, marketing and community outreach, collaboration, and some case management duties.

Qualifications include a master's degree in Social Work, a Wisconsin social work license, two plus years of experience, and active participation in an evangelical Christian congregation.

To apply, qualified candidates should send a cover letter and current resumé to Wendy Payne, Director of Professional Services at wendyp@evancfa.org.

ECFA 3rd Benefit Auction is Pivoting and Going Virtual!



Pivoting is the word used by many organizations to describe this year in many respects. So, it is no surprise, that ECFA staff and volunteers have decided to "pivot" and go "virtual" for the 3rd Benefit Auction! There are positives for this evening of change! Anyone can be a participant and join in on the fun and support the mission of ECFA from the comfort of their own phone, computer, and home. You do not even need to live in Wisconsin. There are no tickets to purchase to attend. There is no charge to participate! The best part of going virtual is that it gives more people an opportunity to bid on Auction items to benefit the pro-life and family ministry of ECFA.

Of course, there are negatives too, such as not enjoying being together at the Sheraton in Brookfield, having those delicious appetizers, and seeing all the wonderful donated items in person at the lovely venue. As we discover and learn to live with this virus, we will prayerfully anticipate that in the fall of 2021, normalcy will return, and we will be able to enjoy the 4th ECFA Benefit Auction...in person.

Donations are still needed for the Benefit Auction. Would you partner with us by giving an item with a minimum retail value of \$50 or by donating an amount of cash so we may purchase items for this event? If you feel called to help, contact Jennie at 262-789-1881. All items of monetary gifts need to be received no later than November 2nd.

ECFA has a \$5,000 matching grant for funds raised for the clients we serve! Mark your calendars by perusing, bidding on, and purchasing items at the ECFA Benefit Auction. Your support matters in providing life-giving options to moms, dads, and families. We are confident God will continue to bless as we endeavor to host our first "virtual" Auction.

If you are unable to participate and would like to support this event, please mark your green ECFA envelope, AUCTION Matching Grant.

Registration Opens Sunday, November 15th at 12 noon*
Registration and Browsing of Auction items will be visible through the link on the ECFA website! No Bidding yet! It just takes a few minutes to register!
<https://www.ecfawisc.org/benefit-auction2020>
Peruse the catalog of items at your leisure before the bidding begins on 11.19.20.

Auction Items are Available for Bidding, Thursday, November 19th at 12 noon*
The fun starts! Remember... a credit card must be entered at this time to place a bid.
Nothing will be charged to your credit card unless you win the item.

Auction Closes on Friday, November 20th at 8:30 pm*
Auction bidding closes at 8:30 pm sharp.
Winners will be contacted to arrange delivery of their items.

To Register:

1. Access the event website from ECFA's website on 11.15.20 at 12 noon
<https://www.ecfawisc.org/benefit-auction2020>
2. Click "Register to Participate" Link
3. You will be taken to GiveSmart website to "Create an Account"
4. Check the Terms and Conditions Box
5. Check the Text Messages box (for bids, purchases and event announcements)
6. Click "Create My GiveSmart Account"

If you need assistance with your Auction registration call 262-789-1881, if prompted, press "2" to speak with someone personally

A card for easy reference is enclosed for your convenience.

***Central Standard Time (CST)**



Flexible and Faithful

The year 2020 will forever be known as the “Year of the Pandemic.” Not an area in our economy, a state in our nation, or a region in our world has been able to escape its impact. Even our modest ECFA office has undergone change. Masks are required for guests and employees, extra cleaning is a regular routine, and working from home is frequently practiced by staff.

Work with our Pregnancy Support Services (PSS) clients has been affected. Video calls, porch drop-offs, and text messages have become the norm. Technology has supported this important aspect of our work, but as humans, we crave contact. With colder weather descending on our area, more visits may be virtual. The items that donors give to our Baby Blessings Boutique have been priceless in helping our clients. Also, gift cards have been donated to this program to help clients. What a blessing!

Families involved with the Agency in the adoption program have also faced significant challenges. There are eight families currently in the “waiting stage” for a referral to adopt internationally, their forever child. Travel, of course, has been banned. For these eager parents to be forced to pause, after completing paperwork, finishing home studies, and dreaming dreams, has been disappointing and even discouraging.

For those families who have already returned home from overseas with their child, the required “post placement” visits, which reflect the professional standards of our ministry, have added another layer of time and work. These visits were made through video conferencing, but before the mandated report could be submitted to our partner agencies, an “in home” official visit needed to be completed. This has added to the strain in delay for all involved.

Your prayers for these dear families and all our clients who God has entrusted to us is greatly valued. These times require great resilience, creativity, and thoughtfulness. But all these qualities must serve the commitment to the mission which the Lord has called ECFA to carry out. “Flexible and Faithful” is not an official motto under consideration, but it surely describes the viewpoint of our staff.

Thank you so very much for your ongoing support of the mission, the staff, and the clients of ECFA. Because of your generosity, the impact on the lives we touch is significant for eternity.

Needed items for PSS and the Baby Blessings Boutique:

- Diapers—size 4,5,6
- Dr. Brown Bottles-any size
- Baby Lotion, Diaper Ointment
- Baby Towels & Washcloths
- Clothes - 9 months-24 months
summer or winter—especially boys
(9-12 months size low) some girls needed



- Pullups—any size
- Bibs-baby & toddler
- Books for Babies & Toddlers
- Pacifiers



us on



ECFA has two pages on the social media networking site.
Evangelical Child & Family Agency of Wisconsin and
Pregnancy Support Services of ECFA serving SE Wisconsin.

News is posted from the office. We are also trying to “drive more people” to our pages. Please “Like” and “Share” them with friends and family who would like to hear about ECFA’s pro-life efforts.

Milwaukee LIFECHAIN Sunday, October 4th

Many people came out to support LIFE on the beautiful, sunny afternoon at the five different locations in the greater Milwaukee area.



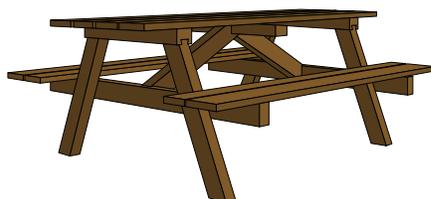
Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Pewaukee

What a joy for Jennie Tietjen to share the ministry of ECFA at Lamb of God Church on Sunday morning, October 4th. Following her presentation, Pastor Bruce Harmann asked the children to come up and pray for the women and babies the agency serves. Priceless!



Adoption Picnic

It is no surprise, but the ECFA Second Annual Adoption Picnic planned for Sunday, August 23, 2020, was canceled due to COVID-19 and a low RSVP response. Let's try again in August 2021! Watch the ECFA newsletters for more information.



The "ECFA Heartbeat" is a blast email to friends and family of ECFA that began on September 4th. The hope is that this rapid communication between you and the agency will inform you quickly of our news, joys, or needs. Thank you for standing with us for LIFE!

If you would like to receive the ECFA Heartbeat, send an email to: info@ecfawisc.org with your name and address.



WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

There is a continual outpouring of blessings received by this ministry.
As a result, there are many individuals to be grateful for in each quarterly newsletter.
"I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of the wonders." Psalm 9:1

♥ Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers for assembling a mailing in their homes or here at the office.

Cathy Bogdanovich	Jerry & Micki Schmitz
Annette Cernohous	Dave Tietjen
Nancy Farrell	Tina Wienss
Sharon Fuller	Judy Zwitter
Hannah Nelson	

Serving at Our Office:

♥ Auction Committee members working on the "Virtual Auction" items: Darleen Snyder, Sharon Fuller, Micki Schmitz, Nancy Roets, Annette Cernohous

Pregnancy Support Services/Baby Blessings Boutique:

- ♥ Baby diapers from Annette Cernohous
- ♥ Baby bottles, nursing kit, diapers, onesies, baby gowns and layettes from an anonymous donor
- ♥ A variety of gift cards for our clients' needs from Bonnie Martin, Darleen Snyder, & the Cornerstone Life Group at Spring Creek Church
- ♥ Many baby clothes, outfits, sweaters, pants, pajamas, socks, booties, soft blankets, baby toy, & lotion for moms from Anita Wonder
- ♥ Many bins of diapers, baby clothes, toys, shoes, blankets and diaper bag from an anonymous donor
- ♥ Diapers, baby wipes and Dr. Brown's baby bottles from Lori Cottrill
- ♥ Baby washcloths and boy & girl baby outfits from an anonymous donor
- ♥ Crocheted baby afghans from Sharon Schumacher
- ♥ Diapers, wipes, boy and girl pants with onesies from Seasoned Salt Seniors at Grace Community Church
- ♥ Many ladies' socks, adult coloring book, wipes holders, manicure set, ladies' devotional from anonymous donor

Memorials

In loving memory of:
Longtime friend & father figure,
Dennis Drinkwine
From: Brian & Kristina Schneider

In loving memory of:
My husband, Steven Leitner
From: Mary Leitner

In loving memory of:
Our daughter-in-law, Corinne Linsmeyer
From: William & Mary Dixon

In loving memory of:
My mother, Elda Millane
From: Janet Certalic

In loving memory of:
Our spiritual parents for many years,
Gerry & Marianne Miller
From: Otto & Diane Gaertner

In loving memory of:
My husband, Alex Muza
From: Betty Muza

In loving memory of:
Sarah Troxell, Husband Gary Troxell,
Michelle Holyfield, Mark & Lynn Huenink, Kristie Redemann, John & Ann Schaap,
Lisa Verrggo, Lauri Webster

In loving memory of:
My dear husband, Earl
From: Margo Whitcomb

Tributes

In honor of:
My son, Anthony Leitner
From: Mary Leitner

Is it Time to Make Your Will?

You need no longer delay this critical matter. Call 262-789-1881 to request our workbook "Preparing a Christian Will." It will guide you through the process to gathering the information that is needed by your attorney to draft your personal document.

There is no charge or obligation.

Preparing
A Christian
Will



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**3rd Annual ECFA Benefit Auction,
on November 20th, - GOING VIRTUAL**
More information INSIDE

National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 17, 2021
Pray to end abortion

37th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, May 1, 2021, 9 am
with Point of Grace, Client Testimonies and more!
Marriott Milwaukee West, W231N1600 Corporate Court, Waukesha

For information about these events, contact Sue at the office
262.789.1881 or suec@ecfawisc.org

New Look to the ECFA FY2020 Annual Report – Inside