



True to Life

An Evangelical Child and Family Agency Publication

SPRING 2019



You Are Invited!

I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me. Revelation 3:8



This year's Anniversary Dinner will feature Janet Parshall, author, Wisconsin native, and the host of the nationally-syndicated program, "In the Market with Janet Parshall." Her program is carried on more than

800 stations across the country. Janet has been the recipient of numerous awards and serves on the boards of several national organizations. She is also on the Board of Reference of the Evangelical Child and Family Agency.

Janet has been consistently profiled as one of the top 100 "talkers" in *Talkers* magazine, the leading trade publication of the talk industry. Throughout her career as a radio and television commentator and devoted advocate for the family, Janet speaks nationwide on public policy issues that impact family preservation and promotion.

The evening will also feature music from Pastor Dan Forness, Worship Pastor at Spring Creek Church in Pewaukee. He is passionate about leading the church to worship Jesus authentically and deeply. His God-given talents will touch your heart and soul.



Ed Plagemann, an attorney practicing law in Milwaukee and Racine and former member of both the ECFA Wisconsin Task Force and Advisory Council, will be the evening's emcee.

This year's anniversary celebration is a unique blending of the past with the future.

Special invitations were sent to the ECFA Task Force, formed in 1982. This group of committed Christians recognized the need to provide pregnancy services to those women and men who found themselves in a difficult or unplanned pregnancy. From their vision came ECFA of Wisconsin. Invitations also were sent to former Wisconsin Directors. The foundation laid by them has enabled the ministry to flourish. Recognition will be expressed to those in attendance.

The evening would not be complete without hearing compelling stories from some of the ECFA clients.

During the program, an opportunity will be given to share in the ministry of ECFA. A very generous donor is offering a matching gift up to \$15,000 for donations or sponsorships received. Seating is for tables of 10; table and other sponsorships are available.

For information, please go to www.ecfawisc.org or call Sue at 262.789.1881.

Friday, May 17th • Doors Open at 6 pm - Dinner at 6:30 • Tickets: \$20/person • RSVP: 5.10.19
Marriott Milwaukee West Hotel • W231N1600 Corporate Ct. • Waukesha, WI 53186

An Evening to Say “Thanks”

Volunteers, staff, clients, family, and friends came out to attend the Milwaukee Admirals vs Rockford Ice Hogs game on Friday, March 22nd at Panther Arena. For the nearly 100 friends of ECFA, it was a thrilling game to watch. The Admirals emerged victorious 4 to 2!



Through the graciousness of the Jane Pettit Foundation and the Milwaukee Admirals, the Agency’s donated seats had an excellent view of the hockey action. ECFA also donated small treats as prizes. Names, of those in attendance, were drawn and the yummy treats handed out to them. This made for more fun for all ages during the evening.



Many antics were presented between periods. These included a “human bowling ball slingshot,” a



“blimp” dropping valuable coupons to spectators, and “on camera” trivia games with select fans in the stands. If you were part of the first 2,500 guests for the evening, you received a Milwaukee Admiral’s Zamboni Bank, a unique souvenir of the evening, courtesy of North Shore Bank.

The attendance at this event nearly doubled from last year. Plans are already underway with the Admirals for another ECFA game night in March of next year!



To be eligible for an “invite” to the Milwaukee Admirals or Brewer Buddies games with ECFA, you must be on the “volunteer team” at/for the agency or a participant in the Bike & Hike event. We also offer tickets to some of our past adoption or PSS clients. Family and friends of these may also be included. Won’t you consider being a part of the volunteer team here at ECFA?

Reconfiguration of ECFA Office

With the addition of a full-time employee, we needed to rearrange the office space at 1617 South 124th Street. A fresh coat of paint, some used office furniture and equipment, along with patience by staff has turned out to be a user-friendly, work environment for staff and volunteers.



We have always had an open invitation for you to stop in to see our lovely and quaint office building, and now, we have given you another reason. Come see our revived office space and of course, meet our staff.

500!

We did it! 500 Adoptions! What a remarkable milestone! God's gracious abundance has been seen at ECFA all this past year. We give Him all the glory and praise!

In January 2019, we celebrated with the "Johnson" family, their adoption of a sibling group of four. Wait...the story gets better. They are two sets of twins born **exactly** one year apart! True story! God not only saw fit for ECFA to reach our 500th adoption, but to give us number 501, 502, and 503 at the same time. We had been waiting for more than six months for that 500th adoption to occur. Then, just a couple of weeks into 2019, He showered us with a quadruple blessing! God's faithfulness to our agency and mission is ever-present.

We want to thank you, the "Johnson" family, for choosing our agency to facilitate your interstate adoption. We want to thank you, our faithful supporters, for your prayers, financial contributions, and volunteer hours. May God continue to be gracious in His provisions for ECFA as we press on toward 600 adoptions!



NEW Employee at ECFA



ECFA is happy to announce that Rachel Aviles will be joining the Pregnancy Support Services (PSS) program as a full-time social worker on April 24th. Rachel received her MSW degree from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and is currently a licensed Advanced Practice Social Worker. Rachel related that, "I am so thankful for the opportunity to continue my social work career at such a wonderful organization." Rachel completed her BSW internship at ECFA in 2012. She is excited to return to the PSS program.

Rachel currently lives in East Troy, WI with her husband, Israel. They attend Mt. Zion Christian Church where they grew up and currently volunteer as youth leaders. Rachel's favorite hobby is baking. She loves taking every opportunity presented to make homemade treats.

Welcome Rachel, we are so excited to have you part of the ECFA team!

Serving Homeless Clients through Partnerships

Fourteen...that is the number of homeless clients we have served in the past year - each one with their own story and reasons for their circumstance in life. Some have found short-term housing or are using temporary shelters. Others continue to wander or couch surf with family and friends. All of them in unplanned pregnancies with nowhere to go...desperate.



Southeastern Wisconsin is lacking housing resources for pregnant women and children. ECFA has made a focused effort to connect with private housing programs specifically focused on pregnant mothers. We have been blessed to connect with some wonderful community organizations combatting the problem of homelessness.

In the winter of 2019, we connected with a client who called and was sleeping in her car. We searched and together, with the client, we were able to find **Family Promise** of Waukesha. This organization supplies a temporary place to stay until a family of up to six children gets back on their feet. As a not-for-profit agency, part of their mission is to give some time needed to apply for more permanent housing.

Next, we found **New Beginnings** of Milwaukee where this client ultimately was accepted. New Beginnings is a long-term, up to four-year housing program, for first-time mothers, that provides a

clear path for her to have a career and financial stability through advanced schooling.

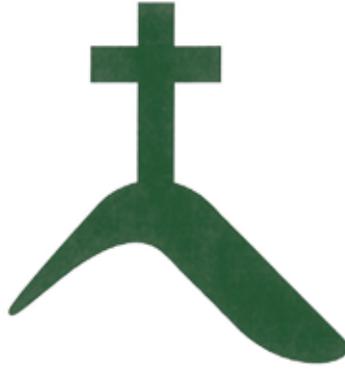
Recently, we connected with a newer organization that opened just six months ago called **Gerard's Embrace** in East Troy. They are a safe home or refuge for expectant moms and their babies. We are excited to partner with them and have started to refer clients their way.

Sometimes, our clients struggle with substance abuse leading to instability and vulnerability in all aspects of their lives and in the lives of their unborn children. Recently, one of our clients was accepted to the **Cedar House** in Fort Atkinson. This is part of the Dave Gallup Foundation that supports women in sober living. Our client has found new stability and sobriety in their programming that keeps her and her baby safe. These are just a few of the community connections we are privileged to partner with.

There are so many things a pregnant woman can face, but homelessness is perhaps the biggest obstacle. How can we help a woman to decide about pregnancy if she doesn't even know where she will sleep every night? Thank you to all these wonderful organizations that partner with us and our clients to help them find a safe place to sleep and more!



Both pictures on this page are stock photos



New Testament Church
10201 West Bradley Road
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224

As ECFA anticipates celebrating 35 years of serving Southeast Wisconsin through its programs of adoption and pregnancy services, one of the churches who has supported us from the beginning is New Testament Church of Milwaukee. This church began as a home Bible study in 1980, with Pastor Julius Malone. He continues to serve as Senior Pastor of this thriving church at the north end of Milwaukee.

In 1982, the New Testament Church sent Antone Hays, a member of their church, to join the ECFA Task Force. This Task Force of

committed Christians recognized the need to provide pregnancy services to those women and men who found themselves in a difficult or unplanned pregnancy. As the years have flown by, the church has faithfully supported the mission of ECFA.

Through reviews of the agency by the Missions Committee, the faithful members of New Testament have embraced ECFA through prayer, monthly financial gifts, and referring to us those in need of our services. Sister Yvonne Hopgood, Missions Committee co-chair, shared, “We support ECFA because they are mission focused - well-rounded in their work in social issues within the community and their work with adoption. I wish more churches would be involved in supporting them and other crucial ministries within the greater Milwaukee area.”

We are so thankful for church partnerships such as New Testament Church. For more information about this wonderful group of believers, contact them at 414-364-1690 or www.newtchurch.org/

UNPLANNED – The Movie

As a pro-life agency, we recommend you consider viewing the movie, *Unplanned*. The movie is about Abby Johnson, one of the youngest Planned Parenthood directors in the nation. Abby Johnson was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counseled countless women on their reproductive choices. Her passion surrounding a woman’s right to choose led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in.

When she was asked to assist in an abortion at thirteen weeks gestation, she saw something that changed everything for her. Consequently, she resigned as the director of Planned Parenthood and became a pro-life activist. Though a stark and graphic portrayal of the abortion industry, the film has a powerful and uplifting message needed in our world today.

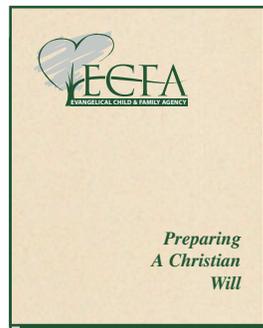


ECFA Illinois Building Update

Progress is being made in the reconstruction of our 1530 N. Main Street, Wheaton building. The roof has been rebuilt, and new sky lights are in place. The workmen have completed the interior demolition and are preparing for the installation of new windows, plumbing, electrical configuration, and the HVAC system.

Our architect has completed architectural plans for the reconstruction of the interior of the building. We have submitted the plans to the City of Wheaton where they will review them to ensure compliance with all current building codes and requirements. If there are no changes from the Building Department, we are hoping that the restoration will be finished sometime in the summer.

Once we are able to return to our building, we will plan an open house event to celebrate our homecoming! We will keep you informed of the progress.



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.

ECFA Wish List

- **Preemie clothes for little girls**
- **Newborn and 0-3 months clothing for girls and boys**
- **Experienced painter for back-door deck and picnic table**
- **Experience painter for front-door steps**

New Wheels for ECFA

Early this year, with the funds from the Inaugural Benefit Auction, the generous gifts of our donors, & the sale of our two used vehicles, God blessed ECFA with the purchase of two new 2018 Ford Escapes. Pictured are some of the staff with our new cars.





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 who assembled mailings for the agency on January 29th & March 27th.

Martha Andrade & Edgar	Anita Julius
Sally Boya	Beverly Kuntzsch
Barb Chernouski	Sue Kusnierz
Joyce Dankert	Nancy Roets
Charlene Duranceau	Jane Runnels
Ruth Engelhardt	Micki Schmitz
Sharon Fuller	Jim Valentine
Friend of ECFA	Margo Whitcomb
Pamela Grande	Tina Wienss
Carol Honeyager	Carol Yule
BJ James	Judy Zwitter

Pregnancy Support for our Baby Blessings Boutique:

- ♥ Bibs, blankets, bottles & nipples, breast pump, pads & milk storage bags, burp cloths, parenting books, cups, spoons sets, many diapers & wipes, formula & cereal, hats & scarves, many outfits, onesies, night lights, ointments, lotions, shampoos, pacifiers & teethers, crib sheets, sleepers, snowsuits, socks & shoes, sponges, thermometer, towels & washcloths, toys, books & stuffed animals from the Holy Apostles Parish baby shower.
- ♥ Our regular Thursday afternoon volunteers Sharon Fuller and Jane Runnels. Keeping it in order.
- ♥ Baby wash, lotion, powder, baby oil, Desitin & baby formula from Donald & Gloria.
- ♥ Baby sleepers and onesies from Linda Ristic.
- ♥ Baby socks, onesies, jackets, snow suit, pajamas, outfits & healthcare kit from Crossroads Church of God.
- ♥ Knit baby hats & mittens, onesies, outfits & socks from Mary Ellen Burbey.
- ♥ Baby activity mat, maternity support, nursing pillow, baby sling, diapers, outfits, toys and portable chair from Jenni Kleeberger.
- ♥ Baby shampoo & powder, bibs, sippy cups, fresh food feeder, wipes, thermometer, wash cloths, rattle, pacifiers, socks, breast milk bags, cap & mittens from Karen Griffith.
- ♥ Cans of baby formula from Pastor Ross & Melissa Layne.
- ♥ Nice onesie shirts that showed up in the mail from an annual anonymous donor.
- ♥ Baby outfits from Annette Cernohous.
- ♥ Baby onesies and glue sticks for our bulk mailings from Margo Whitcomb.
- ♥ Baby blanket, sleepers, outfit, onesies, booties, diapers, wipes, Desitin, pacifiers, wash cloth, spoons, shampoo & wash, bibs, bottles & knit caps from The Presbyterian Women of Kettle Moraine United Presbyterian Church.
- ♥ Burp cloths, sleepers, blankets, outfits, handmade sweaters & hats from Sue Armstrong.

Miscellaneous Gifts:

- ♥ Refreshing lemonade for our mail volunteers from Sally Boya.
- ♥ Delightful photography at the March Admirals game by Dennis Drinkwine.
- ♥ IPASS for our agency cars traveling to IL from James & Leah Valentine.
- ♥ Living room & bedroom furniture, & kids crafts donated by Steven & Brenda Kugler and Phil & Crystal Schultz. This was shared with a grateful client and her family.

Memorials

- ♥ In loving memory of:
Carl Bergstrom, loving dad, grandpa
From: Dave & Jennie Tietjen
- ♥ In loving memory of: John Bousman, dear friend
From: Mike & Linda Oberbrunner
- ♥ In loving memory of:
Henry Cruz, beloved father of Dave & Patti Cruz
From: Mike & Linda Oberbrunner
- ♥ In loving memory of:
Richard Dean, Alycia Johnson's grandfather
From: The Imhoff Family and Dave & Jennie Tietjen
- ♥ In loving memory of: Jane Ebert, Treasured matriarch of the Ebert's Greenhouse Village Family
From: Mike & Linda Oberbrunner
- ♥ In loving memory of: Betty Jane McLean, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother
From: Dave & Jennie Tietjen
- ♥ In loving memory of: Robert "Bob" McNeill, for his service to orphans in China
From: Dave & Jennie Tietjen
- ♥ In loving memory of: Janice Osterkorn, precious friend, mom and grandma of many
From: Mike & Linda Oberbrunner
- ♥ In loving memory of: Elsie Weeks, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother
From: Dave & Jennie Tietjen
- ♥ In loving memory of: Dr. Holland Harpster Wonder, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather
From: The Norbert Chase Family
Barbara Chase, Charles & Debbie Chase,
Tim & Deb Allison, Ron & Denise Zaugg
Arlen & Shirley Delp
Caecilia Huang
Howard & Sylvia Myers
Janice Phillipson
Paul & Gwen Reuben
Ken & Nettie Saydel
Dave & Jennie Tietjen



Evangelical Child
& Family Agency
1617 South 124th Street
New Berlin, WI 53151

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New Berlin, WI
Permit No. 315

Return Service Requested

place label here

Mark Your Calendars for 2019

35th Anniversary Celebration Banquet, Friday, May 17th

Doors open at 6 pm, Dinner at 6:30

Marriott Milwaukee West, W231N1600 Corporate Court., Waukesha



Milwaukee Brewers Buddies Game vs. Atlanta Braves

Tuesday, July 16th 7:10 pm

Check your email for invitation and information from Sue in the near future

33rd Annual Bike & Hike Fundraiser, Supporting Moms, Dads, & Babies

Saturday, September 7th at 9 am, on the
Glacial Drumlin State Trail at the Bethesda Park Shelter



2nd Annual ECFA Benefit Auction, on November 22nd

Doors open at 6 pm at Sheraton 375 S Moreland Rd, Brookfield

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