



Fall 2011

TRUE TO LIFE

A publication of Evangelical Child & Family Agency

A Season of Change

At ECFA, we have gone through a season of change as our long standing state-funded foster care program has come to an end. Early this year, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act, which went into effect on June 1st.

At that time, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) informed us that to continue contracting with them in placing state wards into our foster care program would require licensing non-evangelical individuals and families, including civil union couples.

We informed DCFS that we strongly desired to continue caring for state wards. However, we would uphold our policy and practice to carry out the mission of ECFA with evangelical staff and board members, and foster and adoptive families.

On September 7th, DCFS informed us that they would no longer contract with ECFA for foster care services.

The 242 children that we had in care were transitioned to two other child welfare agencies on September 30th. While we were greatly disappointed and disagreed with DCFS's decision, we worked cooperatively with Children's Home & Aid Society of Illinois and the Youth Service Bureau of the Illinois Valley to ensure a smooth transition for all concerned.

Thankfully, all of our children were able to remain with their same foster families. Also, most of our caseworkers transferred to the other agencies and maintained their caseloads.

ECFA is continuing its pro-life ministry of providing pregnancy support services, domestic and international adoption, intact family

services, individual and family counseling, and safe families (private foster care)

services. Our mission includes placing children in evangelical Christian homes and offering social services from a Biblical perspective.

Most of our programs are partially or completely dependent on private donations. There are many volunteer opportunities for service at our agency as well. Please contact Jennie Tietjen, Development and Volunteer Coordinator, at 630/653-6400 extension 214 for information about how you can become a part of the vital ministry of ECFA.



Stay Informed!

The ECFA Connection, our blog, is the daily story of ECFA - online! (www.evanca.wordpress.com) Read stories about our joys and challenges as we move into this new season of ministry.

Did you know we have a **Facebook** page? We do! You can also sign up to receive email with information about what is happening around the agency.



Check out the front page of our website www.evanca.org. In the upper right corner click on a link to register your email address. In the lower right, click on the words Blog or Facebook to get connected!



Important Happenings

**Auction
October 28**

**Christmas Brunch
and Baby Shower
December 3**

**Bowl Classic
February 11, 2012**

All correspondence should be sent to:

Evangelical Child & Family Agency
1530 N. Main St.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Phone: (630) 653-6400
Fax: (630) 653-6490
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E-Mail: mail@evancfa.org
Web Site: www.evancfa.org

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YES! YES^{OR} NO? NO!

The Evangelical Child and Family Agency
invites you to attend

2011 Annual Benefit Auction

on Friday, October 28, 2011

hosted at
Abbington Banquets
3S002 Route 53
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

confirm your attendance
\$35 per person or \$350 per table
consider your participation

Doors open & Silent Auction at 5:30 pm.

Dinner served at 6:30.

Silent Auction ends at 7:55 pm.

Live Auction begins at 8:00 pm.

Go to www.evancfa.org beginning October 24th for an advance listing of items available at the auction

Our sincere thanks for all your support

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give...for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

There is still time to register!

YES!

Call by Thursday, October 27th † Jennie at 630-653-6400

YES!

We look forward to visiting with friends and supporters of ECFA.

Christmas Brunch & Baby Shower



*Saturday, December 3, 2011
10:30am ~ \$20.00 / person
Schaumburg Marriott
50 N. Martingale Road
Schaumburg, IL*



*Everyone is invited to share the spirit of
Christmas by bringing an unwrapped baby gift
for the ECFA Rattles & Things Closet*

Contact Bev Stotz at 847/541-2019

The purpose of the auxiliary is to promote interest in and support for ECFA. We are seeking dedicated Christian men & women who are willing to enrich ECFA through prayer, financial assistance, and service.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

Happy Trails To You was the theme of our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch held on Saturday, August 27th. City-slickers (volunteers) came from all over to enjoy the Grass Hoppers (a father and 12 yr old daughter team) playing traditional bluegrass fiddle and banjo tunes and the Kent Rose Duo. They favored us with many western and cowboy favorites. The “Chuck Wagon” was hot and yummy! Of course it was prepared and served by ECFA staff. Call and become a volunteer for ECFA and you can have fun like this too! ECFA needs you!

Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2011

<i>Beth Ciszek</i>	PSS Picnic in the Park
<i>Carol DeVries</i>	Volunteer Receptionist
<i>Judie Elenbaas</i>	CPR and First Aid Trainer
<i>Ron Elenbaas</i>	Trucking our recycled paper
<i>Stephanie Geeve</i>	PSS Picnic in the Park
<i>Laura Harland</i>	Telephone Volunteer
<i>Warren & Peggy Hopeman</i> ...	Mailing Volunteers
<i>Claire Jaros</i>	Work with Development, Auction
<i>Dr. Michael Love</i>	ECFA Board Member
<i>Savannah Schulz</i>	Tag Day Volunteer



Life.A.Thon

This year's successful Life-A-Thon included a 5K race in addition to our fun walk and bike ride. 92 participants and volunteers made this a family affair by including their children as well as 9 dogs. It was a perfect day on the trails of Herrick Lake and Danada Forest Preserve. Faith Covenant Church was the gathering spot for refreshments for our participants as well as homebaked doggie treats.

Thanks to a generous donor, we were blessed with a \$1 match for every \$2 raised up to \$5,000, making it possible to raise more than \$16,000 for our life affirming ministries. PTL!

Big Thanks go to our sponsoring business which included: GNC, Chick-fil-A, Jamba Juice, Panera Bread, all located in Danada-Wheaton, Meijer's in Bloomingdale and Dick Pond Athletics, Inc.



ILLINOIS MEMORIALS

Roger Lundine

From: Ms. Florence Brown
Mrs. Miriam Seaholm

Paul Everding

From: Mr. and Mrs. Dwain Marquette

Foster Care Fun Fair

ECFA promised to return to Arabian Knights Farm in Willowbrook for our annual Fun Fair, and we did! Toddlers to teens, along with their families and friends enjoyed a beautiful fall day visiting the petting zoo, riding the ponies, or trying out line dancing in the barn.

In addition to those activities, there were games to be played to earn tickets that could be redeemed for prizes. We are grateful to the organizations and individuals who

donate toys and gift cards that make this day memorable for these children. No one goes home empty handed from this fun day.

Our thanks go out to staff, family and friends of ECFA who volunteered their time and support to this special event for our foster children and their families.



If you wish to remember a relative or friend with a Tribute or Memorial, just send the coupon below to ECFA. A letter will be sent to the person you indicate and your gift will be listed in the next issue of True to Life.

My Name _____ Amount of Gift _____

My Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Memorial or Tribute to _____ Occasion _____

Send Card and Letter To _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION — Send with gift to: ECFA, 1530 N. Main Street, Wheaton, IL 60187