

SANCTUS REAL CONCERT

Hundreds gathered at Avenue Christian Church for an inspiring night of music and hope! The energy was electric as Roy Patterson from Moody Radio introduced the life-affirming work of ECFA's Adoption, Pregnancy Support, Counseling, and Intact Family Services programs.



Sanctus Real filled the church with an unforgettable performance. This event was a huge success in introducing new people to ECFA!

Welcome to those of you who are new to ECFA! We invite you to learn more about our mission and how you can get involved. Visit our website at www.evanca.org and look for us on social media to

get connected, learn about ways to volunteer or attend another event to get involved, or make a Life Affirming donation to get invested in the ministry of ECFA.



COMPASS CHURCH

We have amazing church partners and one of them is Compass Church. For many years now Compass Church has organized a diaper drive for ECFA and every year what gets donated grows bigger and bigger. This year, the church pulled up in a truck filled with items that will be given to those we are serving in our Pregnancy Support Services program. Babies are expensive! Our caseworkers being able to show up to their home visits with diapers, wipes, and other baby essentials, is an incredible way to support these families and ease a stressor for them.



Thank you, Compass Church (all locations), for being a blessing to those we are serving. It takes a village and we are grateful for your partnership and support as we affirm life together.

If your church would like to host a diaper drive or learn about other ways to partner with us, please reach out to Dan Vallaro at danv@evanca.org or via phone at 630-653-6400.



This is just a small portion of what was donated.

ECFA Foundation

The ECFA Foundation provides funding for counseling services to economically challenged individuals and families, graduate school scholarships for staff, agency marketing expenses, and assistance with other agency needs. Please consider investing in the ECFA Foundation. Your gift will support our work and ministry from a long-term perspective.

For information about how to direct a gift to the ECFA Foundation, please contact Dan Vallaro at 630/653-6400.

By God's Amazing Grace... (cont.)

Eight is enough, right? We couldn't believe it either when we felt God calling us to provide permanency for two more little boys in foster care for whom we provided respite care on weekends. ECFA walked and prayed with us, navigated, and advocated for us. We watched God literally open one impossible door after another and ultimately allowed these two kiddos to be placed with us. God did the impossible and removed all possible barriers. This was new territory for ECFA and DCFS, but they fully and completely provided support. God performed a miracle. We have never seen anyone work as hard as Sarah and Barb did at ECFA, always confirming each process through prayer. They continued to pray with us that there would only be forward movement if this was God's will, as we know this is not work we can do in our own strength. We

all rejoiced when the boys' adoption was finalized in 2024. We thank the Lord for His grace and provision, and we thank Him for ECFA and its entire team dedicated to seeing children being given the chance to be raised in loving, Christ-centered homes.

Josh & Michelle



COMBINE FAMILY FUN WITH SUPPORTING ECFA!!



Join us for a night of family fun and fundraising at a Chicago Steel game! Hockey in person is a fast paced, high energy sport to watch. Cheer on the Steel while supporting ECFA.

WHEN: Saturday, November 30th

PUCK DROPS: 6:05 pm

WHERE: Fox Valley Ice Arena; 1996 S. Kirk Road; Geneva, IL 60134

\$\$\$: \$15.00 per ticket

\$5 from each ticket purchased is donated to ECFA



To join us, scan the QR code, visit www.evancfa.org, or call us at (630) 653-6400.

FRIENDRAISING AT TOP GOLF!!

Nearly 100 friends enjoyed an evening of golfing fun, delicious food, and learning more about ECFA's Life Affirming programs at our recent Top Golf Friendraiser! The positive feedback was overwhelming, so we're planning to bring this event back in 2025!

Thanks to your generosity, this event raised nearly \$4,000, which will help impact the lives of those we serve.



JUST A FEW OF THE FRIENDS WHO CAME OUT TO EXPERIENCE THE UNIQUE FUN OF TOP GOLF. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR, SO PLAN ON JOINING US.

Love in Action 2024

Hundreds of ECFA supporters gathered at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Lisle for a night filled with laughter, inspiration, and heartwarming stories! Laughter filled the room as Pastor Amado Lobatos, our emcee, shared his love for ECFA. Our Executive Director, Wendy Payne, started the event off by sharing the impact our staff and programs have made over the last year. We were moved by Alison Tews' powerful story about her client, Melissa, from our Intact Family Services program, and Ginger Johnson's heartwarming account of her family's decades-long involvement with ECFA, culminating in a gift that established the ECFA Foundation, securing the organization's future.

The highlight of the evening was Josh Aldrin, an ECFA adoptee, sharing his inspiring journey. His story resonated deeply, showcasing the transformative power of faith, family, and ECFA's life-changing work. The night concluded with uplifting worship led by Marina Menconi.

We were contacted by several people after the last e-newsletter went out because we left off an important detail about how much was raised on Friday, April 26th. We had a goal of raising \$74,000 and through your generosity a total of \$80,130 was raised to help ECFA's Life Affirming Ministry! We are truly grateful for the support of the individuals, businesses, and foundations who invested in our important programming.



Josh Aldrin & Family

STRIDE TOGETHER for LIFE



Saturday, September 21, 2024

Herrick Lake | Parking East Side of Herrick Rd.

Quarter mile south of Butterfield Road | Wheaton, IL 60189

Join us for a morning of outdoor fun at beautiful Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton (enter off of Herrick Rd., just south of Butterfield Rd.).

When the stride is over (typically about 2 laps around the lake), you can join us back at the shelter for snacks and activities.

Stride Together For Life is a great event to get to know us better. This is an event that you can invite your friends, family, and church group to join us as we stride TOGETHER around Herrick Lake in support of ECFA's Life Affirming ministry.

We're planning to have a craft table, yard games, a balloon artist, and face painting.

Check-in starts at 9:00 am and at 9:30am we start our stride around the lake. You can walk at your own pace or travel with a group.

Pricing: \$30 for adults; \$10 for children 12 and under
\$75 max per family



To register scan the QR code or go to www.evancfa.org/strideforlife

For assistance or questions, call Dan at 630-653-6400.

GOLF SCRAMBLE 2024



Prairie Landing Golf Course
Monday, September 30th

8:00 - 9:15 am Registration

8:00 - 9:15 am - Driving Range

9:30 am - Shotgun Start

Box Lunch Provided

Dinner & Awards Ceremony After Golf

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2024**



Prairie Landing Golf Club is a beautiful links style course designed by Trent Jones Jr. To join us, scan the QR code, visit www.evancfa.org/golf, or call us at (630) 653-6400.

NEW STAFF



STEPHANIE CHEN HANSEN On July 9, 2024 Stephanie began volunteering at ECFA two days a week in the counseling program. She recently earned her MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Wheaton College and previously earned a Masters of Divinity in Intercultural Ministry and Urban Studies at Moody Bible Institute.

Stephanie brings a wealth of lived experience in her journey that has brought her to ECFA. We look forward to her skills being utilized to serve the children, individuals, and families that God directs to ECFA.



GENNA WERNER joined our staff on August 12th as a caseworker in our Pregnancy Support Services program. Genna is currently enrolled in a Masters in Social Work program and plans on completing the program by next spring. Genna is excited to work with moms and dads who need extra support and encouragement. We are thankful God has brought Genna to ECFA.



RENEE SMITH joined our staff on August 12th as a part-time Development Associate. Renee' will be assisting with our fundraising events, social media, and e-newsletters. Renee' is excited to work at a Christian organization and to use her experience to honor God. We are excited to see how God will use her here at ECFA.



FREEMAN OSIELSKI joined staff on May 13th as a full-time, bilingual Spanish speaking case manager in our Intact Family Services program. He is a recent graduate of Wheaton College where he earned a BA in psychology. Freeman seeks to provide support and advocacy for individuals and families in need. We are so pleased he will be an asset to the families we serve.

STAFF CHANGES

FAITH ALLMAN

Faith Allman has been a familiar face at ECFA for 20 years! Faith and her family recently moved out of the area, and while she is already missed, her kindness, gentle spirit, care, and compassion will be part of ECFA's Pregnancy Support Services (PSS) program for years to come!

Faith has a passion for moms (and their families) experiencing either a crisis pregnancy or a mom facing various challenges during pregnancy. She guided moms and dads through difficult decisions, helped them learn more about pregnancy and childbirth, was there when babies were born, educated moms and dads about healthy parenting techniques, and was present for moms and dads who chose adoption for their babies. Faith was also an excellent supervisor. She led by example and helped those she supervised become passionate about the work they were doing.

We are thankful for Faith's 20 years at ECFA and we wish her and her family all the best in their next adventure! We can't wait to see what God has in store for her. We know she will be a blessing wherever she goes!



Faith Allman & Julie Twohill

JULIE TWOHILL

On July 22, 2024, Julie Twohill moved into her new role as the PSS Supervisor. Julie has been serving birth mothers and fathers as a PSS social worker at ECFA for five years. Prior to that she completed two internships with ECFA in two other programs. Julie is grateful for the support and training she received from Faith and is well prepared for her new role. She looks forward to continue serving birth parents and now, as the new supervisor, helping her staff do the same. Please pray for Julie and the PSS program.



NEW STAFF CONTINUED



FABIAN SMITH is a recent graduate of Elmhurst College where he earned a BA in Psychology. He joined ECFA on May 28th as a case manager in our Intact Family Services program. Fabian feels he is called to help people and appreciates a work environment where he can integrate his faith into serving his clients. The agency is excited to welcome him.

Memorials and Tributes

In Loving Memory

Evelyn Boonstra

From: Charles and Deborah Slager

Eric Herner

From: Edith Herner Martin

Mary Idichandy

From: William and Marilyn Newell

Margaret Karsen

From: Wendell Karsen

Judy McCarrell

From: Eleanor Weiberg

Richard Martin

From: Edith Herner Martin

David E. Salstrom

From: David W. Salstrom Sr.

Jennie Tietjen

From: Marilyn Bell

Kristen Todd

From: Jesse Todd

Patrick Todd

From: Jesse Todd

Ralph Todd

From: Jesse Todd

Robert Stotz

From: Caroline Shoberg

Nancy Long

From: Bond County Unit No. 2

James and Barbara Butts

Daryl and Judy Cox

Donald and Angela Dalenberg

Wendell Karsen

"In memory of my sister, Nancy Long"

Gina Kester

Tom Long

Judith Shwonek

St. Paul's Free Methodist Church

The Stewarts

Raymond and Minden Treibold

David Vanderberg

William and Susan Vanderberg

Jim and Ann Zahniser

In Honor of

Aldrin Family, who trusted and obeyed

From: Wendy Meister-Louri

Tim Carrick

From: William and Marilyn Newell

Jill Constante

From: Kristine Sanchez

Beverly Ozinga

From: William and Marilyn Newell

Acacia Steenberg

From: Mr. and Mrs. Steenberg (Dad and Mom)