



Winter 2023

TRUE TO LIFE

A publication of the Evangelical Child and Family Agency

Love in Action 2023

Friday, May 5, 2023 ~ Double Tree by Hilton
3003 Corporate Drive West ~ Lisle, IL 60532

2023's Love in Action will be taking place on Friday, May 5th at the DoubleTree by Hilton located at 3003 Corporate West Dr. Lisle, IL 60532. Our special guest this year is the all-female contemporary Christian music vocal group: Point of Grace.

A Love in Action favorite, Point of Grace is known for their soaring melodies and rich harmonies that have helped define the sound of contemporary Christian music. With faith-filled and passionate lyrics, their memorable melodies and soaring harmonies have inspired generations to live boldly and keep God's love as the foundation of their lives.

Point of Grace's success has been measured in massive sales and numerous awards including two Platinum records, three Grammy nominations, 27 No. 1 singles, and many Dove Awards. Point of Grace has released 10 best-selling studio recordings, four Christmas albums and such Christian radio standards as "I'll Be Believing," "Keep the Candle Burning," "How You Live (Turn Up the Music)", "Circle of Friends," and "Jesus Will Still Be There."

The group founded the groundbreaking Girls of Grace conference, they appear regularly on the historic Grand Ole Opry stage, and they have authored multiple books including their latest, *How*

You Live: Lessons Learned from Point of Grace.

ECFA is thrilled that they will be part of our 73rd Anniversary celebration. We are looking forward to celebrating with you.



Visit www.evanca.org/events for more information or call Dan at 630-653-6400.

Have a Heart for Life Bowl Classic
February 11th

Details on Page 3

Toy Drive 2022



It is hard to believe this is the 15th year we have held a toy drive! What started out as a group of friends getting together to celebrate Christmas by bringing toys to a dinner out, has turned into a huge event with hundreds of friends and family of ECFA buying gifts for children they have never met.

this event is lot of work, it is meaningful and an incredible blessing.

We are thankful to all who gave so generously this year: friends of ECFA, families from the Wheaton Moms and Carol Stream Moms Facebook pages, H4 Training in Wheaton, 302 South in Wheaton, Ms. Atkinson's 4th grade class at St. Petronille's in Glen Ellyn, FTX Fitness in Wheaton, Orange Theory Bartlett and Roselle, Tom Hellmann with the American Legion in Yorkville, The Bradford Exchange in Nilis, and Lombard Bible Church.

This year we collected over 1500 toys and gift cards. It is truly humbling to watch person after person drop off gifts and to go to various businesses to fill our agency van with gifts donated by those who frequent the business. Though

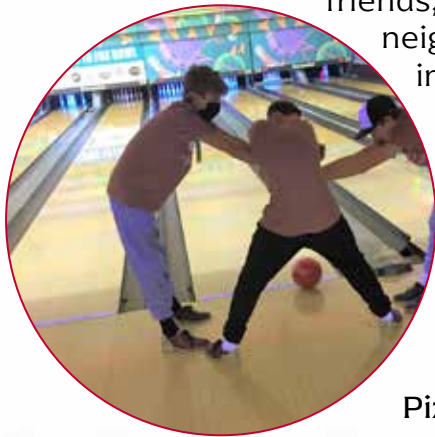
Close to 300 children and their families were greatly blessed during the Christmas season and our hearts are full of joy and gratitude for such an outpouring of love and generosity!



Have a Heart for Life

Calling all friends, all families, all youth groups, all neighbors.....it's time to roll!

Last chance to join us for a fun-filled afternoon of bowling. Encourage your friends, family, church group, and neighbors to join in supporting the life-affirming work of ECFA. There will be regular bowling, cosmic bowling, and wacky fun bowling!



Registration Includes:

Pizza & Soft Drinks for Lunch
3 games of bowling & shoe rental

!!Treats & Prizes!!

Visit: www.evanca.org/bowling or call Dan at 630-653-6400 for more details.
T-Shirts not guaranteed to late registrants.

Saturday, February 11

11:00 AM Check In

11:30 AM Lunch

12:00 PM Time to Bowl!

\$60 / Person

FOX BOWL

1101 Butterfield Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

More Christmas Fun!!



Auction 2022 Success!!



On Friday, November 11th at Abbington Distinctive Banquets in Glen Ellyn, we had our annual benefit auction. This year, more than 170 people showed up to support ECFA and bid on one (or more) of the over 230 items that were being auctioned off both in a silent auction and during a high energy and exciting live auction.

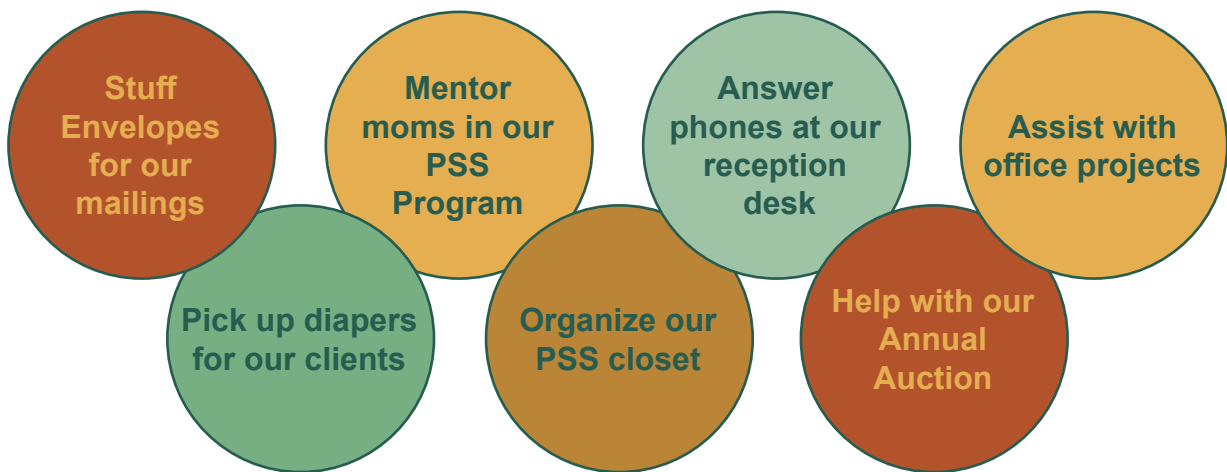
Some highlights from the evening included the annual favorite, Donna's Cinnamon Rolls, which brought in \$3,000 total and the whole house cleaning had a winning bid of \$1,500.

During the spot auction the generosity of our donors helped raise nearly \$20,000 which had a \$10,000 match from the ECFA Foundation. That \$30,000 will go toward the purchase of a new agency vehicle.

From all of the volunteers, to the team that designed the center pieces and decorated the auction tables, to the auctioneer, and all the supporters and donors that helped make the evening possible, we are grateful for another successful auction and can't wait until next year!

Volunteering

Volunteers are the heart of ECFA. They come alongside staff, helping in many ways. What does this look like? Here are some of the ways:



If interested in volunteering, call Dan Vallaro at 630-653-6400 or email danv@evanfca.org.

In Loving Memory

On Wednesday, November 23, 2022, Jennie Tietjen, went home to be with her Lord and Savior. Jennie joined the Illinois ECFA staff in 1998 as a Receptionist/Accounting Clerk. Over time her job duties included overseeing volunteers, and eventually Jennie became ECFA's Volunteer and Development Coordinator. Her duties included overseeing all of the agency events in Illinois, which also included being ECFA's Tag Day Chairwoman . Jennie had a knack for adding special touches to events, and she was quick to let her volunteers know how greatly they were appreciated.

In 2017 Jennie and her husband Dave moved to Wisconsin, and in the fall of 2017, Jennie became the Director of Development and Facilities in our

Wisconsin District Office. In both offices, Jennie was known for her effervescent personality and being the "Hostess with the Mostest". Jennie's love for serving others was evident in all she did. Jennie was outgoing, kind, cared for people deeply and genuinely, she loved her family, and her love for Jesus was most important in her life! Though Jennie is greatly missed, we are thankful she is home in heaven, and grateful to the Lord that we will see her again.



Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ~ John 6:47



Currently, a big need is for volunteer mentors in our Pregnancy Support Service (PSS) program. Mentors help our pregnancy support clients as they transition out of services. PSS services begin at whatever stage of pregnancy a woman joins the program and continues for roughly 6 months after the birth of her child.

Any mom will tell you the questions about your new baby never stop. That is when a mentor steps in and can be helpful. We try to connect a new mom who we feel could benefit from extra support with a mentor. Both the new mom and the mentor make a year-long commitment. They may meet in person, talk on the phone, FaceTime, text, or any combination of connection that works for them.

Many of our clients have no family or friends nearby. We want these women to have someone they can count on to be there to answer a question, listen when they have challenges, and celebrate when life is going well. Our staff provides support to the mentors.

If this interests you, please call Faith at 630-653-6400 or email her at faitha@evanfca.org

ECFA Partnerships



Over the last several months, ECFA has been the recipient of three different grants. Grants such as these are incredibly beneficial as we provide many of our services at either no cost or at a very low cost to those we serve.

We would like to thank Milton Township for the grant we received to subsidize our Counseling program, as well as The Christ Foundation and Tyndale House Foundation for their grants that help support our Pregnancy Support Services program.

We are grateful for those who help us fulfill our mission.



New Faces at ECFA



Paige Wilson joined ECFA's Intact Family Services program on Monday, December 19, 2022. Paige attended the University of Illinois and earned her Bachelor's in Social Work in May of 2019. She immediately continued on to earn her Master's in Social Work from U of I in August of 2022. She is now a licensed social worker as well.

Paige was recently married to Trey and they have relocated to DuPage County.



Kara Agueros began her internship in our counseling program on January 10th. She graduated with a degree in Human Services from National Louis University in 2018. She has been a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) for several years and has assisted with Celebrate Recovery groups at a local church. She decided to continue her education and entered the Masters in Social Work program at Aurora University with a long-term goal of being a counselor. She attends Glen Ellyn Bible Church.

Tough Starts



Some kids experience tough starts in life and now need an adoptive home. They need a mom and a dad who will “go the distance” with them and not give up on them. Tim, an adoptive dad, shared, “There continue to be challenges, but the joy of fatherhood is

greater. What a joy to see the smile on Sincere’s face the day that he was officially adopted. He continues to use phrases like, ‘This is the best day ever’, or ‘I have the best life ever.’” Could you be that permanent home for a child, like Sincere, who is seeking to belong to someone?

If you have been considering adoption, we can answer your questions about the process. Please call Barb Hellmer at 630-653-6400 X 7243, or email barbh@evanfca.org.

ECFA Mailings

You can well imagine that sending out our newsletters, invitations, and letters to all of our supporters is quite the task. However, we have a list of faithful volunteers we can call upon when the need arises.

We can count on them to show up and get to the task at hand. We have fun chatting as envelopes get stuffed and there is always a pot of coffee and donuts to keep energy levels high. Rita has been known to bake a goody from time to time.

If you would like to help out with a mailing on occasion, give Rita a call at 630-653-6400 x 7203 or email ritab@evanfca.org.



Some of our regular mailing volunteers working on the Christmas letter.

ECFA Foundation

This year, the ECFA Foundation will provide funding for counseling services to economically challenged individuals and families, graduate school scholarships for staff, ECFA parking lot repaving, 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 Tim Carrick at 630/653-6400.

Memorials and Tributes

In Loving Memory

Willa Mae Fletcher

From: Pamela Fletcher

Dr. Alma Labunski

From: Alumni Association of West
Suburban Hospital
Mr. and Mrs. John Lykowski
Ken and Carolyn Shoberg

Wade Smith

From: Rosemary Smith

Pat Murphy

From: Charles Murphy
Derk and Sandy Deckinga Jr.

My adopted Mom

From: Arlene Sime Bowland

Janet Eichelberger

From: Alan and Michelle Adamski
Ann and Dean Cummings
David and Janet Czosek
Mr. and Mrs. Hausermann
Martin & Michele Heller
Northside Community Bank
Charles Loomis
Maria Reyes
Sara Sturgis

Eleanor Hill

From: Marie Davis
Edmund Covarrubias

Rev. Herbert Gotaas**Eleanor Gotaas****Phyllis Gotaas**

From: June White

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Moore

From: Ms. Tamara M. McParland

Doris Wheeler

From: Robert and Linda Wren

Evelyn Boonstra

From: Charles and Deborah Slager

Edna Brandt**Michael Noonan & Carole Noonan**

From: Suzy McLaughlin

Jennie Tietjen

From: Teri Shuman
April Edwards
Joyce N. Patterson

Paul and Betty Gibson

From: James and Kristine Ravensloot

Ed and Jean Griffiths

From: Mary Moravec

Jesse Gabor

From: Mr. and Mrs. Kvasnicka

Bonnie Jo Fisher

From: Gregory Fisher

Jean Jorian

From: Fred Hardman

David E. Salstrom

From: David Salstrom

Don and Sylva Worsham

From: Suzanne and Don Wratney

Robert Wiltjer

From: Beverly K. Stob

Carl and Joyce Lane

From: James Ravesloot

In Honor of

Ken Withrow

From: Ron and Marge Cramer
Edith Martin
Tony and Elisa Rufo
John and Rebecca Sidarous
Mike and Sonja Shogren

Ken Withrow

For Your Faithful Service
From: Linda Oberbrunner

Debra Jahnke

From: Mr. and Mrs. Schlickman

Bev Ozinga

From: Mr and Mrs. Doug Haney
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Keach

Wendy Payne

For New Beginnings
From: Linda Oberbrunner

Sandee Schlickman

From: Mr. and Mrs. Schlickman

Don Solin and his Sister

From: Marcie Solin