



Fall 2025

TRUE TO LIFE

A publication of the Evangelical Child and Family Agency

Annual Benefit Auction

Friday, November 14th at 5:30 pm

Join us for a night of auction excitement!!

Prepare for a night of spirited bidding and incredible finds. Our annual Benefit Auction is a one-of-a-kind event where friendly rivalries heat up and excitement is contagious. You'll have the chance to bid on unique items, all while supporting our Life Affirming mission.

Can't attend in person? No problem! Our online silent auction lets you get in on the action and strategize your bids from the comfort of your home. It's a perfect way to participate and secure the item you've been eyeing.

This is our last special event of the year. Words can't express our appreciation for your support. Join us and let's make this a night to remember.



Register By October 31:

Call 630-653-6400
& ask for Reneé

Or

Scan the QR Code below



ABBINGTON DISTINCTIVE BANQUETS

3S002 ROUTE 53
GLEN ELLYN, IL 60137

THANK YOU FOR MAKING STRIDE TOGETHER FOR LIFE A SUCCESS

This year's Stride Together for Life was an incredible success! With almost 100 people in attendance, our ECFA family and community came together to support ECFA's Life Affirming programs and celebrate our shared mission.

While on the walk, participants saw first hand the impact of their contributions with signs showcasing the pillars of our work: Strengthening Individuals and Families, Affirming Life, Building Families, Healing Relationships, and Restoring Hope.

In addition to the walk, everyone enjoyed family friendly activities such as face painting, balloon art, and yard games.

A big thank you to our sponsors, Ozinga and the ECFA Foundation, whose grants helped make this event possible. A special thank you to Chick Fil A for donating gift cards so attendees were able to grab a delicious lunch after the event.

Thanks to everyone who participated, volunteered, and donated! Your generous support will directly fuel our mission and allow us to continue providing vital services to those who need them. We are so grateful for your support.



Your Gift Doubled:
The Christ Foundation
Matching Grant



In the summer of 2024 we received the exciting news that the Christ Foundation, a supporter of ECFA, would provide a matching grant over the next 3 years. They committed to matching every dollar we receive, up to \$100,000.

Our first year (June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025), you helped us crush our goal. The Christ Foundation match was set at \$50,000, and with your incredible generosity we raised over \$60,000.

This year the challenge is on again. The Christ Foundation will match up to \$30,000. Your gift has the power to go twice as far, making a significant impact on families in need.

If you would like to be part of this giving opportunity, scan the QR code or visit our website at www.evancfa.org/donate. Please be sure to click the link for the matching grant.

Christmas Toy Drive 2025



Though it may seem hard to believe, we will be kicking off the annual toy drive in just a few days! This is such a big event that we need to start early.

This year we once again will be serving over 200 children and our desire is to be able to give each child four gifts. For many of the kids we are serving, these will be the only gifts they receive this holiday season. The toy drive is a tangible way to show love and care to the kids and families we serve.



Details will be on our Facebook page in early November.

If you do not have access to Facebook, please call and talk to Alison at 630-653-6400 and she can give you wish list details.



ADOPTION ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN

Our Adoption programs offer training and support to families adopting domestically, internationally, or from the foster care system. We approve or license Christian families for children needing a forever home. These families open their hearts and homes as an act of faith, showing God's love because He loved us first. Our desire is to come alongside our adoptive families with love and compassion.

Comments from a few of our adoptive families:

"We are so grateful to ECFA and their commitment to serving the Lord through bringing children and families together through adoption. We had the best experience and would highly recommend ECFA to anyone considering adoption."

"We loved working with our social worker. She was so on top of everything and easy to work with. We felt very cared for and

"I have never seen anyone work as hard as our social workers at ECFA; always confirming through prayer. They continued to pray with us that there would only be forward movement if this was God's will. ECFA worked tirelessly for us."



INTACT FAMILY SERVICES

Our Intact Family Services (IFS) program serves families indicated by DCFS for abuse or neglect. Oftentimes the families have significant underlying issues that need to be addressed, such as substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health concerns. Through referrals to specialized providers, including ECFA's counseling and pregnancy support programs, parents are given the help they need to prevent further abuse or neglect, improve overall functioning, and keep their

Our IFS families have told us:

"I always feel safe when they visit me. They are a good worker & they care about our needs and well-being. When they don't visit frequently, we miss them."

My caseworker is a blessing. She's been extremely supportive and kind. I believe she has the best intentions for my children and I. She's been very humble and understanding. God bless this program and everything you have helped my family and I with. Things are better and I couldn't have done it alone.



ECFA PROGRAMS

Our counseling program serves a wide range of clients including younger children, teenagers, adults, and seniors. We work with individuals, families, and couples. Fees are based on income and we are blessed to have a grant that allows us to offer low cost counseling to those who fit the criteria for this grant. Our approach is to treat everyone with compassion and provide personalized support as they work on finding healing.

Clients have said:

“Our counselor is wonderful. She listens, encourages, is kind, a gentle soul, and a strong woman of faith.”

“Our counselor has been so patient and kind with us! He shows us he truly cares and always brings us closer together! We appreciate the time and effort he puts into our marriage.”

“Our counselor has been a pivotal piece to us improving ourselves and relationship. We could not be more lucky to have him as our counselor.”



PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICES ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN

Our Pregnancy Support Services (PSS) programs affirm life by coming alongside moms and their families throughout her pregnancy and after the baby is born. We go to homes of the families we are serving and all of our services are free. We offer emotional, educational, and practical support related to healthy parenting, child development, relationships, etc. We also come alongside moms and their families who are considering placing their baby for adoption.

Our mothers have told us:

“I truly appreciate being a part of this program. Our social worker has been so kind, attentive, and very caring during such a difficult time.”

“I really appreciate everything that’s being done to help me. I feel truly blessed to have you all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”



Memories of a Volunteer

Volunteers truly are the heartbeat of non-profit organizations like ECFA. Over the years, countless people have stepped forward to give their time, talents, and love in ways that have left a lasting impact.

Recently, I had the joy of corresponding with a former volunteer, Esther, who shared some of her fond memories, the first being about Tag Days which occurred every April for many years!

“Many years ago, I asked the Lord how I could be of help to ECFA as I would see the Children’s Tag Day... and I was still working. I found out that I could begin with the very early schedule of joining with another sister in Christ, at the Bensenville Train Station. I would pick her up on my way and the people were so eager to place their gifts in the cardboard box...”

Esther also fondly remembered helping with our mailings. “After retirement, that was the funnest...yes, the funnest time, going to do the mailings. I remember taking Joel with me, meeting Judy there, and that was also when Minerva was already there for several years...”

It was sweet to hear the joy in Esther’s voice as she thought about other volunteers.

Esther’s words beautifully capture what we at ECFA see every day: that volunteering is never just about the task. It’s about relationships, encouragement, and the blessing of serving together.

All of us at ECFA have deep gratitude for our volunteers! For 75 years we have been blessed by countless volunteers – from those who have been part of a bigger group such as the Women’s Auxiliary, to those who have been part of smaller groups that stuff envelopes, organize our baby closet, help at events, to individuals who pick up diapers, answer phones, mentor a mom, or buy a present at Christmas time.

If you feel God nudging you to serve with us, we would love to connect. Please reach out to Rita at 630-6536400 x7203 or ritab@evancfa.org to learn more about ways you can be part of this story.

~ Rita Butler, Administrative Assistant



SPECIAL VOLUNTEER

We are seeking a volunteer who is bilingual Spanish to assist the case managers in our Pregnancy Support Services program. If you have a heart for expecting mothers and love babies, we would love to talk to you.

Call 630-653-6400 and ask for Julie or email her at juliet@evancfa.org.



New Interns



Rachel Davidsmeier joined the adoption team as an intern on August 25th and is assisting with community outreach and becoming familiar with home study process.

Rachel is currently studying Psychology-Christian Counseling at Liberty University and anticipates completing her undergraduate schooling in the spring of 2026. Her hope is to enter a Masters program at Trinity or Wheaton College in the fall of 2026.



Brooke Ueckert will be joining the Intact Family Services team as an intern in early October. She will gain experience observing how ECFA caseworkers serve vulnerable families in DuPage County by providing resources and referrals to therapeutic services, while also assisting the Intact team with the 2025 Toy Drive.

Brooke is currently a senior at Moody Bible Institute, pursuing a degree in Crisis and Trauma Care, and anticipates graduating in May 2026. Integrating faith into practice is a priority for her, which led her to connect with ECFA for internship opportunities.

Building a Foundation for

The ECFA Foundation was established to provide long-term support to ECFA. This year the Foundation is providing support to our counseling program in order to provide affordable counseling to those facing economic challenges.

The Foundation is also providing support to our PSS and Adoption programs, our fundraising events, and our marketing efforts. A true “Foundation” for ECFA as we serve our communities.



For information about how to direct a gift to the ECFA Foundation, please contact Dan Vallaro at 630-653-6400, visit www.evancfa.org/ecfaFoundation, or scan the QR code.



Memorials and Tributes

In Loving Memory

Beverly Ozinga

*From: Marvin H. Lich
David & Linda Lundberg
Charles Murphy
Marilyn & William Newell*

Evelyn Jannega

From: John & Dorthy Darling

Bruce Askins

From: Lee and Bonnie McCullough

In Honor of

Evelyn Jannega

From: John & Dorthy Darling

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