



Summer 2023

TRUE TO LIFE

A publication of the Evangelical Child and Family Agency

STRIDE TOGETHER FOR LIFE

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH AT
HERRICK LAKE - WHEATON, IL 60189
9:00 TO NOON**

We're excited to announce that we're changing up this event. This year, we'll be walking around Herrick Lake TOGETHER, in community with other families and individuals who are passionate about our life affirming ministry.

The route around Herrick Lake is less than a mile and easily walked in about 30 minutes. Following the group walk we will gather for snacks, family-friendly yard games, crafts, balloon artist, and face painting.

This year, ECFA has been awarded a \$7,000 matching grant thanks to some friends of ECFA. That means any donation we receive through

this event will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$7,000! This is a great opportunity to make an even bigger impact on the Life Affirming services that we offer our clients. Can we count on you to register or donate this year? Don't forget to share this opportunity with friends.

For details about Stride Together for Life, visit www.evanca.org/strideforlife or contact Dan Vallaro at danv@evanca.org or call him at (630) 653-6400.

After the event is over, feel free to explore one of the many trails at Herrick Lake.



**SAVE THE DATE!
ANNUAL AUCTION
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH**

ABBINGTON DISTINCTIVE BANQUETS

We are already hard at work on the details that make this a memorable evening. We'd love for you to join us.

Compass Church Generosity

Between Mother's Day and Father's Day, the Affirming Life Ministry Group at the Compass Church, collected baby necessities for pro-life organizations, including ECFA. To say that our agency staff were "blown away" by the incredible generosity of God's people, is an understatement.

The church ministry collected swim diapers, pullups, regular diapers, formula, and clothing for our little ones served by our Pregnancy Support Services and Intact Family Services case managers. What an incredible

blessing to have an abundance of practical resources to share with our families at this time.

An additional blessing was the volunteers who spent a morning sorting through childrens clothes and organizing them by sizes. Once everything was in order it was stored in our closet. Volunteers come in on a regular basis to organize donations which allows staff to quickly identify items that will fill a need. We are beyond thankful.

Our small conference room filled with donations that needed organization. →



Left: Candice Workman & her daughter Emma
Right: Nancy Botts & Marge Cramer



ECFA Foundation

The mission of the Foundation is to promote and support the long-term interests and purposes of ECFA as it offers Christ-centered services to children, families, and individuals. The Foundation's contributions to the agency include the following:

- Scholarships for employees to complete their Masters of Social Work (MSW) degree
- Funding for new programs
- Assistance for equipment and automobile purchases

- Matching grant funds for major ECFA events
- Initial funding for new ECFA positions

Direct donations and bequests, gifts of appreciated stock, or other assets can be contributed to the Foundation.

Please prayerfully consider an investment in the ECFA Foundation; it's a gift that gives back to the Agency in the future.

For further information, please contact Tim Carrick at 630-653-6400.

Love in Action Banquet 2023

Friday, May 5th, was a night to remember for those who came out to support ECFA at our 73rd Annual Love in Action Dinner. We were treated with amazing worship by Point of Grace which, at times, had everyone in attendance singing along. We also heard testimonies from those who have benefited from the work of ECFA's Life Affirming programming.

We sang, laughed, cried, and were in awe of the work God is doing through ECFA.

Through the generosity of ECFA supporters, we raised nearly \$60,000 to help Affirm Life, Build Families, Heal Relationships, and Restore Families.

If you were not able to make it, but would like to support the work we do, please visit evancfa.org/donate to make a donation.



Tim Rover spoke on the joys and learning curve of becoming an adoptive dad.

Point of Grace



Point of Grace has been a part of several ECFA celebrations. Shelley Breen, Denise Jones, and Leigh Cappillino joined staff who helped at the dinner in a picture commemorating the fun evening.

Sign up for our E-Newsletter



Would you like to stay up to date on all things ECFA? If so, we send out an email newsletter approximately two times per month along with the occasional special announcement.

If you'd like to be added to our email list, please contact Dan Vallaro at danv@evancfa.org.

VOICES OF

Ethan with brother Daniel



ETHAN

"I FEEL LOVED AND SUPPORTED IN MY FAMILY.



BECAUSE I HAVE A FAMILY, I GET UNLIMITED WRESTLING AND SNUGGLES."



DANIEL



"I love my brothers and sisters. I like playing with my cars, swimming, and riding the swings with my family. We have lots of fun."

JASMINE



"Hi, I'm Jasmine, and I'm 15 years old. I was adopted at 7 years old and it really made a difference, because I thought nobody would love me anymore. My adoptive family really took a chance for me. I am really happy here. I get to play basketball, and I have so many friends that love me so much.

I went through many foster homes because no one would give me a chance. I have changed a lot, and I get really good grades. I am loving to everyone, which I wasn't when I was little. I love helping people. It's really great to be adopted, because I wouldn't have all the joy and greatness in my life."



PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL BARBARA HELLMER AT 630-653-6400 OR BARBH@EVANCFA.ORG IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROCESS OF ADOPTION.

ADOPTION

“ADOPTION MEANS I HAVE A FAMILY. I KNOW MY FAMILY WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR ME REGARDLESS OF MY MISTAKES. I CAN TRY NEW THINGS AND TAKE RISKS IN LIFE BECAUSE I KNOW THEY WILL BE THERE TO ENCOURAGE AND HELP ME.”

ISAAC



SINCERE



“God is helping me to forgive others. I feel happy to have been adopted. I like swimming and playing soccer, and playing the drums.”



HANNAH

“I LOVE MY FAMILY. I LIKE IT WHEN WE PLAY, SING SONGS, AND EAT CHICKEN TOGETHER! I AM ADOPTED AND HAVE A FOREVER FAMILY.”



“IN MY FAMILY WE SPEND TIME TOGETHER. I LOVE ALL THE MEMORIES WE MAKE TOGETHER AT HOME AND WHEN WE TRAVEL. I’M THANKFUL FOR MY FAMILY!!”



SARAH

ADOPTION

**BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE
FOR US BEFORE THE WORLD EVEN BEGAN
WE WERE CHOSEN BY GOD TO BE
ADOPTED AS HIS CHILDREN...
WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US....**

**A PURE ACT OF FAITH IS TO CARE FOR HIS CHILDREN JUST AS HE
CARED FOR US. ADOPTION IS A PARTNERING WITH
JESUS TO SEE LIVES TRANSFORMED...ADOPTION IS A MIRACLE!**

2023 Golf Scramble & President's Cup

Our 36th Annual Golf Scramble and College Invitational was held on Monday, June 12th. The event was a huge success! Many golfers came out to support ECFA and help raise money for our programs. We had a great day of golf, food, and fun.

The weather was perfect for golf. Although the sun was playing a game of hide-and-seek and the wind made for a challenge on the course; the birds were singing and the temperature was just right. We were able to get in 18 holes of golf before heading back to the clubhouse for the reception.

The food was delicious. We had a Mexican themed spread with all of your favorites - even chocolate filled churros as a treat!

We also had a variety of items up for auction, including a Solo Stove, gift certificates, and even a trip to Lake Geneva. Everyone had fun as they bid on their favorite items, while also raising money for ECFA.

We couldn't have done it without our sponsors and donors. We would like to thank all of you for your generous support. Your contributions made this event possible.

Judson University has secured the President's Cup for the 2nd year in a row. Congrats to Judson University! We want to thank Wheaton College and Moody Bible Institute for their teams as well!



Diapers



Many of the clients ECFA serves experience various levels of economic challenges. Paying rent, putting food on the table, and providing for the needs of children can be a struggle. Consumables, like diapers, are an on going expense that can be difficult to meet. A donation

of diapers can free up dollars for other family needs.

If you would like to donate diapers, they can be dropped off at our office anytime between 8:30 am & 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Our address: 1530 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL 60187.

Any additional questions, call Faith at 630-653-6400.

MEET THE STAFF



Liliana Salas

Liliana began an internship in our Pregnancy Support Services (PSS) program in March as she was finishing up her undergraduate degree program. On May 6th, she was awarded a BA in Applied Psychology from Judson University. ECFA welcomed her as a part-time, bilingual worker in the PSS program in June. Liliana will continue her education as she is very interested in doing counseling in the future.



Haley Haynes

Haley joined ECFA in August of 2022 as an intern to complete her undergraduate program at Aurora University. On May 6th of this year she was awarded her Bachelor of Social Work degree. Haley came on staff as a full-time Intact Family Services case manager on June 26th continuing the work she started as an intern.



Justin David

Justin joined the Intact Family Services (IFS) team as an intern on May 23rd. He is a student at Aurora University working on his Masters in Social Work. He also brings experience from work with the Salvation Army. His long-term goal is to work in the field of child welfare. Justin will be with us through the end of this year.



Ken Withrow

Ken has joined the counseling team as a volunteer therapist. Ken is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC). Ken is seeing clients a couple of days a week. He has a bit of a history with ECFA so we are thankful he is using his skills here to serve those who seek faith-based counseling.

Memorials and Tributes

In Loving Memory

Wesley Saul

From: Lisa and Carl Saul
Robert Leopold
Cynthia Barber
Dan Saul

Shirley Bray

From: Friends and Family

Cashone Kuhn

From: Will and Nancy Buis
Dr. Mourice and Janice Nemri
Kathryn Bull
Oak Valley Homeowners, Board of Directors: Jeff
Joniak, Mark Kudia, Matt Diehl, Joe Chesnak,
Janice Nemri

Patricia Murphy

From: Karen Pickens
Bob and Judy Fiandaca
Otto and Jean Stack
Anonymous Friends of Patty

Kim Matthews O'Neal

From: The Matthews Family

Margert Karsen (Mother)

Seibert Karsen (Father)

Nancy Karsen (Sister)

From: Wendell Karsen

Robert Stotz

From: Doug and Linda Haney
Esther Pikel
Gloria Dearing
Bill and Lynne Triplett
Richard and Marjorie Hamberg

Evelyn Boonstra

From: Charles Slager

Joseph Hansa

From: Frank and Beverly Kvasnicka

Bonnie Fisher

From: Daryl and Ann Canev