



Fall 2024

TRUE TO LIFE

A publication of the Evangelical Child and Family Agency

STRIDE TOGETHER FOR LIFE 2024



We had a great turnout for the Stride Together for Life walk around Herrick Lake on Saturday, September 21st. We had close to 100 people walk around the lake together. This included many longtime supporters and some new faces as well. We also had several staff who volunteered (happily supporting ECFA

even on a Saturday) to make sure this event went off without a hitch.

While walking around the lake, attendees walked past several signs that highlighted the impact that is being made with your support: Strengthening Individuals

Con't. on page 7



**CHICAGO
STEEL
HOCKEY**

***ECFA IS THE
CHARITY OF THE GAME***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

GAME TIME IS 6:05 PM

DETAILS ON PAGE 3

JOIN US !!!

*Annual
Benefit
Auction*

There is still time to register!!

Please register by noon on

Friday, November 1st

The event is Friday, November 8th.

See page 3 for all the details

37TH GOLF SCRAMBLE & COLLEGE INVITATIONAL

On Monday, September 30th we held our 37th Annual Golf Scramble and College Invitational at Prairie Landing Golf Course.

Many golfers came out to support ECFA and help raise money for our life-affirming programs. The weather could not have been more perfect as we played 18 holes of golf, watched planes coming and going from the airport, and eyed the coyotes running around the golf course.

Once all the teams completed the course they came inside for more

food, a raffle, and awards. The winning team won with a score of -22. They may have been assisted by some enhancements purchased along the way! We also celebrated the golfers with the longest drive, straightest drive, longest putt, and closest to the pin.

Thank you to all of the golfers and our sponsors for their generous support. The event was a great success. We raised \$8,250.00 which will allow us to continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus.



Winning Team

Annual Toy Drive !!

Our Annual Toy Drive kicks off in just a few days. We are serving over 200 children and our desire is to provide each child with at least 4 gifts. If you would like to purchase a gift, please visit our Facebook page and look for the Toy Drive event page. There you will find all of the wish lists. You may also call Alison or Wendy at the office and they will assist you! 630-653-6400.



Staff & volunteers wrapping presents that were donated last year!!
So thankful!!!

CHICAGO STEEL HOCKEY



Please join us for a fun night out at a Chicago Steel hockey game on Saturday, November 30th. This will be a fun way to spend time together with family and friends, while supporting ECFA.

Tickets are just \$15 and can be purchased by going to www.evanca.org/chicagosteel. Use Offer Code: **ECFA**. A portion of the ticket sales for all tickets purchased through the above link (also found on our website) will go directly to ECFA.

As the *Charity of the Game* we will have the privilege of being part of the “puck drop” and a video

highlighting the services offered by ECFA will be played on the TVs located in the center of the rink. We will also have an informational table where people can grab brochures, learn more about what we do, and grab some ECFA swag!

Hope to see you in Section 303 – where all ECFA supporters will be sitting together!



ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

We are excited for another fun auction at the Abbington, where guests will enjoy hot apple cider, a delicious dinner, silent auction, and a live auction. This is an event you won't want to miss. Our silent and live auctions are filled with items that all ages will enjoy.

To register please visit our website at www.evanca.org/events or

call Dan at 630-653-6400 who will assist you. You do not have to be present to be part of the silent auction; you can bid on items from the comfort of your home for this portion of the event! **Register by noon on November 1st!**

Abbington Distinctive Banquets is located at 3S002 Route 53 (Corner

of Route 53 and Butterfield Rd) in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner will be served at 6:30 pm, the silent auction bidding starts on November 6th and closes at 7:45 pm on the 8th, and to wrap up our night together the live auction starts at 8:00 pm.

\$40.00 PER PERSON

To reserve a seat, multiple seats, or a table, please scan the QR code below or call 630-653-6400 and ask for Reneé or Dan.



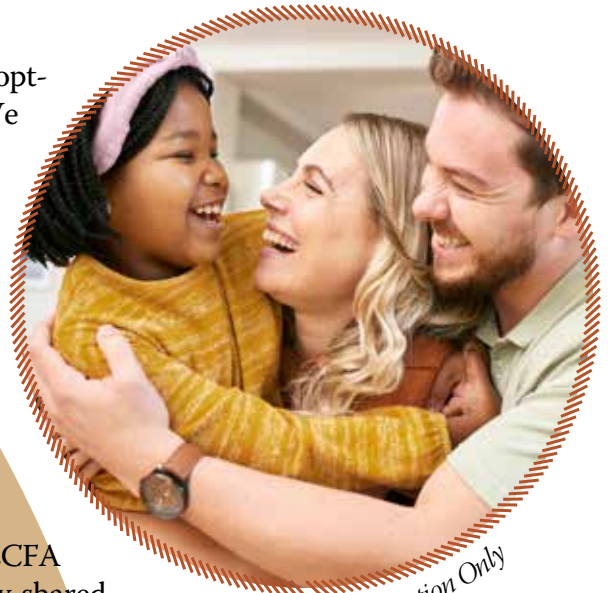
ADOPTION

ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN

Our Adoption programs offer training and support to families adopting domestically, internationally, or from the foster care system. We approve/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.

Going through the adoption process can be overwhelming. Our desire is to come alongside families with love and compassion. The "Smith" family was excited to go through the adoption process and shared that their worker, Sarah, was easy to work with and they felt very cared for and supported by Sarah throughout the entire process.

The "Jones" family also had a wonderful experience working with ECFA as they opened their home to a child needing permanency. They shared that their experience went smoothly and efficiently and working with Sarah was a joy.



For Illustration Only

INTACT FAMILY SERVICES

Our Intact Family Services (IFS) program serves families indicated by DCFS for abuse or neglect. Often times 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 their family together.



For Illustration Only

"Ginny" has a history of substance misuse and has been a victim of domestic violence. Ginny and her children both have experienced significant trauma for many years. A couple of years back Ginny accepted Christ as her Savior and turned her life around. Ginny is sober and has left her abuser. However, the impact of trauma remains. The family deeply appreciates the support given by ECFA which has included counseling for the mom and her children. The oldest teenager living at home recently shared her testimony with her youth group and mom's 19 year-old daughter who lives on her own, recently accepted Christ as her Savior. The family's faith has become a focal point of their lives.

PROGRAMS

PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICES

ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN



For Illustration Only

Our Pregnancy Support Services programs (PSS) affirm life by coming alongside moms and their families throughout her pregnancy and after the baby is born. Two unique aspects of our program are that 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 have a mentorship program for moms wanting to connect with a mentor after case closure.

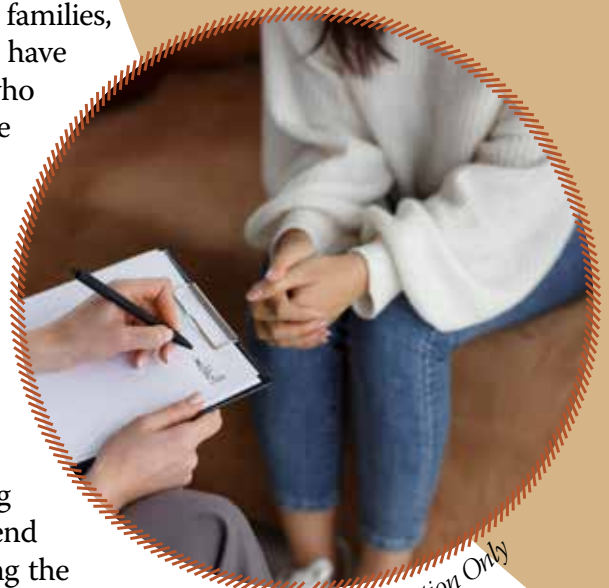
“Katie” came to ECFA feeling uncertain about her ability to parent as this was her first pregnancy. Katie was open to discussing adoption and parenting with her ECFA caseworker and ultimately decided she wanted to parent. Katie is now a mom to a sweet girl and the love she has for her daughter is evident. Using the information she learned during her time with her caseworker, she has adjusted well to her new role and shows a confidence she did not previously have. Katie has begun to make attending church a priority and desires to dedicate her daughter to the Lord.

COUNSELING SERVICES

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 two grants that allow us to offer low cost counseling to those who fit the criteria for these grants. Our approach is to treat everyone with compassion and provide personalized support to help them feel prepared to address and resolve their personal challenges.

“Sharon” shared that the counselors her family worked with, Ken and Faith, went above and beyond their mere obligations to clients. Sharon stated that they were full of passion and commitment and her family is grateful.

“Joan” and her husband sought out help with the challenging behaviors being shown by their children. Joan shared at the end of counseling that the help they received was wonderful during the difficult parenting seasons and they are thankful for the support they received.



For Illustration Only

75 Years of Faithful Service

On May 1, 1950 ECFA (EWA at that time) began serving vulnerable women and children. In this 75th year of serving others, we continue our mission of providing hope and healing to children, adults, and families, through compassionate, trauma-informed, Christ-centered, quality social services from a biblical perspective.

With a vision of improving the quality of life for individuals and

families and to protect and nurture abused, neglected, and dependent children, we continue to serve the vulnerable through our four life-affirming programs!



We invite you to save the date and come *celebrate with us on May 2, 2025!* This night will be filled with stories of families who have been impacted by ECFA and a celebration of God's faithfulness.

A Special Opportunity to Give to ECFA



In Support of Life-Affirming Programs

This summer, we received wonderful news! The Christ Foundation, a supporter of ECFA, surprised us with a generous matching grant offer. Over the next three years, they will match donations we receive, dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$100,000! This means your gift will have twice the impact on the families we serve. Here's how it works:

- This year (June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025), your gift will be matched up to \$50,000.
- In the following year, the match will be \$30,000.
- And in the final year, it will be \$20,000.

Imagine the magnitude of the impact \$200,000 will have on those we serve!

We are incredibly grateful for this amazing blessing. Your contribution, no matter the size, can truly make a difference.

If you would like to join us in reaching our goal you can scan the QR code to donate easily or visit our website at www.evanca.org/donate.

Every gift helps us continue supporting families in need. Thank you for your compassion!



STRIDE TOGETHER FOR LIFE 2024 CON'T.

and Families, Affirming Life, Building Families, Healing Relationships, and Restoring Hope.

When the walk was completed, everyone gathered at the pavilion to enjoy delicious donuts from Tom's Market in Warrenville along with various other

snacks. For the kids to enjoy there was a craft table, face painter, balloon artist, and yard games.

Many thanks to our sponsors, *Ozinga* and the *ECFA Foundation*, for their matching grant. This event raised \$5,745.00 which allows us to continue our life affirming services.



AFFIRM LIFE WITH US!!

Do you attend a church that is life-affirming? Help us share our mission and vision with them!

We would love to come speak at a ministry event, to a small group or bible study, to the whole congregation, or we would love to have an informational table in your foyer on a Sunday morning.

Please contact Dan at 630-653-6400 to schedule a visit.



ECFA UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

FEB 8

HEART FOR LIFE

MAY 2

**LOVE IN ACTION
75TH Anniversary Celebration**

May 15

TOP GOLF

The new year brings some fun events to add to your calendar.

All of the events are a great opportunity to have fun and introduce ECFA to family, friends, small group members, etc. More details to come!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.EVANCFA.ORG/EVENTS**

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.

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