



Winter 2019

TRUE TO LIFE

A publication of Evangelical Child & Family Agency



Declaring God's Praises! Love in Action 2019

This year's Love-in-Action Dinner will feature highly acclaimed Christian song writer and recording artist, Nichole Nordeman. She has four Number 1 singles and nine Dove Awards, including two Female Vocalist of the Year wins.

Nichole's music career started back in the mid '90s while the Colorado native was waiting tables in Los Angeles. She attended the University of San Diego on a music scholarship and earned a degree in psychology from the University of Colorado.

Some of her well known songs include "Slow Down", "This Mystery", "Holy", "Legacy",



and "What If". Nichole's song-writing explores the nuances of life, faith, and theology. Her newest album is titled, "Every Mile Mattered". She says, "You

can't outrun God's love; you can't escape God's presence. He's with us wherever we are".

Our evening would not be complete without hearing compelling stories from some of our ECFA clients.

Dinner is complimentary, but reservations are required. An offering will be received to help underwrite ECFA's services.

Seating is for tables of 10; table and other sponsorships are available. For information or promotional material please call Odette at (630) 653-6400 ext. 7214 or email odetten@evanfca.org.

Friday, May 10th 2019

Featuring Nichole Nordeman

Hilton Lisle/Naperville

3003 Corporate W Drive ▪ Lisle, IL 60532

"Have A Heart For Life" Bowl Classic

Saturday, February 16, 2019

Check-in Opens: 11:00 am — Lunch: 11:30

Registration Fee: \$60

(\$20 non-receiptable fee; \$40 minimum receiptable pledges)

Registration includes: pizza & soft drink lunch, 3 games of bowling, shoe rental, sweet treats, and a t-shirt for all who register before February 1st.

Whether you play for fun or are a bit competitive, our bowling event is for you. All proceeds will help our Pregnancy Support Services Program.

Prizes will be awarded to the top male and female adult bowlers, the top male and female youth bowlers, and winning teams (1 youth, 1 adult). If you raise \$250.00 or more in pledges, you will be given a gift card of your choice! There will be numerous prize drawings during the event.

Captain a team of three or four bowlers, register, and begin getting pledges! If you don't have a team, simply register and we'll put you on one.

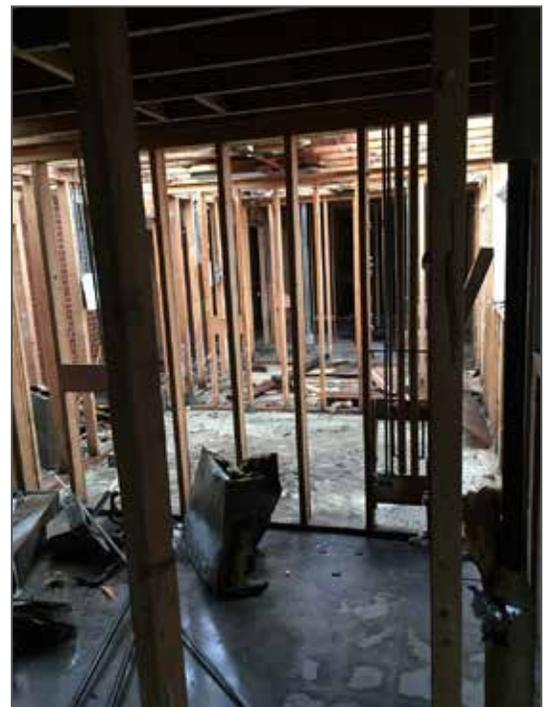
For registration and/or inquiries, please call 630-653-6400 ext. 7214 and ask for Odette. You may also register online at www.evanca.org. Go to the events section.



Rebuilding Begins!

After a lengthy approval process involving fire inspectors, structural engineers, a flood plain determination, and a number of other requirements, the City of Wheaton granted us permission to begin the restoration of our office. Our general contractor has begun the demolition work of the interior of the building. Since the initial structure was built over 60 years ago, the city requires abatement work to be completed. Almost the entire structure of the roof will also need to be rebuilt.

We have had discussions with the architect about how best to utilize the area in the interior of the building. There will be improvements that will make the space more efficient and user friendly. A big thank you to everyone who has expressed concern for our agency as we go through the process of rebuilding and restoration. We continue to be encouraged by your prayers and support!



PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICES

Over the years, PSS has intentionally worked to establish relationships with community resources such as churches, counseling centers, food pantries, and hospitals. These relationships help us in two important ways. First, the PSS program develops an awareness of additional resources that can benefit our clients. Second, the program receives referrals from these friends in the community. Frequently, PSS clients need the services of multiple community providers that focus on specific areas such as counseling for domestic violence, substance abuse, and housing alternatives.

When “Cynthia” (not her real name) first called the agency earlier this year, she revealed that she was six months pregnant and living out of her car. Immediately, the PSS worker knew that finding housing was the top priority. After making a few phone calls, the worker connected with a very compassionate director of a local Christian agency that provides housing. Both the worker and the director quickly agreed that Cynthia sounded like a perfect candidate for their program. She participated in an intake

interview and within a few days was able to move into her apartment! She now receives parenting support and education from PSS as well as life skills training through the



housing program. This teamwork approach has benefitted Cynthia significantly.

That same month, PSS received a referral call from a hospital social worker seeking parenting education and support for “Sarah” (not her real name), who had delivered

her baby three months early. Although her premature baby was under 2 ½ lbs at birth, baby “Ella” had a determined will to live, and grew stronger with each day. During the weeks that Ella was in the NICU, the PSS worker met with Sarah to help her prepare for parenting a baby who requires special care. The hospital social worker helped coordinate services for her once her baby was discharged from the hospital. The hospital staff educated her on special care that Ella would require, and her PSS worker helped her learn healthy parenting techniques, household management, and self-care. Sarah and her family are thrilled that Ella is now at home and thriving.

It has been amazing to work with many of our community resources to better serve the needs of our clients. The joint effort with area agencies to strengthen families has benefitted many moms and dads, as well as their young children.

~Faith Allman, Supervisor
Pregnancy Support Services

STAYING CONNECTED

Since the fire on May 26th, ECFA continues to use 1530 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL 60187 as its mailing address. Part of our staff is temporarily working at 213 W. Wesley St. in downtown Wheaton, and the remaining staff works at 4614 Main St. in Lisle. ECFA staff can be reached by phone at 630-653-6400.

As always, we continue to serve many of our clients in their communities.

God's Charge to Christians

Be "The Hands & Feet of Jesus" through Adoption

God says in His Word, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." God loved us so much that He sent His Son to the cross so we would not be orphans. He rescued us and adopted us into His family.

There are a reported 153 million orphans in the world today. It is also reported there are 2.18 billion Christians in the world. What would happen if each Christian family prayed this prayer, "I will do whatever you call me to do to care for orphans and vulnerable children?"

David Platt, former pastor of Brook Hills Church in Birmingham, Alabama challenged his congregation

with that prayer. By the end of the day, at least 150 families in his church attended an information meeting with their county child welfare department to become foster and/or adoptive parents.

Not every Christian is "called" by God to be an adoptive or foster parent; however, it does take a community of believers to support adoptive/foster families. Providing supportive services to families who foster or adopt children with special needs is critical. God's Word says, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you were doing it to me." (Matt. 25:40)

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ~ John 14:18



"JJ"

JJ: I'm glad my family found me. Please help other foster kids find a home too.

Jamarie: I sorta feel like a normal kid now - like I'm not going to have to leave the next day. Now that I'm adopted, I don't have to leave and they'll (mom and dad) always be there for me.

Jamarie and her brothers were adopted together!



Jamarie with her brothers
Jahlil and Ricardo

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'" ~ Matthew 25:40



Kyla

As I (Kyla) get older, and continue to develop and grow as a young woman, I can truly say that I have been blessed because I was adopted.

My journey from the hospital to now has not been easy, but God chose the parents that would raise me and I know He makes no mistakes. I have come to appreciate what love is on a much deeper level. To know that a family said yes to me and raised me as their own, let's me know that the heart of those who adopt must be a little bit bigger.

God's Charge to Christians ~ con't.

As a current private agency worker who sees the horrific atrocities children go through at the hands of their biological parents, I would urge you to open your hearts and homes.

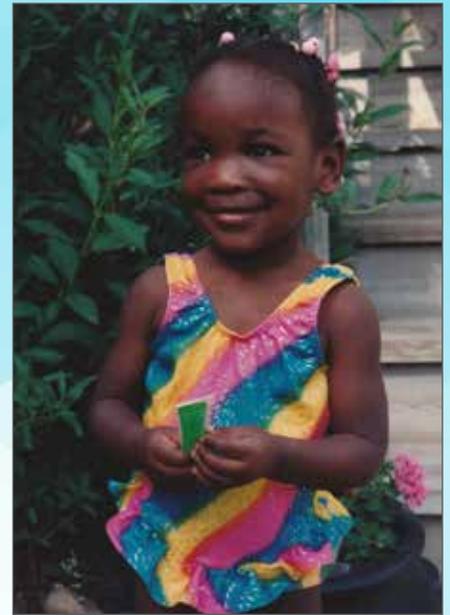
Regardless of what you think you don't have to offer, I can tell you confidently that all each child needs/wants is a home where they feel safe and loved. Would you consider being the hands and feet of Christ?

I pray that when God carries me to the season of marriage and family, I can say yes too!

"But I will protect the orphans who remain among you.

Your widows, too, can depend on me for help." ~ Jeremiah 49:11

"Thou art the helper of the fatherless" ~ Psalm 10:14



Kyla ~ Age 2

VOLUNTEER

Much of ECFA's success can be traced back to the volunteers who have come alongside of us and helped to make our events not only enjoyable, but a significant source of funding for our programs. Others assist with tasks at the agency that support what we do on a daily basis. Some of our volunteer needs require less time and others more, but all are important.

- Mailings - come help stuff envelopes! It's fun, and donuts and other goodies are served.
- Document Destruction - occasionally we need someone with a truck to take confidential material to be destroyed.
- Volunteer Receptionist - once we move back to our renovated office, we will again need assistance for our counselors in the evening.
- Auction - help plan, organize, set-up, etc.
- 5 K 4 Kids - Help with set-up, tasks during race, and take down.
- Office Help - we have occasional need for someone to help answer our phone during the day or assist with an office project.

Consider volunteering some of your time to assist in the mission of ECFA. Contact Odette at 630-653-6400 extension 7214 or email odetten@evanfca.org.

ECFA FOUNDATION, INC.

Initiated in 1995, ECFA Foundation Inc. was designed to provide Christ-centered resources for children, individuals, and families. Affiliated with Evangelical Child and Family Agency, the Foundation's ministry is committed to serving as a significant funding source for the Agency.

For more information regarding the Foundation, please contact
Tim Carrick or Ken Withrow at 630-653-6400

The Gift of Giving



John is six years old and he has the sweetest smile! A week before Christmas he mentioned to his mom he really wanted to have a Christmas tree as the family had never had one before. A friend of ECFA had a small tree they were hoping to donate and it was their pleasure to pass it along to a family being served by ECFA. The family's social worker received a huge hug when she surprised John with his very own Christmas tree.

A Christmas tree is something many of us probably take for granted. Shoes, coats, diapers, gloves, and winter hats are items our kids ask for during our annual toy drive. Our families often do not have the ability to meet all of the basic needs of their kids, let alone buy toys. Year after year our families are blessed by those who care about ECFA and about our families in need. Basic needs were met and toys were generously given, allowing our social workers to see smile after smile!

This year we had another very successful toy drive! Over 150 kids were blessed by the generosity of so many. We collected over 600 toys, several boxes of diapers, numerous winter items, over 60 pairs of pajamas, several books, and at least 50 gift cards.

Our hearts are full, and we are thankful for our ongoing faithful donors and new donors too! Many thanks to friends and family of ECFA, moms from the Wheaton Mom's Facebook page, H4 Training in Wheaton, Electronic Transaction Consultants, the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, the 5th grade classes at Wheaton Christian Grammar School, Immaculate Conception School (Villa Park), the Pajama Project, and Wheaton Town Square for having 2 Christmas trees full of wish lists filled by the community.

Matthew 10:42 says, "And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

With love on behalf of all of us at ECFA,

Wendy Payne, MSW, LSW
Director of Professional Services

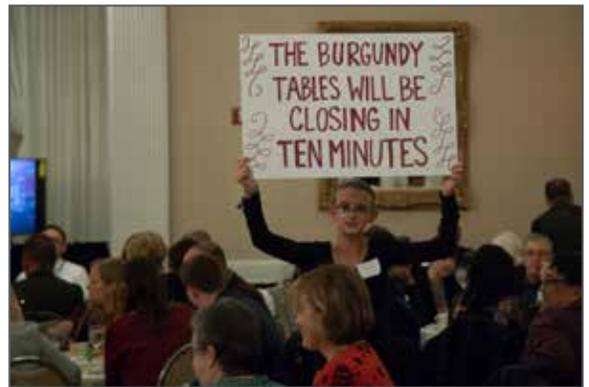


Auction 2018 Remembered

Balloons and signs of burgundy and gold, fairy lighted lantern centerpieces, and friends mingling and socializing filled the elegant ballroom of the Abbington Distinctive Banquets on the night of our November 2nd Benefit Auction. As is our tradition, we had warm apple cider with inviting cinnamon flavor for our guests to enjoy while browsing and bidding on hundreds of items on silent auction tables. Our guest guitarist, Jim Perona played light jazzy music in the background for an excited, enthusiastic, curious, and competitive crowd. It was indeed a wonderful way to start shopping for Christmas gifts knowing that it benefits those served by ECFA.



Wendy Payne, Director of Professional Services, welcomed everyone. ECFA board member, Kathy Soneson, gave the invocation before dinner. Auctioneer Greg Parker called the live auction which featured a variety of items including electronics, a Barbie House with dolls, a cute Ozinga concrete mixer truck, and of course, our famous “Mrs. Kelly’s cinnamon rolls”.



ECFA Executive Director, Ken Withrow, gave an update about our building that was destroyed by a fire in May of 2018. During the spot auction our supporters contributed to help pay for some of the restoration costs that are not covered by insurance. Overall, by God’s amazing grace, and the generosity of many friends more than \$104,000 was raised, which included two matching gifts. We want to thank all who supported the event by praying, volunteering, donating items, and giving financially.



God’s word says, “He makes all things work together for good to them that love Him and are called according to His purpose.” (Rom. 8:28) We look forward to our next auction event scheduled on November 8, 2019. We hope you will join us!

Is It Time to Make Your Will?

You need no longer delay this critical matter. Call Rita at 630-653-6400 to request our workbook *Preparing a Christian Will*. It will guide you through the process of gathering the information that is needed by your attorney to draft your personal document. There is no charge or obligation. For information on Planned Giving and Estate Planning, see our website: http://www.evanca.org/opportunities/planned_giving.html

Memorials and Tributes

In Loving Memory

Staff Sergeant Christopher Antonik

From: Mr. and Mrs. John Antonik

Kenneth Ashcroft

From: Ralph and Jessica Todd

Evelyn Boonstra

From: Charles & Deborah Slager

Edna Brandt

From: Suzy McLaughlin

Kathi Burkman

From: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burkman

Carmen Castillo

From: Mr. and Mrs. Scott Allman

Calvin DeYoung

From: Adalee DeYoung

All the Grandparents of Brian and Brianne D.

From: Steven and Sheri Durfey

Frank & Joan Edwards

From: Mr. & Mrs. David Edwards

Phyllis Ellenwood

From: Mr. and Mrs. Steven Koebel

Bonnie Jo Fisher

From: Gregory Fisher

Rev. Herbert and Mrs. Eleanor Gotaas

From: June White

Ed and Jean Griffiths

From: Mary Moravec

Eleanor Hill

*From: Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Covarrubias
Suzanne Evans*

Mark S. King

From: Mrs. Lucille King

William S. King

From: Mrs. Lucille King

Irene Highfield Levander

From: John and Ruth Levander

Louise Oostman

From: Loretta Ramirez

Carol Reneau

From: Raymond Reneau

Doris Wheeler

From: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wren, Jr.

Ellen N. White

From: Bruce and Lucy Askin

Nyra Wise

*From: Stanley Mishima
James and Joan Stough*

Don and Sylva Worsham

From: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wratney

Tributes ~ In Honor of

Texas Senator Ted Cruz

From: Ruth Szantay

L. J. Fletcher

From: Pamela Fletcher

Thomas & Mary Idichandy

From: Alex & Jenny Idichandy

Dr. Anders Oster

*From: Suzanne and Joseph Kupiszewski
Ruth and John Oster*

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