

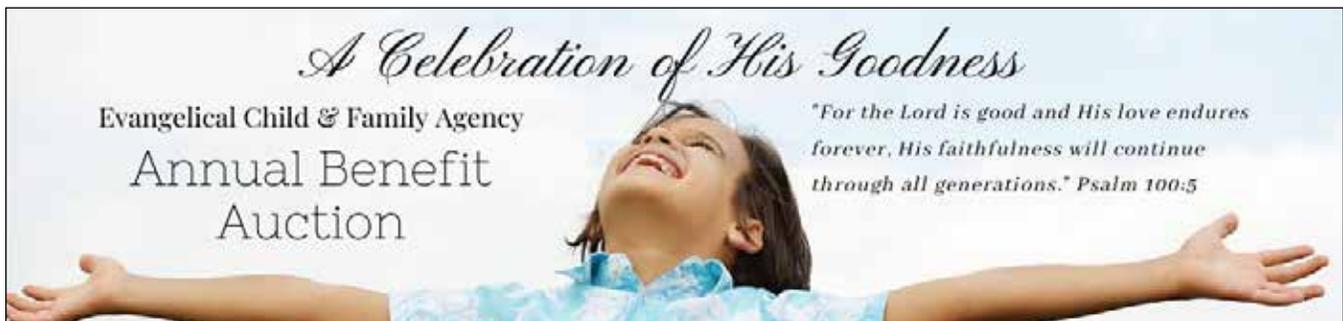
Fall 2020



TRUE TO LIFE

A publication of Evangelical Child & Family Agency

ECFA Auction Goes Online



In case you haven't heard, this year's annual benefit auction is moving from an in-person event, to a virtual, or online format. Everything from Bible studies to baby showers have gone online due to Covid-19, and while most of us aren't thrilled with our inability to see friends and family face-to-face, not even a global pandemic can stop ECFA's ministry to those in need. Here is an overview of what it means when we say the auction will be "online", as well as the basics of how you can participate.

The auction site will open for registration on Monday, October 26th. The following Monday,

November 2nd, you'll be able to preview the catalog of items up for bid. Bidding will open at 10:00 AM CST on Wednesday, November 4th, and close at 9:00 PM CST on Saturday, November 7th.

We all know how frustrating it is when you can't get a real person to help with questions when you're online. That won't be a problem here. Feel free to call us at 630-653-6400, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM CST and ask for "Auction Support" should you have any questions or issues.

**Registration Required
to Participate**

***Registration Details are
on Page Two***

**Don't Forget,
bidding starts
Wednesday, November 4th!**



Let the Bidding Begin!!

An online auction is one that's hosted on a website. Once there, you'll want to follow the steps below to register as an auction participant.

1. Access the event website from ECFA's website, www.evancfa.org/events/annual-benefit-auction/.
2. Click "Register Now."
3. Create an Account by filling in the requested information.
4. Check the Terms and Conditions box.
5. Check the Text Messages box (for updates on your bids and event announcements.)
6. Click "Create my GiveSmart account" at the bottom of the page and follow the directions to set your preference for payment, should you win an item, or wish to donate.

Be sure to sign-up for text alerts when you register so you can receive reminders & tips throughout the week of the auction.

STRIDE FOR LIFE



Our first paddler for life!! Thanks Dave!



Michelle, Chip, & Abby Edwards

Normally this article would describe the congregation of ECFA supporters to run, walk or bike, while enjoying sunshine, face painting, food and fellowship. But, as we're all well aware, 2020 is about the farthest thing from normal many of us have seen in a long time. So.... the 2020 version of Stride for Life tackled the challenge of bringing ECFA supporters together, in a physically distant, Covid-19 defying manner. Thanks to the generosity of many, and by the grace of God, this challenge wasn't just met, our fundraising goals were exceeded as we tallied record-setting gifts for this event.

From Saturday, September 19th, through Saturday, September 26th, 80 ECFA champions hit the roads, trails and even rivers (kayaking, not running!) to put in their miles in support of our various ministries. In addition to those folks, more than 40 others didn't let their inability to participate get in the way of backing ECFA, as they partnered by sending in pledges and donations. Together, these generous partners allowed us to secure all \$6,000.00 in matching funds, and raise over \$18,000.00 to support ECFA's services to our clients.

In this strange season, be encouraged by the knowledge that the most important things remain unchanged. God is control, and His people continue to be faithful. Thank you all for putting God's love into action!

Providing Care & Support

For the past 70 years, Evangelical Child and Family Agency has offered pregnancy help for women and families who are facing an unexpected pregnancy. Over time, the Pregnancy Support Services program (PSS) has evolved but the heart of the program remains the same: to come alongside those who need support during their pregnancy or shortly thereafter.

One of our clients, “Andrea”, really appreciated the convenience of in-home counseling services and the delivery of baby items such as needed diapers and formula. Since the pandemic occurred, PSS has been connecting with those we serve by way of consistent phone and Zoom sessions to help them become even better parents and successfully manage their stress and anxiety.

When Keren, our PSS bilingual Spanish worker, recently attended a Christian Women’s conference she was able to provide information about PSS services to many interested women. One of those was “Andrea”. Keren began meeting with Andrea to provide the kind of support she and her family had been seeking, and Keren’s fluency in Spanish gave Andrea and her husband a more comfortable counseling experience.

Since they have older boys, and it had been several years since they had a newborn, Andrea and her husband benefitted from reviewing newborn and infant care. When Andrea delivered their baby, she and her husband were so delighted to finally have a daughter!

Andrea’s family has faced challenges due to very limited finances and a lack of emotional support here in America. Keren introduced them to other supportive ministries where they received food, clothing and diapers for their children. Keren provided parenting and emotional support to help this couple become the parents they desire to be for their children.

Andrea and her husband are so thankful for God’s provision in their lives. They consider PSS to be an integral part of how God has helped them during this challenging year.

PSS provides education on maintaining a healthy pregnancy, childbirth education, parenting support and education, referrals to community programs and resources. For those women who don’t feel able to parent their child, adoption planning is also available. We look forward to carrying on God’s good work for women, families, and newborns!

Faith Allman, LCSW

Supervisor, Pregnancy Support Services



For Illustration Only

Open House Still to Come!!

Most of you recall the Memorial Day fire in 2018 that destroyed ECFA’s offices in Wheaton. Literally, out of the ashes, a new space has arisen. We were fortunate enough to complete our “move in” this past February, receiving our permanent occupancy permit from the City of Wheaton in early March, just prior to the start of pandemic.

So many of you supported us in so many ways during our displacement, and during our “move in”. Through your faithfulness and God’s grace, we now

have a newly renovated workspace from which to serve those in need. It has always been our intent to hold an “open house” event to both celebrate being back home, and to say thank you to so many who have been a part of sustaining our team through these past couple of years. That intent remains, and will be realized as soon as we can safely accommodate the extended ECFA family in our space. Until then, know that we appreciate your continued support and can’t wait to welcome you back to 1530 N. Main Street.

Memorials - In Loving Memory

Mrs. Bonnie Fisher

From: Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Caneva

Mr. Thomas Henderson

From: Mrs. Charlotte Henderson

Mrs. Gertrude Kloese

From: Joyce Devries

Dean Kloese

Peggy Sluis

Mrs. Joel Spann

From: Esther Pikel

Dave Pikel

Mr. Lee Wright

From: Mrs. Darlene Wright

Fallen Law Officers

Who died defending our freedom

From: John and Tamara McParland

ECFA Foundation

The ECFA Foundation was founded in 1995 through the efforts of Henrietta VanDerMolen, a long-time board member and supporter of the Agency. The mission of the Foundation is to promote and support the interests and purposes of ECFA as it offers Christ-centered services to children, families and individuals.

Over the past ten years, due to the generosity of donors, the Foundation has contributed approximately \$570,000 back to the Agency. The Foundation's specific contributions to the Agency over the years have included the following:

- Scholarships for employees to complete there 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

A new means of contributing to the Foundation stems from the "Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act", also know as the IRA charitable roll-over. This allows retirees to make charitable gifts directly to a qualified charitable organization, such as the Foundation, from their IRA without treating the distribution as taxable income. This also applies to the annual IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) when applicable. The RMD has been waived for 2020, but will be applicable in future years.

ECFA has also partnered with the Barnabas Foundation to assist individuals in preparing wills and estate plans which prudently provide for bequests to Christian charities. In addition to direct donations and bequests, gifts of appreciated stock or other assets are also excellent opportunities for contributions to the Foundation.

Please prayerfully consider an investment in the ECFA Foundation, a gift which keeps on giving back to the Agency in the future.

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

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