

True to Life

AN EVANGELICAL CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY PUBLICATION

SPRING 2011



GOD'S FIRST INSTITUTION

The ideal family was supposed to be: a safe place where acceptance is learned, nurturing love & forgiveness practiced, work & play appreciated. Sharing was to be natural among family members. Life and death were expected to be a normal cycle within the family as part of a generational span.

What has happened?

The definition of a family now has multiple meanings. In any classroom in any city in Wisconsin, or any other state in America, children come from a large variety of family composites that may include single parents, divorced, blended families, those with no familial ties, same sex unions, multiple partners, teen parents, some challenged through the early death of a parent, and those with grandparents raising grandchildren or even their great-grandchildren.

Nurturing love and forgiveness are often no longer normal in the home. Acceptance referred to often as tolerance has gone too far. Substance and sexual abuse has robbed many a child of their innocence and childhood. Financial instability has impacted families who often times have to choose between nutritious food or paying the rent on time. Many children are confused who their guardian is and whose house they are sleeping at tonight.

What will be the definition of FAMILY in the next year if we do not become serious about praying for our neighbors, friends, and family?

There is an underlying spirit of dissension, self-centeredness, and entitlement that permeates our culture now that was not present in the '50s & '60's.

We need to applaud those mothers & fathers who love, guide, and protect their children whether biological, adopted, or cared for and recognize they are molding the next generation by being the unsung heroes.

Areas we can specifically pray for:

That fathers in our communities would become the leaders and examples to their children and love their wives faithfully.

That mothers would recognize the high calling of nurturing their children and respecting their husbands.

That children would find that obedience and respect result in a positive, healthy lifestyle.

That families would become involved in bible-believing churches to become strong in standing up for TRUTH.

That everyone reading this article would make an effort to encourage struggling families in their workplace, schools, churches, and neighborhoods.

Oh No, Not the Orange Barrels!

The orange barrels of construction season in Wisconsin seem to be everywhere on many of the major expressways. One unexpected place that they have appeared for a lengthy project is on Oklahoma Avenue in front of Almost Anything 2. We are still open for business. We need YOU in order to survive this extra challenge. Please visit either location to shop or donate your household items, unusual unwanted and other saleable items during the road construction trial.



Let the choices you make today be choices you can live with tomorrow.

MARY KENNEDY, IMPACTING LIVES FOR GENERATIONS

For the last eight years, it has been a genuine privilege to be able to share on the topic of “adoption” each fall and spring semester with students at Elkhorn Area High School in Walworth, Wisconsin. Their loved and gifted teacher, Mary Kennedy, truly cares for each of her students and is sadly completing her final days of teaching due to early retirement and contract issues.

During each semester, students in Mary’s Child Development I classes discover what parenting is all about when they take home life-size, realistic babies to care for. Each baby is equipped with a computer that has been preset with a program that will monitor the responses of the caretaker. These babies are manufactured by Realityworks, Inc; with whom Mary has been involved, writing the curriculum for their Shaken Baby Syndrome component.

Mary has been welcoming ECFA into her (2-3) Child Development I classes each semester where students were able to learn firsthand about the option of adoption. The 45 minute class consists of Linda Oberbrunner sharing on the history of adoption, fascinating facts, and the legalities. Concurrently, actual profiles of adoptive families (already blessed by an adoptive placement) are circulated among the students to peruse. Then, a real life testimony by an agency client (sometimes a birthparent that placed her child, an adult adoptee, or an adoptive couple), would share their story with the students. The last ten minutes would be for questions and answers. After the class concluding buzzer sounded, an agency key chain and contact card were passed out as the students left the classroom. A few weeks later, brief thank you remarks were received that were written by the students which are cherished and kept as reminders.

We at ECFA are grateful to have forged a deep relationship with such a loving and caring teacher that has invested herself and time in the lives of young women and men for over 34 years. Our prayers and love are extended to Mary as she seeks GOD’s direction and guidance for her future days.



WAITING IS NOT A TRIVIAL MATTER

Did you ever sit at a restaurant after ordering food and want to occupy your time and mind with some useful information? Well that thought crossed the mind of some entrepreneurs from Oregon. They created *Trivia Pages*, a laminated 12 page eye-catching menu-like format, that involves the reader in some quick games, trivial information, and local advertising. In order to reach more customers and donors for Almost Anything Resale Shops, a one year contract was made for a colorful ad and short verbiage on *Trivia Pages* available in ten locations that include: Texas Roadhouse, New Berlin; China Inn Restaurant, Hales Corners; Oscar’s Frozen Custard, Waukesha; Neighbors Bar & Grill, New Berlin; Eric’s PorterHouse, Waukesha; Genesee Depot Cafe, Genesee; Hannon’s, Waukesha; Alexis on Broadway, Waukesha; Gyros West, Waukesha; and the Charcoal Grill in New Berlin. If you visit one of these locations this year, see if you can find our ad and maybe even learn some trivia in the process while patiently waiting for your food.



A Man that Knows his Heavy Metals

Wally, who was actually, born Walter J. Kohnke, ascribes himself as the President and one of two members of "The Old Buzzards Club." His sense of humor is one of many salient characteristics that define Wally.



Over eight years ago, Wally was introduced to the Almost Anything resale shop through a mutual friend of Karen Thoen. At first, Wally was the guy that took the garbage out, ran items up and down the basement stairs, and made himself useful three days a week. His main goal at the store was to "put a smile on the other volunteers faces." Heide Kraus, a volunteer

who moved to the Salt Lake City, Utah, area in February said, "Wally's sense of humor is dry and quirky yet, so irresistible. On the days that he wasn't working with me something was missing." Many often echo her sentiments.

These days, Wally has all the metals put aside for him at both stores in his bin. He then sorts them into brass, copper, and aluminum. On any given day, Wally can cite the price of the day. For this story, Wally stated that aluminum was fetching 55 cents a pound, brass \$2.00, and copper \$3.50. He frequents West Allis Salvage who pays the best price and always checks his Driver's License which is on file with them. Wally is also aware of the price that trimmed cable cords bring. He checks out every small appliance that is donated and no longer in working order. If he trims off the ends to prep the cords and cables, he can receive \$1.00 a pound. If he turns them in with everything on them, he gets only 15 cents a pound. Wally also has a resource where he can sell the old broken and ugly jewelry of 10, 14, 18, (and rarely 24) karat gold and the 9.25 sterling silver. On Wally's last trip to cash in the jewelry, he had his highest revenue for the agency: \$420!!! It usually is a much more modest sum than that. Wally's other task is putting batteries in the watches that are donated to make them tick again. Wally also avails himself for larger household pick-ups with his personal van.

Wally is the father of two sons and two daughters and used to be a flea market seller until last year. His gift of conversation and wit was evidently honed at market and festival gatherings where a person could meet all kinds of characters. Wally too is a unique character who encourages all he meets with his special "Wally-brand" sense of humor.

The Winsome Smile of William "Bill" Bosch

02/22/22 – 04/04/11

For many years on any Saturday, shoppers at Almost Anything on 76th & Beloit Road could expect to encounter the captivating smile of volunteer Bill Bosch. He had a friendly way of relating to the other volunteers and especially Supervisor Karen Thoen, "the boss lady." Jeanne, Bill's wife of 67 years, was involved with the resale shop in its early days with founders, Anita Wonder and Dianne Marek. Jeanne invited Bill to come with her one Saturday and he continued for 20 years pricing, packing, straightening, and doing whatever else Jeanne or "the boss" wanted accomplished, always with 'that smile.'



Bill was raised as an only child after his younger brother died in infancy. After graduating from high school, he met Jeanne, a senior in high school, on a hayride when both had come with someone else on that hayride date. Their relationship grew and continued even though Bill was wanted by Uncle Sam and drafted in the Army in 1942. After extensive stateside training, he was sent overseas as a gunner in an open tank and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He served in General Patton's Third Army, 11th Armored Division, and was gone for 18 months. However, he kept in communication with Jeanne, his sweetheart, through V-mail (victory mail) which was a process that involved the microfilming of handwritten letters and then censoring by blotting out portions with ink or scissors cutting the sensitive information.

After Bill's discharge, the young married couple was eventually able to settle down in Wisconsin to raise their three children, two daughters and a son, who in turn have blessed Jeanne and Bill with two spouses and also grandchildren.

Since 1975, the couple has been involved at Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Recently, Bill began struggling with a number of health issues and surgery complications until his death in April. He was loved by so many and will be missed by everyone because his smile was able to melt just about anyone's heart.



Welcome Emily A Very Appealing Caseworker

On April 18, 2011, Emily Kasper began as a full-time Caseworker I in the Pregnancy Support Services Program at the New Berlin office. She is an energetic woman who brings a spark to her position. She has previous experience as a child protective



services caseworker for the Bureau of Milwaukee Children's Welfare for almost two years. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Evangel University in Springfield, MO. She has also worked at a law firm in Wisconsin and has had numerous cross-cultural

experiences. In her car is a very large yellow banana she named "Banana" which occupies half of her back seat and is definitely a conversation item. Her interests include: baking, reading, exercising (with push up attempts), listening to people's stories and volunteering at inner city ministries. She attends Oak Creek Assembly and recently had a lead role in their Easter musical *Redemption*. Emily found out about the opening through her church secretary and we are delighted she responded to the job posting. Please welcome her and see Banana, her passenger, if you are in the area.



Dine in for Do\$\$ars Results

The results of the Qdoba Dine in for Dollars, which was 10% of the sales of those who brought in their ECFA flyer, was \$33. Thank you to all who came out for this event which was a first for the ministry organized by staff social worker, Carrie Bacovsky. Congratulations to Joel Wamser, the winner of the pair of Brewer's tickets, which were donated by BASICS in Milwaukee, Inc.

R U A Weekend Warrior?

We have an **immediate need** for 1 to 4 women each month to be our on call weekend phone answering volunteers from your home or cell phone. Lisa Scharlou had served three weekends a month in this ministry for many years and is no longer available because of her school internship requirements. Lisa stated that "this experience is deeply rewarding and enriching for me and my family."



The primary function of our phone volunteers is to offer a welcoming and attentive response to all callers and then screen for emergencies which are forwarded on to the on call social or caseworker. It is a way of serving without leaving your home.

If you are interested or have questions regarding this opportunity, please call Cathy at: 262-789-1881. Training and encouragement will be provided.

The 2nd Annual Dress Sale was a successful event for both sellers and buyers as many women found their dream dress. Proms, the home school dance, graduations, weddings, and confirmations were some of the events mentioned that motivated this years buyers. Although fewer dresses were donated in

comparison to last year, more sales transpired. A total of \$372 was donated to the ministry which was 10% of the sales. Organizer Tarri Stanzer, and the Brooklife Church of Mukwonago members made their customers and sellers at home in the larger location of the DN Greenwald Center of ProHealthCare on I-43 & 83. The medical facility's waiting area was transformed into a dress boutique complete with displays, racks, and accessories. ECFA is thankful to all who made this event a positive experience for everyone involved.





The 25th Annual BIKE & HIKE Results



This year, 128 friends of ECFA, braved the elements of low 40's temperatures and intermittent misty conditions on Saturday, May 14, 2011, to participate in the 25th Annual Bike & Hike. The colorful jade green t-shirts with brown lettering were the winning design of WCTC graphic arts student, Rebecca Bogdanovich. This year, the short-sleeved shirts were worn either under or over a few other layers of clothing. T-shirt contest runners-up were Kristi Lasch and Kyle Re. Their designs were featured on sheet cakes displayed at the event and eaten to celebrate



the special anniversary of the event. Kristi's two-year old son, Tanner, was speechless, his expression precious, when told by his mom that she drew the design that was on the cake that he was excited to eat.



All the picnic tables were arranged close together under the Bethesda Park shelter early in the morning and tarps were secured to the shelter to keep the wind and rain out for the hungry lunch crowd that enjoyed the delicious tasting Cousins Subs, which were graciously provided by the Valentine Family. Some of the water bottles donated by Dr. Bob of Water Doctors



were opened and poured into a 100 cup coffee pot to make coffee that kept people's hands and cores warmed. Hot chocolate was shared courtesy of Kathy Misany and Cathy Bogdanovich. The fresh

popcorn smell from the old-fashioned machine donated by Olson's Ace Hardware of Waukesha, wafted throughout the shelter and kept volunteer Alan Arenz very busy for hours. Homemade chocolate chip cookies and rice krispie treats made by Mary Go and Carrie Downes and her daughter, Sarah, were a huge hit when the participants returned from the trail.



New this year, two K-Love radio station 105.3 staff, Johnny V. Clements and Theresa G. interconnected their sound truck, colorful tent, and table to the shelter's electricity to provide great

background music and special station give aways as participants ate, talked, played children's games, and enjoyed one another's company. In addition, every 25 minutes or less, pairs of Brewer's tickets, \$25 value gift baskets, and one night and breakfast for two at the Sheraton



Milwaukee Brookfield were prizes given through ECFA for all those present between 11 & 12:30, which was another special way to celebrate the 25th annual event.

This year's hardy crossing guards: Tim Kolb, Ron Baer, Mike, Calla, and Rebecca Bogdanovich, Samantha Beaver, Anita & Wally Julius, Jerry & Mickie Schmitz, Scott & Tina Heald, Tim Lasch, John Misany, Catherine Nelson & niece, Sarah, and Carl Budd were the heroes of the day as they stood outside for up to 3-1/2 hours to encourage the participants and hold them back at road crossings where they may not be seen by unsuspecting drivers.



The 25th Annual



New adoptive parents Nick & Kristen, proudly shared their beautiful little 9 week old “Emma” with just about everyone at the shelter and even walked pushing Emma several miles along the Glacial Drumlin Trail.

They personally thanked

the crossing guards for volunteering. It was so inspiring to all to see this couple blessed with this little one in their lives. This is why the Bike and Hike event exists, to provide services for moms, dads, and babies ~ the birth parents and the adoptive parents, too.



The early results indicate that the \$25,000 goal will be reached this year (despite the unfavorable weather) which includes the \$10,000 match of an anonymous, generous couple who definitely motivate others to double their funds.

Pastor Fred Smith of the Watertown Community Church continues to challenge himself by raising the bar again to secure more funding for the agency. He is the top fundraiser again this year raising over \$4,100 through his personal efforts and persuasive ways as his church family depart from Sunday services.

So many people are instrumental in the success of this event and include:

- the generous couple who match the donations up to \$10,000
- the major sponsors: Cousins Subs, Waukesha State Bank, Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield, an anonymous cash prize donor, Guardian Credit Union, The Country Springs Hotel Water Park & Conference Center, Wisconsin Christian Expo, and BASICS (Brothers and Sisters in Christ Serving) in Milwaukee, Inc. for pairs of Brewers tickets
- the Bike & Hike Committee who begin meeting regularly for prayer and planning in January. This dedicated team of Ron and Jan Baer, and Linda Oberbrunner is expertly led and fed by Brian & Nancy Farrell who are supported by their children, David, Tim, & Ruth.
- A. L. Schutzman Company, for nut and snack donations to fill many \$25 gift baskets



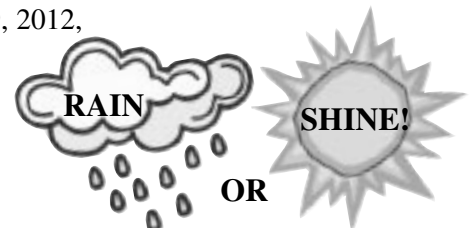
BIKE & HIKE Results



- Sunset Drive Culvers Restaurant for cone tokens (which were possibly saved by recipients for a warmer day)
- LeCaffe Bistro on Sunset for the coffee mugs and gift cards totaling \$25
- Doug Kowalski's free bike check-up and repair station
- Beth Ramsey, graphic artist for the beautiful pamphlet design and more...
- Molly Llannas, organizing the kid's games, prizes, and face-painting
- Reporter Kristen Winiarski www.WaukeshaPatch.com who wrote two articles for the event
- The other day of event volunteers assigned to various tasks and not previously mentioned in this article include: Carrie Bacovsky, Sue & Tony Carlson, Kathy Misany, Cathy Bogdanovich, Jill Hait, Matt and Terry Arenz, Kayla Jervis, Emily Kasper, Leah Valentine, Mike Oberbrunner, Nancy Schatzman & Paige Heald
- The total funds raised this year by just 128 participants was \$15,230 plus the \$10,000 match!
- The top three fundraisers and prizes they chose this year are:
1st Pastor Fred Smith ~ Brewers' Baseball Package
2nd Kathy Misany ~ \$200 Cash Prize
3rd Cory and Ruthann Wesemann ~ Four Country Springs Waterpark Passes & \$50 Restaurant Certificate
- In addition, all those who raised \$250 in pledges will receive a Two Foot Cousins Party Sub Certificate



We are extremely grateful to each of the participants who has taken personal time to obtain their sponsors. Every dollar pledged in support is then matched up to \$10,000 and benefits the 200 plus Pregnancy Support Services Program clients throughout the year. Mark your calendar now for next year's Bike & Hike event May 19, 2012, always the Saturday after Mother's Day →



Memorials



In fond memory of: my best friend,
Ken Bellanger
From: Jim Meineke



In loving memory of: Allie & Michelle
From: A loving friend, Shirley Burdick



In fond memory of: my friend,
William "Bill" Strei
From: Greta Erdman



In fond memory of: my friend,
William "Bill" Bosch
From: Greta Erdman



In memory of: my loving husband,
Bill Bosch
From: Jeanne Bosch



In memory of: a Christian brother,
Bill Bosch
From: Doris Schaaf



In special memory of: our friend
William Bosch
From: George & Cynthia Whitaker



In fond memory of: William Strei
From: Gwen Eckman



In loving memory of our dad "Bucko"
From: Mike & Linda Oberbrunner



In special memory of:
Donald "Bucko" Oberbrunner
From: Lou & Kelly Neil



In memory of:
Donald "Bucko" Oberbrunner
From Family Friends:
Carl & JoAnne Muenzmeier

& Tributes



In honor of: my parents,
Tim & Linda Lasch
From: Kristi Lasch



In honor of: Missy, Nathan's birthmother
From: Dan & Dixie



With a Grateful Heart

There is a continual outpouring of blessings received by this ministry on a regular basis. As a result, there are many individuals to be grateful for in each quarterly newsletter. The scriptural premise for our gratefulness comes from Psalm 9:1, "I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of the wonders."

Our thanks from grateful hearts:

- ♥ For the beautiful hand-crafted necklaces, earrings, and bracelets for our "Fruits of Your Labor" incentive program for birth moms and additional jewelry for the Brooklife "Dress Sale"
From: Gina Ziller
- ♥ For the 3 colorful, hand-tied quilts; pastel crochet baby blanket; "Noah's Ark" framed artwork; plush puppets & stuffed animals
From: Marlis & George Wessel
- ♥ For the abundant Pregnancy Support Services supplies collected during "Baby Shower Month" including diapers, wipes, soap, cream, pacifiers, hats, socks, ten cuddly sleepers, baby outfits, onesies & a super soft polka-dot blanket
From: The Kettle Moraine Presbyterian Church Women's Group
- ♥ For the lovely hand-made quilts (two each)
From: Doris Werner, Barbara Schalk, Marolyn Stenrod, Nancy O'Brien & Elizabeth Bungard of the RSVP of Waukesha County Program
- ♥ For the 3 hand-knit beautiful baby blankets
From: Crystal Andalaro of Lake Country Bible
- ♥ For the many diapers, wipes, adorable baby outfits, sleepers, diaper bag, CD's, rattles, books, hand-knit sweater & bib, crib sheets & lots of cute extras
From: The Mom's Group at Spring Creek Church
- ♥ For the abundant "baby shower" donation of bibs, diapers, wipes, outfits, onesies, diaper pads, socks designer snow suits, crib ruffle, hygiene products, socks, towels, wash cloths & children's jewelry
From: The Elizabeth Ministry at Holy Apostles Church, Mary, Dennis, & Joe Sage
- ♥ For the indoor and outdoor maintenance at ECFA by Tony Carlson on the first day of his summer vacation

ECFA Volunteers – Irreplaceable, Valuable, Unforgettable

This year's Volunteer Brunch on April 26th was attended by 70 women and men ages 16 to 88 who give of their time, talents, and smiles, to further the ministry of ECFA throughout the year. All aspects where volunteers participate were represented and include: the High Ridge Community mailing team, Almost Anything Resale Shop(s) crew, the in home after-hours phone responders, the landscape tenders and maintenance attenders, the office receptionists, the Advisory Council members, those that assist at events, and the prayerful encouragers.



Pastor Bill Johnson from Beloit Road Baptist Church in West Allis is very gracious to share his church building for our volunteer events throughout the year. He popped in and shared many kind words with the group before they enjoyed the wonderful food prepared by Katie Wood & Emily, her 10 year-old daughter, & friend



Larry VanDenEng. This very talented threesome are members of the church and shared their gifts as brunch caterers, singer and guitarist, and also served as the cleanup team. The energy they expended to serve everyone seemed limitless and was so appreciated. The testimony of adoptive mom Dana Wright with her delightful one-year-old daughter Mya, from China, allowed the volunteers a personal glimpse into her family. She shared the joy that Mya has brought to their

family of seven and her gratefulness to every ECFA volunteer. A touching devotion was given by Mike Oberbrunner who highlighted the theme of: Irreplaceable, Valuable, Unforgettable ~ *"I thank my GOD upon every remembrance of you..."* from Philippians 1:3. His father, a former ECFA volunteer at the resale shop a few years ago, had died just a couple of hours before the brunch. Mike fulfilled his commitment to share from the Word which took on a special meaning for all.



Each volunteer is a part of the ministry and therefore part of the miraculous change that often occurs in the lives of the individuals we serve.

Thanks to every person that has given
part of your life to ECFA.
**You are irreplaceable, valuable,
and unforgettable!**





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**Mark Your
Calendars!**

Christmas in July Campaign

Rock The Lakes
Franklin Graham Crusade
Veteran's Park, Lakefront
AUGUST 29-31, 2011

28th Annual Fall Banquet
October 7, 2011 ~ Speaker TBA
Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield

**CARPET
CLEANING
CONUNDRUM**

There are 15 steps and two major
halls in the New Berlin office that have
'a-track-ted' quite a bit of dirt. We
received a professional quote that is
beyond what we can afford at this time.
If you have a "solution" to our dilemma,
please call Linda at: 262-789-1881

