

True to Life

AN EVANGELICAL CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY PUBLICATION

SUMMER 2011

27th Annual Fall Banquet – October 7, 2011

This has been one hot summer to remember with an astounding number of record all-time highs set all over the USA. Yet, those who make Wisconsin their home know that the local mall's debut of this season's winter coats is imminent. At ECFA, this seasonal transition ushers in the always anticipated Annual Fall Banquet scheduled this year for October 7, 2011, beginning with a Silent Auction for savvy shoppers which will begin at 5:30 p.m.



Our guest speaker, Melissa Ohden, will share her unique testimony as the survivor of an abortion attempt in 1977. Despite the initial concerns regarding Melissa's future after she survived the saline solution attempt to end her life, she was born alive at approximately six months gestation.

She has not only survived, but thrived as a wife, mother, and former social worker. She obtained her Master's Degree in Social Work and has worked in the fields of substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence/sexual assault counseling, and child welfare. She was married in October 2005 to Ryan. Almost three years later, they were joyously blessed with their daughter, Olivia.

After years of searching for her biological family and offering them forgiveness for the decision that was made to end her life, Melissa's story and her life is so much more than one of survival. Her story is one about the beauty of God's grace in our lives, about the power of love, about the hope for joy and healing in the midst of grief and loss, and about the transformational power of forgiveness and response to answer God's call in each one's life.

The birth of Olivia, her first child, in 2008, prompted Melissa to found For Olivia's Sake an organization which seeks to peacefully raise awareness of the intergenerational impact of abortion on men, women,

children, families, and communities. Painfully aware that Olivia would not have come into existence if the abortion would have succeeded in ending her life, Melissa felt driven to create this organization that would positively raise awareness of the ripple effect of abortion across generations.

Fulfilling the purpose that she believes God set out for her when He saved her from the certain death of the abortion attempt, Melissa is truly a voice for the voiceless.



Our emcee for the evening is one of ECFA's personable Pastoral Consultants, Ted Robinson, who serves at Poplar Creek in New Berlin; the inspirational evening music will be provided by Gene and Anne Schmidt who were overwhelmingly requested by many of our past guests. Senator Mary Lazich of New Berlin, who co-sponsored Senate Joint Resolution 28, will present the agency with a plaque of recognition honoring ECFA as a Christ-centered, compassionate Pregnancy Care Center; it also proclaims October 2011 as Pregnancy Care Month in Wisconsin. And as always, there will be some touching client testimonies and other special happenings throughout the evening.

Invite a guest or two as this is an affordable, positive way to become involved in a pro-life event that impacts others for LIFE!

The cost of the dinner is still only \$25 and reservations can be made until September 29th by calling Sue or Joan at 262-789-1881.

Banquet Theme Scripture Verse

*"I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Marvelous are Your works; and my soul knows it very well."*

Psalms 139:14

Abundant Woodridge Remnants



On Saturday July 30th, our Monday morning ECFA office volunteer, Anita Julius, excitedly called to ask Mike & Linda Oberbrunner to come to Woodridge Church in New Berlin at noon, for a large pick-up of their church-wide rummage sale remnants. After arriving, Linda stood speechless and amazed at the quality and quantity of items that were supposedly left over from a very successful missionary benefit. Church members were challenged to give their best and they did!



Anita told the sale coordinator, Elaine Doidge, about the ministry of ECFA and the need for items at the two resale shops in West Allis. Elaine and her husband, Tom, the new lead Pastor at Woodridge, were recent Californian transplants unaware of ECFA until Anita had shared. Elaine was convinced this would be the best place to share and organized “her troops” to load three vans to their ceilings and a pick-up truck complete with drivers and helpers to form a caravan to the stores. The abundant remnants were more than anyone could ever have imagined and enjoyed by the regular customers for many days.

FILLING A NICHE NOBLY

Two years ago, 14 year old Nick Lucas, was in search of a volunteer opportunity that would satisfy the 50 hours of service required to participate in the National Honor Society. Even his mom, Tracy, inquired at a number of places without success. Then one day when she was shopping at the Almost Anything 2 Resale Shop, she noticed the ‘Volunteers Needed’ sign. She spoke with the supervisor, Karen Thoen, about her son and inquired whether Karen could give him a try. After interviewing Nick a few days later, Karen knew that Nick would be a very good fit. He began his assignment doing the outdoor clean up, grass cutting and trimming on Saturdays. The requirement of 50 hours divided equally between the school year and summer was quickly achieved. Nick was then trained as a cashier and stated he “enjoys seeing the people (customers) happy and satisfied” when they check out at the counter. He also enjoys working with the other volunteers, and his supervisors, Karen and Laurie whom he stated, “provide me with guidance.” Everyone that works with Nick is positively affected by his willingness to do whatever he is asked and always with an enthusiastic response.



At 16 years of age, Nick is a refreshing example of the unselfishness of some of today’s youth. He attends Grace Christian Academy in West Allis, where he is a Junior this year. He is very motivated and is responsible for cutting six neighbors’ lawns and working for his dad burning CD’s and packaging them. In his free time, Nick enjoys playing soccer for a small school league. He also is involved in other sports including basketball. When asked about his future goals, Nick stated he would like to play professional soccer or basketball. His second set of goals however includes becoming a teacher or owning his own restaurant. It is certain whatever Nick puts his hand to will be done very well with integrity and a smile, too.

Christmas in July Results & The Unexpected Announcement

The large 15 passenger van pulled up to the New Berlin agency on a hot Friday morning in August. Descending from the passenger side were six excited children eager to see their pictures on a Christmas tree in the middle of summer. The younger three were in awe and giggled to see so many ornaments of their family with people's names on them that donated a gift to the ministry.



As you may recall, the Kramer family had been selected to share their international adoption story for this year's Christmas in July project. The 2011 results were: 65 participants that donated a total of \$4,420.00 for ECFA'S programs. After the children were "professionally posed" by their mom, Heather, for the newsletter photo, a little tour of the agency was provided for the kids by Linda while Jill chatted with the parents. When Linda showed the three older girls the lovely baby items in the Fruits of Your Labor incentive program room, the "ooohhs", "aahhs", and "oh mys" echoed down the hall. When asked by the girls who all the handmade quilts and blankets are for, Linda replied, "...for all the moms that are having new babies." One of the girls beamed and said, "Then can we have one for my mom

and her new baby?" The innocent statement was evidently a family secret at the time as the oldest sister said, "shhh". But the request for the baby blanket was honored, so the girls began the difficult decision to choose the perfect yarn and colors of a soft knitted baby covering. They presented the gift to their mom saying it was for their new baby. Heather gently reminded the girls that the special announcement was going to be made to other people in a few weeks. She smiled and then everyone laughed and congratulated Karl and Heather. Karl acknowledged they have a van with lots more room

for additional car seats. With the family's permission, the Christmas in July story has this new exciting chapter that is a privilege to share with our ECFA Family.

PAST CHRISTMAS IN JULY RESULTS:

2005	\$4,961.00	75
2006	\$2,865.00	50
2007	\$3,738.00	55
2008	\$10,692.00	74
2009	\$5,115.00	64
2010	\$4,217.00	69
2011	\$4,420.00	65

TO THE RESCUE



Check out their web site at kbcleaners.com or give them a call at 262-542-8390



In response to the plea in the Spring newsletter for carpet cleaning, a true knight in shining armor (in his white truck) came to the rescue. Vickie Bawden, a longtime ECFA friend and supporter, showed the newsletter article to Ken and Kristin Luebke of KBC Cleaners in Waukesha. Ken immediately called to visit the agency and assess the need. He concurred the necessity for extensive carpet cleaning.

The following Saturday, he came equipped with a number of machines including a stair cleaning tool and worked for many hours on both levels.

The 15 year old carpet looked beautiful and smelled wonderful, too. He and his wife refused to accept any monies for their exceptional work which was professionally performed with a heart of servitude.

We are so appreciative of the kindness this family has extended to us so that we may use our funds to assist those in need. Other ECFA friends have hired them after seeing their work and have recommended them to their family and friends.

THE LOGO THAT TRANSFORMED MY FAMILY

~BY ECFA Adoption & Foster Care Supervisor Jill Hait

Prior to obtaining my Masters in Social Work, I was employed at Newport Mesa Christian Center as the secretary to the Associate Pastor, Wayne Tesch in Costa Mesa, California. On December 13, 1984, Wayne attended a meeting at the Assembly of God District office with two district officials. During the meeting, Wayne was given the opportunity to be a Camp Director for one week with a theme camp of his choice at Camp Pinecrest located in the San Bernardino Mountains in Southern California. Wayne returned to his office to seek guidance and direction from God for a camp. He shared with me what was presented to him. Without hesitation, I suggested a camp for abused and neglected children. Wayne felt God spoke directly through me. He knew at that moment God was opening a door for the abused and neglected children of Orange County (where the church was located).

The details were formulated and Royal Family Kids Camp was created as a Christian ministry. The mission of RFKC is to “ Create positive memories for abused and neglected children ages 7-11, in a one-week camp experience.” Last year, there were 175 camps held; 150 in 33 states and 25 camps held in nine countries all over the world. Each person involved in the camp is to be a positive role model for the children within a context of Christian values. That first camp was launched in July of 1985. Each team includes 20-25 people in different roles, or areas of responsibility. I served at the first three camps as a camp counselor. Each camp counselor is matched with two children so the individual needs of the young campers are met.

After serving at the camp for three years, I was not able to attend any longer due to graduate school. After graduating, I resumed serving at camp and my area of responsibility was that of the Social Worker at camp, to help the children who have a difficult time at camp. I was involved with this particular camp for sixteen years.



When I relocated to Wisconsin, I had to leave one of my favorite places during the year – Royal Family Kids Camp at Newport Mesa Christian Center. This ministry expanded as various churches throughout United States began hosting this camp in their state. I knew God would have me return to serving at a camp located in Wisconsin, but when and where? God began showing me the way.

Last year in June, I went to visit one of my adoptive families who had returned from Ethiopia with their new adoptive child. I had recently returned to ECFA after being on a medical leave due to having a knee replacement. As petty as it seemed, I was nervous about where I was going to sit in the family’s home as I had a difficult time getting up from a couch. As I was in route, I asked God to help me at the end of the visit of getting up from the family’s couch “gracefully.” God gently instructed me to request to sit at their kitchen table. In my mind I told God that we always sit in their living room on their couch. God seemed to be firm about sitting at their table. I thought, ok, when I get there I will ask.



When I arrived, I asked to sit at their kitchen table. The adoptive mother said that would not be a problem. As I sat at the table, I saw some sort of paperwork on the table, but what caught my eye was the RFKC logo. I could not believe it. I asked the adoptive mom how she knew about camp. She stated she has been involved with RFKC for four years through her church in Cudahy. I was so excited to hear about her involvement with the camp. I told her how I had been involved with the original camp in Southern California. I also told her how it has been my dream for eight years since I had moved to Wisconsin to be involved with the camp once again. She stared at me and asked if I could have any position at camp, what would it be? I said that I loved the social worker position and that’s exactly the position I would choose. Again, she stared at me. She stated that was the position she held and she would not be able to return next year as they planned to relocate to another state. The adoptive mom stated she had just prayed an hour before that God would bring a Christian, licensed social worker in her place. She could not believe God answered her prayer so quickly. We were both excited! God had answered both of our prayers!

When I returned home that evening, I informed my husband, Dan, of what occurred earlier in the day. He was very excited for me as he knew the love I had for that camp. As I began reminiscing about camp with my husband, I asked him if he would be interested in attending the camp with me. He said he would be interested in being the camp photographer if they needed one. His gift is photography. I spoke with the camp director through the Cudahy church and told her the story. She was excited to have me as the Social Worker plus they were in need of a photographer. We discussed this camp with our 17 year old son, Ben. He stated he was interested in attending too. We spoke with the camp director. She stated that since we (Dan and I) would be at camp, Ben would be eligible at his age to be the camp staff assistant (gopher). This was my dream to have our family serve together at Royal Family Kids Camp.

On July 17, 2011, my family set out on our adventure of ministering to the abused and neglected children from the foster care system in Milwaukee. What a week it was! It was difficult due to the extreme high temperatures coupled with some very difficult and challenging children. Yet, God sustained us all through the final day! I could have brought all those children home with us. Unfortunately, that was not possible.

One child in particular connected well with my husband. "Jay" would not smile or interact with others at camp. Remarkably, God worked through my husband to reach the heart of this child. Before we left camp, Jay asked my husband if he would be his ongoing mentor. My husband discussed this with me and the director. Upon returning from camp, the child's mother gave her permission and it was arranged for my husband to be his mentor. Over the weeks after camp, Jay became connected with my husband, our son, and me. God brought this special child into our lives. Jay has changed our lives. Because of his circumstances and what he has revealed to us, our concerns of what may happen and discussions with his social worker, my husband and I decided it would be in the best interest of Jay that we become foster parents and be on "stand by" just in case there is a need for him to be placed in a foster home. We want our family to be there for him!

It is amazing to look back over the year to see how God has orchestrated every single detail to bring all of our lives together through a simple logo on an envelope randomly placed upon a kitchen table, waiting for me to notice so that God could give me the desires of my heart and more!

Federal Employees
Reminder



Federal employees can contribute to the Evangelical Child & Family Agency through the Combined Federal Campaign. These gifts help us provide a positive alternative to abortion through our Pregnancy Support Services and Adoption Programs.

The Combined Federal Campaign solicits voluntary contributions from employees of the United States Government. It is the process through which Federal employees may designate their donations for Evangelical Child & Family Agency.

Your contributions assists in meeting the needs of many in our community. ECFA is listed under "Unaffiliated Agencies," number 59908.

For further details you can call:
Linda Oberbrunner (ECFA) 262-789-1881
United Way of Greater Milwaukee 414-263-8100

YOUR DOLLAR\$ AT WORK

Your United Way & Combined Federal Campaign dollars matter greatly! This past campaign, you have generously provided over \$26,500.00 to ECFA through your employee programs with 90% going directly to this ministry. Thank you for your sacrifices at your workplaces. If your co-workers are wondering where their dollars can make a difference for LIFE, let them know where you have chosen to give.



ECFA
Reminder



Each year, **Evangelical Child & Family Agency** receives donations through the United Way of Greater Milwaukee **Unaffiliated Eligible Donor Choice Option (#22880)**. These gifts help us provide positive life-valuing alternatives to abortion through our Pregnancy Support Services and Adoption Programs.

The United Way's community-wide campaign helps meet the diversity of health and human care needs to aid people in building better lives.

For further details you can call:
Linda Oberbrunner (ECFA) 262-789-1881
United Way of Greater Milwaukee 414-263-8100

Memorials

In loving memory of:
our dear mother, Gladys Ladwig
From: Karen Thoen & Joan Liempeck

In loving memory of:
my beloved husband, Alex
From: Betty Muza

In fond memory of:
my friend, Lloyd Konrad
From: Robert Newsbaum

In memory of:
our co-worker, Laurie Kornowski's dad,
Kenneth Runte
From: Mike & Linda Oberbrunner

& Tributes

In honor of: our daughter and grandson,
Kristi & Tanner, for Tanner's
3rd birthday on 7/10/11
From: Tim & Linda Lasch

In honor of: our friends, Bernie & Mary
Hertel's 40th wedding anniversary
From: Sandra Norris



One of this year's elegant silent auction items. 12 candle crystal chandelier fixture – \$800 value. Check out our web site www.ecfawisc.org for more auction listings



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 diapers, wipes, bottles, bottle brushes, washes & lotions, teething, pacifiers, oral care kit, book, stuffed animals, blankets, socks, undershirts, outfits, bath towel and gift card from Wanda & Dawn & the friends and family of Clement Manor memory patients who hosted an ECFA baby shower
- ♥ For the baby hygiene pack, washcloth set, undershirts, bib, pacifiers and socks from Sally Helwig.
- ♥ For the thoughtful gift of baby formula cans from Laura Genatiempo, a new mom from Holy Apostles Church
- ♥ For four beautiful, hand-knit baby blankets from Annie Nelson and the Knit2gether Group from Lake Country Bible Church
- ♥ For the excellent lumberjack and landscaping efforts of the grounds at Almost Anything 2 by Ted and Janet Nunzio
- ♥ For the generous gift of 66 cordless knife sharpeners from Will Hope of Milwaukee Outreach
- ♥ For the brand new Graco Turbooster, youth booster car seat as a tribute to “our Grace”
- ♥ For the two overflowing boxes of new baby items, consisting of a JJ Cole Bundle Me cover, Boppy feeding pillow and slipcover, blankets, headrest, play yard netting, baby mirror, puppy rattle, nursing covers, cart cover, and bib set, to be given to an ECFA adoptive family from Rachel Marsch

Still the Lives of Others

This summer, the flora *and also the weeds*, grew rapidly at the New Berlin agency. A timely phone call was received from Nancy Farrell, our faithful Bike and Hike co-chair, who wondered whether she and her three children could come and pull weeds? The answer was a definite “yes you can”. Nancy stated she and her husband, Brian, are trying to instill in their children the importance of volunteering. Ironically, this is a family that readily volunteers so many places throughout the year at church and in their community that it has been a part of their DNA since Brian and Nancy were married.

All three of their children, David (16), Tim (14), and Ruth (12), were part of the LEGOnauts group that implemented cost-saving improvements at the agency’s New Berlin office in response to an energy-audit challenge in 2007.

The 10 young people in the LEGOnauts group developed feasible energy-saving solutions for the agency that included the replacement of all the fluorescent bulbs, EXIT lights, outdoor fixture lights and reception area chandelier bulbs. They also installed a programmable thermostat on the lower level.

The results of their hard work have been: that there have been **no bulbs needing replacement indoors in over three years!** The heat/air-conditioning in the building is more constant and only two entryway building lights (that are lit consistently) had to be replaced this summer.

Financially, the annual savings has been substantial!!!

And what has happened to the 10 young people in the past three years who were part of the LEGO League organization that promoted working together, solving challenges, and learning future life skills?

Here’s a glimpse:

Dave – Junior in high school, member of a robotics team, participant in the Academics Decathlon and 4H

Tim – Freshman in high school, plays soccer, is in band, 4H, and caddied this summer

Ruth – 7th grader, plays oboe and piano, 4H, and helps with the “Angel Choir” in her church

Mitchell – Junior in high school, Involved in crew for high school and church drama, also works part-time

Jeff – Freshman at WCTC (College), works part-time

Aashish – Senior in high school, mission trip to Guatemala, involved in music ministry at church, and worked at a summer camp

Collin – Sophomore in high school, plays soccer, and is in band

Rebecca – Senior in high school, selected as Waukesha’s Distinguished Young Woman this year, song-writer, and singer

Amith – Sophomore in high school, mission trip to Guatemala, involved in music ministry at church, and worked at a summer camp

Ryan – Freshman in high school, Academics Decathlon and is in band

Each of these young people has made a difference in the lives and even environment of others. We are grateful to each of them for their volunteer efforts that continue to impact us daily.





**Evangelical Child
& Family Agency**
1617 South 124th Street
New Berlin, WI 53151

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Mark Your Calendars!

September 24, 2011 Only at Almost Anything 2
9116 West Oklahoma Avenue
50% Off Entire Resale Store

October 2011 Pregnancy Care Month
As proclaimed by the Wisconsin State Legislature

Life Chain Sunday ~ October 2nd 2:00-3:30 pm
Bluemound Rd. between Hwy 100 & Barker Rd.
Join others standing in prayer for LIFE

October 7th ~ Fall Banquet & Silent Auction
5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield I-94 & Moorland
Guest Speaker Melissa Ohden Emcee
Pastor Ted Robinson,
Program Participant Senator Mary Lazich

November is National Adoption Month

October - November - December
United Way & Combined Federal Campaigns

SHOWING OUR AGE

No matter what decade we are in, eventually our age begins to show. We have already been blessed in our New Berlin agency home for over 15 years. Now there are a few noticeable areas of wear and tear. The trim around the windows and gutters is peeling a little more after each heavy rain and windstorm revealing some very old wood. If a painting and ladder project is something that would appeal to you, please call Linda at 262-789-1881 so that other like-skilled individuals can be coordinated together for a one day project this fall.



A Practical Need for a Good Night's Sleep

A current Pregnancy Support Services client that Emily is working with is in need of a mattress (single or full size) for herself and a toddler bed for her two-year-old child so that they do not co-sleep. Please call Emily at 262-789-1881 if you have any questions or can provide either of these items.