

True to Life

AN EVANGELICAL CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY PUBLICATION

WINTER 2012

What If



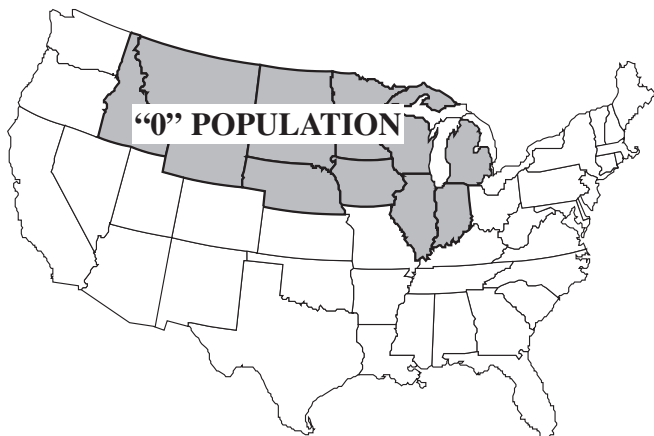
In the beginning... Psalm 139: 15 & 16

2011 Annual Report Inside

What If?

What if the lead article on the front page of this newsletter could not be written because the main character of the story was never born? In reality, there are over *54,559,615 life stories that were not written in the United States from 1973 until 2011, because their lives were cut short by the decision of an abortion.

“My frame was not hidden from Thee when I was made in secret; And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was none of them.” Psalm 139:15 & 16



*Equivalent to the combined populations of: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

***What Can We Do?
Pray, Vote, & Share Your Values
With Those You Love!***



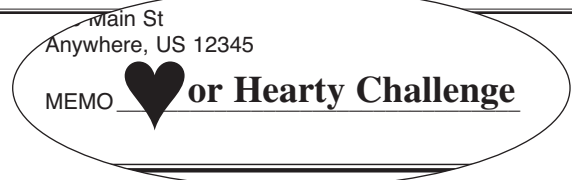
HEART.....BREAKING NEWS

Recently, a kind-hearted couple who have been longtime agency supporters contacted ECFA to offer a unique opportunity: a real HEARTY CHALLENGE!

Motivated by their unselfish love for the clients we are entrusted to serve through the Pregnancy Support Services and also, Adoption Programs, they have offered to match each and every dollar (unlimited) that is donated for the next 30 days between February 14th – March 14th, 2012.

There is one simple requirement. Each donor needs to place a heart in the memo portion of their check or identify that the donation is for the “Hearty Challenge”.

YOUR NAME 123 Main Street Anywhere, US 12345	Date _____
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Evangelical Child and Family Agency \$ <input type="text"/>	_____ DOLLARS
Your Bank 456 Main St Anywhere, US 12345	
MEMO _____	



This offer has overwhelmed our hearts as we continue to recognize that God alone is the One who prompts His children to support this ministry. He has since its' inception over 61 years ago in Illinois and more than 27 years ago in Wisconsin.

If you have any questions regarding this Hearty Challenge, please call Linda at: 262-789-1881 and let us all thank the LORD for His continued faithfulness.

Apologies For the UH-OH-Omission

In the Fall Newsletter, the listing of generous silent auction donors was inadvertently omitted. Our deepest apologies to each of the donors for this *omission.

Since we had almost as many auction items donated to the annual banquet as guests present this year, there are a few auction items that are still available at a great price! Think ahead for a great gift idea of a birthday, Mother's Day, no specific occasion, or even for next Christmas. The



selection includes: Johann Haviland Bavarian China servings for 10+ pieces with the blue garland pattern, \$1,200 value ~ only \$250, Tiffany style hanging lamp in blue tones, NIV Thinline Bible package, assorted Columbia and North Face women's blouses, set of four mirror décor grouping, and a men's small black leatherette jacket "Jesus is Lord."

Please call Sue or Cathy at 262-789-1881 with questions or if you are interested in purchasing any of the items. Thank our donors if you know them for their generous support of LIFE.

*The Omitted 2011 Fall Banquet Silent Auction Donor List

Anonymous Donors (Numerous)

Mark Abramoff
Ann Agrusa
Angeline Agrusa
Ruth Agrusa
Alioto's Restaurant
Ron and Jan Baer
Baker's Square Restaurant
Dolly Borkowski
Sally Boya
Computer Market
Elsie Gamerdinger
Marlene Garacci
Garden of Reading – Elmbrook Church
Glorioso's Gold Imports Center – Salvatore Glorioso
Debbie and Dale Graser
Jacquie Hill
Tim and Tanya Hill
Holland Beauty Flower and Bulb Co. – Art V. Van Zanten
Jay's Barbershop – Jay Balestreri

Mary Claire Jones
Mari Koepp
Menard's
Emma Kutschenreuter
Luke Kutschenreuter
Learning Shop – South 76th St. Store
Little Monsters Children's Store – Andie Zacher
Penny Loppnow
Chris and Jim Manegold
MasterLock Co. – Ted Nunziato
Menard's
Milwaukee Admirals
Milwaukee Electric Tool Co.
Carole Mueller
Carl Muenzenmaier
Gareth Nelson
Jack and Carol Pollack
ProBuColls Christian Literature Center
Rick Pyne, Services Team of Professionals
Reimans Visitor Center - Greendale
Nancy and Greg Riederer
St. Paul's Seafood Co. at the Milwaukee Public Market – Tim Collins
Karen Scharnick
Pat Siebrecht
Darleen Snyder
Carol Taylor
The Chocolate Factory Restaurant – Wendy Wierzelewski
Chris and Rocky Todd

Welcome Rachel

On January 18, 2012, Rachel Tigerina ("Tee-her-eena") began her social work internship in the Pregnancy Support Services Program in the New Berlin office. Rachel is currently a senior at UW-Whitewater expecting to graduate in May 2012.



Rachel also studied at UW-Waukesha where she obtained her Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. In the past, she attended Alverno College where she majored in music therapy for two and a half years. She has worked as

an autistic aide for over eight years with children and young adults. She is very active in her church where she serves on the Worship Team and VBS in the summers. We look forward to utilizing Rachel's musical talents at the annual Volunteer Brunch to be held on April 24, 2012, this year.

After two weeks into her internship Rachel stated, "I'm glad to finally be able to utilize what I've learned from my professors in an organization where I'm free to share my faith in Christ."

We are just as happy to have Rachel ready to learn and be comfortable sharing her faith during her season at ECFA.

The Christmas Call Surprise!

Pastor Scott and Gloria Miller of Family Fellowship Church in Racine, have had a compassionate heart towards single moms and their children for more than 20 years. They have repaired and moved tons (literally) of furniture, babysat thousands of hours, listened and counseled hundreds of individuals, walked miles pacing the floors in labor and delivery areas, and prayed an unfathomable number of prayers on behalf of babies and their parents.



This fall, the couple had the idea to call ECFA for a list of the PSS program local clients (first names only and ages along with some helpful suggestions for Christmas gifts). They and their church members desired to provide Christmas presents for each of the children and parents, too. What a huge surprise as this was the first time in 27 years that an offer like this was ever made!

The children were so delighted when Emily, our caseworker, brought over the presents. Each family wanted to wait until Christmas before opening the gifts all wrapped with care so beautifully. The Millers delivered the treasures to the agency and said that their church family members all had so much fun selecting items for each recipient. One little three year old boy who loves books, received an educational book with a handle on it. His mom told Emily, her caseworker, that he learned if he held on to it tightly he could use it as a weapon to keep others away from his prized book.

We are grateful to the Millers and Family Fellowship Church for their sacrificial gesture in providing a very special Christmas for 10 area families and their continued prayers for the persons they each sponsored.





*"...leading prisoners
into productive lives."
- Psalm 68:6*

Partnering For Life With The New Man Project

They are partners in life (for almost 39 years) and once again partners in ministry too. During the last seven months, Linda and Mike Oberbrunner have shared some special date times attending local churches to speak about Mike's new ministry to ex-offenders. On weekends and occasionally some evenings, they often spend time together picking up a variety of donated items and sort through them. Once separated, the items are transported to either the Almost Anything shops in West Allis or Mike's one of a kind men's resale store located in downtown Waukesha. Mike estimates that about 80% of the donations picked up are suitable for the Almost Anything shops and the other 20% he is able to sell in his store or scrap for cash to the ministry.

The New Man Project, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was established last spring and officially opened the doors to the men's resale shop on September 7, 2011. Securing the shop location was the first goal achieved of this three phased unique program. All three phases are outlined on the ministry website at: www.thenewmanproject.com. Mike has already partnered with 45 churches, 4 businesses, and 12 ministries who have embraced the vision and mission stated as:

VISION: Creating opportunities for released citizens to obtain family supporting employment so they can become productive members of society.

MISSION: Provide support, education, training, and employment opportunities for released citizens with the objective of reducing recidivism rates, stabilizing families, curtailing homelessness and improving public safety.

He has been assisted by faithful moving/scraping volunteers: Dave C., Jim L., Paul B., Jack P., Ed A., and Ed L., and a dedicated Advisory Team of Dan B., Keith K., Jack P., Dave C., Dennis K., and a number of prayer warriors and encouragers, too.

By partnering with ECFA, The New Man Project offers donors the opportunity to give any items they may wish to donate and not just "manstuff." Since August, the Almost Anything shops have benefitted with the weekly deliveries of a variety of items. This summer, a Waukesha women's boutique had closed and offered Mike everything that remained which provided three full van loads of many unique dish sets, knick knacks, framed art, flowers, teapots, vases, and display racks, too, which were perfect for the Almost Anything locations.

The New Man Project is open Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays from 10-6, Saturday from 9-4 with pick-ups scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The address is: 519 Wisconsin Avenue, in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and the phone number is: 262-442-5889. Check out all three shops for your unique purchases throughout the year.



She Touched the Hearts of Many



Baby Mariana Boomgaarden, born on November 18, 2011, at just 25 weeks gestation and weighing less than one pound and a half at birth, blessed so many people during her brief life on earth. She fought so hard to live even after contracting late onset Group B Strep. She died on Sunday, January 1, 2012. Her parents Jonathan (Jon) and Eileen Boomgaarden, five siblings, two grandmothers, and other relatives, celebrated each day of her 44 days of life. They were recorded in a beautiful photo montage that was projected on the wall for the guests in attendance during her funeral. Pastor Pat Griffiths of Waukesha Bible Church had presided over Mariana's dedication service at Children's Hospital two days before she died and again comforted the family and guests with scripture and a message of hope and challenge at her funeral observance.

The Boomgaardens are prolife advocates and longtime friends of ECFA. They desired that Mariana's baby blankets and items be donated to the agency to comfort and warm another child in the agency's care. We offer our deepest sympathy to each of Mariana's friends and family members and continue to pray for the grief they are experiencing at this time.



Two Lives Lived For Others



On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in October, husband and wife, David and Kristin Novaez, donned their appropriate Harley gear and mounted their motorcycle for a picturesque autumnal ride before settling down for a later afternoon Packers game. While at a stop sign, a young driver hit the unsuspecting couple in which both died.

This couple both taught in neighboring schools districts. David (48) taught German for the Central High School District of Westosha in Kenosha County, and was the forensics coach and also coordinator for the school's English speaking program. His wife Kristin (36) taught chorus and was also involved in all of the musical activities at Union Grove Union High School in Racine County. As a couple, they enjoyed performing together vocally and with a variety of instruments (both were classically trained pianists) and were in the process of forming a blues band with some friends.

ECFA was notified of this couples untimely death by David's mother, Marion. She took the time to share this tragedy as she recalled how she and her husband, Anthony, now deceased, had been chosen to adopt their son as an infant through the Illinois office located in the Chicago area at the time.

Wisconsin staff secretary, Cathy Kutschenreuter, represented the agency and attended the joint funeral services which were attended by hundreds of grieving students and staff, relatives and friends, all greatly shaken by the sudden death of this well-loved and well-known couple.

A few weeks later, Marion called the agency to donate most of David's well cared for clothing to the agency's Almost Anything resale stores. Visiting with her in the beautiful home of her son and daughter-in-law was a moving experience as she



lovingly shared special memories and some interesting Civil War memorabilia of her only son and his wife.

The couple who were married almost eight years, always had so much fun together and had met later in life, while members of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus. In the summer, they enjoyed being a part of historical reenactments of the Civil War and WWII, and had been recently photographed together in their Civil War period clothing.

We are grateful to Marion for her sensitivity to allow ECFA to be made aware of the accident and the story of the adoption of her precious little boy who grew up to positively impact so many other young men and women. David has left his legacy of a life well-lived revealing integrity, patriotism as a career Marine, and a devoted fun-loving husband who deeply loved his Lord and Savior.



Memorials

~

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

~

In loving memory of: my mother & father, Carol & Charles Vesper
From: daughter, Lori Vesper

~

In loving memory of: my aunt, Ruthellen Wilke
From: Terry Arenz

~

In loving memory of: my beloved husband, Lloyd
From: Marian Konrad

~

In loving memory of: our grandson, Jacob Daniel Meyer
From: Grandparents, Sandy & Eric Conrath

~

In loving memory of: my son, David Novaez
From: Marion Novaez

~

In loving memory of: my son, Brian Borgwardt
From: Cherrie Putchel

~

In loving memory of: my dear friend, Sandra Bulanow
From: Paul & Jo Widger

~

In loving memory of: my mother, Myrtle Lindquist
From: William Roiko

~

In loving memory of: my beloved wife, Mildred
From: George Lamb

~

In loving memory of: our mother & grandmother, Lois Meeusen
From: Sue and Ronald Daane & Jeff and Leah Daane

~

In loving memory of: our father, Alfred Williams, Jr.
From: Sally & Richard Boya

~

In loving memory of Baby Mariana Boomgaarden
From: The ECFA Family

& Tributes

~

In honor of: our grandson, Jason Downing
From: Grandparents, Don & Lois Seegert

~

In honor of: my daughter, Lindsey and grandsons, Aiden & Jake
From: Mother & grandmother, Cherrie Putchel

~

In honor of: our daughter Kristi and grandson, Tanner
From: Tim & Linda Lasch



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 two soft & cuddly, hand-knit baby blankets, one crocheted baby blanket, & 14 hand-knit, colorful hats from the Knit2gether Group at Lake Country Bible Church
- ♥ For the large assortment of creams, shampoos, perfumes, body wash, etc. from Betty Pachucki
- ♥ For the numerous diapers, bibs, warm fleece sleepers, receiving blankets, & eight gorgeous infant outfits from the Elizabeth Ministry at Holy Apostles Church
- ♥ For the many adorable outfits, onesies, bodysuits, sleep & play clothes, layettes, receiving blankets, baby socks, and sleep sacks from the owners, staff, & members at Wauwatosa Curves
- ♥ For the 18 large black bags of men's clothing and shoes, in excellent condition, from Marion Novaez
- ♥ For the beautiful dining room table set from Gina Kinsey
- ♥ For the many new baby items from Sally Helwig
- ♥ For the 90 plus puzzles in great condition from all our friends at High Ridge Manor



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& Family Agency
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WHAT'S HAPPENING "TOMORROW"?

Before you know it, at ECFA we may be singing the chorus line of

Li! Orphan Annie's famous song, "Tomorrow." Remember how

it goes... "The sun will come out tomorrow..." That sun is what we are

praying for on the third weekend of May as we look forward to the

26th annual Bike & Hike. The event will be held rain or shine May

19, 2012, at Bethesda Park shelter and playground beginning at 9:00

a.m. A scrumptious Cousins Subs lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m.

and radio K-Love's 105.3 FM's Johnny

V. and Company will be on site, same as

last year, giving away some great prizes.

Last year, despite the unusually moist

and cool day, over 128 individuals

including newborn Baby Emma and her

brave parents all participated raising

funds for moms, dads, babies, children,

and the preborn on the Glacial Drumlin Trail. Over \$30,000 was

brought in thanks to the \$10,000 match which is again being made

available by a very generous couple. More detailed information will

be on our website in the next few weeks, but early bird participants

can preregister and get your sponsor sheets by calling Sue or Joan

at 262-789-1881.



Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Volunteer Brunch

Beloit Road Baptist

April 24th

9-11 a.m.



Bike & Hike - May 19th

Bethesda Park & Glacial Drumlin Trail

Waukesha

Food, Fun, Prizes and more!

Christmas in July

Campaign



28th Annual Fall Banquet

October 5th

Guest Speaker, Gail McWilliams

Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield