

# TRUE TO LIFE

An Evangelical Child and Family Agency Publication



## 2023 Annual Benefit Auction

It is hard to believe that our Annual Benefit Auction on November 3rd at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel is just around the corner. We hope that you have saved the date to gather with us for a fun evening of bidding and fellowship in support of the work God is doing through ECFA in Southeastern Wisconsin. If you are unable to join us in person, you are still able to participate in the silent auction online as all silent auction bidding is done on a device whether in person or remotely. We are excited about the items, experiences and services that have been donated for our silent and live auction. You will be able to view auction items as early as one week prior to the event and online bidding for silent auction items starts at noon on November 1st! Just in time to do some Christmas shopping for your family and friends.



Just like last year, you are invited to register and create an account online. The good news is if you have any questions or need any help with the online registration process, we are here to help!

We welcome individual and business sponsorships of this event to help us offset the cost of the event itself. So far, we have been blessed with sponsorships from Pro Life Wisconsin and Star Spangled D-signs. We are also blessed again with a \$5000 matching grant from Friends of ECFA for our spot auction which will go towards the cost of installing a security system at the Wisconsin office for the safety of our clients and staff.

The theme verse for this year's event is 2 Corinthians 9:11 "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." It is because of the generosity of those who attend our fundraising events and give faithfully throughout the year that we give thanks to God for the work He does in the lives of our clients through ECFA.

## 2023 BIKE & HIKE Love Moves

This year's theme was Love Moves. 1 John 3:18 "Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth."

On Saturday September 9th we had our 37th annual fundraiser with almost 100 people involved, including participants and volunteers. This year we had 23 new participants with 9 people who were completely new to ECFA! Over \$22,500 was raised including a \$5000 match from Friends of ECFA to ensure that no mom or dad needs to walk alone during a pregnancy.

We were blessed with perfect weather as we biked and hiked together. We had a great time of fellowship, a delicious lunch, an ECFA update, family friendly games, crafts, and prizes at Bethesda Park.

Thank you to the fundraisers, generous donors and sponsors that helped make this event a success!

### Prize Winners:

- 1st – Kathy Misany – Brewers tickets
- 2nd – Dave & Lori Cottrill – \$200 Kwik Trip gift card
- 3rd – Jerry Dalton – Marriott Milwaukee West hotel stay

New fundraiser prize – Kevin & Catherine Faulls – \$50 Woodman's gift card

### Financial Sponsors

bank five nine  
ProLife Wisconsin  
Thrivent Financial  
Friends of ECFA

### Major Prize sponsors

Grady, Hayes & Neary, LLC  
Marriott Milwaukee West  
Kwik Trip

### Prize sponsors

Culver's  
Prairieville Park  
Waukesha State Bank  
Woodman's Markets

### Food & drink sponsors

Costco  
Sam's Club



## 2023 Adoption Picnic

Our annual adoption picnic was held on September 16th – a beautiful, fall day at a lovely park in New Berlin. A total of 60 individuals attended this event, representing eleven adoptive families along with adoption worker, Dorinne, her assistant Jamie, and the Wisconsin Advisory Council chairperson, Sharon Fuller. After a potluck meal, three adoptive families shared their adoption story – two families who adopted internationally from Colombia and Brazil, and a family who has received our most recent placement through working with our Pregnancy Support Services. After the sharing time, the younger children enjoyed a pinata and parachute game, while the older children enjoyed playing four-square. We are thankful to provide this opportunity for ECFA adoptive families to connect and form relationships with one another. As one family shared,



Turned out to be a perfect day.  
We had a great time. What a special family  
to be a part of.

## Baby Boutique

For most of us the announcement of a new baby joining our family means that there will be a baby shower or a baby sprinkle if this isn't our first blessing. For most of our moms there will be no shower or sprinkle and the cost of purchasing the large amount of items a little baby needs are not in their budget. That is where our baby boutique comes in.

If you have never been to our office for a tour, I encourage you to stop by. The baby boutique is usually most people's favorite part of the tour. Our staff also gets excited every time an individual or the Amazon delivery driver drops off new clothes, a car seat, diapers, etc. to add to our favorite area of the office.

You may have seen in our e-Newsletter that 8 of our PSS moms gave birth to babies in the month of August. Due to this Baby Boom we are getting low on certain items in our baby boutique such as wipes, size 1 diapers, pants, sleepers, receiving blankets, and diaper rash cream. Many of our new babies have older siblings too so we are also low on size 5 & 6 diapers. Due to the size of our little office, we typically do not keep larger items like highchairs, baby swings or pack and plays in stock but request them as needed. We have had a few moms request these larger items and we would love to be able to bless them with your generosity. Please visit our website and click on the PSS Amazon Wishlist at [www.ecfawisc.org/donate](http://www.ecfawisc.org/donate) to view the latest needs for our babies, siblings, and moms.

**Dana Hauser**  
Wisconsin District Coordinator



True to Life is published four times a year by Evangelical Child and Family Agency and can be viewed online at [www.ecfawisc.org](http://www.ecfawisc.org). Please direct your comments to Dana Hauser: (262) 789-1881  
Email at: [danah@ecfawisc.org](mailto:danah@ecfawisc.org).



# ECFA PROGRAMS

## Adoption

### Illinois & Wisconsin

All children need a safe, nurturing home in which to grow up. ECFA's adoption program offers training and support to families throughout their adoption journey, whether the adoption is domestic in Illinois or another state, children in foster care waiting for a forever family, or children in another country.

Be encouraged by this beautiful testimony.



**God has done wonderful things in my life. He's given me a beautiful family who loves me and takes care of me. They have encouraged me to do things I love like art, music and dance. My adoption was a sad but really happy moment in my life. As I grow up, God will open my eyes to know Him more. Having a family means the world to me.**

~ Keysia

*Keysia loves to bake!*



*For illustration only*



## Intact Family Services

The Intact Family Services (IFS) program serves families indicated by DCFS for abuse or neglect. Many families have significant underlying issues leading to DCFS involvement such as substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health concerns. Through referrals to specialized providers, including ECFA's counseling and pregnancy support programs, IFS assists parents in preventing future abuse and neglect from occurring and improving overall family function.

"Sarah" and her family came to ECFA due to the family's living situation and concerns about the supervision of the children. The family struggled to find stable housing but eventually secured housing with the financial resources of ECFA and other community resources. Sarah is working, she ensures the children are properly supervised, she is engaged in mental health services, the kids are attending school regularly, and the family is doing very well at this time. Sarah was feeling anxious and overwhelmed but with the help of her caseworker she overcame her fears and has created a stable and supportive environment for her family.

# Evangelical Child & Family Agency

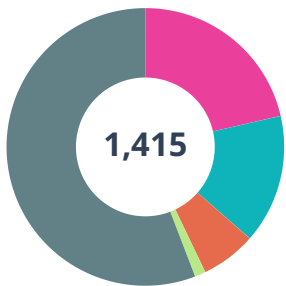


## 2023 Annual Report

ECFA's mission is to provide hope and healing to children, adults, and families, through compassionate, trauma-informed, Christ-centered, quality social services from a biblical perspective.

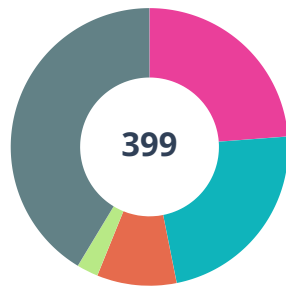
# 1,415 Clients Served

### Individuals Impacted



- Intact Family Services (790)
- Pregnancy Support Services (303)
- Adoption (213)
- Counseling (91)
- Post Legal Adoption Services (18)

### Families Impacted



- Intact Family Services (165)
- Pregnancy Support Services (95)
- Adoption (92)
- Counseling (37)
- Post Legal Adoption Services (10)

ECFA's vision is to improve the quality of life for individuals and families and to protect and nurture abused, neglected, and dependent children.



OVER 85,000 MILES DRIVEN



OVER 10,000 DIAPERS DELIVERED



OVER 3,100 HOME VISITS



OVER 300 COUNSELING SESSIONS



### AFFIRMING LIFE | BUILDING FAMILIES | HEALING RELATIONSHIPS | RESTORING FAMILIES

#### Agency-Wide



of clients were satisfied with their overall experience with ECFA

#### Agency-Wide



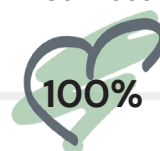
of clients felt cared for by their ECFA worker

#### Adoption



of children placed in adoptive homes have remained safe and stable

#### Pregnancy Support Services



of infants either had or were given a safe place to sleep

#### Counseling



of counseling clients improved their level of functioning

#### Intact Family Services



of families stayed intact; children did not go into foster care

Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions in truth.

1 John 3:18

Strengthening  
Individuals and Families

**Pregnancy Support Services** provides free and caring counseling for women and their families experiencing an unexpected pregnancy, or who are simply in need of extra support during their pregnancy and until the baby is 6 months old



**Affirming Life**

Our **Adoption** program's primary goal is to find "forever families" for children of all ages, through Domestic, Interstate, International, and Child Welfare adoptions. We also provide Post Legal Adoption Services.



**Building Families**

Through our **Counseling** program we help those who feel their burdens are too heavy to carry alone or feel like their life is out of focus.



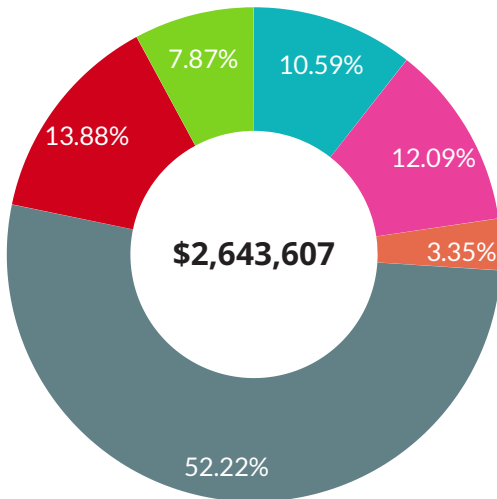
**Healing Relationships**



**Intact Family Services** provides in-home services and referrals to local community resources to help families heal and stay together. We also monitor the home to ensure the safety of the children.

**Restoring Families**

## Fiscal Year 2023 Expenses



### Adoption

\$279,879

### Pregnancy Support Services

\$319,515

### Counseling

\$88,666

### Intact Family Services

\$1,380,574

### Management/General

\$366,820

### Fundraising

\$208,153

■ Adoption (10.59%) ■ PSS (12.09%) ■ Counseling (3.35%)  
■ IFS (52.22%) ■ Management/General (13.88%) ■ Fundraising (7.87%)

A full financial report can be found on our website.

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Evangelical Child & Family Agency  
1617 S. 124th St. New Berlin, WI 53151  
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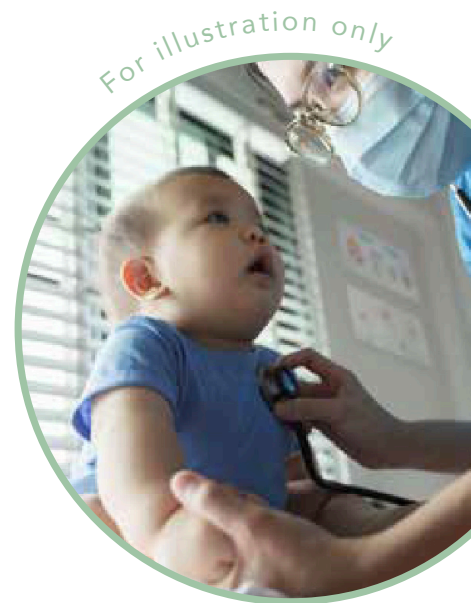


# ECFA PROGRAMS

## Pregnancy Support Services Illinois & Wisconsin

ECFA offers Pregnancy Support Services (PSS) to affirm life and come alongside mothers, couples, and families throughout a woman's pregnancy and after the baby's birth. PSS is unlike most other Pregnancy Support programs as we go to the homes of those we serve and all of our services are free. PSS provides emotional, educational, and practical support from the beginning of services until the baby is six months old and sometimes longer. In our Illinois office we offer further support after case closure through our mentorship program.

"Pam" has been part of our Pregnancy Support Services program since March of this year. Pam has a history of postpartum depression and anxiety and desired help after having her third child, "Joey." Pam's son Joey has medical issues that require frequent visits to the doctor. Pam was also on a demanding breastfeeding schedule to help Joey gain weight which he is doing slowly but surely! Pam has been learning ways to manage the many demands of motherhood, her post-partum depression, and anxiety during sessions with her worker. Pam's worker secured a grant to pay for a month's water and electricity bills which was of a great assistance to Pam. Pam is invested in her time with her worker and is making progress on her outlined goals. Her worker is proud of the progress Pam is making and is grateful for the opportunity to come alongside her during this challenging time.



## Counseling Services

ECFA serves a wide range of clients including children, teenagers, adults, and seniors. We are encouraged to see individuals and families make progress during the time they are in counseling, whether this change occurs quickly or over a longer period of time. Our approach is to treat everyone with compassion and provide support in order to help them feel prepared to address and resolve their personal challenges.

When Sophia came in for counseling, she was desperate to keep her anxiety and depression at bay. Over the years, her depression, fueled by anxiety, caused her to isolate, self-medicate, and not care for herself well. She finally decided that she was done with that way of living. Through therapy, she was able to see how some of her behaviors fed the depression and anxiety. When Sophia ended services, she was well grounded in her identity in Christ, has new tools to address her anxiety and depression, and a renewed joy and anticipation for what God has in store for her.







# WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

There is a continual outpouring of blessings received by this ministry. As a result, there are many individuals to be grateful for in each quarterly newsletter. "I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1

## Pregnancy Support Services:

- Baby pillow, boppy cover, safety items, changing cover, water pad, keepsake box, booties, snowsuit, winter coat, hangers, bottles, crib skirt and card making supplies from Karen Griffith
- Baby diapers from Pat Johnson
- Nursing kit, safety kits and baby clothes from the Bill Hardin Family
- Baby blanket, bottles and wipes from Lori Cottrill
- Baby blanket, hat and photo cards for our moms from Jan Baer
- Baby clothes, diapers, diaper rash ointment from Carl Muenzmaier
- Nursery décor, bouncy seat, changing pad, baby bath, baby clothes, bibs, crib bumper, bottle drying rack, safety items, night light and toys from Kelly
- Baby girl clothes from an anonymous donor in memory of Jim & Nedra Lemke, our former foster parents
- Car seats, baby clothes, postpartum kit, baby thermometers, baby wipes and diapers from many anonymous donors

## Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who assembled a mailing for the Agency in August & September:

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Donna Bourget   | Jane Knudson         |
| Barb Chernouski | Sue Korb             |
| Lori Cottrill   | Rene Krueger         |
| Marvin Engle    | Bill & Sue Kusnierz  |
| Pamela Grande   | Gail Moses           |
| Bonnie Gruber   | Barbara Schmidtkunz  |
| Margo Hoffman   | Marcia Smith         |
| Rita Hoffman    | Scott & Karen Snyder |
| Carol Honeyager | Nancy Stone          |
| Ginny Hughes    | Jan Story            |
| Pat Johnson     | Margo Whitcomb       |
| Anita Julius    | Judy Zwitter         |

## Memorials

In loving memory of: My husband, Jeffrey C. Martin  
From: Bonnie Martin

In loving memory of: My husband, Alex Muza  
From: Betty Muza

## Tributes

In honor of: Our friend, Dan Locken  
From: Dean & Susan Lex



Each year, ECFA receives donations through United Way. The gifts assist us in our outreach to families who seek support through our Pregnancy Support Services program.

If you would like to donate to ECFA through United Way you need to list our agency name, Evangelical Child and Family Agency, and our address 1617 South 124th Street, New Berlin, WI 53151, in the optional designated contribution portion of the pledge form.

Please note: For United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County the gift total must be \$50 or more, or it will go to United Way's general fund.

Last year we had 16 donors for a total of \$8,262. To once again be considered a partner agency of United Way that new people will have the option to choose as a designee we need a minimum of 20 donors and \$10,000 in pledges for this year's campaign.

Will you consider helping us reach this goal? Thank you!



## Gift Cards

ECFA dispenses gift cards to clients on very needy occasions. Currently, our gift card stock is extremely low. Amounts preferred are \$20-\$50 from: Speedway or Kwik Trip (fuel only), Walmart, Walgreens, Aldi, Uber or Lyft, as well as Buss Passes for MCTS purchased on-line at [ridemcts.com](http://ridemcts.com).



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

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Benefit Auction – Friday, November 3, 2023**  
Sheraton Milwaukee/Brookfield Hotel

**40th Anniversary Celebration Brunch – Saturday, May 11, 2024**  
Marriott Milwaukee West – Featuring Sanctus Real

**Bike & Hike – Saturday, September 7, 2024**  
Bethesda Park, Waukesha



For more information about these events, contact Sue at 262.789.1881 or [suec@ecfawisc.org](mailto:suec@ecfawisc.org)