

TRUE TO LIFE

An Evangelical Child and Family Agency Publication



39th Anniversary Celebration Brunch

April 22, 2023

Marriot Milwaukee West,
W231 N1600 Corporate Court, Waukesha

- Spotighting the pro-life and family work of ECFA
- Client testimonies
- Speaker Amy Ford of Embrace Grace

This year's 39th Anniversary Celebration Brunch will feature Amy Ford. She is the Co-Founder and President of Embrace Grace, a non-profit that has trained and equipped over 700 churches, in 47 states and 10 countries to open their doors and hearts to women with unexpected pregnancies. She is also the author of *Help Her Be Brave: Discover Your Place in the Pro-Life Movement* with Moody Publishing as well other books. Other written works by Amy have been published by The Gospel Coalition and *Proverbs 31 Woman*.

Amy has been featured on Focus on the Family, Life Today with James Robison, Jamie Ivey Podcast Show, Godmother Podcast with Lisa Bevere, and many more programs.

Serving in Embrace Grace, Amy has heard countless stories of how churches, pregnancy centers and the body of Christ have come together to impact communities in a beautiful way. She loves the quote by Tony Evans, "Pregnancy Centers are the First Response Team, and the Church is the Hospital."

Going through an unplanned pregnancy in her teens was one of the hardest times in her life. She remembers so well how lonely and ashamed she felt. Friends pulled away and she felt uncomfortable at church. Looking back on those 9 months of brokenness, fueled the passion and desire to change things for young women with unplanned pregnancies. Amy and her friend Salina started a small group within Gateway Church that met weekly with girls in that same situation providing support, friendship, guidance, and love. A few years later in 2012, Embrace Grace began as a national nonprofit to equip churches all around the nation to have a pro-love focus and help women be brave and choose life. Since then, thousands of women have gone through the Embrace Grace program and were put back on a path towards Jesus.

Amy's focus to create a support program within the church community that encourages, imparts hope, and provides tangible care for each mom and baby knowing heart transformation is



possible through Jesus Christ results in more spiritually healthy moms raising spiritually healthy kids. Currently, Embrace Grace support groups are in churches all over the nation and the world. The heart of Embrace Grace is to make the church one of the first places a young woman runs to instead of the last because of personal shame and guilt.

Amy's words and stories will inspire, encourage, and perhaps even challenge guests. Please mark your calendar for this wonderful morning of client stories, pertinent pro-life information, and the vision of Embrace Grace. Watch your mailbox in early spring for your invitation or register online in April. An opportunity will be given that morning to support the ministry of ECFA.

ECFA's 5th Annual Benefit Auction

ECFA's 5th Annual Benefit Auction on November 4th at the Sheraton Milwaukee/Brookfield Hotel was an enjoyable time with 109 people attending in person along with 13 others who participated virtually online. There were 42 individuals new to the auction and 11 completely new to ECFA.

The guests enjoyed wonderful appetizers, warm apple cider, and a decorated cake for dessert. Individuals viewed 162 donated items beautifully displayed on tables throughout the room and bid often on the Give Smart App during the silent auction. Professional and entertaining auctioneer, Dan Pronley, called the live portion of the event, auctioning off 12 live auction items to the highest bidders.

A total of \$32,766 was raised for the pro-life mission of ECFA! This amount included a \$5,000 matching grant from the ECFA Foundation to help finance a much needed replacement of the agency's parking lot.

A huge thank you goes out to the ECFA Auction Committee who worked diligently to ensure once again that this year's event was a success. Auction committee members include Sue Carlson, Annette Cernohous, Sharon Fuller, Nancy Roets, Micki Schmitz, and Darleen Snyder.

Please mark your calendar for ECFA's 6th Annual Benefit Auction, scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2023. Also remember to invite family and friends to join us in supporting the pro-life ministry and work of ECFA.



Making An Eternal Difference Together

On November 10, 2022, the ECFA staff participated in a wonderful, team-building activity helping pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 198 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 170 countries. The staff had the privilege of being involved in a hands-on experience of filling shoe boxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts. ECFA Adoption Worker, Dorinne, and her friend Mary have been involved with Operation Christmas Child for many years. Mary now sets up her garage as "Santa's Workshop" with tables filled with items that she (and many others) collect throughout the year to place in the shoeboxes. Her goal was to fill 500 boxes this year, which was vastly surpassed as 850 boxes were shipped out of her garage.

The staff had a fun and meaningful time working together packing shoeboxes. Along with a few of Mary's friends at the packing party, over 200 boxes were filled that afternoon. The gospel message is carefully included in each box in the language of the recipient just before being shipped out from the eight processing centers nationwide. It was a very wonderful experience for the ECFA staff. If anyone would like more information on this project or would like to get involved next year, please contact Dorinne at the ECFA office 262-789-1881.

Extending the Love of Christmas

Our Pregnancy Support Services Program was privileged to deliver gifts to our client families for Christmas. We were able to do so due to the generosity of Beloit Road Baptist Church, Burlington Hobbies and RC Track, and Nature's Niche Farm. The Pregnancy Support caseworkers gathered Wish Lists from our clients for their children. Gift tags were created and displayed on a Christmas tree at Burlington Hobbies and RC Track along with an ECFA informational flyer explaining how numerous children served by ECFA would be blessed to receive toys donated by potential donors.

A wish list of clothes, shoes, and some toys was provided to Beloit Road Baptist Church who reached out requesting the opportunity to bless the PSS clients this Christmas. Donated Kwik Trip, Speedway, Walmart, and Aldi gift cards were also received from Beloit Road Baptist Church and also the Cornerstone Life Group of Spring Creek Church.

There were so many toys and clothes from this toy drive and the drive from Beloit Road Baptist that the back of two SUV's were filled with the back seats folded down.

Our Wisconsin District Coordinator, Dana Hauser was blessed to be able to help the owner of Nature's Niche Farm, Laura Pulda, put together 30 gift bags for our "mommas" which included lovely, scented goats' milk lotions and lip balm, Christmas socks, warm gloves, a Christmas ornament, and candy. The gift bags made a wonderful way to give our pregnancy support clients the gift of self-care in addition to the gift cards to meet the needs of gas or groceries.

The Wisconsin staff had a fun time wrapping and delivering all the presents just in time for Christmas.



In Loving Memory

On Wednesday, November 23, 2022, Jennie Tietjen, went home to be with her Lord and Savior. Jennie joined the Illinois ECFA staff in 1998 as a Receptionist/Accounting Clerk. Over time her job duties included overseeing volunteers, and eventually Jennie became ECFA's Volunteer and Development Coordinator. Her duties now included overseeing all of the agency events in Illinois, which also included being ECFA's Tag Day Chairwoman. Jennie had a knack for adding special touches to events, and she was quick to let her volunteers know how greatly they were appreciated.

In 2017 Jennie and her husband Dave moved to Wisconsin, and in the fall of 2017, Jennie became the Director of Development and Facilities in our Wisconsin District Office. In both offices, Jennie was known for her effervescent personality and being the "Hostess with the Mostest". Jennie's love for serving others was evident in all she did. Jennie was outgoing, kind, cared for people deeply and genuinely, she loved her family, and her love for Jesus was most important in her life! Though Jennie is greatly missed, we are thankful she is home in heaven, and grateful to the Lord that we will see her again.





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

Service Projects:

- Interior shed hooks installed, and items organized & hung by Marvin Engle
- Painting, leaf removal and card making from students at Concordia University and Heritage Christian School

Client and Staff gifts:

- Gas cards for clients from Barb Chernouski, Marvin Engle, Nancy Stone, Judy Zwitter, & Friends of ECFA
- Baby items from Linda Cleavland, Pamela Grande, Karen Griffith, Holly Hansen, John & Sally Hartung, Steve & Beth Hartung & Family, Pat Johnson, Lamb of God Lutheran, Carole Mueller, Vernell Niess, Renee Richer, & Kristi Webster
- Specific client needs met by David & Cheryl Dable, Linda Hansen, & Jeni Knoedler
- Christmas treats from Eagle Printing, Grady, Hayes & Neary, LLC, & Margo Whitcomb

Tributes

In honor of: Our daughter, Jamie Gibson
From: Jim & Kathy Gibson

In honor of: Our daughter & son-in-law,
Anne & Owen Hockenberry
From: Dennis & Jean Opelt

In honor of: My mother, Marcille Meeuwes
From: Kelley McDougall

In honor of: My friend, Jane Runnels
From: Carol Heger

In honor of: My friend, Leah Valentine
From: Rosemarie Luthi

Memorials

In loving memory of: Our mother, Madeline Armstrong
From: John & Sue Armstrong

In loving memory of: My daughter, Carol Cherek
From: Dolores Wuttke

In loving memory of: My husband, Mike Chernouski
From: Barb Chernouski

In loving memory of: My brother Gaylord S. DeWitt
From: Georgene DeWitt

In loving memory of: My husband, Eugene Duranceau
From: Char Duranceau

In loving memory of: My wife, Patty Murphy
From: Charles Murphy

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

In loving memory of: Our brother-in-law, Bill Schmidt
From: Mike & Linda Oberbrunner

In loving memory of: Mother and Grandmother, Rita Staus
From: The Osterwind Family

In loving memory of: Jennie Tietjen, our former WI District Director
From: Bonnie Aust, Donna Balistreri, The bank five nine family, Art Barlow, Michael & Brenda Baudo, Dan Branda Family, Nancy Brokke, Nicole Budleski, Art & Annette Cernohous, Ronald & Ruth Chance, Amy Ciocarelli, Maggie & Conor Clougherty, Julie Correll, Pete & Ora Dillenburg, April Edwards, James & Audrey Erickson, Joe & Joan Fall, Doug & Teresa Fogwell, Kyle & Kelly Fogwell, Deborah France, Mary Fredricks, Shirley Gabriel, Leo & Susan Giulianetti, Jon & Bonnie Goertz, Beverly Haan, Carol Honeyager, Cathy Horan, Nicole Hudson & family, Beth & Andrew Johnson, Randall & Beverly Johnson, Stu & Jodie Johnson, Carly Konecny, Robert Kral, Daniel Krc, Bill & Sue Kusnierz, Jeff & Amy Langkamp, Walter & Patricia Lecocq, Sharon Manke, Bonnie McCullough, David & Susan McDonald, John & Karen Mead, Olivia Nelson, Linda Oberbrunner, Jamie Olson, Sharon Ostrum Sabacky, Greg & Barb Pascucci, Jerry & Micki Schmitz, Bob & Kathy Schulz, Carl & Jean Schwerman, George Selbher, Evan & Hannah Shor, Christine Soldin, Tania Soldin, Pete & Doreen Tietjen, Richard & Janice Tyler, Paul van Gorkom, Michael & Lauren Walsh, Thorsten & Tina Wienss, John & Charlene Winters, Ken Withrow, Carol Yule and Cornerstone Life Group at Spring Creek Church

In loving memory of: My husband, Earl
From: Margo Whitcomb

In loving memory of: Our daughter, Grace Winiarski
From: Jerry & Chris Winiarski

In loving memory of: Harpster Wonder
From: An anonymous friend of the family

In loving memory of: My nephew, James Zbichorski
From: Ronald Pape



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

39th Anniversary Celebration Brunch – Saturday, April 22, 2023

With Amy Ford, Co-Founder and President of Embrace Grace Ministry
Marriott Milwaukee West, Waukesha

37th Bike & Hike Fundraiser – Saturday, September 9, 2023

Bethesda Park/Glacial Drumlin Trail, Waukesha

Adoption Picnic – Saturday, September 16, 2023

Prohealth Care Park, New Berlin

Benefit Auction – Friday, November 3, 2023

Sheraton Milwaukee/Brookfield Hotel

**YOU'RE
INVITED!!**

For more information about these events, contact Sue at 262.789.1881 or suec@ecfawisc.org