

TRUE TO LIFE

An Evangelical Child and Family Agency Publication



Save the Date

Please join us for ECFA's 37th Annual Bike & Hike and Beats for Heartbeats Music Festival

We hope to see you at Bethesda Park in Waukesha on Saturday, September 9. This year's theme is Love Moves.

We are inspired by 1 John 3:18, "Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth." At our anniversary brunch this past spring we were challenged by Amy Ford of Embrace Grace to join the Pro-Love movement. Being pro-life is a stance, a belief system, a vote. While all important, I have been personally challenged in my life to take the next step to be pro-love. Being Pro-love is an action, boots on the ground, the hands and feet of Jesus, the church.

We invite you to join us and invite your friends, family, and church community to join us as we move to show the love of Christ through our actions. As we walk, run, bike or skate together we can ensure that no mom or dad walks alone.

Love Moves 2023 is a great opportunity to spread the word about ECFA and connect with other people who are passionate about our life affirming ministry, and we get to do all of this while getting some exercise in God's beautiful creation along the Glacial Drumlin Trail. Afterwards we will return to Bethesda Park for a time of fellowship with lunch, family friendly games and prizes.

Speaking of prizes, we have some very exciting fundraising incentives. We are excited this year that new participants will receive an entry for every \$300 raised for a chance to win one of four great prizes. We know fundraising can be daunting, that is why this year we will provide helpful fundraising ideas on our website and in our e-newsletter, and on social media. Make sure to subscribe and follow to receive the latest news about this and other events

as well as ministry updates. Please see our website and event page for more details and to register: ecfawisc.org/bikeandhike.

On September 9th immediately following Love Moves 2023, we have another exciting opportunity to celebrate the value of every life through the power of Christ at Beats for Heartbeats. Beats for Heartbeats is an outdoor music festival at Silver Linings Amphitheater at the Washington County Fairgrounds in West Bend, WI. This is our second year in attendance as one of the four organizations that promote abundant life and are blessed from the proceeds of this exciting event. Last year we received a generous donation of \$4000 from Beats for Heartbeats following the event.

Gates open at 2pm and parking is free. The schedule is Leanna Crawford as the special guest opener at 2:00pm, Koine at 3:35pm, Sanctus Real at 5:30pm and Unspoken at 7:10pm. Tickets will be available at the gate, but it is HIGHLY encouraged to get them ahead of time. Bring your own chair, seating is first-come, first-served in your ticketed area. There will be food trucks and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Heartbeats Inc. is a local non-profit organization that supports pro-life efforts in all areas from life at conception, human trafficking, adoption/fostering, and suicide prevention. Heartbeats Inc. exists to spread the lifesaving message of God's love to everyone with uplifting speakers and music.

Dana Hauser
Wisconsin District Coordinator



Are you on our email list?

In addition to our True to Life newsletter that is published four times a year, we now have an E-newsletter, ECFA Heartbeat, that is published twice per month with current ECFA updates! You won't want to miss the client impact stories, announcements, prayer requests, event info, and special needs.

Send a note to info@ecfawisc.org and we will add you to our email list.

Building Families Through Adoption

One of an agency's highest honors is to have adoptive families return to ECFA for their second adoption. Over the years, ECFA has had numerous families return to the agency for a second (or even a third) adoption! Within the past year, ECFA has had three families return with the goal of adopting another child. One of those families just finalized their second adoption last week.

The Barsness family originally came to ECFA to adopt a child in 2019. The couple was married in 2013, and experienced three miscarriages prior to the birth of their son, Jackson, in 2018. They experienced two additional miscarriages after his birth in 2019. Since they have always desired a large family and have been open to building their family through adoption, they completed the home study process with ECFA later that year and adopted a beautiful little boy from Florida through the national adoption program. Jeremiah was placed in their home in June 2021. One year later, in June 2022, the family returned to ECFA to apply for a second adoption, knowing that their family was not yet complete. They were chosen by a Wisconsin birthmother who was working with our Pregnancy Support Services worker at the time. She gave birth to a baby girl on November 1, 2022.



Sofia was placed in the Barsness' home on November 14, 2022, after two weeks in the NICU, working on her feeding skills. She has been doing amazingly well in the Barsness' home, and her parents and big brothers adore her. The adoption worker completed monthly post-placement visits with the family to satisfy the state of Wisconsin's requirements, prior to filing the paperwork for finalization of the adoption. This month at the finalization of the adoption, the courtroom was filled with family and friends who have prayed for, supported, and loved this family throughout their whole adoption process. A few tears were shed as Sofia's adoption was finalized. Many of ECFA's adoptive families equate the adoption of their own child with their adoption into God's forever family where they will be unconditionally loved for the rest of their lives. What a beautiful picture and analogy of God's redemptive plan for His children!

Dorinne Geldon
Adoption Social Worker



CHOOSE LIFE WISCONSIN

Dan Miller, State Director of Pro-Life Wisconsin and Dave Maxey, State Representative, is also an adoptee, presented ECFA with a generous grant from the Choose Life license plate proceeds. Do you have your Choose Life plates yet?

WWW.CHOOSLIFEWISCONSIN.COM



Introducing Ella

Ella Neumann joined the Wisconsin staff in our Pregnancy Support Services program as our second full-time case worker on June 12th. Ella graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with an emphasis in Children and Family Ministry and Biblical Studies from Moody Bible Institute.

Ella has a heart for serving others and ministering to the hearts of those she serves. Welcome Ella to ECFA!



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



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 clothes, toys, sheets, crib liner, towels, blankets, bibs, hangers, diaper bag, snack containers, books, socks, knit hats, baby Moses bassinet basket, bumbo seat, boppy, carrier, bottles, and swaddles from Karen Griffith
- Baby clothes from Ruth
- Baby clothes and diapers from Carolyn Freiberg
- Baby hair brush, safety kit, and nursing essentials from the Hardin family
- Diapers and baby bottles from Lori Cottrill
- Baby clothes and hand sanitizer from the Gary & Lois Gantner
- Diapers, ointment and milk storage bags from Carl Muenzmaier
- Diapers from Linda
- Diapers from Patricia Miller
- Diapers, double stroller, car seat, nursing essentials, hair brush, toothbrush set, first aid kits, safety kits, air purifier, feminine items, and nasal aspirators from friends of ECFA
- Baby formula from Annette Cernohous
- New crib mattress for a client from Todd & Ellie Kisch
- 4 Car seats and 6 diaper bags from James & Leah Valentine
- New cribette and baby clothes and shoes from a PSS client
- 3 baby carriers from Friends of ECFA
- Cradle & stroller from Laverne & Richard Torweihe

Serving at Our Office:

- Painting of some office walls by Marvin
- Moving of heavy fireproof cabinets by Todd and friend
- Gardening and planting of beautiful plants and flowers by Tina

Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who assembled a mailing for the Agency in May:

Alice Barbeln	Sue Korb
Annette Cernohous	Kathy Misany
Char Duranceau	Gail Moses
Marvin Engle	Lashaun Moultrie
Sue Frodl	Barbara Schmidtkunz
Sharon Fuller	Darleen Snyder
Bonnie Gruber	Scott & Karen Snyder
Margo Hoffman	Nancy Stone
Rita Hoffman	Jan Story
Carol Honeyager	Margo Whitcomb
Pat Johnson	Judy Zwitter
Anita Julius	

Memorials

In loving memory of: Doris
From: Steve & Sue Imhoff

In loving memory of: Agnes Krause
From: Paul & Holly Doerr

In loving memory of: My wife, Marilyn Lister
From: Warren Lister

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

In loving memory of: Our grandson, Daniel J. Radtke
From: Don & Eileen Czernisz

In loving memory of: My husband, Mark Yegge
From: Diana Yegge

In loving memory of: My husband, Siegfried Zabel
From: Sandra Zabel

Tributes

In honor of: My daughter-in-law, Amanda Jensen
From: Suzanne Jensen



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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

Bethesda Park/Glacial Drumlin Trail, Waukesha

Register at ecfawisc.org/bikeandhike

Beats for Heartbeats – ECFA will have a booth – Saturday September 9, 2023

Washington County Fairgrounds, 3000 County Hwy PV, West Bend WI

Benefit Auction – Friday, November 3, 2023

Sheraton Milwaukee/Brookfield Hotel

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