

True to Life

AN EVANGELICAL CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY PUBLICATION

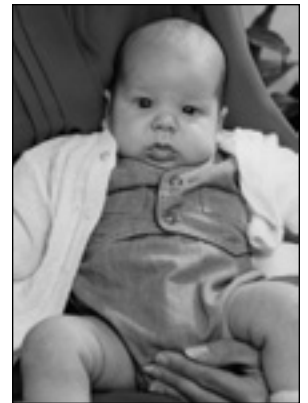
FALL 2009

Who & Where is Blake? ~Wisconsin ECFA's First Baby~

On September 4, 1984, a little baby boy with squeezable cheeks and pure grey blue eyes was permanently placed for adoption with Tim and Sandy Weeden making their placement the very first in Wisconsin. Previously, this couple had become frustrated in the adoption process after waiting to be matched with a baby through three other agencies. GOD's timing was perfect however, as the Weeden's became introduced to ECFA in Illinois through a sister who attended Moody Bible Institute and a dear uncle, Pastor Wendell Boyer, who happened to be serving on the ECFA Board in Illinois. Sandy remembers the ECFA home study, conducted by Eleanor Hill, to be one of "intense questioning," and very thorough.



When asked what Blake's life has meant to them, Tim and Sandy answered the following question almost identically. Sandy stated Blake to be a "gift that has enhanced our life." Tim stated that Blake is "the biggest blessing and gift I have ever received."



Years ago, adoptive placements were closed so Tim and Sandy never met Blake's biological parents. They had been told that they were young high school sweethearts. Sandy said they faithfully prayed for "Jack & Jill," her names for them, all these years, grateful for this young couple's decision to place Blake in their lives.

Sandy reflected on Blake's early years and shared that when he was five years old playing T-ball in the outfield, he suddenly wandered away in search of ladybugs. His keen interest in nature and the outdoors continued as he once caught a wild rabbit with his bare hands convincing Sandy to keep it in their laundry tub. When Blake was in the fourth grade, Sandy said his comedic skills began to flourish.

During Blake's teen years, Sandy said she and Tim were often on their knees as he was quite "typical." He was chosen to deliver his high school class address at the Beloit College Chapel. After graduation, he followed his early passion for biology and completed two years of post-secondary schooling.

(continued on next page)



His love of hunting, fishing, camping, and nature is being satisfied these days as an enlisted member of the Air Force serving at the Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he is an Airman 1st Class, assigned to munitions assembly and bomb storage. Tim was able to visit Blake on base for nine days this year where Blake reports temperatures have been as low as 57 degrees below zero. Blake's first enlistment will continue until 2012.

It is rewarding to know that this young man, ECFA's first, is serving others with his life. Please keep him and his parents in your prayers as he needs GOD's continued protection and direction in the days ahead.



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 United Way Dollars Matter

	# of Designations	Total Designated Dollars
2009	?	?
2008	59	\$19,345.09
2007	58	\$21,547.57
2006	59	\$23,627.48
2005	64	\$23,668.97



ECFA Reminder



Last year **Evangelical Child & Family Agency** received donations through the United Way of Greater Milwaukee **Donor Choice Program**. These gifts helped us provide positive life-affirming options to abortion through our Pregnancy Support Services and Adoption Programs.

If your employer chooses to participate in the Donor Choice program, you may choose to have your gift of any size help a specific agency, or you may give an unrestricted gift to help a broad range of health and human care agencies, it's your choice.

The United Way's community-wide campaign helps meet the diversity of health and human care needs.

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

Always Smiling!

If you regularly visit Almost Anything 2 as a customer, browser, or donor, then you may have noticed the infectious smile of Laurie Kornowski the last three plus years. She is the new Resale Shop

Assistant to Supervisor, Karen Thoen, alternating between both shops as needed for 15 hours, throughout the week.

Laurie, her daughter, Becky, and now her mom, Kathy, have made Almost Anything 2 a family affair every Monday as they sort, price,



and put away the treasures that have been donated over the weekend. As Laurie has gotten to know the tastes and idiosyncrasies of the repeat customers, she always keeps an eye out for items that she knows will be appreciated by “her favorite people.” This is just one of the many appealing characteristics of Laurie that cause customers to return and enjoy their shopping experience.

A Charming Chateau

A Lawbre doll house, identified as, *The Chateau Model*, has been donated to Almost Anything 2. The original paperwork shows the house was purchased unfurnished, for just under \$2,400. It is electrified and has many pieces of furniture for the six rooms and is currently priced at \$1,100. This doll house definitely needs a new home. Are you, or someone you know, looking for a unique find?



ALMOST ANYTHING 2 Business As Usual ↪ For Now

On November 30, 2009, after our three year lease is completed, a unique arrangement for Almost Anything 2 will begin the next day with landlords, Greg & Mark. This entire year has been a challenge financially, as three years of property taxes 2007-2009, had to be paid to the city of West Allis by ECFA, totaling over \$30,000.

Our next lease is for zero rent. Property taxes, insurance, utilities, and garbage pick-up totaling \$2,400, will be paid monthly. Very soon, the landlords will be installing a “For Lease” sign in order to attract a “real” renter, but will allow us to remain as tenants with a first option. We will continue to accept your saleable donations, volunteering of time, and shoppers of all ages. We are grateful that GOD has given us this second chance to continue “business as usual” for another season. Join us in prayer for His blessings upon our gracious landlords and their families.



In August, 208 past Golf Scramble golfers and some non-golfing friends of ECFA received a personal letter that explained the financial reasons why we no longer host the former annual event. Thirty-nine individuals responded to this letter and accompanying \$5,000 challenge for a match resulting in a total of \$14,914.50. **All 39 of you definitely deserve a First Place Trophy!** For the ministry, this is equivalent to a hole-in-one!



25th Anniversary
A Night to Celebrate

This year's 25th Anniversary Banquet on October 23rd is now a part of history. So many memorable moments took place that evening, too many to relay in one article. There were 321 preregistered guests aged two months and above, with 91 guests new to ECFA. The victorious testimony of our birth mom, Asha, was so moving it left a number of listeners in tears. Our other speakers, Milwaukee County Executive, Scott Walker, and special guest, Ryan Dobson, proved to be a dynamic twosome instilling enthusiasm and hope for a ministry that continues to be relevant to the needs in our community.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE...

Eleanor Hill (age 93), and her daughter, Suzanne, drove up from the Chicago area and were acknowledged by Emcee, Dick Faulkner. He had the pleasure of working with Eleanor after she was enlisted to share her expertise and training of Wisconsin's first social workers, Diane nee Cassanova (Augustine) and Diana Baker. Eleanor, accompanied by her husband, Maurie, was graciously loaned from the Illinois offices. They rented an apartment for almost a year until the staff was prepared to effectively minister appropriate services to the birth parents and their families.

Present in the audience were a number of "ECFA children," many who are now young adults (one, newly married), who were placed through adoption.

Many dedicated foster parents of infants, children, and birth moms were present, sharing fond memories of days and nights sacrificed to care for others in their homes and hearts.



The entire program was simulcast this year and projected on two large screens. There were no obstructed seats in the room. The entire evening was engineered by John (JJ) Jones. He lent his personal equipment and then operated the camera all evening to capture each speaker and maximize their delivery. He and his wife Lori, adopted their first two of five children, John and Angela, through ECFA. JJ was gracious to provide his talent for the evening in special memory of Lori, who died on July 20, 2008, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

One couple purchased 12 of the large, green, ECFA logo tote bags to be used for distributing Thanksgiving dinners to struggling families that their church has "adopted" during the holidays.

A number of our out-of-state guests snapped up the blaze orange hunting hats at the silent auction. Also at the auction, the 50 year commemorative 2007 Packer Football, with Brett's signature, attracted the most serious of bidders.

After Ryan Dobson spoke, he was sought out by an older man who wanted to clear his troubled conscience. He shared “his story” of paying for an abortion for his girlfriend at that time. Ryan responded with compassion and forgiveness.

A professionally produced agency video was launched; the “amplified” version was well received and will be edited for use in churches and for groups interested in knowing more about ECFA and how to become involved. Two of the birthmoms featured in the film were guests at the banquet and felt the love and acceptance of everyone around them.

Over \$17,500 was given in the evening offering with \$4,300 additional dollars pledged as future gifts and \$557 for monthly donations. As Dick Faulkner and the Mercyhill Worship Team concluded the offering by leading the guests in the hymn, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, GOD’s undeserved faithfulness for all these years remains unmistakable. The evening concluded in prayer as Pastor Dave Brown, ECFA Board Chairman, encouraged everyone to hold hands. In reality, a number of people had already reached out for a tight hold.

Since the Banquet, ECFA has received e-mails, cards, notes, and phone calls from guest attendees. Everyone continues to attest to the marvelous works GOD has done the past 25 years and continues to accomplish. It was such a blessing to have so many individuals and families present for one evening who are all connected in some way to a ministry that GOD is using to make a difference for LIFE!

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Mike & Linda Oberbrunner, Jim & Leah Valentine

Banquet Contributors

Michael & Joan Anderson, Janet Behling,

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Jefferey & Mary Beth Day, Rich Doligalski, Roger Dudek,

Emery Marketing, Dick & Arlene Faulkner,

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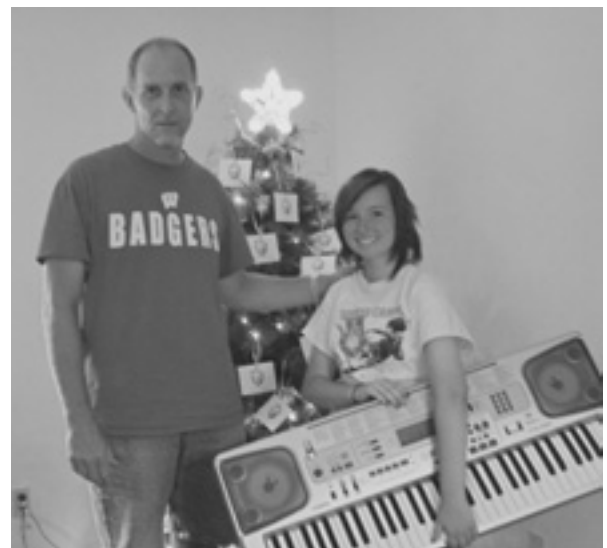
Rick & Janice Pezoldt, Elmer & Joyce Recknagel,

Doris Schaff, Wings of Dove Counseling Service,

Steve & Tracy Witt, David & Rachel Zimmers

Christmas in July

This year’s Christmas in July campaign resulted in gifts from 65 donors totaling \$5,145. Our ornamented Christmas tree which was displayed in August features John and Naomi Scheel, his daughter. They responded to the request in last quarter’s newsletter for a keyboard for an older boy who was recently placed for adoption. This amazing keyboard had the theme from Spiderman preprogrammed as the #1 song on this versatile instrument. Incredibly, it just so happens that Spiderman is this young guys all time favorite superhero. This has helped him understand that Jesus is personally interested in every detail of his life, desiring to reach not only him, but each of us, with His love in ways we cannot begin to understand.



CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP STAFF TO THE RESCUE

During this summer, the Board Members of The Christian Stewardship Foundation (CSF), located in Brookfield, Wisconsin, responded to the unique request of their three staff members. They asked to take one week away from their duties in order to volunteer at local ministries that have benefitted from past (CSF) grants. At ECFA, we were so blessed to have two of these dedicated servants choose to share their time with us. Each accomplished their assigned tasks as willing volunteers with joy and efficiency.



On the morning of July 30th, CSF President, Linda Maris, brought her daughter, Emily, and two friends, Stephanie and JoAnn, to transform the overgrown parking lot greenery (that had become dense with weeds) into a welcoming setting for our clients, volunteers, and staff. That same afternoon, Linda still had lots of energy and went to organize a cluttered back room at the Almost Anything 2 Resale Shop even discovering a few bargains to purchase.

Sandy Raasch, CSF Office Manager, volunteered for an entire week beginning August 3rd, which turned out to be such a perfect time for the ministry to benefit from her patience and expertise. Without her proficiency, two major projects absolutely could not have been accomplished. They required researching and updating hundreds of addresses and combining years of stray lists into one. This was used to contact past ECFA friends and contacts for the 25th Anniversary Banquet.

ECFA is grateful to the CSF Board for lending us their best as we and the other ministries benefitted from this “volunteer experiment.”



As the end of 2009 is almost here, please consider reviewing the CSF website: cstewardship.org or calling Sandy at: 262-796-9910 to discover how you as an individual, or perhaps your family, may benefit from the ministry that impacts the values you desire to pass on to your loved ones.

Birth Parent Caseworker Position Available

*** FT position available in New Berlin.
Candidate to provide pregnancy counseling and case management services to women and men experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Life-affirming options presented including adoption, if desired. Outreach and development expected.

Prerequisites:

- BSW or MSW
- Case management desired
- A heart for women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy
- Salary is based upon education and previous experience
- Evangelical Christian required

Please fax resumé to: 262-789-1887 or e-mail to: lindao@ecfawisc.org

Memorials

In loving memory of: my wife, Jean
From: husband, Robert Diehl



In loving memory of: my husband, Gary
From: wife, Pam Kozlowski



In loving memory of: my husband, James
From: wife, Janet Behling



In loving memory of: our mothers, Gertrude
Krueger & Wilhelmina Osterkorn
From: daughter, Janice and son, Sig Osterkorn



In memory of: Donald Wessel,
loving father of past staff member,
Julie (Wessel) Kelly
From: The Staff of ECFA

& Tributes

In honor of: Aunt Bev & Uncle Jerome's
50th Anniversary
From: niece, Susan Hyzer



With a Grateful Heart

There is a continual outpouring of blessings received by this ministry on a regular basis. As a result, there are so 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 all of the willing participants in the production of the ECFA video that included 1 ½ hour old Baby Cody and 48 others who were very pleasant to work with.
- ♥ For the donation of quality production equipment from John Jones, Joel Robinett, and Bob Merkel, to show the video at the Banquet.
- ♥ For all the prayer warriors that keep this ministry going!
- ♥ For the lovely bassinette rescued and restored by Fran Pinter.
- ♥ For the end of summer landscaping attention by the faithful Iwinski Family.
- ♥ For some *Friends of ECFA* who donated three Brewer bobbleheads which inspired a silent auction for the Banquet.
- ♥ For John at Print Craft who donated the printing of the Dresser Ministry brochures.

www.my1channel.com _____
_____ my choice, my time, my1channel



This is the site where you can view Aroma Café ~ a place to fill your cup ~ with host, Margo Fieseler. This is a broadcast ministry of B.A.S.I.C.S. that you can watch in the comfort of your home or workplace. An episode on ECFA will be broadcast beginning November 9th in conjunction with National Adoption month. Tom and Becky Murel of Video Create are the producers of my1channel and track approximately 200,000 hits per month.

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FOR ONE SIZE FITS ALL GIFTS**

**Sold at: Both Almost Anything Resale Shops
& The New Berlin ECFA Office
Call Jill at: 262-789-1881 for more information**



**CAN YOU
SPARE A LITTLE TIME?**

**If you are interested in being
part on an ECFA Bowling Committee
to plan a fun winter event in early 2010
in the Milwaukee/Waukesha area,
please contact Cathy
at 262-789-1881.**

Return Service Requested

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