

# True to Life

An Evangelical Child & Family Agency Publication

FALL 2017

## A NEW SEASON FOR ECFA (Employees Change For Autumn)

A warm Wisconsin welcome to the new Director of Development & Facilities, Jennie Tietjen (pronounced “tea gin”). She began full-time in a newly-created position at the New Berlin office on September 25, 2017. Jennie is not new to the ECFA Family or Wisconsin either. In fact, she has been an ECFA employee in the Wheaton office for 19 ½ years and was recognized as the perfect fit for the face of ECFA in Wisconsin. The timing was ideal because she and her husband had already made plans to move to Wisconsin to be closer to their family members.



Jennie’s enthusiasm is contagious, her warmth is genuine, and she has a battery that is fully-charged all the time. Many guests will attest to her friendliness after meeting her for the first time at the annual fall banquet.

Jennie shared she was raised in a Christian home in the Michigan area and in 1964, made her own profession of faith at her church bible camp. Her relationship with Christ grew and while in high school, she met the love of her life, Dave. They dated for a while and during Dave’s later college years, he felt called into the ministry. His proposal for marriage to Jennie was eagerly accepted. Together, as husband and wife, they have been serving for 41 years in full-time pastoral ministry in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

Jennie and Dave have been married for 43 years and are the parents of three adult children, Amy, Susan, and

Andrew. Jennie officially became a beloved “Nana” in 2000, and enjoys special times (including Packer cheering) with Madelyn (17), Isabelle (13), Aiden (10), Logan (9), Bryson (5), and Maxwell (5 months). They are also pet parents to 14 ½ year old “Kirby” who hasn’t adjusted to Wisconsin living as quickly as Jennie and Dave have. In their free time, when not unpacking or attending their grandchildren’s activities, Jennie and Dave enjoy just being together. They have had the pleasure of visiting a local church each week and look forward to finding a home church to begin forging some new relationships and plugging into the ministry.

In the past few weeks after moving from Illinois to Pewaukee, Jennie immersed herself in the fall banquet preparations, and also trained for her new position. In the ECFA Wheaton office, Jennie was the Development/Volunteer Coordinator and enjoyed working with volunteers, donors, and staff in planning many successful events throughout the year. Before accepting that position, Jennie returned to school from 2001-2005, and earned her BA degree in Applied Behavioral Arts while working, too. She is adept at balancing many roles and responsibilities simultaneously which is a huge plus for the Wisconsin office.

Jennie would love to meet and get to know the donors, volunteers, and church ministry leaders and also share the happenings of the ministry. Please welcome her by phone 262-789-1881, e-mail: [jenniet@ecfawisc.org](mailto:jenniet@ecfawisc.org) or come over for a drop-in visit, at 1617 South 124th Street, New Berlin, WI 53151.

*By: Linda Oberbrunner*



We welcome Jamie Olson to ECFA as our part-time Social Services Secretary working with our

Adoption and PSS programs. She appears to be a perfect fit as she comes to us with a full résumé of experience in these programs, with a BSW, MSW, and experience as a past full-time adoption social worker with another Christian agency. Her knowledge is impressive, and we are building a team of women who want to, “Give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.”

Jamie has been married to Chad for 20 years and they are blessed with two children, Colin (16) and Lauren (14). Though she has been a “stay-at-home” mom, she felt she could take

this opportunity to return to part-time employment now that her children are older. As she responded to our job posting and told us in her interview, “Knowing of our long-standing reputation, God put me right where He needed me.”

Jamie loves to volunteer, watch her children in their chosen sports of football and volleyball, cook, read, and tinker in her garden. The Olsons attend Star of Bethlehem Church in New Berlin where Jamie is involved with ministries. Join us in welcoming Jamie to our staff.

## Brewer Buddy Game



For the fifth year in a row, Brewer Buddy tickets were graciously given to ECFA by the Brewer’s Foundation to distribute to 150 volunteers, vendors, clients, donors, staff, and friends of ECFA. This year, the weather was perfect (76 degrees - not too hot and not too cold) on the Wednesday evening of August 2, 2017. Many first-time guests enjoyed the game, despite the 5-4 Brewer’s loss to the Cardinals.



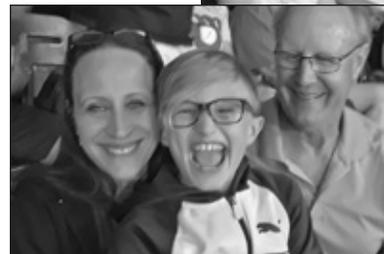
Two Country Springs Waterpark passes were given away that night in a drawing. Tim Farrell was visibly and verbally excited when his seat number was selected by four-year-old Josiah Oberbrunner. The second winner was randomly selected by Hannah Oberbrunner who was visiting from Oregon

with the family. The winner officially drawn was Michelle Werner who shared her prize with granddaughter Muriah. Photos were captured during the evening by Dennis Drinkwine who meandered across rows and aisles to capture as many ECFA Friends smiles as possible.



This event continues to grow in popularity with ECFA Friends of all ages.

If you haven’t joined us in the past, be sure to give Jennie or Sue a call in early June at 262-789-1881 to let them know you are interested. Please also consider participating in the May 19, 2018, Bike & Hike, and you’ll be guaranteed a seat at the Brewer’s game.



# ECFA and



**Unaffiliated Eligible Donor Choice Option (#22880)**  
Fall season has arrived in our area. So it must be United Way Giving Campaign time! United Way conducts a community-wide campaign that helps meet the needs of health and human care, to aid people within the many diverse communities in greater Milwaukee. This opportunity to help give “a cup of cold water” to those in need may be available through your employer, and you may not have realized it.

Have there been announcements of a United Way Giving Campaign at your workplace? Did you know that you can

give directly to charities of your choice? We would love for you to consider choosing ECFA and the life-valuing options through our Pregnancy Support Services and Adoption programs. Some employers have a “matching gift” program. Please check with your Human Resource department for your company’s giving guidelines.

A big thank you to the 44 individuals and 33 companies who gave generously through their 2016 United Way Campaigns, In 2017, ECFA was gifted with nearly \$15,200 as a result

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

## Memorials



In loving memory: LaVerne Mancosky  
My friend  
From: Jim Meineke



In loving memory: Adel Lalasz  
Our mother  
From: Norman & Mary Jo Lorentz



In loving memory of: LaVonne Bickler  
Dear family friend  
From: Gerald Schley



In loving memory: Chiyo Anna Neil  
Mother of Lou Neil  
From: Lou & Kelly Neil  
Mike & Linda Oberbrunner



In loving memory: Lucille (Lu) Knapp  
From: Mike & Linda Oberbrunner

## Tributes



In honor of: Eileen Czernisz  
Our dear friend, 80 years young  
From: Mike & Linda Oberbrunner



In honor of: Linda Oberbrunner  
Friend and co-worker  
From: Jan Allen, Dave Lundberg  
Bill & Marilyn Newell, Dave & Jennie Tietjen

## Our Tribute to All



Heartfelt thanks to each & everyone for the loving sentiments expressed, greeting cards, scriptures of encouragement, precious prayers, and many gifts that were lovingly shared with me and my beloved family during the Fall Banquet weekend. May the LORD watch between us, continue to be whom we always trust, and impart His perfect peace always until we meet again! In His Faithful Care,  
Linda, Mike, Kim, Kary, Sarah, & Jeremy Oberbrunner



# Fall Banquet 2017

Though the early October sky was overcast and a light drizzle was falling, that did not dampen the mood or enthusiasm of those arriving at ECFA's annual fall banquet. The atmosphere of the banquet room seemed warm and sunny. The Fall Banquet Celebration and Silent Auction evening was underway. Held again at the lovely Country Springs Hotel and Banquet Conference Center in Pewaukee, the evening marked the 33rd year of ECFA's mission and ministry in Wisconsin, which is "to provide individuals and families...with high quality pregnancy support and child welfare services while demonstrating the love and hope found in a relationship with Jesus Christ."

The event drew 322 guests, a significant percentage of whom were first-time attendees. Welcome newcomers to the ECFA family! Many browsed the Silent Auction tables before dinner, making that part of the evening the most successful since adding the Auction to the Banquet in 2009.



Under the enthusiastic and gracious guidance of the emcee, Wendy Gebauer, the program progressed flawlessly from point to point. Wendy even introduced the attendees to the ECFA Cheer (give me an "E"...,



give me an "F"...), a well-received tool for allowing each letter in ECFA's title to highlight a characteristic of the agency's work. Following the opening prayer by dedicated chairman of the Advisory Council, Jim Valentine, guests

enjoyed a delicious meal.

This year marked not only a third of a century of Christ-centered ministry by ECFA in Wisconsin, but also another significant milestone. Linda Oberbrunner has been a full-time staff member with the agency for 22 years and the District Director since 2001. As she concludes her employment on October 31st to enter retirement, it was very fitting to acknowledge her lengthy and storied career. Ken Withrow, ECFA's



Executive Director, invited Linda, her husband Mike, and four children, Kim, Kary, Sarah, and Jeremy to the platform. A review of Linda's tenure, roles, and leadership concluded with a presentation of 22 pink roses (representing her 22 years of service), a gift certificate to Bed and Breakfast.com, and the appreciative standing ovation of all those in attendance.





*Adoption family*

Since ECFA is a client-based mission, the program included stories of how the agency’s efforts impact real lives. Andy and Shauna Rorabeck related their account of the international adoption of two special needs children, who were great additions to their family. Through insightful questions posed by Dorinne Geldon, their adoption social worker, the Rorabecks relayed the gripping and heartfelt details of their journey to enfold these precious children into a new home in a new country. Their presentation touched all who heard them.

In addition to being client-based, ECFA is also Christ-centered. Kristi Fenkl, a former PSS client, had been assisted by Linda many years ago. She relayed her personal portrayal of a crisis pregnancy, the destructive grip of addictive behavior, and the freedom she found in Jesus, a path begun by Linda’s kind, patient, and effective witness. Kristi concluded by singing “Born in Me,” a tender appeal to find redemption in our Savior.



*Former PSS client*

### “Choose Life” License Plates



*Julianne Appling*

ECFA is also a mission partnering with other like-minded organizations or agencies in the pro-family, pro-life, and traditional marriage movement. Julianne Appling, President of Wisconsin Family Council, brought an update on the successful campaign to offer “Choose Life”

license plates for drivers in Wisconsin. The Choose Life Wisconsin plate fees include an issuance fee of \$15, plus an annual \$25 tax-deductible contribution, in addition

to the regular registration fee. This contribution will go to Choose Life Wisconsin, Inc., and then distributed to various Wisconsin Pregnancy Resource Centers. ECFA hopes to be a recipient of some of these funds. Readers are encouraged to purchase these plates at their next license renewal. As of Monday, October 23rd, the plates are ready for purchase!



*Mike Williams*

The guest speaker for the evening was Mike Williams, author, speaker, missionary, father – and comedian. Through rapid fire humor, hilarious everyday incidents, and insightful commentary, Mike again held the evening’s gathering in rapt attention. He finished not with just a comical line, but with

a call to commitment. Deftly explaining both ECFA’s ongoing, monthly needs and a significant capital improvement challenge, he brought all to a time of reflection and response. Including the matching grant challenge, more than \$55,000 was given or pledged by faithful supporters.

Ably assisted by the evening’s excellent pianist Mike Dean, Kristi Fenkl, her daughter Savannah, and ECFA’s first director, Dick Faulkner, concluded the evening by leading the audience in singing the powerful contemporary hymn “In Christ Alone”.

For all who came, who sponsored tables, brought supplies for the PSS program, invited a friend, neighbor, or fellow congregant and generously donated, “We give thanks always for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus...” (I Thessalonians 5:18)



## Pregnancy Support Connection:

### *An Opportune Time to Minister to Young Women*



Recently, ECFA had its fall banquet. In attendance was a wonderful woman who recently received the role of working in a teenage mother program within a public school. Our Social Services Supervisor, Dawn, was able to connect with her and schedule a meeting. Thanks to this opportune connection, Dawn and I were able to visit the school and discuss programming with the woman as well as how we can provide a partnership to assist in educating teenage mothers.

Teenagers today face many struggles an older generation cannot comprehend. With the advancement of technology, constant access to everything on the planet is available to them. They are exposed to pornography and sex on a daily basis. Being told you can be anything – boy, girl, or even animal if that’s how you feel – leaves confused teenagers in its wake. The average teenage mother I’ve worked with has struggled with more than pregnancy. They are looking for stability, certainty, and a desire to understand sexuality. It is something they are not currently finding in the public school system.

Many of you may not know this, but I came from a residential home where I spent 2 ½ years working with teenage mothers. Upon starting at ECFA in Pregnancy Support Services, an 11 year old girl called – becoming the youngest client in our program’s history. Throughout my time here, we have seen an influx in the number of teenage mothers. Recently, we had a teenage mother choose to place for adoption, while another chose to take on a new role as a single mother. Working with each teenage mother throughout this current generation has been a time to assist them in understanding the truths of life and sexuality. The opportunity to possibly go into multiple public schools and work with these young women will allow them to see the truth of real love and sexuality. They will also have the ability to make the right decisions moving forward from an unplanned pregnancy.

Here in Pregnancy Support Services, we empower women to make the right choice for them – a choice for life-choices that honor themselves as individuals and to learn how much they are loved. For some mothers that looks like the gift of adoption. For others it’s the privilege of parenting. Whatever that decision may be, we are blessed with wonderful, new opportunities to empower women and men of all ages on their pregnancy journey. We are very excited about our new opportunity of spending more time with teenage mothers within schools and empowering them!

*PSS Social Worker, Alycia Johnson*



## Lamb of God Lutheran Church

N19 W25050 Bluemound Road  
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Pewaukee is one of ECFA’s supporting churches. It is lovingly led by Pastor Bruce Harrmann who is also a full-time instructor in the Religion Department at Milwaukee Lutheran High School.

As a church, they desire to be a family, called together into community with God and with each other. As a body of believers, they value their relationship with God as their primary calling and purpose and believe that only the forgiveness and grace of God in Jesus Christ makes this relationship possible. They are a church that worships in response to the love of God for them, as demonstrated in Jesus Christ. They believe they are called to be the “hands and feet” of Jesus to this world. This commitment has led them to embrace the agency’s pro-life and pro-family values. Their Sunday schedule includes Family Education at 9:00 am and Worship at 10:00 am.

In her new role as Director of Development and



Facilities, Jennie Tietjen had the opportunity to speak in the morning worship service on October 15th. She highlighted one of ECFA’s Pregnancy Support Services program’s newest initiatives: To help reduce

preventable infant deaths in the greater Milwaukee area. This is in partnership with Stork & Company.

The congregants were told that the United States ranks only 21st among developed countries in infant mortality. Sadly, Milwaukee has a higher rate than the national average, and it appears to be increasing. A possible solution to help reverse this trend is through the use of the “Baby Box.” It’s not just a box, it is an educational tool! This baby box is stocked with various items to assist new mothers. This helpful, simple tool is given to any family who requests one and includes on-line training resources and other items to help care for their baby. The Baby Box Company began “Baby Box University” to be this educational service for parents. It was developed in coordination with committed, medical professionals, maternal health advocates, and child development specialists for one of the purposes of reducing infant mortality. This outreach will encourage “safe sleep” and fewer tragic deaths. We not only want babies safe in a car, but in any environment.

Jennie thanked this wonderful congregation for their support of ECFA over the years through volunteering, giving, and praying regularly. If you are interested in having someone come and share this or other aspects about ECFA’s ministry, please call the office at 262-789-1881 or email [jenniet@ecfawisc.org](mailto:jenniet@ecfawisc.org).



# 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:**

♥ Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who assembled mailings for the agency:

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Claudette Ahlgren        | Alisha Iwinski   |
| Cathy Bogdanovich        | Anita Julius     |
| Kelly & Reese Borton     | Beverly Kuntzsch |
| Sally Boya               | Nancy Roets      |
| Annette Cernohous        | Jane Runnels     |
| Charlene Duranceau       | Micki Schmitz    |
| Ruth Engelhardt          | Marni Stelter    |
| Nancy Farrell            | Mary Westphal    |
| Pamela Grande            | Margo Whitcomb   |
| Jill, Isaiah & Noah Hait | Carol Yule       |
| Carol Honeyager          |                  |

ECFA's PSS Fruits of Your Labor Closet, we give thanks:

- ♥ For the Pack 'n Play from Mark & Laurie Swan.
- ♥ For the baby formula from Laura Ebert.
- ♥ For more baby formula from Andrew Rodriguez.
- ♥ For baby onesies, outfits, sleepers, and swaddlers from Beth Piotrowski.
- ♥ For receiving blankets and rattles from Bonnie Sunderlage.
- ♥ For a travel diaper bag filled with many essentials from Amanda Luthi.
- ♥ For all who generously brought diapers, various sizes of outfits, diaper bags, blankets, and miscellaneous baby supplies to our Fall Banquet.

Helpful Acts of Kindness:

- ♥ For the use of a gas grill for a staff birthday party from Pastor Troy Johnson.
- ♥ For weeding the flower beds and painting the front porch at the ECFA office by Lynn, Destinee and Devin Rogers.

So grateful for all involved with the Silent Auction:

- ♥ For countless hours of work by the committee Elisa Shane, Micki Schmitz, Pamela Grande, and Renae Ebert.

A "Huge" thank you to all of our Silent Auction Donors:  
Business:

- ♥ For the Pack 'n Play from Mark & Laurie Swan.
- ♥ Betty Brinn Children's Museum – Milwaukee
- ♥ BlackFinn Ameripub – Brookfield
- ♥ Bravo Cucina Italiana – Brookfield
- ♥ Darleen's Hair Design – Darleen Snyder - West Allis
- ♥ Flemings Steakhouse – Brookfield
- ♥ Green Bay Packers
- ♥ Jason's Deli – Brookfield
- ♥ Jerelie Blowout Designs & Imagery – Jerelie Retzlaff - Hales Corners
- ♥ Lutter's Elmbrook Automotive –Bob and Erv Lutter - Brookfield
- ♥ Marquette University
- ♥ Mary Kay – Kim Angles – Muskego
- ♥ Milwaukee Brewers
- ♥ Naf Naf Grill – Brookfield
- ♥ Swimtastic Swim School -
- ♥ Trader Joe's – Brookfield
- ♥ Young Living – Kelly Olson – New Berlin

Please frequent these businesses and make sure you thank them for their participation with the ECFA Silent Auction!

Individual:

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Tim Albrecht        | Nanci A Musich    |
| Kelly Baierl        | Matt Naiva        |
| Pat Borkowski       | Janet Nunziato    |
| Karen Dercole       | Sarah Oberbrunner |
| Nan Erk             | Riederer Family   |
| Martha Fuerbringer  | Dawn Salvesson    |
| Pamela Grande       | Elisa Shane       |
| Carol and Tom       | Jennie Tietjen    |
| Honeyager           | Matt Vargo        |
| Cathy Klaus         | Anonymous Friends |
| Mitzi Kruslin       | of ECFA           |
| John & Kathy Misany |                   |



Evangelical Child  
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1617 South 124th Street  
New Berlin, WI 53151

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New Berlin, WI  
Permit No. 315

Return Service Requested

# Are you pro-life and pro-family?

ECFA is looking for one or two like-minded businesses to take a donation box (pictured) to be used at your store counter. It is an opportunity to continue the commitment to help ECFA staff “provide individuals and families... with high quality pregnancy support and child welfare services while demonstrating the love and hope found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.”



The measurements of the box are, H-17” x W-8 ¾” x D-6 ¾”. Call Jennie or Sue at 262-789-1881, if you are interested.

## Mark Your Calendars!!!



Celebrating National Adoption Month

November 23rd

A Blessed Thanksgiving To Everyone



Christmas Blessings to All!

January 17, 2018

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday



March or April, 2018

1st ECFA Family

Milwaukee Admirals Hockey Game

Date To Be Announced



Watch for our new look  
in a future edition of the ECFA Newsletter