

# True to Life

AN EVANGELICAL CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY PUBLICATION

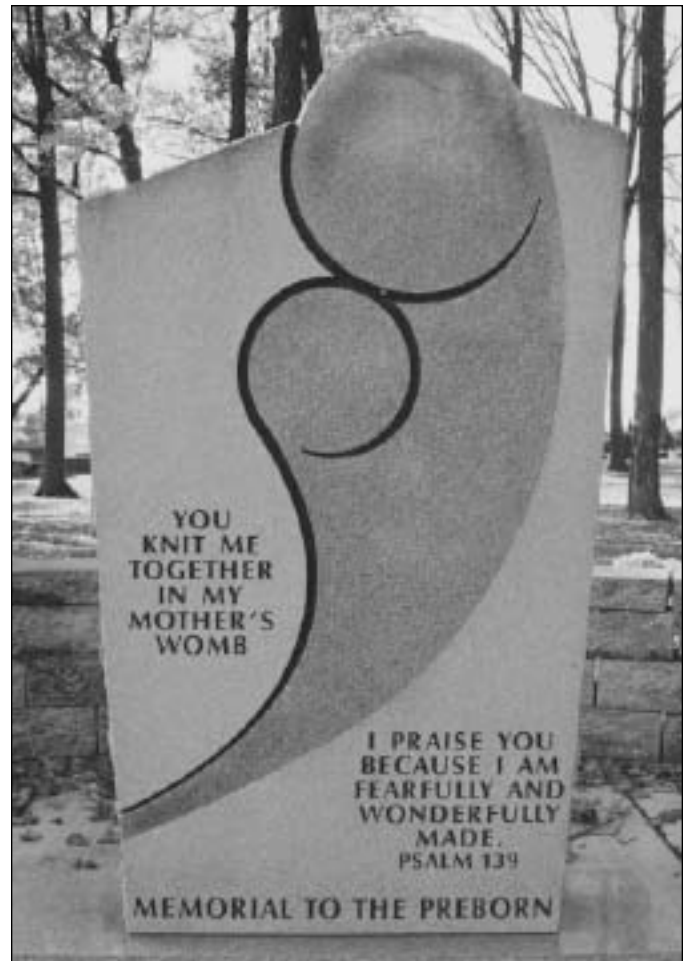
WINTER 2009

## Remembering the Preborn of Wisconsin and Their Parents

In a rural cemetery nestled in Hartford, Wisconsin, a light blue concrete memorial was erected almost five years ago. It is dedicated to the preborn babies who were miscarried or aborted. The Hartford Pregnancy Help Center purchased the plot of land for \$250 in 2004. Compassionate area businesses which included: Zignego Ready Mix, the Zignego Company, Blast Craft Service, Inc, and Don Ulik Construction offered the materials, design and labor to provide a visible testament to the value and sanctity of human life at the earliest age. A portion of Psalm 139 is engraved and provides the impetus for the grieving parent or perhaps for a grandparent to mourn. The tender depiction of a simple line drawn parent and child attests to the intimacy and dependency of a newborn. When that relationship is destroyed, the wound is deep in need of healing and restoration.

At ECFA, we as staff desire to speak and listen to each caller who considers abortion to be their only option. Full attention and dependence upon the Holy Spirit to speak the truth in a tone of love and compassion is what we share, so that a decision of life can be made. When a caller has already had an abortion and desires forgiveness, we can provide a wonderful resource for a Rachel's Vineyard non-denominational weekend retreat. These retreats are designed for a small number of women to work through their past abortion(s) in a safe and restorative setting in Williams Bay in Walworth County or through the Hartford Pregnancy Help Center's West Bend or Fond du Lac locations. These retreats have been able to help hundreds of women including some ECFA clients, too, heal after an abortion. The Williams Bay retreats scheduled for 2009 are April 17-19 and November 6-8. Please call Cheryl

Ryan at 608-235-7542 for an application. The Hartford sponsored retreat is scheduled for October 23-25th. Please call Laura Denk at 262-224-5617 for more information. If you or someone you know is interested in attending one of these retreats, pass this information along. God's restorative healing can be experienced!



*Photo courtesy of Carl Muenzmaier*

# 24th Annual ECFA Banquet Blesses Many

Photos courtesy of Dennis Hill



*Kristi & Linda reconnect*



On October 16, 2008 the guests who attended the 24th Annual ECFA Banquet were blessed throughout the evening. The personal testimony and update of Kristi Fenkl who had returned to speak as a Pregnancy Support Services client from the past, also sang a moving song presentation of *Breath of Heaven*, by Amy Grant. Emcee, George Petak kept the audience engaged with his perfect balance of humor, satire, personal sharing, and genuine warmth. An ECFA family that adopted a little girl from China, shared their journey and future plans to adopt again. Their two year old daughter, Lydia, enjoyed receiving one of the glittery, gilded nativity centerpieces donated by John Fisco Jr. and ProBuColls Christian Bookstore.

Bobby Schindler Jr., the guest speaker, presented his family's personal tragedy regarding his sister, Terri Sciavo, expressing his obvious deep love for her. He informed the audience of how each of us may be affected by laws in this country that fail to protect human life. His family's foundation, (The Terri Schindler Sciavo Foundation), responds to approximately 500 callers per year who have loved ones that are born with life-threatening conditions or are affected by accidents, or tragedies in need of wise counsel. The evening was one where many emotions were experienced and will definitely be remembered.

Plans are being made to celebrate ECFA's 25th Anniversary with more information available in the next newsletter.

## *Who Will Be? (The Hands of the Lord)*



*Who will help the fatherless?  
Who will help the weak?  
The destitute the lonely the poor  
Who will help a mother save their unborn child?  
Who will be the hands?  
Who will be the hands of the Lord?*

*For such a time as this can you hear  
the call of the broken, the wounded, and torn?  
Who will search for one and leave the 99?  
Who will be the hands?  
Who will be the hands?  
Who will be the hands of the Lord?*

*Who will take the gospel to a dying world  
where hope is what their looking for  
Who will give their life to save a life  
Who will be the hands  
Who will be the hands  
Who will be the hands of the Lord*

*Who will show the love of Jesus  
A love that heals someone else's hurt.*

*Original Song ~ By Gene Schmidt for ECFA Banquet*



“We rise above your expectations”

Edward (Ed) Magaw, President of AscendNet, Inc. and Matthew (Matt) Hedtcke, Technical Support since 2008, fulfill their company’s claims of: having “a unique partnership with all our customers” “...are behind you 100% of the way” and “... goes the extra mile for you...” as they have provided ECFA with exceptional computer customer service for over five years.

Ed opened AscendNet, Inc., his own computer service business, in the Waukesha area in 2001 after working in the industry for over ten years. He placed an ad in the Christian Business Directory in 2003. Linda Oberbrunner, ECFA Wisconsin Director, saw his ad after she received a donation of some older computers and parts. She wasn’t sure if or how they could be utilized in the New Berlin office. She called three of the companies listed in the Directory to explain her need and limited resources and only Ed returned the call (within that same day!). Linda stated, “He was so helpful to assess our needs and determine what he could do to bring us into the age of technology, since many social workers do not understand the inner workings or language of the computer world.” Linda added, “Ed made it his mission to supply the technical support and advisement to the staff so we could all become more efficient to address the needs of our clients. Matt continues to provide the same high quality of service that Ed began.”

Recently, all ECFA staff in New Berlin received new computer systems (bought for a price even better than Ed could have attempted to negotiate). Matt worked tirelessly one day through breakfast, lunch, and supper networking everyone together. The faithful commitment of Ed and now Matt, to support the ministry of ECFA has translated into a priceless donation of computer service and friendship for life.



Contact Ed or Matt at 262-513-1117 or [info@ascendnet.com](mailto:info@ascendnet.com) for any computer, networking, or technical needs. You won’t be disappointed!

## 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
- Spanish-speaking a plus

Please fax resumé to: 262-789-1887 or e-mail to: [lindao@ecfawisc.org](mailto:lindao@ecfawisc.org)

# Get Ready... Get Set... for this year's Bike & Hike!

## May 16, 2009

Set aside the date, May 16, 2009, for this year's Bike & Hike. Returning singer, Cheryl McCrary, and the Heirborn Praise Band, yummy Cousin's Sub lunch, great prizes, games for the kids, t-shirts, friends, sunshine ☺, and YOU, all combine to make the 23rd annual a very fun, fundraising event! Full details in the spring newsletter. Call Joan at 262-789-1881 for early registration materials.

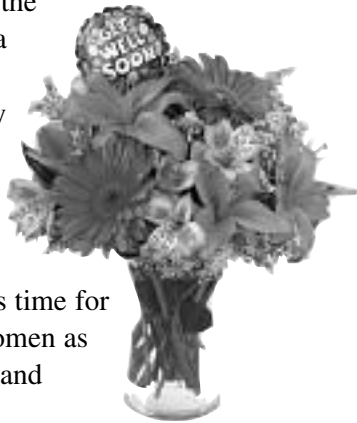


# Almost Anything Staff Setbacks

Since the Fall Newsletter, both dedicated part-time Almost Anything staff members Supervisor Karen Thoen and her Assistant Sandra Karczewski, have been undergoing some major medical challenges. Karen was diagnosed with breast cancer, had surgery, and is undergoing an aggressive regimen of treatment. She continues to work between both stores on her “good days” and appreciates the exceptional support of her husband and volunteers.

Sandra slipped and fell on an icy spot in the back parking lot at Almost Anything 2, while walking a volunteer to her car on the evening of December 4th. She broke her left hip and wrist, had surgery, a stay at a rehab center, and continues a therapy plan in her home as she heals with the help of her daughter and husband.

Both of these women are so courageous and real troopers, grateful for the prayers and also extra hours that have been generously offered by a number of the volunteers as cashiers, sorters, and lifters. Your prayers are appreciated at this time for these two beloved women as well as their spouses and family members.



Additional volunteers, both male and female, age 16 and older are needed even a half day a week to relieve some of the regulars who need a rest. It is interesting work and very rewarding to realize that lives are changed through this part of the ministry. If GOD is nudging you to volunteer your time or if you are now between jobs and have some extra time, talent, or muscles to share, call Karen at: 414-321-0226 or Linda at: 262-789-1881 and discover the real treasures within the Almost Anything Resale Shops.



## *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 the nearly new baby car seat and carload of beautiful new baby items from the Trimble Family of Pewaukee
- ♥ For the numerous baby clothing donations from *Curves* owner Rita Goodwin and members
- ♥ For the RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) Handmade Sewn, Knit or Crocheted Gifts:
  - ☺ Beverly Litt – quilt, baby hat, hooded sweater
  - ☺ Genevieve Jensen – baby blanket
  - ☺ Elizabeth Waldren – 20 baby bibs
  - ☺ Florence Krueger – 2 baby scarves, 8 children’s scarves
  - ☺ Elaine Dowling – 4 knit hats and matching scarves, 9 baby hats, 1 baby hat and bootie set, 3 toddlers hats
- ♥ For the Paulson and Ullenburg Families January “Dresser Ministry” deliveries and purchase of items for three moms who all continued their pregnancies to term
- ♥ For Larry Daub and friend Mark who moved many heavy items for a displaced pregnant mom and her family in Milwaukee
- ♥ For Peter Erdmann who willingly assisted his wife, Reneé with a client move on her first week of ECFA employment and the painting of her office on week six
- ♥ For the Pond & Water Garden Club of New Berlin’s timely donation
- ♥ For the extra holiday phone coverage November – January from in home phone volunteers Tina Heald and Laurie Daub
- ♥ For the generosity of the Valentine Family for two foot sub certificates for ECFA Staff at Christmas
- ♥ For the thoughtful donations of baby clothing, gifts for birth moms and infant accessories from the Marek’s House Group of Brooklife Church
- ♥ For the hours of time graciously given “between jobs” from Heide Kraus

# Memorials

In loving memory of special friend: Marge Nilson  
From: Bonnie and Dave Fisher

~\*~

In loving memory of: Michael Lauenstein  
From: Joyce Storer

~\*~

In loving memory of: "Oma" Wilhelmina Osterkorn  
From: Granddaughter: Nancy Schatzman

~\*~

In loving memory of: my wife Georgia  
From: Husband, Ron Pape

~\*~

In loving memory of: my husband (James) & our father  
From: Wife Jan and Daughters Patty & Beth  
(In lieu of Christmas gifts)

~\*~

In loving memory of: Eddie Pfeifer  
From: John and Karen Pfeifer

~\*~

In loving memory of: dear friend Jan Carus  
From: Verne and Karen Trulson

~\*~

In loving memory of: my daughter Chelsea Siegel  
From: Mother, Sheila Siegel

~\*~

In loving memory of: Ross & Vicky Gosnell  
From: John and Karen Pfeifer

~\*~

In loving memory of: my husband, Gordon "Bud"  
and my son Jeffrey  
From: Wife and Mother, Fern Janz

~\*~

In loving memory of: my daughter, Michelle Burdick  
From: Mom Shirley Burdick

~\*~

In loving memory of: dear friend, Jessie Heywood  
From: Ron and Marilyn Schulz

# & Tributes

In honor of: Karen Thoen  
From: Dear Friends Bonnie and Dave Fisher

~\*~

In honor of: Kurt & Kim Schneider  
From Loving Parents: Darrell & Sally Foell

~\*~

In honor of: Missy, the birth mom of our son  
From: Grateful Adoptive Parents Dan & Dixie

~\*~

In honor of special friends: Brian and Nancy, Dave, Tim,  
and Ruth Farrell "for all their volunteer work at ECFA"  
From: John Maynard



## WELCOME TO RENEÉ

Reneé Erdmann began a full-time position as a Birth Parent Social Worker on December 1, 2008 in the New Berlin office where she and her husband have painted her room a warm and welcoming mocha color. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Carroll College. Reneé comes to ECFA with a unique skill set as she was a business owner for 20 years after working as the Abstinence Education Coordinator for Teen Pregnancy Services in Milwaukee.

In her free time, Reneé is passionate about serving in inner city ministries. She has spent a number of years doing street evangelism and participating in several outreach programs.

She and her husband, Peter, are the proud parents of the "Brady Bunch Plus One (A Total of 7)" Jacob (20), Emily (18), Zachary (18), Molly (17), Joshua (15), Nathan (13), and Kevin (13). She reports that she "is currently interviewing for the role of 'Alice' for their home." She and Peter attend Lake Country Bible Church in Nashotah.

We are blessed to have Reneé on staff who is quickly learning the intricacies of this multi-faceted position.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 2009  
Annual Volunteer Brunch  
Beloit Road Baptist Church

## BIKE & HIKE!



May 16th Bike & Hike  
Glacial Drumlin Trail

*Our 25th Anniversary!*  
OCTOBER 2009



Saleable donations, customers, and volunteers welcome at both Almost Anything Resale Shops in West Allis, where Wisconsin winters wreak wacky weather.



## WEIGHING IN ON MAIL METER MATTERS

A decision was made by the ECFA Advisory Council and welcomed by the staff to forego the Pitney Bowes mailing machine contract. This will be a savings to the agency of over \$1,100 per year. Consequently, we are in need of an accurate postage scale to help us determine how much postage to put on. If you have this item, or an idea how to weigh our mail precisely, call Cathy or Linda at 262-789-1881.

Return Service Requested

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



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
New Berlin, WI  
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