

STEPPINGSTONE: A PROGRAM OF ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE 5100 NOLAND ROAD KANSAS CITY, MO 64133

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THE NEWSLETTER OF STEPPINGSTONE FALL **NEWSLETTER 2012**

Cindy has completed her requirements that allow her son to remain with her full time.



Scott is presently attending classes at a local community college.



Tammy recently left Steppingstone and is currently enrolled at KU and living in a dorm.



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FALL [NEWSLETTER]

Johnny was placed at Steppingstone this summer after being in a psychiatric hospital. He had significant issues with managing his feelings of anger, disappointment and frustration to the point of destroying things and hurting others. No other agency in Kansas City would accept Johnny into their program, but Steppingstone staff wanted to try to help. During his interview for placement, Johnny kept repeating that he only wished a program would give him a chance to prove that he has found ways of managing his emotions so he could leave the psychiatric hospital and as a bonus be placed in a program in the KC area so he could live close to his Mother who speaks minimal English. Johnny knew living with his family may not be the safest place for him but he wished to at least have the opportunity to live close to them.

Since placement Johnny has progressed in many ways. He has not had anger outbursts. His direct care staff frequently reports that he is a delight to have in the program. Staff also report that he returns from school each day with a smile on his face and saying how much he enjoys learning. Recently he tried out and made the football team and has not stopped smiling about it. Staff has attended some of his games to further support and encourage him. Johnny is on the track to success, step by step.

HOW CAN YOU HELP **STEPPINGSTONE**:

There are many opportunities to help the young people of Steppingstone.

ADOPT AN APARTMENT

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Many of the young people of Steppingstone are living in or getting ready to move into an apartment. Gather a group of people to adopt the apartment. Some of the duties included in adopting an apartment is painting, cleaning and getting everything set up for the new resident.

THROW AN APARTMENT SHOWER

Young people at Steppingstone are in need of many things when they move into an apartment. You can host an Apartment Shower for one youngster. Gather items like dishes, towels and sheets, among other things needed to outfit an apartment. The young people will appreciate your efforts.

SPONSOR STEPPINGSTONE

Host a get together to support Steppingstone. Invite your friends and neighbors and promote the work that Steppingstone does in the Kansas City area.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Learn more about what Steppingstone does by liking us on Facebook and by signing up for emails. Also visit our website regularly to get caught up on what is going on at Steppingstone.

For more information, contact Steppingstone at 816-356-0158 or visit our website at www.steppingstonekc.org.

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ECH Every Child's Hope is a private not-for-profit childcare agency, voluntarily affiliated with the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries related to the United Church of Christ, ECH Every Child's Hope adheres to Federal and State laws which prohibit discrimination in the delivery of services on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap/disability or religious belief.

Certified by: The Council on Accreditation Member of: Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies, Child Welfare League of America (MCCA) Approved by: Charities Committee, Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan, St. Louis, MO Better Business Bureau Founding Member of: The Missouri Alliance for Children and Families

ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE IS NOT A UNITED WAY AGENCY.



Executive Director's Notes

Changes happen every day. At ECH, we experience change constantly, kids coming and going...changes in state support and placement of kids.

> Due to the needs of the children in our care, ECH has had to make some recent changes. We had to convert our Open Units to Safe Intensive Units. Now, instead of having two Safe Intensive Units on campus, we will have four.

> This change was necessary for many reasons. One, the children that are coming into care today need more help, restrictions and therapy than our Open Units provided. Therefore, we needed to expand our level of care to help

these young people. Secondly, the reimbursement rate for children in our Open Units did not cover the cost of serving these children and enrollment was down, creating a large deficit.

The good news is the children in our Open Units have been able to transition into our Group Homes or into foster care, paving the way for more children with greater needs.

While change is sometimes unsettling I am pleased and excited that we are going to be able to continue to provide high quality residential treatment to children and youth that require our support and expertise. I firmly believe that this is the right decision strategically, financially and ethically for the long term well being of the children in our care and our employees. Finally, this transition will not result in the loss of any ECH jobs.

Michael Brennan, MSW, L.C.S.W.

STATE OF MISSOURI INCOME TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE!

Every Child's Hope has been awarded a grant from the Missouri Department of Economic Development enabling us to offer state tax credits to eligible donors under two different programs:

YOP: Anyone with a Missouri Tax liability making a donation of \$500 or more. Gifts of Cash and Stock are eligible. This is a new grant that we were thrilled to get. Plenty of YOP credits are currently available.

NAP: Any donor with a Missouri Tax Liability related to a business income. This includes LLCs, rental property, etc. Gifts of cash or stock of \$500 or more qualify for NAP. NAP credits are limited, so act soon!

How much is the tax credit worth? The tax credit is worth 50% of your YOP or NAP donation. For example, a donation of \$500 would equal a \$250 tax credit. Plus your regular federal and state tax deductions apply for the entire \$500 donation. Credits can be carried over five years.

How do I apply? Just designate your donation of \$500 or more when you mail it in as a YOP or NAP contribution.

Questions? Contact Sharon Fenoglio at 314-427-3755 or sfenoglio@echmail.org

Gifts of Securities The best stocks to donate are those that have increased in value, particularly those producing a low yield. In order to optimize tax savings, it is critical that you transfer securities directly to ECH Every Child's Hope, rather than liquidate them and donate the proceeds.

Wire Transfer Instructions Should vou decide to transfer stock to ECH Every Child's Hope, following are wire instructions to the ECH gift processing account at Charles Schwab for your financial institution:

Account Name: ECH For Credit to Account #: 2222-2241 DTC Clearing: 0164, Code 40 ECH Tax ID: 43-0654856

Please notify Sharon Fenoglio when to expect your gift to arrive at 314-427-3755 or sfenoglio@echmail.org

MAKE A GIFT AND **RECEIVE INCOME**

Charitable Gift Annuity A charitable gift annuity is the most **Benefits of a charitable gift annuity:** common life income plan. It may be funded with cash or publicly traded securities of \$5,000 or more. In addition to your initial tax deduction, you and/or your spouse or designee receive lifetime fixed payments – a portion of which is tax-free. Your payment rate is based on the age or ages (if a second recipient is named) of the payment recipient(s) at the time the gift is made. When the gift annuity ends, the remaining assets are placed in the Reserve • Gift to ECH Every Child's Hope Fund at ECH Every Child's Hope for perpetuity.

- Lifetime fixed payments (a portion of which may be tax free) for you and/or your designee
- Charitable income tax deduction for a portion of your gift
- Reduction of capital gain tax if funded with appreciated securities
- Estate tax benefits

SAMPLE RATES BASED ON A SINGLE LIFE \$10,000 CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Age of Annuitant	65	70	75	80	85	90
Annuity Rate	4.7%	5.1%	5.8%	6.8	7.8%	9.0%
Annual Payment	\$470	\$510	\$580	\$680	\$780	\$900
Charitable Deduction	\$2,661.10	\$3,469.00	\$4,101.60	\$4,669.30	\$5,418.90	\$6,135.60

Rates subject to change and set by the American Council on Gift Annuities. For a personalized example, please contact Sharon Fenoglio at 314-427-3755 or sfenogio@echmail.org

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Aetna Foundation, Inc. Allen Foods, Inc. Alliant Techsystems, Inc. Alro Heating & Cooling American Legion Auxiliary Tenth District Ameristar Casino Resort Spa Auto Club Enterprises Bank of America Bank of America Charitable Foundation. Bank of America Merrill Lynch / Bank of America, N.A. Bank of Bloomsdale Bartoskewitz Farm Foundation Beautiful Rooms, LLC Brown Shoe Company, Inc. Cardinals Care Collier's Funeral Home Component Bar Products, Inc. Copying Concepts Dollar General Literacy Foundation Drury Inns, Inc. DST Systems, Inc. **Emerson Tool Company** Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis Federal-Mogul Fischer-Bauer-Knirps Foundation Fleet Reserve Association Frank A. and Alpha H. Ruf Fund for Evangelical Children's Home Fredman Bros. Furniture Co., Inc. Fredricksburg Cemetery Association Galaxy Maintenance, Inc. Gluttons Club Hauck Charitable Foundation

Hautly Cheese Company, Inc.

Heidtman Steel Products Inc.

John S. Swift Company, Inc.

Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP

Herman T. & Phenie R. Pott Foundation

International Brotherhood Electrical

HealthLink, Inc.

Hinnah Farms

Houdinis Bar

J.U.G.S., Inc.

Kappa Phi Sorority

Kimaterials, Inc.

Ladies Aid, ECH

Liberty Mutual

Fellowship

Campaign

Len's Auto Repair, Inc.

Limited Leasing Company

Loyal Evangelical Church Women's

Missouri Housing Development

Monsanto Matching Gift Center

Missouri State Employees Charitable

Lockridge Cleaning Co.

Millsap & Singer, LLC

Missouri Arts Council

Molitor & Biller CPA'S

Moneta Group, Inc.

Mutual of America

Workers

INKIND

Emerson

Experience on Demand

All About Love & Care Allen Foods, Inc. American Girl American Image Salon & Spa American Legion 10th District American Legion Auxiliary Tenth District American Legion Thoman Boothe Post Ameristar Casino Resort Spa Are We There Yet?, LLC AT&T Pioneers Bank of America Bank of Bloomsdale Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts **Boeing Company** Branneky and Sons Build-A-Bear Workshop, Inc. C J Muggs Restaurant Callaway Golf Products Cannoli's Canvas On Demand Charter Business Community State Bank - Bowling Green & Troy MO Copying Concepts Craft Restaurants Crane Capital Group Creve Coeur Camera & Video Dick's Sporting Goods Drury Inns, Inc.

Extra Virgin - an Olive Ovation Federal-Mogul Fleet Reserve Association Fortel's Pizza Den Funny Bone Comedy Club Girl Scout Troop 1120 Girl Scout Troop 1785 Girls Scout Troops 4150 & 378 Gluttons Club Greater St. Louis Knitters' Guild Hodak's Restaurant and Bar Indigo Massage & Wellness Infinity Laser Hair Removal J.U.G.S., Inc. Kansas City Royals Kappa Phi Sorority Kennelwood Pet Resorts Kimaterials, Inc. Kurt Warner First Things First Foundation Ladies Aid, ECH Lafayette Area Optimist Club Lockridge Cleaning Co. Magic House Monsanto Matching Gift Center Morgenthaler's N.A. Buffen Co., Inc. Panera Bread, LLC Parkview Gardens Pasta House Company Pi Pizzaria PRP Wine International, Inc. Raging Rivers WaterPark Raytown Post Office Renaissance Plastic Surgery Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra Saks Fifth Avenue Salon and Spa Schlafly Beer Schroeder & Associates, PC Silver Dollar City Six Flags St. Louis South County Senior Law & Estate Planning Center Southwest Airlines St. Louis Blues St. Louis Cardinals St. Louis Christmas Carols Association St. Louis Rams - Community Outreach/Donations Stan the Man, Inc. Steak 'n Shake Stifel, Nicolaus & Company Inc. **Sweet Traditions** The Corner George Inn Bed & Breakfast The Hairy Elephant The Melting Pot Restaurant The Pageant in the Loop The Saint Louis Zoo Thies Farm and Greenhouses Valvoline Instant Oil Change Viviano's Market Wamhoff Financial Planning & Accounting

West Community Credit Union

Services

Winkelmann Sons Drug Company

Woodard Cleaning & Restoration

Foundation Spotlight

DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THE ECH SCHOOL

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has generously contributed \$1,500 to the ECH School's Read 180 program. This funding from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation

will expand the school's. Current Read 180 program to include the Read 180 REAL JOBS library.

The ECH School pairs education and therapy interventions to help each student attain emotional well-being and academic success. The students in the school struggle with academic and behavioral issues that prevent success in traditional classrooms and put them at risk of dropping out of high school. For many, the ECH School is their last chance for success.

Read 180 program improves reading achievement of struggling readers. Each student receives individualized instruction and is able to improve at his

or her own speed, which eliminates the feeling of falling behind the class. As students increase in skill, they read increasingly more difficult text until they read at the appropriate grade level and are able to understand what they read.

The Read 180 REAL JOBS library from Scholastic will help students at the ECH School improve their reading while helping them plan for the future by readying them for college and careers. The library includes 90 books that discuss 21 jobs, give a behind the scenes look at different occupations and profile successful people with interesting jobs. These resources will help our students learn to be successful while increasing their reading skills.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation's Youth Literacy grants are awarded to assist with implementing new or expanding existing youth literacy programs. In August, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation awarded grants totaling



more than \$2 million to 564 non-profit organizations, community groups, schools and libraries throughout the United States. It is estimated that approximately 315,000 youth will be served as a result of these grants.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Dollar General Foundation for help our students at the ECH School improve their reading and giving them hope for the future.

If you know of a foundation or company that offers grants, contact Matthew Barker in the Development Office at (314) 427-3755.

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For more than 25 years, Kermine Thies has volunteered at ECH, and during that time she has had a profound impact on the agency and our children and youth.

Kermine was first introduced to ECH by a friend from church that extended an invitation to an ECH Ladies Aid meeting, an invitation she kindly accepted. Since that very first meeting, Kermine has never looked back, becoming an active volunteer at events, on planning committees, and serving our youth. In 1987, Kermine helped plan ECH's inaugural dinner and auction gala, and she has served on the dinner committee ever since, helping plan each year's Gala. Next April, we will host our 26th "Extend a Caring Hand" Dinner and Auction, and we are glad to see Kermine return again this year. When asked which gala was her favorite, she promptly replied the 2006 Grand Slam Gala; she's an avid Cardinals Fan.



Every September, you'll find Kermine on the course at our Annual Golf Classic. Whether she's passing out snacks and beverages or witnessing a hole-in-one as a hole watcher, she quickly volunteers to do anything and everything she can to make the event a success.

We are fortunate to have volunteers like Kermine give so much for so many years, and are grateful for Kermine's more than

25-years of service and look forward to the many years to come.

For volunteer opportunities, contact the Development Office at (314) 427-3755.

WISH LISTS

Gift Certificates

- Clothing Stores
- Grocery Stores
- Restaurants Online Retailers

For Kids in Care

- Clothing for all ages
- Coats and Jackets
- Cosmetics
- Body Sprays, Cologne
- Hair Accessories
- School Supplies

- Action Figures
- Stuffed Animals
- Board Games Card Games
- Puzzles
- Toy Cars
- Art / Craft Supplies

Electronics

- Video Games
- CD Players
- MP3 Players
- Flash Drives
- Music and Movies
- Alarm Clock
- Desk Lamps
- Surge Protectors

Electronics (cont.)

- Assorted Batteries
- Video game systems (Playstation, Xbox, Wii)

Household Items

- Pillows
- Mattresses
- Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry Bags

- Bath Linens Plastic Storage Bins
- Sheets (full or extra-long twin)

- Baby Clothes
- Baby Toys Bottles

Dishes

Cooking Utensils

• Child Safety items (i.e. Outlet covers)

Please send your donation to the Development Office. For more details, contact us at (314) 427-3755 or visit us as www.everychildshope.org.

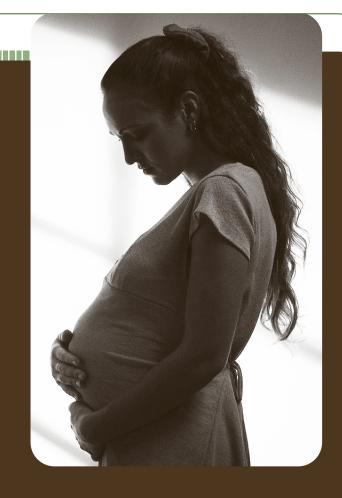
LETTERS IN THE MAIL

Staff recently mailed letters to Eugene who is in basic training. Eugene received those letters and has written back sharing with us his basic training experiences thus far. Eugene had been at Steppingstone for 1 ½ years. He graduated from high school this past May and left for the Army in August. Some of the staff attended his "swearing in ceremony."

EUGENE'S LETTER TO STAFF:

I received a letter from Eugene today. He says that basic training is not as hard as people have made it out to be because he is in shape. He says he is doing 200 - 300 pushups a day and that he has repelled down a tower. He said the repel hurt a lot but that it was worth it. He says that he is losing track of time while at basic. He has asked how everyone in the office is doing and how all the staff at both houses are doing.

2nd letter- I received another letter from Eugene today. He informed that he got our letters and that he was glad to hear from everyone. He said that it really helped. He informed that he took his first physical training test on 9/5 and that he passed. He said that he did 81 pushups (64 correctly), 100 sit ups (71 correctly) and that he ran 2 miles in 13 minutes and 50 seconds. He says that he will have to take another test to move into phase 2 of his training. He also said that on 8/30 he survived the gas chamber. However, he said that he couldn't breathe or see and felt as though his skin was on fire. He said it was very terrifying. He asked that I tell everyone that he is okay and doing well. He asked that I tell Mr. Richard that he will start basic rifle marksmanship on 9/6. He informed that he will get Christmas leave for 2 weeks and that he should be in town for his birthday.



Steppingstone helps teen mothers find their way in the community. One young lady, Cathy, has been in the program for over a year and is now in one of our apartments. Cathy is pregnant and due very soon. Throughout her pregnancy, Cathy has dealt with many issues, including chronic morning sickness. But that hasn't stopped her from working towards her goals. She continues to follow the advice and support from the Steppingstone staff, frequently asking her Care Manager to accompany her to her doctor's appointments for support. She is also working towards her dental hygienist certificate. Cathy is well liked by her instructors and the office staff where she is doing her practicum. With Cathy, Steppingstone's main objectives is providing a safe place for her to live and prepare for the birth of her baby while still focusing learning how to take care of herself and be in a position to also care for her baby.

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ALL [NEWSLETTER]