

HOMENEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE [SUMMER NEWSLETTER] 2013



Since its founding in a church basement, ECH Every Child's Hope has cared for the homeless, forgotten, and orphaned children of St. Louis. Over the years, thousands of children and youth have passed through our doors, each struggling with his or her own personal set of challenges. For some it's homelessness. For others, abuse or neglect. Still others struggle with depression, anxiety, or low self-esteem and self-worth. While there is no single approach that immediately resolves every challenge these youth have, Every Child's Hope helps them conquer their challenges, learn to enjoy life, and find hope for a promising future.

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ech
every child's hope
evangelical children's home

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GIFT

Tom Rickard decided that he did not want to receive gifts for himself on his birthday. Instead, he encouraged his friends and family to help some boys in need that he had met.

Those boys live in our Warson Group Home. Tom's friends gave more than \$5,000 in cash and in-kind donations and renovated the basement of Warson into an awesome recreation room for the boys. Tom, a few friends, and the boys living at Warson did all of the labor, including laying a new floor, electrical work, paint, etc.

In addition to all of the building supplies, a new flat screen television, DVD player and video games were among the gifts purchased for Tom's birthday. Later in the spring, the remaining funds were used to purchase a new basketball hoop, which Tom and the boys installed outside. The boys have taken pride in their work and enjoy their new indoor and outdoor space every day.



Tom Rickard (right) and friend inside the Warson Group Home.

"I see a lot of charities for women and small children but hardly anything for teenage boys. Maybe if we took a little more care of these young men in the future we could have less women and young children to worry about," - Tom.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. A's Tap Shoes

For more than three years Mrs. Andrea Kallaus, or Mrs. A, as the children call her, has been visiting Room 3 at the Early Education Center as a volunteer with the Ready Readers program. Ready Readers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring preschool children from low-income communities to become life-long readers.

During her weekly visits, Mrs. A. is patient, encouraging, caring and finds words to make each child feel special. She makes sure she gets to know each child and often chooses books based on their interests. She also communicates with the teachers in order to add to the current theme. About once a month each child receives a brand new book to take home.

Besides her love of books, Mrs. A. also shares her passion for dance with the children. She brings her tap shoes; she dances ballet; she has even brought a partner to show the children how to tango! The children are mesmerized by her performances. Mrs. A. always encourages them to try the dance moves along with her and is showing the children a world they may

not otherwise have been exposed to. Her main message is they can express themselves through words, or art, or music and movement.

Mrs. A. has become a part of our classroom family and we value and appreciate everything she does for us more than she will ever know.



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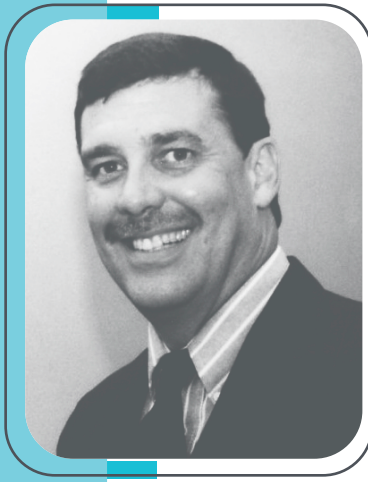
St. Louis (314) 427-3755
www.everychildshope.org
Kansas City (816) 356-0187
www.steppingstonekc.org

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 (MCCA), Child Welfare League of America
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.

Follow us on:



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Michael P. Brennan*

As the school year drew to a close at ECH many of our older youth participated in prom activities and looked forward to graduation from high school. This is a major milestone for these youth and an important accomplishment for them as they strive to find their life path in the world. As the summer is upon us the staff is busy preparing fun activities for the children to participate in on the campus, and the older youth are being assisted by staff to hopefully find jobs in the community.

I want to share one new service that ECH has added to our Family Connections Program at the 1220 North Lindbergh location. In the last year, through our Family Connections program in conjunction with funding from the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund, ECH has begun to provide child and adolescent out-patient psychiatric services.

Historically, there has been a shortage of board certified child psychiatrists in Missouri. ECH now has two child and adolescent psychiatrists employed that are treating clients on an out-patient basis at our North Lindbergh location. The response and demand has been overwhelming as the need is obviously great for this type of support and assistance.

If you know a family living in St. Louis County whose child is under the age of 20 and is struggling with mental health issues please refer them to ECH. They can call us at (314) 427-3832 to set up an appointment.

Thanks for all your support to Every Child's Hope.

Michael Brennan, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director
ECH Every Child's Hope

ECH CLIENT BECOMES FOSTER CARE ADVOCATE

TeAsia and her “Mom by Choice” (her foster mother) boarded a plane to Chicago. It was the first time that TeAsia had been on a plane and she wanted to make sure she was comfortable with flying before taking off on the biggest adventure of her life.

TeAsia, a junior in college, was selected as one of twenty young people from across the country who have experienced life in Foster Care to join FosterClub. FosterClub, a part of the National Network for Youth in Foster Care, selects young people who have spent time in Foster Care and are between the ages of 18 to 24 to serve a summer internship with the program.

The young people must show leadership potential and the ability to connect with their peers. Having been selected, TeAsia will fly to Seaside, Oregon, where she will receive training in public speaking, presentation, advocacy, and professional development. She will then travel around the nation, meeting with others to speak about her experiences and help advocate for those in Foster Care. She also plans to teach young people in Foster Care to advocate for themselves.

“I am very excited,” says TeAsia, a former client in the ECH Foster Care Management Program, “I want kids in Foster Care to know that they can speak up, and they can keep fighting for the right fit for them. The importance of having a place where you call home can make a difference in the child’s life.”

And that is just what TeAsia did for herself. After being kicked out of her home, TeAsia lived in her car, continuing to go to school, get good grades, and keep up with her three after school jobs. All that took its toll on her though, and her “Mom by Choice,” who was her former teacher, noticed. TeAsia finally had enough of trying to handle all that was happening by herself and expressed those feelings to her teacher. TeAsia let it all out and her teacher quickly helped her get into Foster Care.

Her first placement was not a good fit. She was in a home with several other kids and poor conditions. Instead of resigning herself to the situation, she spoke up. “I told my case worker this was not working and showed her around.” TeAsia explained. “I deserved a good home and a good place. No child deserves to live in this way.” After three foster home changes that is when she moved in with her “Mom by Choice,” her former teacher.

“I just want everyone to know that there is a good fit for you in Foster Care. You just have to find your voice, speak up, and fight for what you know is right.”

TeAsia, a well-spoken confident young lady, will continue to be a strong advocate for young people



in Foster Care. Currently, she is a public relations major with the emphasis in leadership and hopes to one day open a Center for Girls, that will help girls find their voice and speak out about the things that are happening to them.

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Zion Kids and Teens Christmas

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 Fairmount Park
 Fleet Reserve Association
 Floyd's Tire and Car Care Center
 Garden of Life Spiritual Center
 Gateway Paintball Park
 Gluttons Club
 Gus' Pretzels
 H & H Health Associates, Inc.
 Hazelwood Police Department
 Hubbard Radio St. Louis
 Indigo Massage & Wellness
 Infinity Laser Hair Removal
 Isaac Bruce Foundation
 J.U.G.S., Inc.
 James Avery Jewelry
 Jiffy Lube/Hartland Automotive Services, Inc.
 Kappa Phi Sorority
 Kennelwood Pet Resorts
 Kimaterials, Inc.
 Kirlins Hallmark #133
 Kurt Warner First Things First Foundation
 Ladies Aid, ECH
 LaFarge NA

Lafayette Area Optimist Club
 Liquor Shack
 Massa's
 Massage Envy - Creve Coeur
 Maya Cafe
 Mercy St. Louis
 Missouri Lottery
 Monsanto Matching Gift Center
 Otterbox
 P & A Drywall Supply
 Parkview Gardens
 Pretzel Boy's
 PRP Wine International, Inc.
 QuikTrip Corp.
 Raging Rivers WaterPark
 Renaissance Plastic Surgery
 Rhythm Music and Performing Arts Studio
 River City Rascals
 Sage Urban American Grill
 Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra
 Schlafly Beer
 Schroeder & Associates, PC
 Senior PGA Championship
 Shane Co.
 Shillington Box Company LLC
 Six Flags St. Louis
 South County Senior Law & Estate Planning Center
 South Seas Data and General Credit Forms, Inc.
 Southtown Sluggers
 Sportsman's Park
 St. Catherine Retirement Community
 St. Louis Blues
 St. Louis Casa Loma Ballroom
 St. Louis Christmas Carols Assoc.
 St. Louis Rams - Community Outreach/Donations
 Stan the Man, Inc.
 Steak 'n Shake
 Steppingstone Auxiliary
 Sutter Plumbing Company, Inc.
 Target
 The Cheesecake Factory Bakery Inc.
 The Fountain On Locust
 The Hairy Elephant
 The Melting Pot Restaurant
 Thies Farm and Greenhouses
 Trio-Educational Opportunity Programs
 Upper Limits Rock Gym
 Valvoline Instant Oil Change
 Viviano's Market
 Vom Fass St. Louis
 Wamhoff Financial Planning & Accounting
 Western Digital Foundation
 Winkelmann Sons Drug Company
 Xtreme Paintball Park
 Zamzow Manufacturing Co., Inc.
 Zarephath Ministries Outreach

STATE OF MISSOURI YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM 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 the Youth Opportunities Program or YOP.

Who is eligible for YOP tax credits?

Anyone with a Missouri Tax liability making a donation of \$500 or more. Gifts of Cash and Stock are eligible. Plenty of YOP credits are currently available.

How much is the tax credit worth? The tax credit is worth 50% of your YOP 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 does my donation help ECH? One way your YOP donation helps is by teaching youth in our residential program learn how to find peaceful resolution to conflicts. Recently, Meghan, a 16-year old in the program, learned to assert herself positively in situations of conflict. When she first arrived at ECH, Meghan routinely gave in to others' demands, handing over food and possessions out of fear of confrontation. With the help of staff, Meghan now has a greater sense of self-value and communicates with her peers, has stopped letting others walk over her, and has a goal to return home later this year.

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

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

APPRECIATED STOCKS—WIN-WIN TO HELP KIDS!

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 you 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

The Bank of America Supports Steppingstone St. Louis

In November last year, The Bank of America Charitable Foundation generously awarded Every Child's Hope a \$10,000 Workforce Development and Education grant to support the St. Louis Steppingstone Program.

The Steppingstone Program helps older youth gain self-sufficiency through education, employment, and life skills development. Youth are given a safe place to live in one of our group homes, campus apartments, or in an apartment in the community, and staff helps them develop goals for their time at Steppingstone and for the future. Steppingstone's ultimate goal is assisting youth as they transition from adolescence into adulthood.

The funding from Bank of America Charitable Foundation helps youth like Naomi. In 2010, shortly after her high school graduation and her 18th birthday, Naomi entered the Steppingstone program. Steppingstone staff helped Naomi develop realistic expectations, learn to use the Metro Transit System, build a support system, live on her own, and plan for her future.

Earlier this year, Naomi was accepted into nursing program at the University of Missouri St. Louis where she has been studying since she came to Steppingstone. She works part time for the university and shares an apartment with other UMSL students who have become her friends and family. Naomi plans to graduate from UMSL with a B.S. in Nursing and go on to complete a Nurse Practitioner Program. She is determined to overcome every obstacle in her life and has great hopes and dreams for her future.

We are grateful to the Bank of America Charitable Foundation for supporting this program and helping young men and women like Naomi grow into responsible, self-sufficient adults.

The Bank of American Charitable Foundations supports community initiatives that help create economically vibrant communities that are better places to live and do business. Through workforce development and education grants, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation supports organizations that help small businesses and individuals, including youth, the unemployed, and underserved, obtain training and education that lead to post-secondary completion, employment, and stronger economic growth.



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

ST. LOUIS STEPPINGSTONE STATS

OF YOUTH SEEKING SERVICE: 189

OF NEW YOUTH ADMITTED: 19

OF YOUTH SERVED : 62

OF YOUTH DISCHARGED FROM THE PROGRAM: 18

68% OF INDEPENDENT LIVING CHARACTERISTICS WERE PRESENT AT TIME OF DISCHARGE.

AVERAGE AGE : 19

MALE: 45% FEMALE: 55%

CHILD PSYCHIATRISTS JOIN THE ECH FAMILY

During the past year, Every Child's Hope has been fortunate to have two board certified child psychiatrists join our staff. They are part of the new and quickly expanding Out-patient Psychiatric Services offered through ECH Family Connections.

Psychiatric services are provided free of charge to children and youth living in St. Louis County through their 19th birthday. Out-patient Psychiatric Services is made possible through funding from the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund.

Dr. Michael Shanker, M.D.

The son of special education coordinator, Dr. Shanker grew up with a desire to care for children and teens who struggle with mental illness. Working with the youth is a natural fit for Dr. Shanker who professes to still be a kid at heart as evidenced by his ongoing interest in comic books. He is a proud father of three and appreciates the challenges of raising children in today's society.

He worked for approximately 8 years in private practice and another 8 years as an employee of Mercy hospital. He has extensive experience working with patients in an outpatient setting as well as those needing hospitalization. He is conservative in his approach to medication and feels the most important part of being a successful psychiatrist is listening.



Dr. Theresa Nieva Villaflores, M.D.

Dr. Villaflores grew up right here in St. Louis. When she was young, she thought about becoming a preschool teacher, which inspired her to volunteer at a preschool in high school and to work part-time in a preschool during college and medical school. Her training has given her a true appreciation of the entire life cycle. She's tended premature newborn infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units and helped geriatric patients with schizophrenia.

She is continually amazed by the innocence and resiliency of young children and enjoys working with them, where, she says, "there is never a dull day." Prior to coming to ECH, Dr. Villaflores has been working in Community Mental Health Centers and consults at a therapeutic preschool, a residential facility for young children, and a developmental pediatric diagnostic clinic. She feels honored to be a part of a profession that allows her to help families work towards enjoying their children and appreciating everything that their precious lives have to offer.



St. Louis County
Children's Service Fund
Keeping Kids First

DERBY DINNER & AUCTION

Hats and Horses – it was off to the races at this year's Dinner and Auction Gala. On April 5, more than 300 guests came out to support the children, youth, and families at ECH Every Child's Hope, raising more than \$70,000. After all the races were run and awards handed out, the real winners of the evening were the children, youth, and families served by ECH.



TOP: Dan Winkelmann, Dave Bujnak & Steve Rothermel

BOTTOM: Best Hat & Derby Style Dale Rohman, Tricia Kellog, Ron Hail & Addie Tompkins



ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE
8240 St. Charles Rock Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63114

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WISH LISTS

For Kids in Care

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

Toys & Games

- Balls
- Doll Houses
- Dolls
- Action Figures
- Board Games
- Card Games
- Puzzles
- Art / Craft Supplies
- Stuffed Animals
- Toy Cars

Gift Certificates

- Clothing Stores
(Old Navy, Marshalls, etc)
- Grocery Stores
(Schnucks, Dierbergs, etc)
- Restaurants
- Online Retailers

Household Items

- Blankets
- Pillows
- Mattresses
- Cleaning Supplies
- Hangers
- Silverware
- Glasses
- Dishes
- Cooking Utensils
- Bath Linens
- Furniture
- Sheets (full or extra-long twin)
- Rugs
- Plastic Storage Bins
- Laundry Bags

Baby Items

- Diapers and Wipes
- Baby Clothes
- Baby Toys
- Bottles
- Child Safety items
(i.e. Outlet covers)



13th Annual Golf Classic

TITLE SPONSOR: Vehicle Assurance
Hosted by Randy Karraker of 101 ESPN Radio
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013
OLD HICKORY GOLF CLUB, ST. PETERS, MO
Noon Shotgun start.

JOIN US AGAIN THIS YEAR FOR THE
13TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC.
Enjoy a beautiful day on a wonderful course with
lunch, dinner and cocktails after play.

For more information or to register, visit our
website at www.everychildshope.org or call
Laura Kilcullin at 314-427-3755

Please send your donation to the Development Office. Contact us for more details (314) 427-3755.