

HOME NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE [SUMMER NEWSLETTER] 2014



For the children, youth and families of ECH Every Child's Hope, nothing is ever simple or easy. There is no carefree summer afternoons or evenings...no days without thinking about the hurt, trauma or difficulties they face. At ECH, we want those we serve to understand that there is another way. There is a brighter future within their grasps. During the summer, our staff work hard to give the children and youth in our care a glimpse of those carefree summers...of summer school that is fun and educational...of a chance to realize they do have hope. This issue is about the work we do with children and youth to help them heal, grow and learn.

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OUR SUMMER SCHOOL

While school may not be where most kids want to spend the first few weeks of their summer break, the teachers at the ECH School worked to make things fun and interesting while still teaching the kids what they needed to learn. With the theme of *Into the World*, each classroom did some fun and exciting things.

IN THERAPY:

With the extended school year theme of **Into the World**, the kids discussed how each of us have worlds inside of us during individual therapy sessions and group therapy sessions. They also discussed how each of them are in the same classrooms but their paths that led them there was different and unique.

The kickoff group for the summer was with visitors from the Contemporary Art Museum's Art Bus. They helped students create stamps of a personal symbol to represent each student's idea of who they are. Then each group created "passports". Each week focused on one part of our journey; past, present then future. Each week the student groups reflected back on their journey and made marks in their passports to represent that part of who they are, documenting what holds their emotional travel and the history of how they got to where they are today both physically and emotionally.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS:

The high school girls studied the continent of South America as part of their theme for summer school. They have been learning about the geography and biomes that are unique to the continent, as well as exposing themselves to the history and culture of South America through hands-on activities.

Their deepest interest was cooking South American cuisine and learning about the similarities and differences as compared to the United States. One of the most rewarding experiences of this summer was watching the students' work together making brigadeiro, a popular chocolate candy in South America. Not only did the students work cooperatively together to create this treat, but they shared it among others in the school, taking pride in their work. They really displayed the qualities that ECH School strives to elicit from their students

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

During the extended school year, the high school boys studied North America. The students began by researching various states in the United States, and developed a power point for their state. The next country they studied was Canada. While developing a pamphlet for their assigned providence, students were able to research biomes, landforms, animals, and other interesting facts. They continued by studying Mexico. The students completed in depth class power point, where each student was responsible for at least one of the following: history, government, economy, culture, geography, entertainment, political features, natural resources, symbols (flag, calendar, pyramids) or famous people. It was a great learning experience for all.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

Do you know what Ibiharage is, how high Mt. Kilimanjaro is or can you do the Sitya Loss? The middle school girls studied Africa. Each student enjoyed researching the country that they chose to investigate in depth. They examined the geography, differences in customs, socio-economic status, and the contributions that Africa has made to society. The students created different biomes using a variety of materials, demonstrating their creativity. They made a variety of African food, and after learning about the importance of masks in some African cultures, the students created one of their own. They also did tie dying and actually learned an African dance. (By the way, Ibiharage is a Rwandan Fried Bean dish, Mt. Kilimanjaro is 19,341 ft and the Sitya Loss is a dance in Uganda. The translation of Sitya Loss is "I don't fear loss")

ELEMENTARY

The theme for this summer was Europe. The elementary kids learned a lot about the foundation of the civilizations and the influence that Rome has had on every country. They created paper mache globes and had a tea party. At the tea party the students discussed the importance of British manners and they enjoyed it quite a bit especially the boys (surprisingly)! All of the students have been very excited and eager to learn each day. They have expressed how much they have enjoyed learning this summer!



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ECH Every Child's Hope

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 EveryChild'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.

Member of: Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies (MCCA), Child Welfare League of America

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Founding Member of: The Missouri Alliance for Children and Families

ECH Every Child's Hope is not a United Way Agency.

Follow us on:



As you review this latest edition of the Home News please take note of all the creative ways our wonderful ECH caregivers work to engage the children in therapy, educational learning and everyday fun child centered play activities. The children we serve in all of our programs often have serious emotional, behavioral and educational challenges.

However, it is important to remember that they are children and need the opportunity to experience the pleasures of childhood that maybe sometimes due to their life experiences they have not been able to enjoy. In the following pages you will notice serious issues being addressed, learning taking place but also activities designed to allow the children to recapture the wonder of their childhood through experiential activities.

One of my joys at this time of year is driving on campus or looking out my office window into the park and seeing the children engaged in activities that strengthen their bodies, minds and souls. The sound of laughter and watching them learn to play and work together collaboratively is uplifting to both me and the ECH staff that provide these opportunities on a daily basis. These are experiences and skills that we work with the children to transfer to utilize when they are struggling to successfully deal with life's challenges and disappointments. These same types of experiences are also being provided to hundreds of additional children through our Family Solutions for Kids program that serves children and families in their own communities in St. Louis County.

Thank you for assisting us to provide children with these life experiences and the tools that they need to build a better future for themselves.

Michael Brennan
Chief Executive Officer
Every Child's Hope





[STUDENTS FROM ST. CHARLES WEST HIGH SCHOOL]



[BOARD MEMBER DAVID VIEHMANN AND HIS WIFE GAIL]



[FRED & JULIE VAN ETEN]



[COO DUANE LEWIS WITH HIS WIFE BEV]



[DEBBIE AND JOHN WEBER]



A roaring good time was had by the more than 330 guests who attended the 27th Annual "Extend a Caring" Hand Dinner & Auction on Friday, April 4, 2014. Chaired by Jim & Linda Morice, guests were transported to glamorous old time Hollywood for an evening of fine dining, dancing and fun. Most importantly, a net of nearly \$49,000.00 was raised to better serve the children and families of ECH Every Child's Hope.



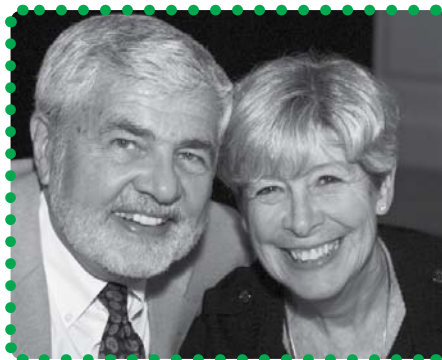
[SANDIE END-SCHROEDER AND JERRY SCHROEDER]



[LINDA AND JIM MORICE, CO-CHAIRS]



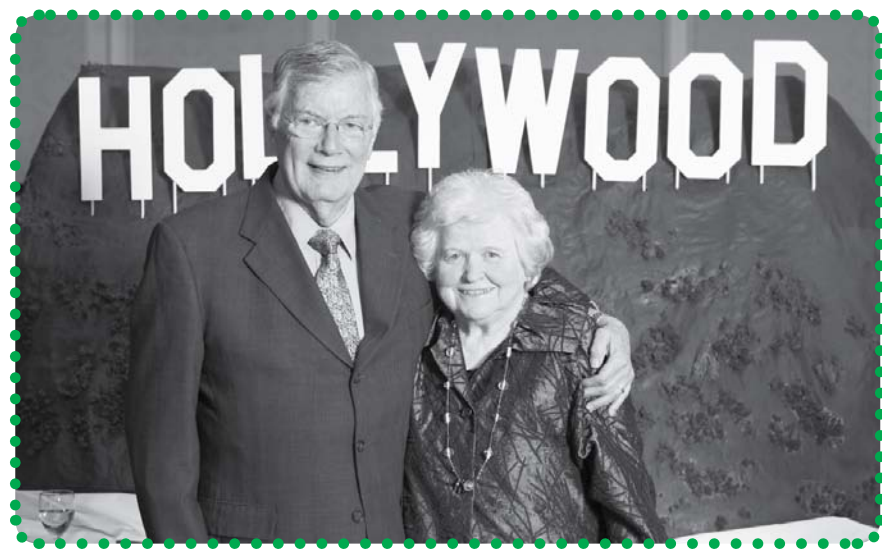
[GLEN & SHIRLEY CORDES WITH VIRGINIA & RUSSELL VIEHMANN]



[REV. KEITH AND BETTY KARAU]



[ZACH AND JEREMY FETTIG]



[DR. BERNARD AND LEILA DAVIS]



STEPPINGSTONE CENTER READY TO OPEN

With the Baur Steppingstone Center nearing completion, staff and residents of Steppingstone are getting excited.

"Right now, staff have offices across the St. Louis campus. The Baur Steppingstone Center will allow for the entire program to be in one central location," explained Duane Lewis, COO. "It will finally give Steppingstone a physical identity, something the program has never had before."

In addition to giving a central location and physical identity, the Baur Steppingstone Center will open up three apartments on campus that right now are being used for offices. The Life Skills area will be expanded, offering more computers for the young people to apply for jobs and continuing education. It will also give the staff and clients more meeting space.

"Besides the increase in the number of computers and the enlarged Life Skills area, one of my favorite things about the Baur Stepping-

stone Center is it becomes a one stop shop, so to speak, for the kids and staff," says April Libke, Steppingstone Director. "If a young adult comes in with a question, there will always be someone to help. This is also going to allow us to serve more at-risk and homeless youth."

It has cost \$160,000 to renovate the current space for the Baur Steppingstone Center. We have not quite met our goal and we still need your help. Please consider donating to the Baur Steppingstone Center. Contact the Development Office at (314) 427-3755 or email Sharon Fenoglio at sfenoglio@echmail.org.

ECH still has YOP Tax Credits available. Gifts over \$500 are eligible for 50% of your donation minus gifts and services. You must have a Missouri Tax Liability to qualify. Contact the Development Office at (314) 427-3755 for more information or visit our website at www.everychildshope.org.

10 THINGS

TO HELP ECH AND STEPPINGSTONE WHILE HAVING A GOOD TIME

Why not plan an activity that raise funds, awareness and help for Every Child's Hope and Steppingstone while having fun with family and friends at the same time? We have put together 10 things you can do this with your children and friends.



The Development Department will help you with printed materials to hand out. Please contact either Sharon Fenoglio or Laura Kilcullin for more information about any of the ten items or if you have an idea of your own. Help the children, youth and families served by ECH and Steppingstone in an unique way.



1

GARAGE SALE: Have a Garage Sale. Put your old stuff out in your garage. You don't have to price anything. Just tell people all proceeds will go to ECH Every Child's Hope and have them make an offer on your stuff.

2

PLAN A CAR WASH: Have your group put on a car wash. All proceeds will go to ECH Every Child's Hope.

3

HOST A POOL PARTY: Host a pool party at either your own pool or your neighborhood pool. Invite people to bring summer toys and pool toys for the summer program and children of ECH Every Child's Hope.

4

BAKE SALE: Have a bake sale at your church or your place of employment. All proceeds go to ECH Every Child's Hope.

5

COLLECT CHANGE: Collect your change throughout the summer. At the end of the summer, send your change to ECH and help the kids get back to school supplies.

6

HOST A PICNIC: Host a picnic in your own backyard or at a local park. Ask people to bring a dish to share and donate new or gently used household items for Steppingstone youth and families in our Family Connections programs.

7

LEMONADE STAND: Have your children set up a Lemonade Stand. Post Signs saying proceeds go to helping the Children of ECH Every Child's Hope.

8

HOST A "BIRTHDAY" PARTY: Host a birthday party at your home for the kids of ECH. Ask people who are attending to bring a present suitable for a teen aged boy or girl to put in our birthday room.

9

WORK PROJECT: Get a group of people to come to ECH or Steppingstone to do a work project on campus.

10

SIMPLY DONATE: Simply donate to the program of your choice at ECH Every Child's Hope and receive in-depth information on that particular program.

Memorials & Tributes



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Forms, Inc.

Southtown Sluggers

St. Catherine Retirement Community

St. Louis Casa Loma Ballroom

St. Louis Christmas Carols Assoc.

St. Louis Rams - Community

Outreach/Donations

Steak 'n Shake

Steppingstone Auxiliary

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company Inc.

The Hairy Elephant

The Melting Pot Restaurant

Thies Farm and Greenhouses

United Surgical Partners

Upper Limits Rock Gym

Valvoline Instant Oil Change

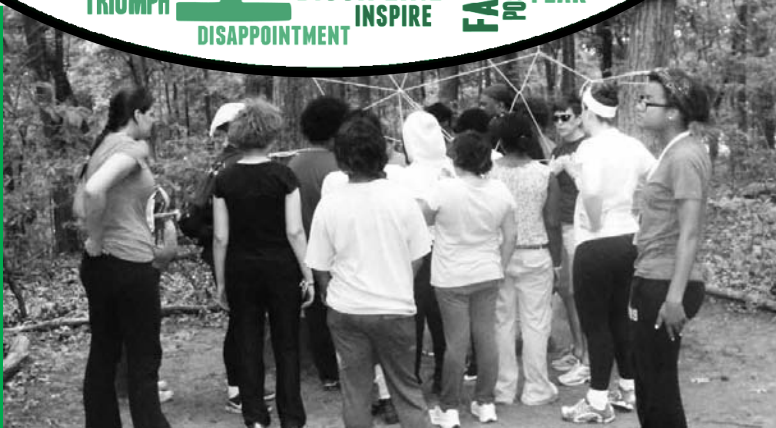
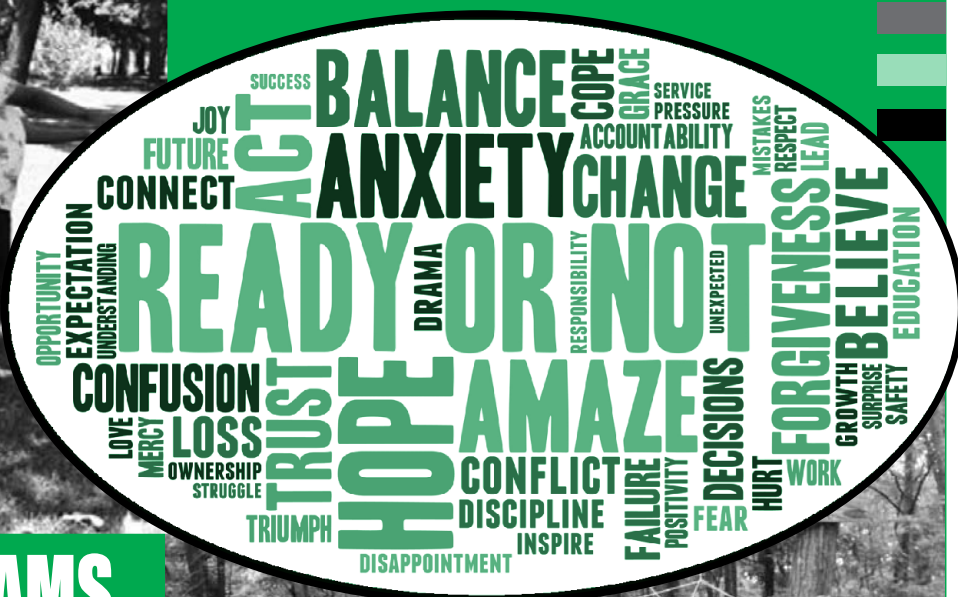
Vom Fass St. Louis

Walter Knoll Florist

Winkelmann Sons Drug Company

Women's Exchange

Xtreme Paintball Park





STEPPINGSTONE:
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DATABASE UPDATE

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