## HOMENIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE [SUMMER/FALL NEWSLETTER] 2017



ECH would like to send a generous thank you to the St. Louis County Police Department for their work in this community and again to the UCAN community members for ALL of the great books. To ALL of our employees, a resounding Thank You as well! Our employees are the ones who make learning at ECH a great place for children, youth and their families to be healthy and whole.

You might think of police, clergy and mental health advocates mingling in the same room as typical. You might think of these professionals as a united group of community members in St. Louis County, even less typical. But this past June, at the ECH School, this typical level of group-unity convened for their monthly meeting as the United Community Action Network (UCAN).

A group of more than 40 committed men and women came together, as they do every month at various locations, in symposium. This group discussed a variety of community-related topics, even the tough ones like police shootings and drug abuse, and completed a group service project. June's service project focused on books to be distributed to kids in ECH programs.

"We're completing our UCAN service project today and donating books to 'Every Child's Hope' in St. Louis County. We've collected more than appx. 800 books!!"

— St. Louis County Police Department's Facebook page

As the host for their June meeting, ECH provided lunch and a delightful desert. Those who were in attendance ate, then explored the vital connection between crime, education, and mental health services — to name a few of the monthly topics.

As part of the meeting's agenda, our CEO, Michael Brennan, shared the rich history of ECH as well as the agency's wide reach into the community through our many programs. Closing the meeting, UCAN presented a lovely wooden-framed certificate of appreciation to ECH, for the likewise commitment to collaborate with organizations in the community.

"We are happy to partner with the St. Louis County Police Department and UCAN to serve as another voice in the community. ECH is excited to host this and possibly future UCAN meetings in addition to a strong, ongoing relationship with the St. Louis County Police Department." – Michael P. Brennan, ECH CEO

The most valuable connection was made from members meeting, and as our Facebook page proudly proclaims: "We will have some VERY happy kids who will enjoy reading all of these books! A HUGE thank you to everyone involved in the UCAN project!"

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- Teacher of the Year & Deaconess Nursing
- **3** Letter from the CEO
- 4 Tax Credits
- 5 Christmas List & Welcome Back Chaplain Julie
- **6-7** 2017 Dinner Recap
- **8-10** Tributes & Memorials
- 11 Food Drive & Bank of America Grant
- **12** Trivia Night Save the Date

### ECH PARTNERS WITH DEACONESS NURSE MINISTRY

When ECH was recently in need of a nurse to serve the children on our Rock Road campus, the solution was obvious: to partner with Deaconess Nursing Ministry. As both organizations are members of the Council for Health and Human Services Ministry (CHHSM), the collaboration just made sense! Deaconess Nursing Ministry "provides mental, physical and spiritual health – related services, education and advocacy to churches and various organizations in effort to create communities of holistic wellness." Every Child's Hope's goal for the children receiving care is similar—to help each one achieve health and wholeness emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Deaconess Nursing Ministry Executive Director Donna Smith-Pupillo has the expertise to hire and place professional and compassionate nurses who can provide the medical services the agency needs. These services include medication management and administration, conducting physicals at intake, coordinating outside medical appointments, etc. This high-level of care then allows ECH staff to focus on helping children heal emotionally and mentally, knowing their physical health needs are being met.

#### TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

It takes a special person to teach little ones, especially for 28 years! Ms. Juanita Chism, one of the teachers at our Early Childhood Center, was given the Teacher of The Year Award for 2017 in the Youth In Need and Every Child's Hope partnership program. Ms. Chism's dedication to providing a nurturing environment for these youngsters is truly inspiring. Congratulations to Ms. Chism and all of the EEC teachers who work tirelessly to help children learn, grow, and enter kindergarten with a solid educational foundation!



of our Volunteer House, freshened up the fence around the basketball court, organized our clothing room, and painted inside a youth apartment. Thanks for being willing to get a few paint splatters on your shirts!





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#### **ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE**

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

Member of: Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies (MCCA), Alliance for Strong Families & Communities Approved by: Better Business Bureau, Charities Committee, Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis Founding Member of: The Missouri Alliance for Children and Families

ECH Every Child's Hope is not a United Way Agency. Follow us on:







#### THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

This edition of the ECH newsletter highlights two very important parts of the work we do: partnership with the local community and exceptional staff who do the work each and every day. Both of these pieces are necessary to help kids and families, and both have played in vital role in our history.

You'll notice several stories that explain just a few of the many ways we work with community organizations, foundations, and businesses. ECH was proud to host a recent meeting of the UCAN (United Community Action Network) group. It was a wonderful opportunity to not only highlight the services we provide to the community, but also to continue to strengthen our relationship with the St. Louis County Police Department. In an effort to continue to provide nursing care to address the physical health of our clients. we recently partnered with Deaconess Nursing Ministry. Through our shared vision to help children become healthy and whole, this ministry has been an asset to the children on our campus who require compassionate nursing care.

These community partnerships also extend to the financial assistance our organization relies on to provide hope and healing to the children and families who come to ECH. Lucky's Market donated \$1700 through their Bags of Change program, which will help provide services to the youth in our Steppingstone Transitional Living Program. Bank of America generously donated \$5,000 to the same program, which will allow these youth to have safe and stable housing and support services while they work toward independence.

Of course, community support is only one piece of the pie. One of the things I'm most proud of is our incredible staff and their longevity of service. It takes a special person to commit to this type of work, which while very rewarding, can also be trying and emotionally draining. However, I am privileged to see that commitment in our staff every day. I see it in the dedicated teachers in our Early Ed Center, including Ms. Chism, who was recently recognized for her outstanding work! I see it in the pastoral care that our chaplain, Julie Jennings, provides. I see it in the faces of our staff members who work tirelessly to provide gifts for every child during the coming holiday season.

I am proud to be part of the St. Louis community, which generously supports the mission of ECH, and I am proud of our talented and dedicated staff. I hope that as you read through this newsletter, you are, too.

With Gratitude,

Michael P. Benno













## RESERVE YOUR 2017 YOP TAX CREDITS!

ECH Every Child's Hope is pleased to offer YOP tax credits for any donation of \$500 or more received now through December 31, 2017. Credits are available to any individual, business, or corporation paying taxes in the state of Missouri.

Our goal is to raise \$160,000 by the end of the year, but we need your help! As you consider your end-of-year giving, remember that we have a limited number of credits available. You may pledge your gift NOW and we will hold credits until November 15, 2017. If we haven't received your donation by then, your credits will be released for someone else's benefit.

The benefit to you as a YOP donor is a 50% Missouri State Income Tax Credit that can be used anytime within the next five tax years. For example, a \$500 donation would qualify for \$250 in state tax credits, along with the standard federal and state income tax deductions.

Thank you for your support in our work to provide healing to the children, youth, and families at ECH. It is only through your continued investment in our services that the vulnerable members of our community can find HOPE for brighter days ahead.

To make a pledge or gift, please call Laura Kilcullin at 314-427-3755 or lkilcullin@echmail.org.

### 2018=160 YEARS

#### Did you know?

2018 is the 160th anniversary of ECH Every Child's Hope. For 160 years, ECH has provided quality, innovative programs that help children, youth and families heal and grow.

We need your help... please consider joining us in the planning of ECH's 160th anniversary celebrations. Whether you are interested in volunteering for the Gala or planning a more low-key event in the fall, please contact

Laura Kilcullin at lkilcullin@echmail.org or 314-427-3755

Help us continue this wonderful legacy of providing HOPE to kids and families who so need it.

ECH is proud of our 160 years of service and we want to let everyone know!







### CHRISTMAS MSH LIST

Looking for ways to give this holiday season? Help us provide every child in care at ECH with Christmas presents! Your support is vital to our mission to help children heal from trauma and have a sense of normalcy during this season. Call the Development Office at 314-427-3755 for more information or to coordinate your donation dropoff or pick-up.

#### We are in need of the following new items:

- board games
- jewelry
- perfume/cologne
- sweatshirts and hoodies
- Lego sets
- gift cards for teens: Target, Wal-Mart, iTunes. Amazon
- sports items (balls, bats, gloves, pro sports team clothing)
- coloring books and art supplies
- craft kits
- remote-controlled and Matchbox cars
- pajamas in assorted sizes
- books appropriate for elementary and high school readers
- new stuffed animals
- action figures
- dolls for toddlers and older kids



"I resonate with the underlying mission throughout ECH to help children and families reimagine their lives, both in the midst of and beyond the circumstances that have brought them into our care." Chaplain Julie

Many of you know our Chaplain, Julie Jennings, who served as chap-

lain for six years before moving out of state to care for her mother. Now we are thrilled to welcome Chaplain Julie back to the ECH community! In her revised role. Chaplain Julie's primary focus is providing pastoral care and presence for the youth in residential treatment, including initial assessments, time spent with individual residents, on-campus house visits, weekly chapel services and other programs and activities. She is also available to support the other programs of ECH, and local UCC churches. Chaplain Julie will also coordinate volunteers. Chaplain Julie says she's happy to be back at ECH for many reasons, but most of all because of the mission of the agency.

On April 7, ECH celebrated a major milestone-30 years of the Dinner & Auction! From its humble beginnings, the event eventually grew to nearly 500 guests and more than \$100,000 raised per year at its height. Over the years the themes have ranged from the elaborate, like Cirque do Soleil, to the carefree like Hoots & Boots. For the 30th year, the committee decided to celebrate with "An Evening of Pearls & Polka Dots," as the 30th anniversary is the pearl anniversary. Guests dressed up in their best black and white attire and reminisced while photos from previous events played before dinner.

As a special part of the evening, guests could purchase one of 125 boxes of pearl jewelry. 120 boxes contained a pair of genuine pearl stud earrings donated by David Kodner Jewelers. Five special boxes contained either a David Kodner pearl necklace, a Genovese double strand pearl bracelet, a pearl and gold pendant, a pearl and diamond ring or pearl and diamond dangling earrings.

Dale Rohman outdid himself once again with the gorgeous décor, and guests danced to the crooning of Scott Latham and Karl Holmes. After an exciting round of bidding during the live auction, conducted by Randy Karraker of 101 ESPN Radio, guests finished their online bidding through our Gesture auction site. But most importantly, our generous donors helped to raise the necessary funds that directly supports the kids and families at ECH.



Ray and Marcia

Hemann

# PEARL & POLKA DOTS DINNER& AUCTION



Natalea Simmons-Beauden, Pat Mercurio, Sharon Fenoglio, and Julie VanEtten





#### MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES : 2/1/17 - 7/31/17

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# SUMMER/FALL NEWSLETTER 2017

#### MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES : 2/1/17 - 7/31/17



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**Sharon Fenoglio** 

Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Baur

Emma Kreienkamp's 100th Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Viehmann

**Joan Martin** 

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Newman

**John Martin** 

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Newman

Jeanette Meyer's 78th Birthday

Mrs. Doris Lueken

**Steve Newman** 

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Newman

Ms. Lois Puchta and

Mr. Don Kruse's Wedding

Rev. Constance Tanis

**Ginger and Earl Solomon's** 

**60th Wedding** Anniversary

Mrs. Judith Dennert

St. Johns Evangelical UCC, Mehlville

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hornung

**Eloise Suenkel's 100th Birthday** 

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Child Day Care Association

**Emerson Charitable Trust** 

Frank A and Alpha H Ruf Fund for

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Paylink Payment Plans, LLC

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Bravo!

Chandler Hill Vineyards

City Museum

Clarkson Jewelers

Community State Bank -

Bowling Green & Troy MO

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Dierbergs Markets Inc.

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FMG City Games

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Gateway Paintball Park

Genovese

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**KB Smash** 

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Square One Brewery and

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Scottrade Center

St. Louis Christmas Carols

Association

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Sugar Creek Gardens

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Tony's on Main Street

Total Wine & More

Valvoline Instant Oil Change

Walt Disney World Co.

Walter Knoll Florist

Waterway Gas & Wash

Winkelmann Sons Drug

Company

Woodard Cleaning &

**Restoration Services** 

## HELP US I I I FAMILIES!

With the help of a young volunteer, ECH is hosting a Thanksgiving Food Drive for our neediest families. We need your help! Your non-perishable food items can change the day, month and life of a child, as well as that child's family. For a list of items, visit our website: Everychildshope.org/Food-Drive Items. You can drop-off items at our St. Charles Rock Road campus M-F from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., from now through November 17th.



#### BAGS OF CHANGE MAKES BIG IMPACT

Lucky's Market selected ECH as one of three charities to participate in their Bags of Change program. From last January to May, shoppers who brought in their own reusable shopping bag received a wooden dime, which they then donated to one of the charities. We are SO happy to report that we received \$1702!

#### THANK YOU BANK OF AMERICA



The Steppingstone Transitional Living Program recently received a grant for \$5,000 from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation! This grant will help homeless youth achieve independent living through life skills training, education planning, and employment support. With the generosity of Bank of America, these vulnerable youth will receive the necessary services to overcome the challenges they face and accomplish their goals!



ECH Every Child's Hope 8240 St. Charles Rock Rd. St. Louis, MO 63114

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## Trivialight

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

THE HEIGHTS, 8001 DALE AVE., ST. LOUIS, MO 63117



BEER SODA LIGHT SNACKS PROVIDED