

HOMENews

THE NEWSLETTER OF ECH EVERY CHILD'S HOPE [WINTER NEWSLETTER] 2017



UNDERWATER ADVENTURE AT THE ECH SCHOOL

Before Ms. Candus got her hands on the elementary hallway at the ECH School, it looked like just a plain old hallway. Ms. Candus, however, saw the potential not only in the hallway, but also in the students.


Today, the hallway has been turned into a colorful aquarium, complete with fish, coral and plants. The bright colors, the placement of the fish, and the motivational sayings are all designed to help the young students get more out of their day and help further their education.

"When I notice that a student is having a hard time, I take them out of the classroom and have them color a new fish," explained Ms. Candus. "The student and I get on the floor and we color, cut out the fish and place it in the aquarium. It gives the kids a chance to calm down in a positive way and it gives them one-on-one time with someone."

Many times the kids just need to know that someone is listening and cares about them. Ms. Candus has found a way to give the students what they need and, at the same time, to show them a sense of accomplishment and pride in their surroundings.

"And, I have plans for the high school hallway as well!" says Ms. Candus. Check out our Facebook page for more pictures of this aquatic hallway adventure!

The ECH School is in need of the following items. Please call the Development Department at 314-427-3755 to donate.

- Laminating machine
- Bulletin boards to display student work
- Large & small construction paper (assorted colors)
- Pipe cleaners
- Popsicle sticks
- Paint and brushes
- Cloth for painting
- Smocks
- Butcher block paper
- Velcro sticks
- Pots, pans, measuring cups, ladles, etc. for Home-Ec classes.
- Used washer and dryer for accidents that students have throughout the day, as well as a family engagement strategy. 

The ECH School would like to offer families the ability to come wash a load or two during school hours to help ensure their child has a clean uniform and undergarments.

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PROVIDING INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT WITH THE BRADLEY CARD

Working with the young people in residential treatment at ECH can be difficult. Each kid deals with his or her unique issues in a unique way. To help staff understand each young person, Sean Bradley, a therapist at ECH, created what has become known as the Bradley Card. The Bradley Card is essentially a treatment “cheat sheet” for communicating important information about a kid’s treatment needs and trauma history to their direct care staff. The card allows staff to conveniently have the information necessary for providing the children with the individualized, trauma-informed care that they need.

“I thought it would be useful for the direct care ‘house staff’ to have a reminder of each of the kids’ special needs, background, trauma history and some effective coping skills that work for each kiddo,” explains Mr. Bradley. “For example, if a kid has a trauma history of being locked in a dark room, they might be afraid of the dark and require some special program or one-on-one intervention to help them feel safer at bedtime when they need to turn the lights off.”

A lot of times direct care staff from certain cottages will fill in at other cottages where they might not be as familiar with the kids. With the help of the Bradley Cards, any staff person who walks in to any cottage around campus should be able to quickly read through a summary of each kid’s trauma history, possible triggers, successful coping skills and strengths of that child. They will also know who the important people are for each youth, whether it’s a therapist, care manager, legal guardian, or other family members or supports.



SHOP FOR A WORTHY CAUSE!

From now until May 20, you can support ECH every time you shop at Lucky’s Market (Lucky’s Market has two locations: Rock Hill at Manchester & McKnight and Ellisville at Clayton & Clarkson.) It’s simple-for every reusable grocery bag you bring, Lucky’s will give you a wooden dime to donate to one of three charities. Lucky’s Market generously matches each donation. So visit Lucky’s Market to get everything on your grocery list AND support the children, youth, and families at ECH!



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www.everychildshope.org
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THE FUTURE OF ECH: IMPLEMENT THERAPEUTIC STRATEGIES



As you review this latest edition of the Home News, pay close attention to the various ways ECH staff members develop and implement therapeutic strategies to meet the individual unique needs of the children we serve.

Just like we ask children and families to learn and grow, ECH also is challenged to learn new approaches that best assist clients in accomplishing their goals. You will read a story about the development of the "Bradley card."

This innovation, created by one of our social workers, is a wonderful illustration of ECH crafting intervention plans that respect the uniqueness of each individual child who is served in the residential program.

There is a story about the creativeness of one of our school staff members, who turned an ordinary hallway into an area where elementary-age children could find a soothing place to calm their emotions.

There is also a story about one of our newest services, Family Finding. After much due diligence, the program was able to bring together a sister and brother who had been disconnected. As you will read, not only were we able to reconnect them, but also to assist them with potentially life-changing experiences and information about their mother and family.

This type of personal impact is happening throughout ECH every day in our work with children and families. I am proud of the work our staff performs to assist the most vulnerable in our community. So enjoy these stories and the other descriptions of the work we do in this publication that demonstrates our commitment to the mission of ECH. Please know that only due to your interest and support can ECH assist clients to find health and wholeness, but most of all, HOPE, in their lives.

With much appreciation,

Michael Brennan



A BROTHER'S REASSURANCE THROUGH FAMILY FINDING

Julie was 16 when she was placed in residential treatment at ECH, after spending the past six years in numerous foster homes, residential treatment centers, and hospitals. The referral information on Julie's family background was sparse, but the history indicated that her mother abandoned her. It seemed Julie would benefit from the Family Finding program, so Amy, our Family Finding Coordinator, began to research family members for Julie. Amy found an older brother, Will, and set up a phone call between him and Julie.

During the call, Will was able to explain why they had gotten separated: he was in the Army and when he came home on leave, he realized that something was wrong with their mom. She was hospitalized and they learned that she was suffering from an undiagnosed mental health condition and dementia. The rest of the family did not realize what was happening with their mom and Julie was left to handle it all on her own. Will reassured her that her mother had always loved her, but became

sick. Mom's deteriorating condition changed her personality and caused her to do and say things that she would not have done in the past. Will provided Julie the reassurance that she was loved and that her mom was not able to be her mom- which is a much different scenario than the one where her mom didn't care for her and didn't want her anymore.

Will told Julie that he had never forgotten about her and even kept her baby pictures, past art projects and the books she used to write. He told how he had always hoped that he would get to see her again and give these back to her.

Since that first phone call, Julie has been able to visit with her brother and even visit her mom, who is terminally ill and expected to pass away soon. If it hadn't been for Family Finding, Julie would have likely never seen her family again and may have never known the truth about why she was placed in foster care.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Save the Date
FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017

30th Annual
"Extend A Caring Hand"
Dinner & Auction
benefitting
ECH Every Child's Hope
Platinum Sponsor: The Smith-Fain Family Foundation

THE SAINT LOUIS RITZ CARLTON
WWW.EVERYCHILDSHOPE.ORG



MISSOURI YOP TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR 2017

Great News...ECH Every Child's Hope has just been **awarded new YOP tax credits for 2017** for our Conflict Resolution for Troubled Youth program!

The new 2017 YOP tax credits will apply to donations of \$500 or more received between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 and 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, and we would love your assistance in helping us meet that goal! There are two things we would like you to consider:

- **Help underwrite** our 30th Annual (and perhaps last) "Extend A Caring Hand" Dinner & Auction: **An Evening of Pearls & Polka Dots**. We are looking for **30 donors to contribute \$1,000** to completely underwrite the event.
- **Pledge your gift NOW** and we will hold credits for you until November 15, 2017, at which time your credits will be released for someone else's benefit.

As you know, 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. Additionally, all YOP donations qualify for the standard federal and state income tax deductions.

Thank you for your continued support in our work to provide hope to the children, youth, and families at ECH.

To make a pledge or a gift, call or email Sharon Fenoglio at 314-427-3755 or sfenoglio@echmail.org



"Laura is a long time ECH employee and I have great confidence in her as she fulfills this new role," said CEO Michael Brennan. "I am excited about what the Development Department can accomplish under Sharon's and Laura's leadership as we set a course for the healthy future of the agency."

After 14 years of service in the roles of Public Relations Manager and Associate Development Director, Laura Kilcullin has been promoted to Director of Development. In her new role, Laura will supervise all annual fundraising and communications efforts at ECH.

With Laura at the helm, Sharon Fenoglio will focus her efforts on planned giving and capital projects as the Chief Advancement Officer.

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Bloomsdale Bank
Brown Smith Wallace, LLP
Cardinals Care
Component Bar Products
Cooper-Smith Advertising
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis
Ernst & Young LLP
FedEx
Fischer-Bauer-Knirps Foundation
Fister, Inc.
Fleet Reserve Association
Fredman Brothers Furniture Co., Inc.
Fredricksburg Cemetary Association
Gluttons Club
Hauck Charitable Foundation
Hautly Cheese Company, Inc.
Herman T. & Phenie R. Pott Foundation
Hinnah Farms
Independent Brokers Agency, LLC
J.U.G.S., Inc.
Joe Milner Carpets, Inc.
John S. Swift Company, Inc.
Kai Design & Build
Ladies Aid, ECH
Len's Auto Repair, Inc.

Liberty Mutual
Lockridge Cleaning Co.
Maggie O'Brien's Restaurant & Irish Pub
Mailings Unlimited
Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.
McCarthy, Leonard & Kaemmerer, L.C. Attorneys At Law
MO. State Employee Charitable Campaign
Molitor & Biller CPA'S
Mutual of America
Our Little Haven
Paylink Payment Plans, LLC
ricAnello creative consortium, lc
Schroeder & Associates, PC
Security Traders Association of St. Louis
Soroptimist International of Greater St. Louis
St. Clair Service Company
St. Louis Community Foundation
St. Matthew Cemetery
Sterling Bank
Stifel, Nicolaus & Company Inc.
Sutter Plumbing Company, Inc.
The PrivateBank
Truman Heartland Community Foundation
United Car Care Inc.
United Surgical Partners
United Way of Central & Northeastern Connecticut
Vehicle Assurance
Winkelmann Sons Drug Company
Zamzow Manufacturing Co., Inc.

IN KIND

801 Restaurant Group
All Saints
America's Incredible Pizza Company
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 400
Apple, West County Center
Arcobasso Jewelers
Are We There Yet?, LLC
Bentley Studio, Ltd.
Billy G's Kirkwood
Bloomsdale Bank
Brio Tuscan Grille
C J Muggs Restaurant
Cannoli's
Charlie Gitto's On the Hill
D R Sullivan & Company, CPA PC
Daniel Boone Shriners Club
Drury Hotels, LLC
Eckert Companies
Extra Virgin - an Olive Ovation
FedEx Home Delivery
Five Star Burgers
Fleet Reserve Association
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
Fortel's Pizza Den
Gateway Motorsports Park
Girl Scout Troop 4150
Glazers Distributors
GMA Architects
Gus' Pretzels
J.U.G.S., Inc.
John Bender Inc.
Kennelwood Pet Resorts
Kreis' Restaurant
Ladies Aid, ECH
Lockridge Cleaning Co.
Maggie O'Brien's Restaurant & Irish Pub
Magic House
Majestic Dance Studio

Massa's
Massage Envy - Creve Coeur
Missouri Botanical Garden
Paul Manno's St. Louis
River City Rascals
Salon de Christe
Schlafly Beer
Schroeder & Associates, PC
Shane Co.
Silver Dollar City
Sky Zone Trampoline Park
South County Senior Law & Estate Planning Center
St. Catherine Retirement Community
St. Louis Billikens
St. Louis Blues Hockey Club/ Scottrade Center
St. Louis Cardinals
St. Louis County Police Dept. 1st Pct
STAGES St. Louis
The Boxing Gym
The Cheesecake Factory Bakery Inc.
The Melting Pot Restaurant
The Pageant in the Loop
Tilford Restaurant Group
United Surgical Partners
Upper Limits Rock Gym
Urban Chestnut Brewing Company
Valvoline Instant Oil Change
Vi-JON
Vie
Vom Fass St. Louis
Wallis Companies
Weber Grill Restaurants
Western Digital Foundation
Winkelmann Sons Drug Company
Women's Exchange
Zamzow Manufacturing Co., Inc.

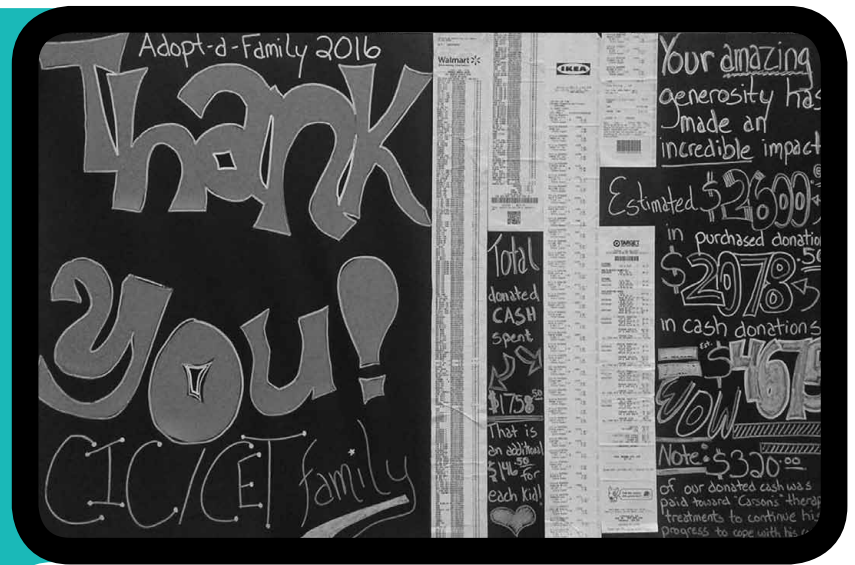


UNITY THROUGH GIVING

Several years ago Leigha Gaston was looking for an “adopt-a-family” type of program for Christmas donations. She figured young kids were the neediest, so she Googled “orphanages in St. Louis.” And that’s the beginning of a wonderful partnership between Leigha’s company and the Foster Care Case Management program at ECH. For the past five years, Leigha has connected with the program director right after Halloween and receives a Wish List for each child in foster care. She posts the list in the main area in the co-working building where she works. She also goes around to each office and explains about ECH and shares a few stories of the kids who will be receiving the presents. Every year the donations grow, along with the enthusiasm of the donors. “People want to give, but they don’t always have an outlet,” Leigha explains. She reminds people how much they have and encourages them to give back. “These kids have nothing, and that’s not fair,” she says. “We owe it to each other to help one another out. And you get better as your community gets better.”

It’s become a big event for her family, including her husband and 9-year-old daughter, who come with her to the wrap party her office hosts before they drop off all of the presents at ECH. It’s also become a unifying event for her office. Because they are all individuals who are just renting office space (most of them start-ups), there isn’t a lot of reason to interact. But collecting the gifts unites the building under a positive experience, Leigha explains. Workers congregate around the wall where the Wish List is posted and eagerly watch as the pile of presents grows each week.

Leigha tells one story of a guy in her office who goes above and beyond to provide gifts to make sure the foster care kids have a Merry Christmas. Instead of exchanging gifts with his wife, they buy gifts for ECH instead. Last year he was shopping for a family of boys, and the oldest one wanted a watch. This generous man donated his personal watch, which he had custom-made for a sailing trip he took. Besides being an expensive item, it also had sentimental value. But he decided to bless someone else with it instead. He even included a note with the watch, which said “I hope this watch guides you just as it did me.”



If your workplace is interested in donating Christmas gifts to the needy children and families at ECH, please call the Development Office at 314-427-3755 and we will touch base with you in November with more information. As Leigha explains,

“The stories of the kids who receive the gifts pull people in. It’s an opportunity to show my daughter how important it is to be grateful and to give back!”



OVERCOMING DEPRESSION THROUGH OUTPATIENT PSYCHIATRY

Did you know that ECH offers free Outpatient Psychiatry Services (OPS) to any child from age four to 19 who lives in St. Louis County? Thanks to a grant from the St. Louis Children's Service Fund, children can receive an assessment, treatment plan, and medication management by a board-certified child psychiatrist. Here's a recent story from our OPS team that demonstrates the powerful impact of this program.

Dan is a 15-year-old male who was every parent's dream. He had straight As, went a prestigious school, excelled at sports, and was very good-natured. When he first came to ECH Outpatient Psychiatry Services, he'd been dealing with gradually worsening depression with psychotic features over the past two years. For Dan and his parents, the last two years had been a nightmare with multiple hospitalizations and at least one night in juvenile hold for aggression toward family members. Dan chronically battled suicidal thoughts because he went from being such a high-achieving young man to someone who was unable to function and who was constantly tortured by his thoughts. His anxiety was so severe that he could not walk into any public place.

Dan began seeing a psychiatrist at ECH and started making progress. He became more stable, with less hallucinations, less paranoid delusions, and less anxiety. It took some time but Dan is doing far better than anyone ever imagined. He is finishing high school, taking college classes, and establishing a social life. He hopes one day to become a therapist or counselor. His doctor believes this is something he definitely is capable of doing.

Call 314-427-3832 to speak with our intake coordinator for OPS.

THANK YOU EMERSON!

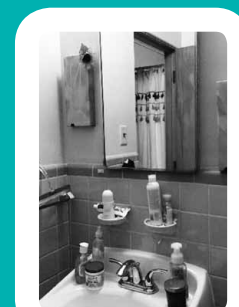
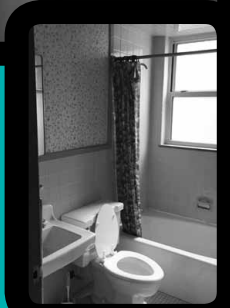
The youth in the Steppingstone Transitional Living Program work hard to learn the life skills they need to live independently. But often it's difficult to find a safe, affordable apartment and there are more youth who need housing than apartments available on the ECH campus.

That all changed last year, thanks to a generous grant from the Emerson Charitable Trust to renovate a former office and turn it back into an apart-

ment. The apartment received a complete makeover, including a new kitchen and appliances, flooring, and brand new furnishings. The before and after pictures show just how much work went into making this space a warm and inviting place for a youth to live while working on learning important life skills. The on-campus apartments provide structure and close proximity to Care Managers while still allowing youth to gain independence.



before



after





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

Address Service Requested

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TRIVIA NIGHT

ECH had a great crowd for the annual Trivia Night, held Feb. 7 at The Heights in Richmond Heights.

Guests enjoyed trivia categories such as Disney, Superbowl Commercials, and Guess the JellyBelly flavor. Guests donated lots of books for ECH kids and helped raise funds that will directly support the kids and families we serve.

