

Letter from the CEO

Michael Brennan



Dear friends,

Couldn't you use some good news right now?

I'm so thankful to have this space to share all the wonderful things that are happening at Every Child's Hope with you. It's been an incredible year, filled with unimaginable challenges and unexpected joys. All in all, we've witnessed countless examples of generosity, commitment, strength, and spirit.

We saw it as our staff never waived when caring for the vulnerable populations we serve, when our volunteers answered the call to help us quickly secure personal protective equipment, and when our donors and funders understood the challenges that came with reimagining how every part of our agency functions. Each of these groups immediately stepped up to make sure we had the resources we needed, demonstrating that our 162-year-old mission is alive and well.

All of this gave us a springboard to plan for 2021. We're working every day to strengthen this agency through building our new therapeutic residential treatment facility, expansion into new parts of the state, diversification of our funding streams, improving our recruitment and retention of employees, creating a succession plan (I've heard I will retire someday!), and enhancing our use of technology. It's thrilling to see us reap the benefit of the years of hard work our team has done to put us in this position of growth.

You'll find stories like these and more within our Everyday Hope newsletter.

I hope they give you a moment of happiness and hope during this singular time in our history.

Best wishes,



Michael P. Brennan



Everyday Heroes

SHARON VEIT RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE



A good job is when you feel like you've accomplished your personal best. A wonderful tenure is when you know you've made a difference. And then there's the career of Sharon Veit.

Ms. Veit served the children and families of ECH for over 35 years, changing lives for the better because of her unique ability to demonstrate unconditional acceptance and care.

Fellow staff members talk of how she would be the first to show up to wrap presents and the last to leave after every dish was washed after holiday parties. How she drove the tractor for hayrides, judged cookoffs, shared the ECH mission with donors, and helped staff find reasons to laugh even during challenging situations.

Most importantly, she maintained lasting relationships with children who needed her support.

"She is a good human being who genuinely cared about the young people and they felt it," said Harry Harrell, a long-time fellow employee who oversaw both the Steppingstone and Early Education Center during his time at ECH.

"Ms. Veit is simply always there when you need her. Her tireless efforts created huge smiles on the faces of kids who, in their previous lives, didn't experience joy like that," said Terri Buckner, a Steppingstone employee.

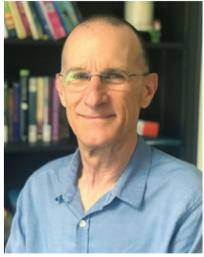
"Sharon was in a key leadership position during the years that we transitioned residential care into serving acutely traumatized children. She also assisted us with transforming the Early Education Center into providing Early Head Start and Head Start services and supported the St. Louis Steppingstone program to serve truly homeless older youth," said ECH CEO Michael Brennan. "Sharon had a passion for the mission and loved ECH."

We are grateful for Sharon's commitment to our mission and her years of dedicated service. Sharon will truly be missed.

"When you support ECH, you know your time, effort and money are going to a place that is only concerned about these kids' wellbeing and about making their lives better."

—Randy Karraker

Awards & Recognitions



Congratulations to **Phil Garrett**, Intake Coordinator with Every Child's Hope in the Transitional Living Program, on his recent Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Safe Place Network. Phil has spent his entire 42-year career working with the older youth and young adults in our programs, helping set them up to become successful, independent adults. We are so thankful to have him as part of our team.

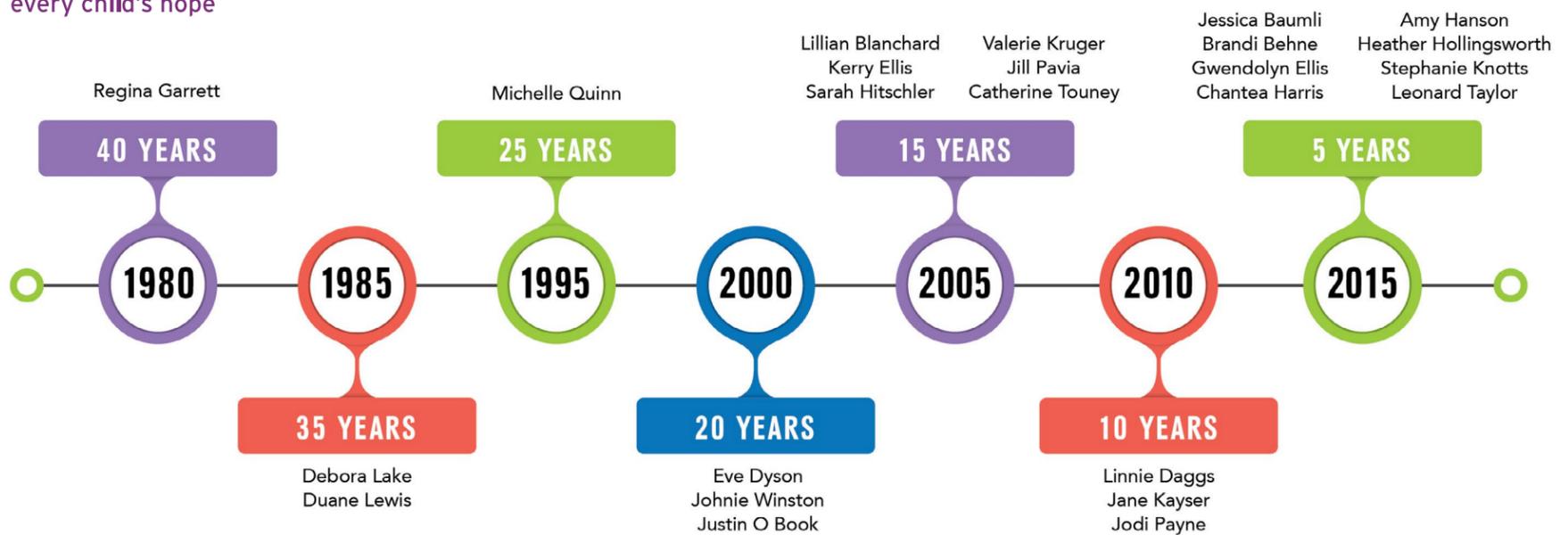


Lillian Blanchard was recently recognized with the Teacher of the Year Award from Youth in Need for her work within ECH's Early Education Center. One of only ten educators to receive the award, Lillian was selected for her ability to give our youngest students the best start in life. Thank you, Ms. Lillian!



Milestones

Something that makes Every Child's Hope unique is its staff. We want to thank the following ECH employees for their years of dedication to our mission and the children and families we serve.



You Shared The JOYS OF CHRISTMAS

We can say that 2020 was a challenging year, in so many ways and for so many people. At Every Child's Hope, though, we know that we can count on our community to get us through when times are challenging. This has never been more apparent than it was throughout our Christmas & Year-End Campaign.

We are happy to report that over 350 ECH children and their family members received toys, clothing, gifts, food, and other household essentials throughout the holiday season. This generosity came from 400+ donors, and it took the form of 1,000+ toys and presents, nearly 500 gift cards, and \$145,000 in financial gifts toward our year-end appeal! Not only did individuals step up to help, but we were also blessed to have the support of local businesses, churches, neighborhoods, clubs, and foundations.

Thank you, friends, for keeping Every Child's Hope in your year-end giving plans. You made a difference in the lives of our children.



350+

ECH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED



400+

GENEROUS DONORS



1,000+

TOYS AND PRESENTS



\$145,000

IN FINANCIAL GIFTS TOWARD OUR YEAR-END APPEAL



500

GIFT CARDS



The Jayson Tatum Foundation Gives Generously

Every Child's Hope was honored to have been chosen as one of the organizations supported by **The Jayson Tatum Foundation** during the holidays, and the generosity has continued into the new year. Jayson is a St. Louis native who plays basketball for the Boston Celtics, and has made it a priority to give back to child-focused nonprofits in his hometown. His Foundation organized the **Third Annual Daddy & Deuce Toy + Coat Drive**, which collected and donated new coats, gloves, and hats for ECH's Residential Treatment Program and Early Education Center clients, as well as toys for those touched by ECH programs. Duffel bags stuffed with gifts such as caps, beanies, and personal care items were given to each Residential Treatment client, while posters, video games, and a gaming system have brought excitement to the campus. There have also been donations of food from various partners of the Foundation.

The Jayson Tatum Foundation's generosity was a wonderful reminder of what community and care look like. ECH feels blessed to call them a partner.

Capital Campaign Making Exceptional Strides

The future of care at Every Child's Hope continues to look bright as our \$6 million capital campaign moves ever closer to meeting our fundraising goal.

"As of the end of 2020, we have raised 95% of the funds needed to create this state-of-the-art facility that will allow us to serve youth and families at a much higher level," said ECH Chief Development Officer Sherry Gerke. "We are now in the public phase in the campaign, where we begin working with donors who can help us get across the finish line."

The 18,000 square foot building will be named the William N. Dill Youth Development Center

and will contain private living spaces, family rooms, calming outdoor areas, and specially-designed therapy rooms. The building was named by lead donor Warren Dill, who chose to honor his father.

"Warren told me that he wanted the building to have his father's name because it was he who first introduced Warren to our campus in the 1930s. He remembers coming here with his cousin, Carol, for picnics and to play with the children who lived here," said ECH CEO Michael P. Brennan.

The family relationship dates back three generations, when Dill's grandfather contributed to building some of the historic buildings on the ECH main campus.

The campaign is expected to be completed this summer with groundbreaking in early fall.



The Enduring Power of Hope

ECH'S ANNUAL REPORT GOES DIGITAL

Did you know Every Child's Hope was one of only 15 youth-serving agencies in the US to be invited to explore a new model of care, which will be delivered at our new Youth Development Center?

Did you know Every Child's Hope serves approximately 1,447 clients across the state of Missouri annually?

Learn all about the exceptional work we're doing by viewing our latest annual report on the ECH website. You can find it under the Our Story section.

WWW.EVERYCHILDSHOPE.ORG

Donor Spotlight: Randy Karraker



We threw out the question to our staff: If we were to highlight someone who has been a dedicated friend of ECH, who should it be?

"Randy Karraker!" was the response, over and over.

Here's a bit about why he chooses to give his time, talent, and treasure to our organization.

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO BE INVOLVED WITH ECH?

The reason ECH is my favorite non-profit to work with is that I know it does incredible work with kids who are essentially not defended in the system. When an innocent child loses his or her parents or needs a place to get their life on track, I know the staff and volunteers at ECH are all about helping them. I don't think our country does a good enough job taking care of kids in situations like this. Government support is waning, so those of us in the private sector need to do more to protect these children. I'm proud to represent such an incredible agency that does so many things to help advance kids in our community.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ECH DOES EXCEPTIONALLY WELL?

I'm amazed by the scope of what ECH does. Whenever I tell people about it, I talk about how incredible it is that in St. Louis we have a self-contained campus that provides everything a child needs. The necessities like food, shelter and clothing are provided. But then when you add in education, emotional and psychiatric therapy, teaching kids how to live in the real world, and real entertainment...it's phenomenal. And to meet several kids who have graduated from ECH to become productive members of society is heartwarming. I'm very proud to be associated with it.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO'S CONSIDERING SUPPORTING ECH?

If I could describe supporting ECH, the first thing I would say is that it makes you feel better about where we're going as a society. For all the angst and anger in our world right now, to see the smiles on these kids' faces and the joy they experience at what, from the outside, seem to be the smallest things, it makes you feel good about the world.

The second point I make is that when you support ECH, you know your time, effort and money are going to a place that is only concerned about these kids' wellbeing and about making their lives better. You'd trust them with your own children if the need was ever there. I know in seeing these kids, they couldn't be in better hands. And that's why I would recommend everyone support ECH.

ECH Serves Youth and Families Across Missouri

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The **ECH School** had ten day treatment students who learned remotely for the first semester of the school year, made possible by Chromebooks and WiFi that were funded by a grant from Cardinals Care.

The **Early Education Center** re-opened on August 3 with a new, paved bike path and an awning to cover the drop-off area. Funding for these projects was provided by United4Children.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

The **Residential Treatment** team went above and beyond to stand by two youths as they worked to graduate high school, despite shut downs and interruptions. Congratulations to the graduates! This dedicated team also developed safety protocols that allowed for in-person visits from families.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

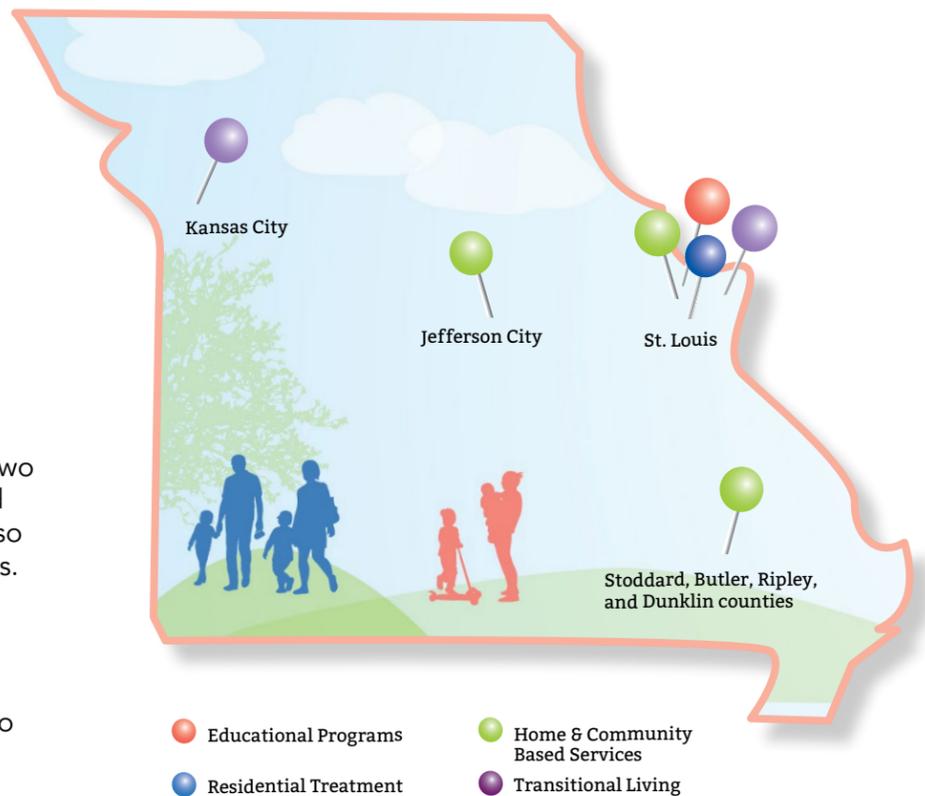
ECH's **Foster Care Case Management Program** recently expanded into Southeast Missouri, with 79 new cases in Stoddard, Butler, Ripley, and Dunklin counties. They are excited about serving kids and families in this region!

Outpatient Psychiatry Services received CARES Act funding through St. Louis County to serve more children than our current funding level allowed. The award allowed ECH to address the increased mental health crisis needs due to COVID-19 by providing over 300 hours of direct psychiatric care to 126 youth through the end of the year.

TRANSITIONAL LIVING

The **Kansas City Steppingstone Program** conducted two COVID-19 testing events for 98 individuals. The program had access to free COVID-19 testing for youth through the end of November, thanks to a collaborative project initiated by Children's Mercy Hospital, Synergy Services, Drumm Farm, and reStart. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is funding the project.

Seven youth in **Steppingstone St. Louis** are participating in the United Way of Greater St. Louis Individual Development Account (IDA) program. Each youth will save \$1,000 over two years, then the United Way matches with \$2,000. Youth must complete ten weeks of financial education classes to open the account, and many use the money to purchase a car or as a down payment on an apartment. We are so proud of these youth and all of their financial accomplishments!



A Look Back

Education has always been a cornerstone of the Every Child's Hope experience. Twenty eight scholars of all ages came together to enjoy some quiet reading time in what is our present-day dining hall. Nearly 100 years after this photo was taken, we still welcome our Residential Treatment clients as well as day students at the ECH school.

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