

Letter from the CEO

Julia Adami



Dear friends, donors, and colleagues,

Fall has always been one of my favorite seasons. As the trees burst with their last beauty, it's as if nature has been saving up all year for the grand finale! Fall is proof that change can be amazing.

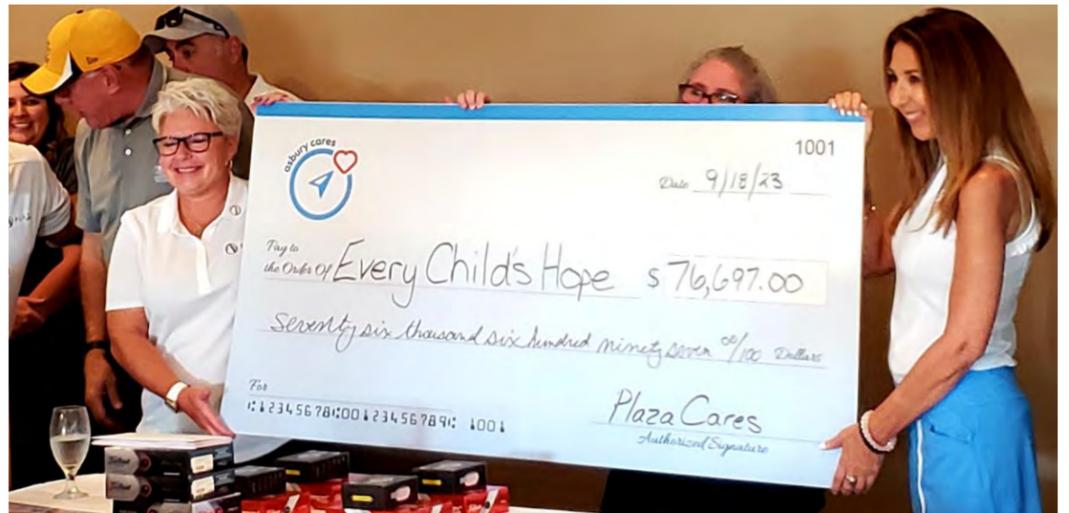
Here at ECH, we've embarked on some change! Starting with me, as the new CEO. Over the past couple of months, it has been such a joyous and humbling experience to learn and embrace the profound history of ECH. It's an honor and privilege to carry on the legacy of this agency that remains essential to so many throughout Missouri.

One of our core values that permeates within our people is DEDICATION. I see it as our staff provide crisis intervention and conflict resolution to clients who have experienced more trauma than most ever will in a lifetime. I've seen it as our therapists, psychiatrists and nurses show up every day with compassion and care, letting our clients know we hear you and see you wholeheartedly. I see it as our support departments like HR, IT, Development and Finance work collaboratively with our managers and frontline staff, so they have the tools to better meet the needs of those they serve. I have seen it in the positive attitudes of all those I encounter. And I have seen it in the generous and dedicated support of our donors, volunteers and board of directors. Our workforce is by far the most mission focused I have seen; they exude DEDICATION every day. Not every day is easy; the issues facing our clients are incredibly tough, but I am inspired and comforted knowing that ECH staff are here to meet our clients where they are, with a hand up and warm smile.

As the days grow shorter and colder, warmth and comfort for those we serve are paramount. As we approach the holiday season, we do our best to ensure each child and family feels valued, receives what they need, and can share in the joy of nature's finale creating memories that warm the soul.

Sincerely,
Julia Adami

One Kind Act Pays Dividends



Any one of us can have an impact on someone's life. A few years ago, a volunteer invited their Plaza Motors co-workers to participate in ECH's Christmas campaign and work projects around the St. Charles Rock Road campus. This led to local company representatives spreading the word about ECH's mission to their national staff.

The result was Plaza Motors' parent company, Asbury Automotive Group, selecting ECH as one of two charities to support as part of a nationwide giving campaign among employees. At our Golf Classic, Plaza Motors presented a donation exceeding \$76,000 for ECH and our programs.

One act of kindness from a volunteer has paid itself forward in unimaginable ways. ECH is so grateful for all our supporters and volunteers who continue to speak about our mission.



Inside ECH: Family Therapy Encourages Healing

Sean Bradley is a family therapist at Every Child's Hope, providing weekly counseling sessions with youth and their family members. These services are also embedded within the Residential Treatment program to give children living on the ECH campus clinical support and intervention alongside their parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, kinship placements, aunts, uncles, grandparents, or whomever else they may consider "family."

"The goal of family therapy within this context is to help these children and families strengthen their relationships," says Sean.

An example of the positive change family therapy helps create can be seen in Matt*. He experienced extensive, significant childhood trauma while growing up with his biological parents and was eventually placed with his aunt, who adopted him. Although he was given a safe and stable household, Matt still struggled with the impacts of his earlier trauma, often resulting in physical, aggressive and unsafe behaviors.

Matt came to ECH and began treatment that included regular family therapy appointments with his aunt. They were able to communicate about his past trauma, including the loss of his parents, and make connections to how these experiences impacted his relationships in the present. Together, they healed.

"The impact family therapy has on our children in residential care is vital. It provides a supportive setting to heal familial wounds, repair damaged relationships, work through past traumas, learn to support one another, and eventually prepare to return home," says Sean. "Family therapy gives children and families a sense of hope and purpose while laying the groundwork for a brighter future together."

**name has been changed to protect identity*

A 90-year Legacy at ECH

Phil and Regina Garrett grew up and grew together while serving the ECH community. Phil retired in August after holding several roles at ECH, and Regina retired in October after spending 44 years in our Early Education Center.

Phil was hired as a house manager in 1978. Regina, who was born in Germany, came later that year as a volunteer with an exchange program. She was disappointed not to be assigned a position in Great Britain, but came to the United States without friends or family. "I didn't know anyone, but ECH became my family," said Regina. "The staff lived in apartments on the campus, and we socialized together. We played a lot of the video game Pong."

When Regina returned home, Phil kept writing Regina. Ultimately, Phil and Regina decided to marry, and Phil brought Regina back to the US and ECH. Phil and Regina worked together for 14 years in the Early Education Center before Phil moved to another role.

Phil and Regina have touched the lives of thousands of children who have passed through ECH. They recalled attending a former student's art exposition. They were surprised to receive an invitation from the shy girl, but at the show, the student acknowledged to the other guests how the Garretts encouraged her to use art to express herself. Phil also shared a handwritten note he saved through the years from another young person that is special to him: "I am beyond grateful for you. I just wanted to thank you for seeing something in me and believing in me."

Many of us are unable to see the impact we have on someone's life, but Phil and Regina leave ECH with an unmatched legacy. The entire ECH community is so thankful for your special commitment to each other and ECH's mission!



Golf Tournament Blends Fun, Charity



Every Child's Hope hosted our 23rd Annual Golf Classic presented by Plaza Motors on September 18. More than 150 players and volunteers gathered at Old Hickory Golf Club in St. Peters, MO for a day of fun and fellowship. Everyone enjoyed a lunch courtesy of Potbelly Sandwich Shops before teeing off at noon. On-course beverages were provided by Keurig Dr. Pepper, and Grey Eagle Distributing.

Key sponsors for the day included Matt Smith with OneDigital, Manny Rivera, Vehicle Assurance, Plancorp, and KAI Enterprises/The UP Companies. Special thanks to our tournament host Randy Karraker and our golf committee, who worked to make the day a wonderful success. Proceeds from the tournament support ECH's array of programs that give hope to young people and their families across Missouri.

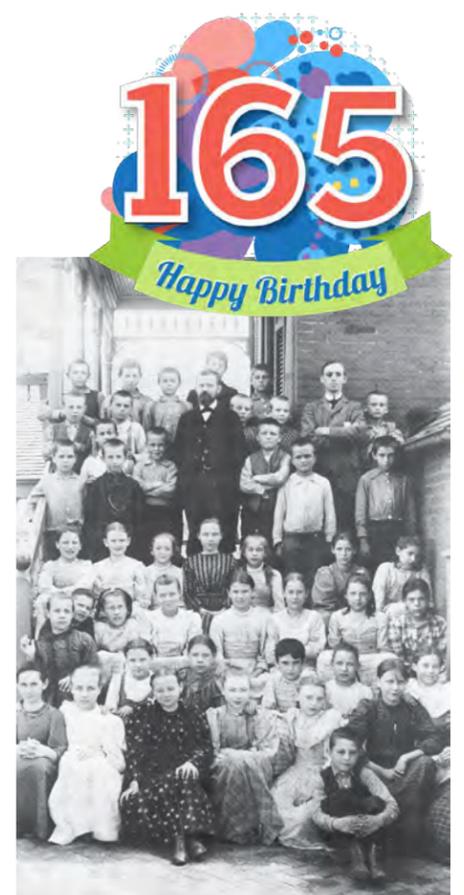


It's our 165th Birthday!

It has been 165 years since the first steps were taken in our journey of healing and hope. We're thankful for the staff, friends, and donors who have been a part of our work to serve Missouri's children and families. Here are a few milestones in our long history:

- 1858** Rev. Louis Nollau takes in a boy orphaned by a cholera epidemic in St. Louis. By 1866, the number of children – many of whom had been left to roam the streets and sleep in doorways – grew to 300 and the German Protestant Orphans Home moved to a farm 30 minutes outside the city. (It's where our main campus is still located today.)
- 1874** A new building is built on the main campus to comfortably house children and staff. During a blizzard in January of 1877, the new building burns to the ground. Cornerstones for a new building are placed by May of that year and a replacement building opens in November.
- 1945** The organization is renamed the Evangelical Children's Home in response to World War II.

- 1978** ECH begins serving the Kansas City area through a girls' residential treatment program.
- 2001** ECH School is built.
- 2009** The agency changes its name to Every Child's Hope to better reflect the work we do.
- 2023** ECH nears completion of the William N. Dill Youth Development Center, which will replace residential treatment cottages built in the 1950s.



'Tis the Giving Season: Be a Part of the ECH Christmas Campaign

YOU are the reason the holiday is bright for the children and families served by ECH! Every year, thousands of gifts pour in and generous donors step up to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas. We experienced record-breaking generosity in 2022 with 2,600+ gifts donated, more than 2,000 additional items like food and clothing, and \$218,000 in end-of-year financial gifts.

Choose your favorite way be a part of the magic this year:

I WANT TO GIVE WITH MY FRIENDS!



Contact Sarah at sdeweese@everychildshope.org to create your own gift drive.

I WANT TO POINT, CLICK, AND SEND!



We love gift cards of any denomination. We also have an Walmart Wish List where you can buy gifts for a child from the comfort of your keyboard.

I WANT TO SHOP FOR GIFTS!



You can play Santa for one child or an entire family. We'll supply the wish list, you go shopping and enjoy getting into the spirit.

I WANT TO MAKE MY ANNUAL FINANCIAL DONATION!



Make your tax-deductible donation online at everychildshope.org. Your gift will ensure children and families have the support they need year-round.

Got questions? Mike has the answers.

Mike Zolezzi
(314) 427-3755 ext. 231
michael.zolezzi@everychildshope.org

Mail items/donations to:

ECH Christmas Campaign
RE: XX00-0 (Include client # on mailing label and every gift.)
8240 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63114



SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE A DONATION ONLINE!

ECH is a 501c3, not-for-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Early Education Center Closes

It was with a heavy heart that ECH announced the closure of our Early Education Center, effective October 31, 2023. The loss of a major funding source, workforce challenges, and ever-increasing licensing requirements in recent years led to a hard realization that ECH could not meet the demands for the center.

We are proud of the center's 58-year history of giving thousands of babies, toddlers, and pre-school students love and compassion while establishing a solid foundation for learning and growth.

“This wasn't an easy decision, and certainly not one we wanted to make,” said ECH CEO Julia Adami. “So many children and families have crossed our threshold over these many years. We are forever thankful for our Early Education staff and their commitment to those we serve.”



Dill Center Opening Delayed Until Spring

The summertime fire at the William N. Dill Youth Development Center has delayed the facility's opening while extensive repairs are made due to heat and smoke damage.

ECH has weathered trials and tribulations in the past and knows the future is bright despite this unexpected challenge. We anticipate opening the facility in March 2024 and look forward to celebrating a new era of cutting-edge treatment that will further elevate our agency as a trusted leader in the community.



Prayers for a Happy Holiday Season!

Girls who lived together on ECH's main campus practice for a choir performance early in the last century. We've been serving children and families since 1858.



ECH Is State-Wide

ECH is proud to be a state-wide agency, expanding into the areas where Missouri children and families need us most.

We have offices in four cities:

KANSAS CITY

ECH's Steppingstone program has been helping Kansas City area teens transition into a healthy adulthood for four decades.

JEFFERSON CITY

We serve central Missouri children and families through foster care case management.

ST. LOUIS

Our historic main campus plus an additional office are located in St. Louis. We offer our full menu of services in this region: residential treatment, Steppingstone, ECH School, foster care case management, child psychiatry, and Family Solutions for Kids.

DEXTER

Our newest office is in the bootheel region of Missouri and offers foster care case management to four counties.



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