

# 2022 Annual Report

Hope for Every Child, Healing for Every Family, Every Day.



## SHARI'S NOTE

The past year for ECH has been defined by evolution. From succession planning to creating a new center where children and families can heal, we're building upon our long history to meet today's challenges. We are thankful for those who help us reach our goals – donors, friends, staff, board – and look forward to continued success.  
– Shari Smith, ECH Board President

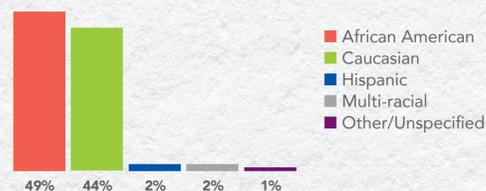


## MIKE'S NOTE

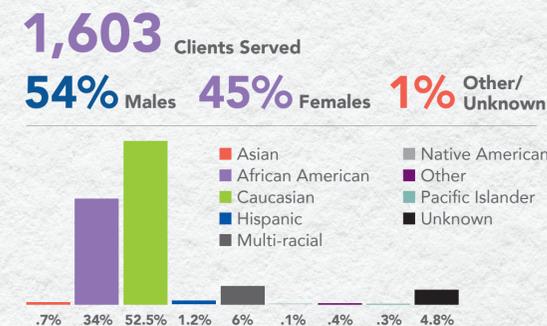
I'm continually impressed by the strength I see at ECH. The strength of our team, the strength shown by the people we serve, and the strength of our friends' faith in our mission. As I prepare to retire, I'm happy to see that our agency has everything it needs to step into a vibrant future. – Michael P. Brennan, CEO



## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

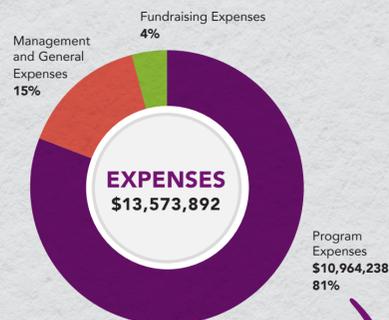


## AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

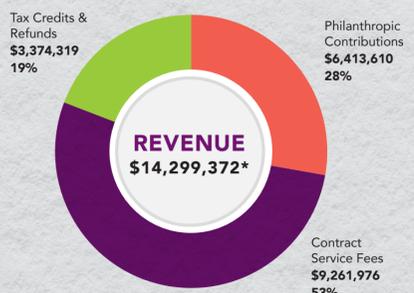
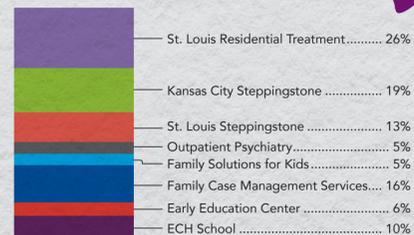


## 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

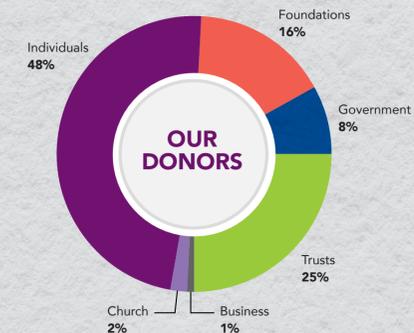
ECH is committed to using its resources in the most efficient and effective manner to fulfill our mission. We maintain the highest level of accountability to our clients, donors, partners, funders, employees, and the community.



### PROGRAM EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



\*Investment Loss - \$4,750,533



## A Look Back

Move in day on our campus in the 1950s, back when our existing residential buildings were new. We're looking forward to our future at the William N. Dill Youth Development Center by honoring our past for helping children and families.



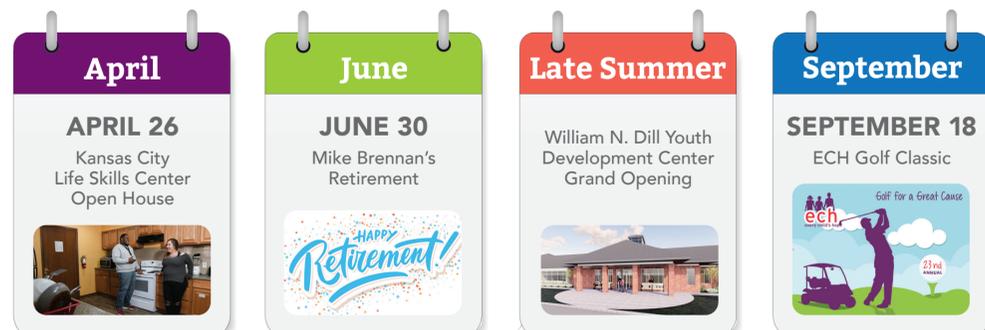
## In Memorium

ECH wishes to remember **Dr. Robert Baur**, who passed away on February 12, 2023. Bob began working at ECH in the 1970s and was executive director from 1981 to 1998.



"Bob was an inspiring preacher, mentor, leader, and father figure to many of us at ECH. He laid the foundation for much of our current work and we're grateful for his many years of leadership. He will be greatly missed."  
–Michael Brennan

## Upcoming Important Dates



- Volunteer for Hope
- Christmas Campaign Breaks Records for Second Year in a Row
- Program Volunteers: Helping Hands and Loving Hearts Make a Difference at ECH
- Volunteering to Contribute: Supporting ECH's Mission Through Generous Gifts
- A Look Back
- In Memorium
- Upcoming Dates to Remember

In This Issue...



# EVERYDAY HOPE Newsletter

SPRING 2023

## Letter from the CEO, Michael Brennan



Dear friends,

It began when I was given a beeper in the 1980s as a young social worker who was on-call 24 hours a day. It's 40 years later and the technology is now a cell phone, but I'm still available any time, day or night. As I approach retirement in a few months, I wonder what it will feel like to not be "on." Will I miss being needed?

What I know I will miss are the people I've served and worked alongside. If you're committed to this kind of work, you're going to meet a lot of wonderful people. **In this issue of our newsletter, you're going to hear about ECH's volunteers who give their time, talent, or treasure... sometimes all three!** We're blessed to have people who help ECH on multiple levels.

The staff and leadership teams are why ECH is so successful in carrying out our mission. We've faced and met evolving needs among the people we serve, we've built buildings and grown across the state, we've supported each other on good days and through difficult challenges. You all have my never-ending respect and admiration. I will miss you.

One indicator of the health of ECH is the work we've done to ensure its successful future. Our succession plan has been a thoughtful process and I look forward to seeing what happens when the energy from new leaders is combined with the legacy knowledge of the existing team. Many capable hands are ready to take up the reins and move ECH to the next level.

We are stepping into the future as we transform our model of care for youth and families to include trauma-sensitive prevention, treatment and follow-up care. I joke sometimes that our ultimate goal is to put ourselves out of business, but in all seriousness, our ongoing mission is to help people earlier so they don't need our most intensive treatments.

However, for children and families in crisis, the new William N. Dill Youth Development Center, opening later this summer, will serve as a hub where youth can get the treatment and services they need in a single location – a hub of healing and hope for the future. I am so grateful for the wonderful support from so many people who have helped make this vision become a reality.

This is my last newsletter before I retire. Working to provide hope to every child, healing to every family, every day has been my life's work. It's been an honor and a privilege.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Brennan

## Volunteer for Hope

By Sarah Deweese



Volunteers driving Christmas gifts to the ECH office in Poplar Bluff

Have you ever wanted to feel good about using your gifts to serve others? ECH's clients need you! There are opportunities across our programs—everything from sorting and organizing donations, serving in the early education center, mentoring, tutoring, holiday and special event support, preserving old archives, teaching a life skill, campus beautification, office work, or professional services that you are willing to donate. There are just so many ways to volunteer for hope!



### Be In-Kind

Inflation is taking its toll on everyone – you needn't look further than the price of eggs or toilet paper for evidence. Throughout the year, our programs and clients are in need of specific items, and we can always use your help in the community collecting such donations. If you have a heart for collecting donations or a mind for setting up donation drives, let us help you help us! We can help you set up a donation drive for your office, school, church, or friend/family gathering.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

— Mahatma Gandhi

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit 9161



# Christmas Campaign Breaks Records for Second Year in a Row

WOW! ECH had the most amazing Christmas Campaign in 2022! Individuals, families, churches, businesses, and groups came together to provide a wonderful holiday to ECH children by...

- ✓ Selecting items from our Amazon Wish List
- ✓ Dropping food, personal care items, and other gifts into donation drive boxes
- ✓ Shopping for gifts for kids through our Adopt-A-Child program
- ✓ Collecting gift cards for older kids in our transitional living programs
- ✓ Sending virtual gift cards to help ECH fill in the gaps as needed

We were blessed with twice as many families and groups helping this year, resulting in over 2,600 toys and gifts. This was in addition to over 2,000 other in-kind items such as food, clothing, household essentials, and program-specific items.

We also saw a slight increase in our year-end giving: 300+ donors gave over \$218,000 to support ECH programs across the state throughout the year.

Thank you, friends, for keeping Every Child's Hope in your hearts!



**360+**  
ECH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED



**300+**  
GENEROUS DONORS



**2,000+**  
ADDITIONAL IN-KIND ITEMS DONATED (FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, ETC.)



**2,600**  
TOYS AND GIFTS RECEIVED FOR GRANT-A-WISH CAMPAIGN



**\$218K**  
IN FINANCIAL GIFTS TOWARD OUR YEAR-END APPEALS

## Program Volunteers: Helping Hands and Loving Hearts Make a Difference at ECH



**Debbie, Event Volunteer**

Debbie has been an event volunteer and donor for many years, helping at our Golf Tournament and assisting with gathering and putting raffle and prize packages together. ECH counts on the dedication of volunteers to ensure our special events are successful, doing everything from pre-planning, running games, serving snacks and beverages, assisting with registration, ticket sales, and so much more.



**Marcia, Administrative Support Volunteer**

Marcia is a huge asset, helping at our Lindbergh office doing administrative tasks. Filing & organizing are her specialties – she keeps things all caught up!

"Volunteering at ECH is just as important to me as donating money. Even though the tasks I perform with HR are fairly basic, it gives paid staff time to do more important tasks. It also gives me the opportunity to feel a part of the organization's active mission."



**Karen, Child Care Assistant Volunteer**

Karen has volunteered in the ECH Hope Chest store for over a year and has recently started volunteering in the Early Education Center. The center is an active and busy environment where volunteers add an extra level of support to the staff and children.

"I feel I'm making a difference, and there's always something to do to keep my hands busy during my retirement. Whether doing inventory, sorting, stocking shelves, answering phones, or assisting in the classroom setting, I love that I can help others."



**Monica, Donation Coordination Volunteer**

Our donors are so generous with in-kind donations! Monica volunteers by coordinating and organizing. She especially enjoys helping with incoming donations for Steppingstone Transitional Living youth like dishes and kitchen utensils, personal items and baby care, household cleaners, small furniture, and appliances. Steppingstone's basement is like a small store for our youth when they are in need, easily accessible because of volunteers like Monica!



**Emily, Youth Mentor Volunteer**

Steppingstone Transitional Living is a great place to share life experiences, job skills, and wisdom with our youth. Emily has been using her field of psychology to mentor a young person in our Steppingstone program for the past couple of months. The two have found they have connected deeply over their shared hobbies, which was especially helpful over the holidays when our youth often do not have much family to spend time with. From our youngest newborn clients through age 21, volunteers can add something special to a client's experience.



### Mastercard & American Water, Facilities Support Volunteer Groups

Campus beautification is important to ECH, helping our clients take pride in their surroundings. From campus cleanup to planting flower beds, we need our group volunteers for an array of hands-on tasks. Mastercard & American Water have provided crucial help in this area, returning multiple times to do whatever is needed. Our barn, attic, clothing room, basement, and other areas are now clean and clear, thanks to our faithful groups!



## Volunteering to Contribute: Supporting ECH's Mission Through Generous Gifts



### Immanuel UCC Ferguson

ECH has been blessed to be a recipient of the Immanuel UCC Ferguson Food Drive, which was started by Ed and Jan Viehmann around 40 years ago. This year, 49 totes were donated, each filled with everything a family would need for a Thanksgiving feast. Forty seven church families work together to collect and package the items that were distributed to ECH client families.

### Plaza Motors

Team members from Plaza Motors and their parent company Asbury Automotive selected gifts as part of ECH's 2022 Adopt-A-Child Christmas drive. It was their second year working with ECH but the first year they engaged on a larger scale within their organization, providing holiday cheer to 36 children.

**"We were thrilled to be able to contribute to such a wonderful organization that does so much to help guide and support our community's youth and their families."** -Renee Jones from Plaza

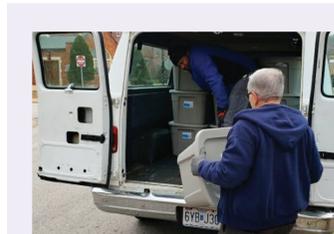
### Mark Schoonover

Every year, Mark Schoonover is one of the first to sign up for the Adopt-A-Child program and also one of the first to deliver the gifts to the ECH offices. He likes to help children have a nice Christmas and to know that someone cares about them. "I'm not up on what children are into now, so the wish list is very helpful," said Mark.

**"It's fun knowing you are bringing joy to someone you do not know, and will probably never meet, but is in need in our community. I feel a little like Santa bringing a surprise for Christmas."**

### Menards in Manchester

The Menards team chose ECH as the nonprofit they would support for the holidays because they knew we would enable them to make a real difference for children and families. An email went out to all 150 employees and the corporate office provided signage for the toy aisle to encourage people to participate. Their collection box was filled to overflowing multiple times throughout the season. In total, they collected more than 700 toys and gifts for ECH.



**49**  
TOTES DONATED



**700+**  
TOYS AND GIFTS COLLECTED



### Residential Treatment

ECH's nationally-recognized residential treatment program is licensed to provide intensive, full-time care for young people ages 6-18. Youth receive individual, group, and family counseling as well as case management and psychiatric services. During their stay with us, they find a safe place to address their unique challenges and learn skills that can help them return to family and community life.

Children served.....	39
Average age of client.....	15.1
Average daily census.....	17.8
Average length of stay.....	222 days
Youth satisfaction score.....	4.5 (scale of 1-5)



### Steppingstone Transitional Living

The Steppingstone program is offered in Kansas City and St. Louis to walk alongside youth ages 16-21 as they navigate the crucial time between childhood and adulthood. Services are customized to each participant's needs and can include housing, life skills training, case management, mental health services, and medical coordination. Their time with us is designed to be a launchpad for a more successful future.

<b>STEPPINGSTONE STL</b>	
Youth served.....	52
Average age of client.....	19.1
Average daily census.....	25.8
Discharged to a less restrictive setting.....	95%

<b>STEPPINGSTONE KC</b>	
Youth served.....	89
Average age of client.....	18.9
Average daily census.....	35.2
Discharged to a less restrictive setting.....	81.6%



### Education Services

ECH's Educational Services are focused on individualized learning, starting with early childhood through graduation. The family-friendly environment at our Early Education Center gives children a strong educational foundation, beginning at birth, until they enter kindergarten. The ECH School welcomes students from throughout the St. Louis area who struggle in a traditional classroom as well as children who are a part of our Residential Treatment program.

<b>EARLY EDUCATION CENTER</b>	
Children served.....	65
Average age of students.....	3.4
Ages Served.....	Birth to 5

<b>ECH SCHOOL</b>	
Children served.....	61
Average age of students.....	14.5
Grades served.....	2nd – 12th



### Home and Community-based Services

ECH's Home and Community-based Services are available in St. Louis, Jefferson City, Union, and Poplar Bluff to assist families during their most difficult moments. Family Solutions for Kids is an in-home program that helps the whole family learn new ways to address problems and relate to one another. The Foster Care Case Management team works with families by providing them with the tools and support needed for a happy, healthy future. Outpatient Psychiatry offers access to crucial behavioral health services that are in otherwise short supply.

<b>FAMILY SOLUTIONS FOR KIDS</b>	
Clients served.....	407
Average age of clients.....	11
Average length of service.....	192 days
Client satisfaction score.....	4.9 (scale of 1-5)

<b>FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT – CENTRAL REGION</b>	
Clients served.....	113
Average age of clients.....	9.6
Permanent families created.....	40 (goal=34)

<b>FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT – EASTERN REGION</b>	
Clients served.....	120
Average age of clients.....	9.5
Permanent families created.....	30 (goal=39)

### Officers

Shari L. Smith, *President*  
E. David Viehmann, *Vice President*  
Paul G. Flynn, *Treasurer*  
Stephen R. Schroeder, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Dennis Mertz, *Corporate Secretary*

### Members

Regina Berwin  
Jeremy Fetting  
William T. Gamewell  
Gerhard K. Glassl  
Gail Saxton  
Susan Shelton  
Lucille C. Smith  
Selena Vaughn  
Annie L. Williams

### Board Member Emeritus

David R. Frenley, Esq.

### Leadership Staff

Michael P. Brennan, *Chief Executive Officer*  
Angela Sliopen, *Chief Operations Officer*  
Brandi Behne, *Chief Financial Officer*  
Sherry Gerke, *Chief Development Officer*



### Mission Statement

Partnering with the community to assist children, youth and families in their unique pursuit of health and wholeness through quality, professional, and faithful services.



www.everychildshope.org

