



Welcome to Our New CEO, Julia Adami

New energy, new ideas, new hope... **Julia Adami, MS, LPC**, started her position as the new Chief Executive Officer of our organization on July 24.

"We are excited to welcome Julia as the next leader of Every Child's Hope," said Shari Smith, board president. "She comes to us with decades of impressive experience and a longstanding commitment to serving Missouri children."

"I'm honored to step into this role for an agency I've admired for many years," said Adami. "I'm excited to work alongside the ECH staff and those who strengthen our mission via donations, partnership, and volunteerism."

Adami has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Missouri State University and a Master's Degree in Counseling from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She has held leadership roles in nonprofit, government, and private sectors.

She is responsible for guiding the agency's strategic direction, overseeing financial and operational teams, building relationships with individual donors, corporate and foundation funders, community, governmental and institutional partners, and advocating for children and families across Missouri.



"I look forward to supporting and empowering the greatest asset we have: People, both those who serve and those we serve," said Adami.

Celebrating 40 Years of Service

After 40 years of serving Every Child's Hope and youth throughout Missouri, past CEO Michael Brennan retired July 28, 2023. He was honored at a reception held June 23, 2023, joined by family, current and former staff, and colleagues from across the region.

Mike began his career at ECH in 1983 as a youth care worker directly impacting the lives of young people who came into our care. He became ECH's executive director in 1998, and later CEO, leading the agency through a dramatic period of growth with evolving care models and industry best practices.

Mike also led our staff through the turbulent COVID-19 pandemic, keeping our clients and staff safe while providing exceptional care. His tenure was capped with the construction of the William N. Dill Youth Development Center that will provide residential treatment services for 30 young people at one time in a newly constructed, state-of-the-art facility on the St. Louis campus.

"I look forward to watching ECH continue to grow, flourish and get even better at the work we do. I promise I will be your biggest cheerleader and supporter. All of my best to each one of you and thanks so much from the bottom of my heart."



Fire Delays Youth Development Center Opening

Overnight on July 22, a fire occurred in a storage room of the William N. Dill Youth Development Center that burned through the ceiling damaging roof trusses and some building systems. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

The Center was scheduled to open this fall for residents, but that schedule has been delayed indefinitely while our construction partners and insurance adjusters assess the situation.

We are heartbroken by this news, but we are reminded that ECH has faced and overcome many challenges in our 165-year history. A fire at the original St. Louis orphanage on Carr Ave. in 1863 motivated our founders to purchase a farm on St. Charles Rock Road where ECH resides today. Another fire during a blizzard in 1877 burned the three-year-old building to the ground. Stonemasons reclaimed and reused many of the stones from the building that remain the foundation of the current ECH Treatment Center.

ECH has evolved over the years to broaden our footprint across Missouri and add programs to help young people grow. This incident is only a setback, and ECH remains committed to helping young men and women as a community leader in the areas we serve. We are grateful for your trust and support that allows us to provide hope for every child, healing for every family, every day.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Community Partners Strengthen ECH

Every Child's Hope is pleased to announce another round of funding from three of our amazing community partners: St. Louis County Children's Service Fund, Children's Services Fund of Jackson County and Franklin County Community Resource Board. These organizations fund services to strengthen children and families by providing mental and behavioral health services through a voter-approved, quarter-cent sales tax.

St. Louis County Children's Service Fund (CSF) is the largest children's service fund in the state and has been a major agency donor since its beginning in 2010. They recently awarded a total of \$5.3 million dollars to ECH over three years to fund Steppingstone Transitional Living, Family Solutions for Kids, and Outpatient Psychiatry Services.

In Kansas City, Steppingstone received a **Children's Services Fund of Jackson County** Capacity Building grant to provide life skills training to staff and youth. This funding is in addition to the more than \$500,000 we receive annually to provide temporary shelter and transitional living services to KC youth.

In 2021, ECH expanded our Family Solutions for Kids and Outpatient Psychiatry Services programs into Franklin County. We are entering our third year of funding from the **Franklin County Community Resource Board** to provide these much-needed services from our office in Union, MO.

Thank you to these communities who voted to invest in the well-being of children and to these organizations who enable us to accomplish our mission to provide hope and healing to kids and families every day!



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

A Song in His Heart at Steppingstone



BG came to the Kansas City Steppingstone campus in January 2023 with his two brothers. He has lofty goals for his future and is grateful for how the staff has worked to facilitate his academic interests.

"A teacher introduced me to classical music in sixth grade," shared BG. "I thought I wanted to become a teacher, but this music teacher was so influential. I discovered that classical music is so beautiful."

A violinist who cites Dmitri Shostakovich as his favorite composer, BG has decided to make music composition his career. He was recently selected to the Kansas City Youth Symphony and hopes to attend William Jewell College in Liberty, MO after his high school graduation.

"I have a long way to go, but I eventually want to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston to get a Masters and Doctorate degree in music composition."

BG showcased his musical talent and outgoing personality for staff and guests at the Life Skills Hub dedication in April.

The Steppingstone staff has played a key role helping BG move toward a successful adulthood.

"Megan has been a great help," added BG. "I started a part-time job in May and learned about financial wellness. The staff helped me with my job application and resume."

"The Steppingstone campus gives me space for creativity and allows me to play. I love the campus beauty where I can sit outside and be inspired," offered BG. "I wouldn't know what I would do without Steppingstone."

NAP and YOP Tax Credits Available

Did you know your gift of \$1,000 or more to ECH could entitle you to a 50% tax credit, offsetting your Missouri State Income Tax liability. **Visit the Donation Opportunities page on our website or scan this code for more information.**





Life Skills Hub Dedication in Kansas City

Every Child's Hope dedicated the new Life Skills Hub on the Kansas City Steppingstone campus on April 26, 2023.

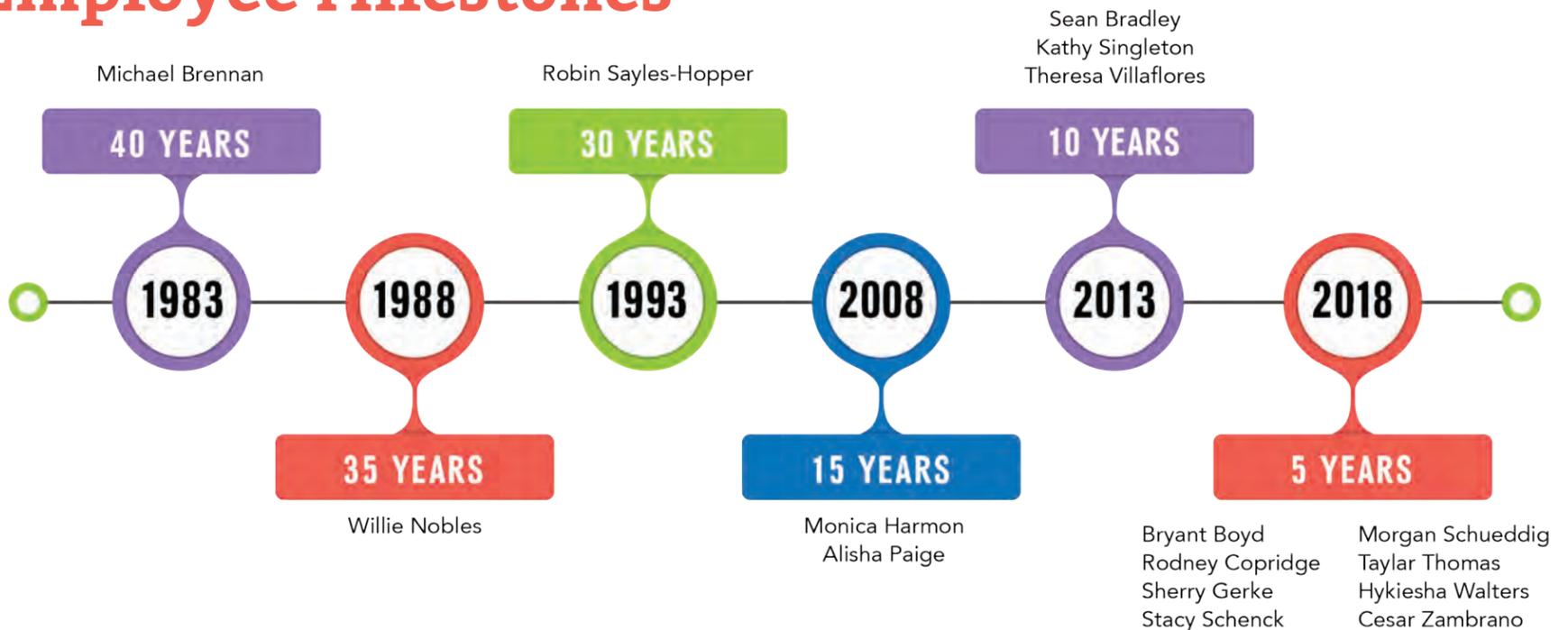
Life skills teaching is one of the pillars of Steppingstone's transitional living program. The new building provides a dedicated space where youth can receive valuable guidance in a safe and welcoming environment.

The project is a renovation of a former three-bedroom home on the campus into a modern, accessible space that includes a community room where staff will provide life skills teaching, a computer room where youth can do work and apply for jobs, and an upgraded kitchen space for cooking and relaxing. The renovation was made possible through grants from the Sunderland Foundation, the Hall Family Foundation and from the Steppingstone Auxiliary.

"Many of our youth have deficits in areas of basic life skills due to experiencing complex trauma and neglect while growing up. Our hope is that the hub will be a place where generosity, belonging, mastery and independence will be modeled and allow youth to feel less disconnected and better prepared for successful adult living," said Durbin.

"Transitioning to adult living has become increasingly complex and challenging," said Lynn Durbin, Steppingstone director in Kansas City. "The new hub is a place where social-emotional learning can take place and youth become better connected to the community."

Employee Milestones



JUDY WAGGANER retired in July after 24 years as ECH's data entry manager. Chief Development Officer Sherry Gerke commented, "Judy interacted with thousands of people in her career. Her years of dedicated service is appreciated by donors, volunteers, and staff. ECH is grateful for her work that served as a foundation for fundraising activities."



REGGIE JONES retired in June after 41 years at ECH, most recently working with our St. Louis Steppingstone program. "During Reggie's time with ECH he was a gentle giant with a big heart who wore many hats," said Catrina Fitzpatrick, St. Louis Steppingstone Program Director. "He made such a huge impact in the lives of our youth with his wisdom, tough love, and passion. He was truly an asset to the Steppingstone Program and will be missed dearly."



Judy and Reggie



A Look Back

Back to school! We're excited to welcome students at our ECH school for the 2023-24 year. ECH has always offered excellent educational opportunities to the children we serve, like these scholars practicing their typing and sewing skills in the late 1940s.

Front Desk Volunteers Needed

We need you!

Friendly volunteers are needed to greet visitors, direct deliveries, and help with small tasks at our Treatment Center. Visit the volunteer page on our website or scan the code for a complete job description and contact information.



SAVE THE DATE

for our 23rd Annual Golf Classic

Sept. 18, 2023
Old Hickory Golf Club
Sponsorships Available



REGISTER at everychildshope.org or by scanning this code.



VIEW OUR WEBSITE WITH UPDATES ON EVENTS AT EVERYCHILDSHOPE.ORG

In This Issue...

Welcome to our New CEO, Julia Adams!

Celebrating 40 Years of Service: Mike's Retirement Party

Five Delays Youth Development Center Opening

Employee Milestones & Retirements

Life Skills Hub Dedication in Kansas City

Client Spotlight: A Song in His Heart at Steppingstone

Donor Spotlight: Community Partners Strengthen ECH



every child's hope
8240 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63114

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