EVANGEL HOME

MINISTERING TO HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN SINCE 1955

CHRIST LEADS  PEOPLES CARE  LIVES CHANGE

FALL/WINTER 2016
From the DIRECTOR

Finding Deep Roots  by Gerre Brenneman

In September I attended my 50th high school reunion – Hoover High Class of ’66. It’s difficult to share memories without revealing age, so I jumped over that hurdle a long time ago.

I suppose every class thinks it’s special, but the 1966 Patriots’ class really does own several distinctions. We attended a brand new school, and we were the first class to enter as sophomores. The entire student body was less than 900 and our class was about 375. We had excellent teachers who were chosen to get the new school up and running. We did not win a single football game the first two years but we won the league championship in 1966. We still talk about that season. We have lost about 50 classmates (that we know of) – a number which seems more than our fair share, but this was just prior to drugs becoming a problem, Viet Nam was calling and claiming some, and we ARE getting older.

We were raised by the Greatest Generation and yet embraced much of the Counter Culture – childhood and young adult markers for those of us known forever as the Baby Boomers. Many in my class are successful, many are still married to their high school sweethearts, many are believers, and many are very generous.

One of the proudest moments of my life came at our reunion dinner, Sept. 24, when I was called to the podium with two others: one a classmate and one a 1966 coach. The class of ’66 had extra money in the reunion fund and divided it among the three of us whose organizations “are making our world a better place.” Wow!

So I got to stand in front of those people I’ve known (and some I’ve not known) for 50+ years and speak briefly about Evangel Home. I was privileged to share my life’s work because of their generosity.

Those high school roots are anchored firm in fellowship and have grown into dedication to Christ for many of us. Thank you for being part of that root system.

Serving Him Together,
Gerre Brenneman, Executive Director
MEET EMILIE & JESSICA

EMILIE HAMILTON

One of our greatest joys at Evangel Home is when a graduate joins staff -- that's about 1/3 of us and is a balance that makes us stronger. Emilie graduated from CrossRoads on January 31, 2003 and has just become more and more the person she knows God created her to be. She has joined us as an assistant to Ruby in CrossRoads. Welcome Home, Emilie.

JESSICA LUSK

Jessica is our new volunteer coordinator. She has received the best training possible for her new position -- she was a volunteer! She has done great things with our clothing donations, and now she will do great things with our volunteers. We are so excited!

Kindness & Love Among Our Youngest

Christopher is the kind of friend who will help his little buddy, Evie, by carrying her Princess backpack to day care and holding her hand on the way there. Both of these kiddos are staff children, and it is a bonus for us on days when they "work." Evie even lets us know when she can't come to work.
EMILY’S EDGE

A Financial Update from our Office Manager

I can’t believe that another year is almost in the books! 2016 has been a year of trusting that God will provide for our needs and stepping out in obedience where he is leading us. We have seen this in the ways that you have so generously given to Evangel Home with your time, talents and treasures. We have also seen this in the ways that our women and children are growing, learning and changing.

One of my roles at the Home is working with our staff to make sure that our resources are used wisely. I’m a stickler for doing research (as many of our staff are) to find the best deal on anything from copy paper to a new phone system.

And speaking of phones, your generous donations at our 61st annual banquet in September have allowed us to purchase a brand new phone system that will be installed soon. We are excited to have clear communication with our callers. Our house managers are also excited about a special cordless phone they will use to take calls while they are doing their other tasks around the Home.

Looking at the above numbers, you can see how important giving in the last quarter of the year is for us. Our banquet generated some much needed financial support that will help to carry us through the coming weeks. We are still in need of some end of the year funding and trust that God will prompt hearts to continue to give freely to the Home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 Year to Date</th>
<th>2015 Totals</th>
<th>2014 Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income:</td>
<td>$454,500</td>
<td>$873,050</td>
<td>$856,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense:</td>
<td>$597,600</td>
<td>$871,979</td>
<td>$775,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit:</td>
<td>$143,100</td>
<td>$1,071</td>
<td>$110,323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER for YOU: To Give and To Receive a Plastic Chair

Many of our staff and board serve in ministries and mission opportunities beyond Evangel Home. Jessica Lusk, our Volunteer Coordinator, recently traveled to the Dominican Republic with some of her church family (The Word). As she shared her experience, we all realized that the people she lived with for a short time, live in poverty and conditions we cannot begin to imagine. Yet their lives exhibit a thankfulness and faith that make us examine our own hearts and actions. In Jessica’s own words:

“Notice the plastic chair the woman (Abuellas) is holding? She brought it out of her home for me to sit in. It was followed by 4 more for the rest of the team to sit in. This was a common occurrence throughout the “dump villages.” They are literally villages and structures built in a dump. This is where the people live.

“When we were standing in the streets talking, a parade of women carrying plastic chairs came towards us offering us a seat. They didn't need to do that. But, out of their sincere hearts and joy of hospitality they offered us a place to sit.

“Much like Christ did with his disciples. He sat, ate, and fellowshipped with them. He wants to do the same with you. All you have to do is invite him.”

No matter how beautiful your Thanksgiving table looks nor how delicious the meal tastes, set a plastic chair for Jesus at your table. And at Christmas, the most beautiful decoration might not be shiny and colorful but dinged and dull - - that plastic chair might be the greatest gift of all.

Christmas blessings to one and all.
GIFT IDEAS for the CRISIS HOME

These gift ideas are for the women and children living at the Crisis Home during Christmas. We never know who will be here, so we ask that gifts be left unwrapped or their specific contents (sizes, etc.) be indicated on the outside of each package. Wrapping paper, ribbon, tape and scissors would also be welcome.

FOR THE WOMEN

Personal
- Curling irons & hair dryers,
- hair products, perfume,
- jewelry, disposable razors,
- cosmetics, cosmetic bags,
- deodorant, towels, lotion,
- mirrors, manicure items.

Clothing
- Warm pajamas, sweat outfits (all sizes), purses,
- XL t-shirts, socks, tennis shoes, slippers, sweaters,
- gloves, underwear.

This ‘n that
- Gift cards, umbrellas, Bibles & devotionals, stationery & postage stamps, journals,
- nice pens, watches, alarm clocks, wallets.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Infants
- Sleepers, caps, socks, toys,
- blankets, diapers.

Toddlers
- Sweatshirts, sweatpants,
- socks, coats, caps/hats,
- books, toys.

Older kids
- Sweat outfits, socks,
- gloves, coats, backpacks,
- PJs, school & art supplies, books.

CHRISTMAS SPONSORSHIP

WHAT IS A CHRISTMAS SPONSOR?
A Christmas sponsor is a family, individual or group who donates gifts specifically chosen for one of our women or families who are participating in an Evangel Home long-term program such as the GARDEN, Community Connection, or CrossRoads.

WHAT ABOUT THE CRISIS HOME RESIDENTS?
Those women and children living in the Crisis Home are remembered through generous donations of generic, unwrapped gifts since we never know in advance who will be here. Christmas gift suggestions for them may be found on page 11 of this magazine.

HOW DOES A SPONSOR KNOW WHAT TO BUY?
Each woman prepares a “wish” list which has been composed following specific guidelines so that requests are appropriate and none too costly. Sponsors need not purchase everything on the list.

MAY I BE PRESENT WHEN MY GIFTS ARE OPENED?
You may be present if you are sponsoring a woman or family who is either in Community Connection or CrossRoads. Residents in our GARDEN program open their gifts together on Christmas morning.

WILL I BE ABLE TO MEET MY FAMILY OR PERSON?
Yes. This can be prearranged with Evangel Home staff.

HOW DO I BECOME A SPONSOR?
Simply call the Evangel Home at 264-4714 and ask to speak with Ruby Cox or Emilie Hamilton. You may specify your desire to sponsor an individual or family at that time.
GRADUATES in WAITING

The three beautiful women pictured below will graduate before the end of the year. Their caps and gowns are waiting, but they still have those final exams to pass! During our recent banquet, they each held a sign, along with other Evangel Home women, describing themselves “Before and After,” or “Then and Now.” Here is what their signs said, and what each woman plans to do after graduation:

**VICKIE CORPUS** (CrossRoads)
*Before: Gangster Mom*  
*Becoming: Loving and Dedicated Mother*

**Plans:** Vickie and her daughter, Kandice, will be in our Community Connection Program. Vickie will pursue employment in her field as a Professional Medical Assistant and Kandice will continue her education as an elementary student at Kepler Neighborhood School.

**JANE RATZLAFF** (CrossRoads)
*Before: Judgemental  
Becoming: Accepting*

**Plans:** Jane will continue at Evangel Home in Community Connection and plans to enroll in the Culinary Arts program at Fresno City College.

**MARIA TOSCANO** (GARDEN)
*Before: Didn’t Know Myself  
Becoming: Found God. Found Myself.*

**Plans:** To move off campus and back into the work force.

Several times a year an Evangel Home grad will stop by to see her name on the Hall of Faith. The other day, Deborah Harvey, class of 1985-86, was our surprise visitor. Deborah was in the first group of women to move into the apartment complex we purchased in 1985. Seeing and chatting with her was a wonderful reminder of the importance of the Board’s decision to purchase the complex that we now call CrossRoads.

---

**A Thank You Note from Nelda Baker**  
Outgoing Board member/President  
1993-98; 2011-16

Had an Evangel Home BLT Lately?

At Evangel Home BLT stands for Bite of Lunch and a Tour. It is the perfect way to introduce new people to the Home. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and invite your small group, Bible study, service club, etc. to Evangel Home for lunch and then receive a private tour of our campus. We try to schedule most of our BLTs on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The tour is from 11:00 to noon, with lunch to follow with our residents and staff.

If you are interested in learning more or to schedule a date, please call and talk to Jessica Lusk, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 264-4714.
2016 BANQUET: One Heart; Many Different Parts

What a great and inspirational evening! Thanks to each of you who could spend it with us. We prayed before the event that God would be honored, our women would be encouraged, and you, our friends, would know how much we need and appreciate you. That stick figure video, One Heart Many Parts, pretty well summed it up.

We loved everything about the night from greeting friends to introducing our women; telling you about Anthi’s book and her song; realizing the quality of the two young women who shared their stories with you; and seeing the women on stage with their signs.

This is the fourth year we’ve concluded the banquet with the handmade heartfelt signs made by our program women (pictured below). It seems to be the perfect way for each of them to share a little with you about what being a Christ follower has meant in their lives. So we have made that our banquet-closing tradition. Thank you for cheering them on!

Our September electronic newsletter includes links to all four videos we saw that night. If you would like to be on that mailing list, just go to our website at www.evangelhome.org, scroll down a bit, and
there on the left side is a little box to sign up for the newsletter. Can’t be much easier. We send out a short one each month with updates and needs.

Speaking of updates and needs, you gave so freely at the banquet that the cost of a new phone system was covered and the work has been scheduled. Enough money was given to cover security doors for each of the apartments; Five Gals Cleaning received contributions, and you were very generous with gifts for the general fund.

Thanks again for being one of the parts that keeps us going.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Thank You Note from Nelda Baker
Outgoing Board member/President
1993-98; 2011-16

It was October 20, 1992 and the telephone rang. I had no idea of how that phone call would impact my life. Evangel Home Director, Gerre Brenneman, was calling to ask if I would consider being on the Evangel Home Board. I was excited about serving and meeting new people, but concerned. What was I getting into?

I had absolutely no idea what the Home would come to mean to me and how significant it would be in my life. I am so glad I said, “Yes,” and agreed to serve that first 3-year term. What a special gift it turned out to be!

It has been a fabulous privilege to work alongside the staff and board in this ministry. Without a doubt, we know our goals, and stay true to the original purpose of providing a Jesus-centered home for women and children in crisis. Christ does lead us, many people really care, and lives have been changed by the hundreds. I have seen it happening now for more than 20 years.

My life is one of those changed by the Evangel Home and as I leave this term of office, I am thrilled to have been a small part of this ministry. I’ve been able to participate up close and personal; I’ve cheered for women at their graduation ceremonies; grown to love and appreciate staff; been part of a truly united board; and one of my favorite things is to introduce new people to the Home. I love giving tours! I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the chance to serve in these ways. Thank you!

Had an Evangel Home BLT Lately?

At Evangel Home BLT stands for Bite of Lunch and a Tour. It is the perfect way to introduce new people to the Home. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and invite your small group, Bible study, service club, etc. to Evangel Home for lunch and then receive a private tour of our campus. We try to schedule most of our BLTs on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The tour is from 11:00 to noon, with lunch to follow with our residents and staff.

If you are interested in learning more or to schedule a date, please call and talk to Jessica Lusk, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 264-4714.
These gift ideas are for the women and children living at the Crisis Home during Christmas. We never know who will be here, so we ask that gifts be left unwrapped or their specific contents (sizes, etc.) be indicated on the outside of each package. Wrapping paper, ribbon, tape and scissors would also be welcome.

FOR THE WOMEN

**Personal**
- Curling irons & hair dryers, hair products, perfume, jewelry, disposable razors, cosmetics, cosmetic bags, deodorant, towels, lotion, mirrors, manicure items.

**Clothing**
- Warm pajamas, sweat outfits (all sizes), purses, XL t-shirts, socks, tennis shoes, slippers, sweaters, gloves, underwear.

**This ‘n that**
- Gift cards, umbrellas, Bibles & devotionals, stationery & postage stamps, journals, nice pens, watches, alarm clocks, wallets.

FOR THE CHILDREN

**Infants**
- Sleepers, caps, socks, toys, blankets, diapers.

**Toddlers**
- Sweatshirts, sweatpants, socks, coats, caps/hats, books, toys.

**Older kids**
- Sweat outfits, socks, gloves, coats, backpacks, PJs, school & art supplies, books.
Our 2016 Volunteer of the Year, and recipient of this beautiful Margaret Hudson angel which was presented at the Banquet, is Riverpark Bible Church.

They have served in a variety of ways through the years and have pulled weeds, restored buildings, conducted chapel, taught and still do teach crafts, served on our board of directors, and provided special events for our women.

Thank you and Congratulations!

Memorial & Honoraria Donations

If you would like to remember a loved one with a memorial donation or honor a special person or milestone through a gift to Evangel Home, please complete the following form.

☐ Honoraria  ☐ Memorial

Name of deceased or honoree

Honoraria occasion (optional)

Send acknowledgement card to:

Address
City State Zip

Remembered by (your name):

Address
City State Zip

Amount Enclosed
$_____
Checks may be made payable to: EVANGEL HOME

Mail completed form to:
EVANGEL HOME
137 N. Yosemite
Fresno, CA 93701
EMILY’S EDGE
prompt hearts to continue to give freely to the Home.
are still in need of some end of the year funding and trust that God will
financial support that will help to carry us through the coming weeks. We
quarter of the year is for us. Our banquet generated some much needed
Looking at the above numbers, you can see how important giving in the last
And speaking of phones, your generous donations at our 61st annual banquet
phone system.
our staff are) to find the best deal on anything from copy paper to a new
our resources are used wisely. I’m a stickler for doing research (as many of
One of my roles at the Home is working with our staff to make sure that
and children are growing, learning and changing.
have also seen this in the ways that our women
with your time, talents and treasures.  We
have so generously given to Evangel Home
stepping out in obedience where he is leading
that God will provide for our needs and
the books! 2016 has been a year of trusting
I can’t believe that another year is almost in

A Financial Update from
our Office Manager

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Totals</th>
<th>2015 Totals</th>
<th>2016 Year to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income: $454,500</td>
<td>Expense: $597,600</td>
<td>Deficit: $143,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income: $873,050</td>
<td>Expense: $871,979</td>
<td>Surplus: $1,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income: $856,998</td>
<td>Expense: $775,037</td>
<td>Surplus: $110,323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GIFTS FOR OUR HOLIDAY FOOD PANTRY

SPECIAL FOOD ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- Turkeys and hams
- Fresh yams and cranberries
- White potatoes
- Sour cream and dip mix
- Butter and margarine
- Instant Pistachio pudding
- Evaporated milk
- Cranberry sauce
- Yellow onions
- Fresh vegetables for trays
- Corn meal
- Black and green olives
- Punch mix and apple cider
- Crushed pineapple
- Sweetened condensed milk
- Gravy packets
- Pies: apple, cherry, pumpkin
- Dinner rolls

DAILY NEEDS

- Canned food (LOTS of it)
- Hamburger meat & chicken
- Macaroni & cheese
- Spaghetti & other pastas
- Tomato & pasta sauce
- Canned fruit
- Kidney beans
- Coffee & tea bags
- Hot chocolate mix
- Splenda & coffee creamer
- Cooking oil & sugar
- Mustard & ketchup
- Peanut butter & jam/jelly
- Salad dressing
- Paper towels & napkins
- Gallon-size Zip-Lock bags
MEET EMILIE & JESSICA

Elysa Altounian  Debbie Elia
Delores Armo  Diana Mazman
Nelda Baker  Marilyn Mikow
Don & Fran Bishel  Russ & Patty Dykstra
Deborah Boyett  Anonymous
Gerre Brenneman  Anonymous
Marian Brenneman  Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Corea  Winnifred Bretz
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Corea  Winnifred Bretz
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Corea  Winnifred Bretz
Evangel Home Board  Evangel Home Staff
Ron Gajarian  Anonymous
Rita Garcia  Patty Lehman-Dykstra
Earl & Jan Giacolini  Anonymous
Vahack & Elizabeth Haroutunian  Anonymous
Joy & Sue Khushigian
Laura Jorgensen  Mr. & Mrs. Ken Hopper
Diane Kassabian  Anonymous
Mimi Koligian  Anonymous
Kim Sorensen  Julie Bortolussi
Joyce Williams  Anne Klassen
Faye Magnone  Robyn Esraelian
Marian Melikian  Anonymous
Marilyn Mikow  Anonymous
Gladys Morris  Anonymous
Lillian Pampeian  Anonymous
Carrie Rowell  Anonymous
Judy Scrivner  MSG Group

HONORARIA

March 1, 2016—October 4, 2016

EMILIE HAMILTON
One of our greatest joys at Evangel Home is when a graduate joins staff -- that's about 1/3 of us and is a balance that makes us stronger. Emilie graduated from CrossRoads on January 31, 2003 and has just become more and more the person she knows God created her to be. She has joined us as an assistant to Ruby in CrossRoads. Welcome Home, Emilie.

JESSICA LUSK
Jessica is our new volunteer coordinator. She has received the best training possible for her new position -- she was a volunteer! She has done great things with our clothing donations, and now she will do great things with our volunteers. We are so excited!

Ryan, our property manager, does more than manage the Evangel Home grounds... he answers the phone when nobody else can get there. We make sure that no matter who calls us they get to speak with a REAL person. Each of our staff members will always jump in and do whatever it takes!

Whatever It Takes!

Ryan, our property manager, does more than manage the Evangel Home grounds... he answers the phone when nobody else can get there. We make sure that no matter who calls us they get to speak with a REAL person. Each of our staff members will always jump in and do whatever it takes!
IN MEMORIAM  
March 1, 2016—October 4, 2016

Dwight Acomb  
Dr. & Mrs. Allan Hedberg
Jean Akens  
Merlin & Rose Bowser
Janet Anderson  
Roy & Shirley Killion
Marvin Arnold  
Debra Avedisian  
Jerry & Nelda Baker
Pansy Barsoian  
Robert & Nancy Hensel
Ruth Beberian  
Alex & Janyce Babigian  
William Dattola  
Kathleen Hopper  
John & Roberta Miller  
Philibosian Families  
Vietnam Veterans of America
Martin Bohigian  
Jerry & Nelda Baker
Merlin Bowser  
Jerry & Nelda Baker  
Evangel Home Board  
Avanell Patillo
Gail Campbell  
Joseph Cole  
Fred Fugere  
Jerry & Kathy Hamilton  
Keith & Martha Lusk  
Bill & Jan Norton  
Todd & Suzanne Yingling
Angelo Colacchio  
Roy & Shirley Killion
John Cotton  
Rosemary Cotton
Clarice Crockett  
Merlin & Rose Bowser
Frank Demmers  
Merlin & Rose Bowser
Paula Fam  
Robert & Joy Barsoian
Doug Ford  
Art & Marlene Dhallin
Ron Gajarian  
George & Sharon Soghmonian
Kathleen Hiebert  
Eldora Warkentin
James Hightower  
Edison Social Club  
Ladies Auxiliary
Denise Kellerhals  
Joe & Sharon Welker
Kirk Kerkochian  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Hopper
Jasmine Markarian  
Jan Hewitt
George Kay Bethel Martin  
Herbert & Rebecca Liles
Alice S. McFarland  
Marti Kleim
Paul Mikow  
Jerry & Nelda Baker
My Mother  
Cheri Segress
Glenn Niswander  
Don Osborne Family
Danny Odell  
Winifred Bretz
Nina Dawn Osterlye  
Wilifred Alire
Beverly Pipes  
Jerrie Cruess
Judi Powell  
Stellar Distributing Inc.
Horace “Tom” Riddle  
Rosemary Riddle
Cruz Rios  
Lillian Holmes
Wanda Rogers  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Hopper
Jerry Seibert  
Seibert Family
Pat Steinhauer  
Leona Thompson
Wayne Trutna  
Don & Cynny Osborne
Winnie Washburn  
John & Margie Washburn
Matthew Whitaker  
Roy & Shirley Killion
Dorothy Williams  
Eva Bailey  
Nathan & Carol Lichti  
Betty Nipp  
Betty Sundermeier
Violet Vartan  
Jerry & Nelda Baker
Jean Winters  
Richard & Barbara Duncan
FINANCIAL UPDATE

You can see how important the last quarter of the year is. Most of that 2014 was balanced into perfect monthly packages, but that is not the way it has ever been without cutting back services or programs. It would be wonderful if income could keep up with expenses, especially this time of year for Evangel Home. We need to continue to be frugal in all our operations. Thank goodness, or we would have some really long meetings!

We still try to be that frugal although not every repair becomes a board item. We realized last year that we needed a new air conditioning system for our shelter, so we put that on hold. ‘A Motion to ‘Investigate Repair or Replacement Costs’.”

In the meeting that included this item: “There was discussion of the typewriter belonging to the Evangel Home. We found it to be in good working order, but we had not used it for several years. We decided to keep it in case we might need it for future projects. However, we would like to replace it if possible.”

A motion was accepted to “investigate repair or replacement of the typewriter.”

We recently dug into our history boxes in search of some old pictures. Then we found minutes from a June, 1960 board meeting that included this item: “There was discussion of the typewriter belonging to the Evangel Home. We found it to be in good working order, but we had not used it for several years. We decided to keep it in case we might need it for future projects. However, we would like to replace it if possible.”

A motion was accepted to “investigate repair or replacement costs.”

We recently dug into our history boxes in search of some old pictures. We also found an old typewriter which by itself was just that - an old typewriter. However, when we looked into our records, we found that it belonged to the Evangel Home! So, we decided to keep it and use it for future projects. However, we would like to replace it if possible.

It is important to our ministry to be as open as possible with the public regarding the typewriter belonging to the Evangel Home. We are proud to have completed and to have been approved for ECFA accreditation. This means we have met high standards of accountability and hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity and transparency.

When you give to an ECFA accredited organization you are supporting a church or nonprofit organization you can trust to use the gift to carry out the Great Commission while meeting high standards of accountability.