

EVANGEL HOME

Ministering to homeless women & children since 1955

Summer 2017



Amazing Race 2017

See story beginning on page 8

Christ Leads

People Care

Lives Change

The Best Gift

I recently celebrated a birthday, and part of the celebration included some of the staff and kids singing “Happy Birthday.” When they were done I told the kids I needed a picture with them. They are a significant part of my life and make a perfect birthday card.



Do you remember a really significant birthday? A special gift or person? Maybe a unique celebration? There was that first bike or that first Bible. I remember receiving my first Bible from a neighbor when I was 8-years old — about the age of most of these children.

It was a Revised Standard edition, complicated to read, but it had pictures AND it had my name engraved in gold on the black cover. I still have it. Even though I struggled with the words, I knew it was special and was to be honored. My mother told me to never place anything on top of it. Just as I didn't understand many of the passages, I didn't quite understand her reasoning, and had many questions about its application. But I obeyed, and I eventually understood her intent.

In my 29 years at Evangel Home I have seen a shift in attitude towards the Bible just as we see it in our culture at large — the questioning of its validity and veracity; of its application to our lives and behavior; of faith in general and Christianity in particular. Women used to often come to Evangel Home with a Bible. That is no longer true.

But you know what? Our women are hungry to learn the Word and make it part of their lives. We realize that we are now the first place many of them really learn about Christianity. Oh they know about it; many of them were taken to church by their grandmothers, but they have never really “tried” it.

Because their mothers have the courage to change and the commitment to stick with it, these children will have a much better chance in life. They might not have their names engraved on Bibles, but they are learning that they themselves are engraved on God's hands (Isaiah 49:16).

It is our prayer that they and their mothers come to know He loves them, He cares deeply, and He will not forget them. That is the best gift.

LOOKING OUTSIDE IN

*By Andrea Sweet
former EH Board Member*



Carrie's angel gift to Gerre

A woman named Carrie is a member of the small choir at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where I also attend. As she sits in her appointed chair in the choir loft every Sunday, her head is bowed. As she concentrates on her hands, which hold a crochet hook and yarn, she tenderly creates little angels like the one pictured on the left.

These angels - Carrie's own design - are produced in a rainbow of colors and sizes, and Carrie always has a few on hand - just in case . . .

A visitor to Westminster, upon seeing Carrie hard at work for the first time, might wonder why she isn't more interested in her

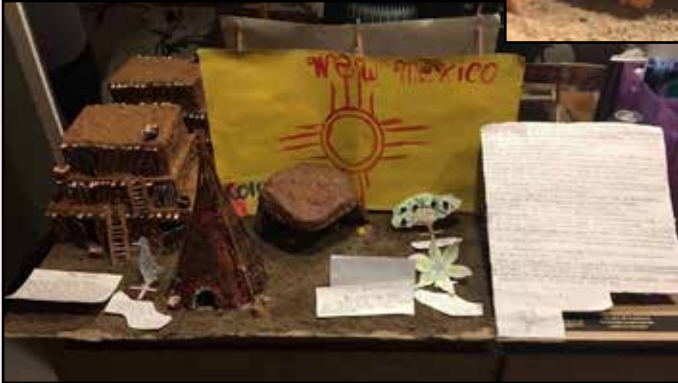
contribution to the choir instead of focusing on a craft. And why isn't someone putting a stop to it? Shouldn't choir members sing and not crochet?

Well, you see Carrie has the beginning stages of Alzheimer's Disease. She loves to sing and has found that keeping her fingers busy really helps her. She then gifts her angels to guest speakers at church, visitors, anyone she feels would like one. In addition, she asks the recipients for prayer for her illness. These little angels represent so much more than just a simple memento. They are love gifts from Carrie and symbolize the hope she has in the power of prayer and her Savior. What a sweet reminder they are that through the work of the Holy Spirit we can begin to really see people - what they are on the inside with all their needs and hurts - instead of just focusing on their behavior or appearance.

The angel in the picture was a gift to Gerre Brenneman when she recently spoke at Westminster. Gerre takes Carrie's request for prayer seriously and the little angel sits on a table in her office where she sees it first thing every morning and can whisper a prayer on Carrie's behalf. Who needs your prayers today?

MASTERPIECE IN THE MAKING

Imagine that you are 11 years old and living in a homeless shelter with your mom and two siblings - - in one room. Good reason not to do your homework, huh? Not if you are this young lady! We have so much admiration for her attitude and determination. She spent hours working in the Evangel Home dining room, and then when it got a bit difficult to work out where everyone was passing by, she moved her project to her bedroom and completed this masterpiece .



Prepared!

Our staff are well-prepared to rescue BODIES as well as SOULS.



LOVE OUR GRADUATES!



Gina Walker congratulates Tishana. Gina is now on EH staff as a house manager and she is also a CrossRoads graduate. Gina graduated in 2010 and came on staff in 2012.

TISHANA STRONG graduated from the CrossRoads program in April. Our director, Gerre Brenneman, gives each graduate a “challenge” and she told Tishana that she must live up to her name: Tishana R. Strong. Gerre told her that, “You came with muscle strength, but you are growing character and spiritual strength and that’s what makes the difference.”

Two months after graduation, Tishana is going strong in Community Connection, and in her own words, “Since I’ve graduated and become a healthier-minded person, I can’t wait to see what the rest of my life will be like. Awesome, I assume!”

“CrossRoads was an amazing experience to have the chance to become a better person. I have already started applying some of the things I learned to my new life. The responses I get from people here are much more positive than they were before.”

SONIA ROMERO graduated from the GARDEN in May, and has moved back with her family. Knowing that she would no longer have the support and structure of Evangel Home, Gerre’s challenge to Sonia was more like a heart-to-heart talk.

She said, “Your past nine months in the GARDEN was like living between two worlds. Today is a celebration that you have chosen the good world. The challenge is that every day for the rest of your life you make that choice—the choice to follow the life you can have in Christ.”

“Sonia, like David in the Bible, you will face enemies and temptation. There will be giants in your life you will need to conquer. Be prepared, and keep drawing close to Jesus so that you don’t end up in enemy territory.”

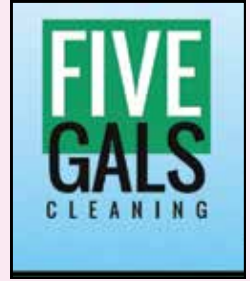


Each graduate receives an Evangel Home pin and asks a special person to pin it on her gown. Sonia asked her mother and sister to have this special honor.

Five Gals Update & Request

As many of you know, we have changed the purpose of Five Gals from being a property cleaning business to being more of an employment readiness program. This involves hiring women from Five Gals as Evangel Home interns — mainly in day care and in the kitchen. Requirements are still the same. Five Gals employees must be graduates of one of our programs and still living here in Community Connection.

These are paid positions and rather than draw on money budgeted for staff salaries, we prefer to maintain a separate account for Five Gals. It is a stand-alone non-profit and donations are tax deductible. We benefit greatly by having this group of trusted women helping Evangel Home and themselves at the same time. There are five employees working on a regular part time basis and the total monthly salary (for all five) averages \$1,000.



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

So Proud of These Graduates!



VICTORIA ROCHA
June 13-An Important Date

There are hardly words to express how proud we are of the woman, Victoria Rocha. Three years to the day after she graduated from Evangel Home, she was honored at a luncheon where she received a total of three scholarships from the Fresno Women's Network to continue her education.

BRITTANY REDELFS is also an EH graduate who now has another diploma. She just graduated from Cal State University Long Beach with a degree in English/Creative Writing. It is so encouraging for all of us to see Brittany taking steps toward her dream.



We at Evangel Home know the importance of *Foundation* — faith, support, little successes leading to bigger ones, education, and housing. These are the reasons we have our Community Connection program—that additional time a woman can live here after she graduates from CrossRoads or the GARDEN. The longer they are here, the better chance they have when they go.

**Thank you for investing in Evangel Home and these women,
and in so many others.**

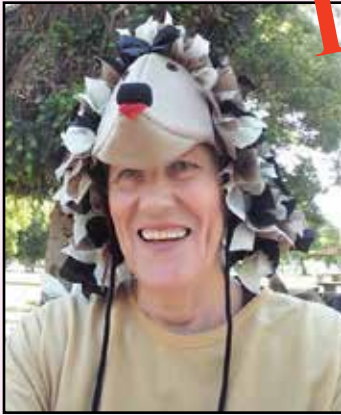
THE AMAZING RACE

The 13th Annual Amazing Race is now in the history books! It was a week that included fun activities, meaningful lessons, serious self-reflection, and significant God moments. It was a week that all of our women, including the race winners, will never forget.

Many, many thanks to so many who helped make this week possible.



Every morning house manager, JoJanelle West, lights the flame and says: "Let the games begin."



Our director, Gerre Brenneman, finds a hiding spot each year and Amazing Race begins with a Hedgehog hunt!



Waiting for a tour of Kearney Mansion to begin. What a fascinating place.



Day One at Kearney Park included games, lots of running and looking for things, and a puzzle with another clue of what to do next.



Serving at the Community Food Bank.

Day 2



What our women lack in bowling skills, they make up in form!

Day 3



A day to make beautiful crosses. Then it was time to paint huge pieces of plywood and illustrate what our verse meant to each of them.

Day 4



Team building games at Woodward Park and some time for a nap!

continued on following page

THE AMAZING RACE

continued

Day 5



All aboard for a train trip to Hanford and one of the week's most challenging days. In addition to difficult clues and assignments, some personal issues surfaced that were dealt with in a way that makes Amazing Race such a valuable week.

Day 6



A special thanks to Sunnyside Trophy Shop for the amazing medals. We LOVE them!

SAVE the DATE!

Annual Fall Banquet

Monday, September 11, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

TorNino's Banquets in Fresno

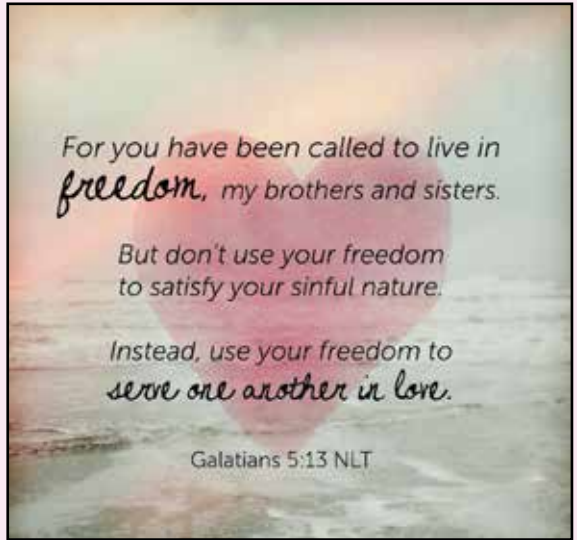
Reservations are required and our banquet is always "SOLD OUT."

INVITATIONS WILL BE MAILED IN JULY!

Serving One Another in Love

We chose this verse as this year's Amazing Race theme because so many things can enslave us. It is hard to truly love when we are bound by sin and problems. These words from one of the participants made it all worthwhile: "Thank you Evangel Home for giving me an opportunity to recognize some of the character defaults that had me bound and chained. It's hard to recognize something as

being a problem if you are not paying attention to it. You all made us face so many things in such a clever, 'sneaky' way. Thank you."



Gifts for Evangel Home women for this year's Amazing Race were these specially made baby hedgehogs from Margaret Hudson's Studio. We chose the hedgehog for our mascot years ago because it reminds us to focus on the essentials of who we want to be in Christ. Not sure if these little ones are praying, laughing or eating but they will be well-loved.

SUPPLIES WISH LIST

Food items

- Meat — all kinds, especially chicken, hamburger and lunch meat
- Cheese
- Pasta and noodles—all varieties
- Canned vegetables
- Tomato sauce
- Rice
- Melons
- Coffee, creamer
- Oil



Supplies & Miscellaneous

- Zip lock bags — small, medium and large
- Trash bags
- Brooms
- Personal care items such as deodorant, tampons and Kotex
- Hair brushes
- Board games (not child)

Apartments We are trying to restock our apartments with these items:



- Pots and pans (3 basic sets needed)
- Alarm clocks (15 needed)
- Toasters (5 needed)
- Can openers (10 needed)
- Utensil sets (3 needed)
- Spatulas and whisks
- New Pillows (10 needed)
- Comforter sets (2 girls, 2 boys,
2 adults)

THANK YOU!

What Happens When Kids Discover FACE PAINT!



This is what happens when kids discover face paint in day care! Didn't they do a great job? They'll never need Halloween masks again!



HAD AN EVANGEL HOME BLT LATELY?

B
L
T

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 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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Giving and Expense through June 2017

Income \$391,208*

Expense \$409,988

*Includes estate and trust gifts of \$120,000

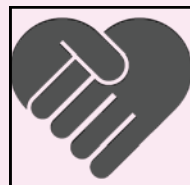
This is the time of year we begin dipping into savings — usually that cushion of money that comes in at the end of the previous year. However, there is another source of income that is life-giving to us and that is what is left to us through wills and estates. The generosity of people who believe in the Evangel Home ministry so passionately has made a huge difference in what we have been able to do through the years.

Yes, we use some of the money for operating expenses but a great deal of it has allowed us to expand our ministry. Partially because of estate gifts we were able to pay off our apartments originally purchased in 1986. Our Learning Center (the original GARDEN house) was purchased with an estate gift that was \$500 more than we needed for the house.

We transfer 10 percent of every estate gift of \$5,000 or more into our endowment fund. We were able to borrow from ourselves to purchase our Counseling Center.

We are blessed to be able to say that all of our property is paid for and we've been debt free for years.

If you would like further information on wills/estates or on how to contribute to our endowment fund, please give us a call at 559-264-4714 and ask for Emily Dull.



Eating Healthier

Grace is one of our kitchen assistants and she is getting ready to serve these delicious grapes for morning snack. Often our women have no idea what constitutes healthy eating and that unhealthy diets can lead to all sorts of issues — from mental to physical. The Evangel Home strives to educate our women in all aspects of a healthy lifestyle.



IN MEMORIAM

February 23, 2017—June 27, 2017

Joanne Bohigian

Susan Millard

Evie Fisher

Gary & Joyce Bedrosian

Rose Garcia

Margie Hildreth

Yoshino Hasegawa

Winifred Bretz

Dorothy Heskett

Ken & Sue Abrahamian

James Higuera

Evangel Home Board

Dick Hubert

Deb Avedisian

Sara Hubert

Bud Jones

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Henry Kliewer

Pauline Kliewer

Nish Kochian

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Susan Martin

Gary & Joyce Bedrosian

Richard & Merlene

Samuelian

Rose Ann Matthews

Steve & Marcia Becker

Paul Milkow

Marilyn Mikow

Maxine Miller

Ted Morgan

Marilyn Missakian

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Jim Osborne

Russ & Patty Dykstra

Charlotte Rose

Kathleen Gray

Jerry Saylor

Russ & Patty Dykstra

Terri Simonian

Russ & Patty Dykstra

Katherine Sinner

Barbara Kline

Annabelle Soligian

Susan Millard

Ellis Sook

Paulette Bopp

Everett & Berneice

Stuahan

Tami Sanchez

Elmer Stumpf

Paulette Bopp

Timm & Sharon

Crabtree

Charles Tavookjian

Jerry & Nelda Baker

HONORARIA

February 23, 2017—June 27, 2017

Deb Avedisian

Anonymous

Gerre Brenneman

Rick & Carol Pharr

Cecily Callahan

Evangel Home Staff

Rosemary Cotton

Frank Shannon

Janet DaSilva

Robert & Susan Toschi

Evangel Home Staff

Anne Klassen

Kim Garo

Anonymous

Earl & Jan Giacolini

Anonymous

Paula Ganimian

Barbara Garabedian

Lorraine Kazarian

Anonymous

Dave & Adrienne Kimball

Paul & Louise Armstrong

Mimi Koligian

Ken & Sue Abrahamian

Marsha Dunlavy

Valerie Lyon

Joe & Sharon Welker

Ashley Larsen

Michelle Doe

Trudy Lauritzen

Russ & Patty Dykstra

Lennon Luallen

Dillon & Brooke Luallen

Kathy Michaels

David & Sharon Smith

Tom & Diana Tusan

Susan Millard

Anonymous

Joan Sandlin

Anonymous

Roslyn Smith-Walton

Evangel Home Staff

Sue Smits

Anonymous

Elaine Sotiropulos

Anonymous

Jolene Stephenson

Russ & Patty Dkystra





www.evangelhome.org

RADIO SCHEDULE	
'HEARTLINE'	
KRDU 1130 AM	
Saturday	7:15 a.m., 7:30 p.m.
Sunday	5:45 p.m.
KCIV 99.9 FM	
Saturday	8:30 a.m.
KGED 1680 AM	
Saturday.....	11:00 a.m.
Sunday.....	11:30 a.m.
www.evangelhome.org	
or visit us on facebook	

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Enhancing Trust

EVANGEL HOME

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559-264-4714

evangelhome.org