

EVANGEL HOME

Ministering to homeless women & children since 1955

Fall/Winter 2017



Christ Leads

People Care

Lives Change

From the DIRECTOR *by Gerre Brenneman*

As Andrea Sweet and I finish this newsletter, and I look through the rough drafts, I am struck by two themes: gratitude and expectation.



The first bit of gratitude is what I have for Andrea who has voluntarily done the graphics, typing and page layout for every one of these newsletters over a period of about 20 years — that's at least 60 newsletters plus other publications. In the "old days," we used to sit side by side and talk about what to include and how things would look. Now we send things back and forth on our computers, and sometimes don't even talk during the process.

That kind of team work requires a lot of trust, very little ego, and always having the same goal in mind. Being able to encourage one another while working with deadlines is a real blessing.

Gratitude abounds in these pages for you, our Evangel Home friends: for your support and enthusiasm at our banquet, for knowing you will respond once again as Christmas sponsors and prayer partners; for volunteering and encouraging our women and children in every way possible; for your visits and for always responding to whatever we need.

Gratitude from our women and children is so simply expressed on The Thanksgiving Tree (see page 5). Please read those little pumpkins and see how grateful our women are.



So grateful to serve with these women!

It is fitting that as we enter the Christmas season, we are filled with a sense of joy and expectation. The joy of recent hope-filled graduates, of adoring newlyweds, of staff together in ministry, are all wonderful. However, they pale in comparison to the expectation and joy we have as we make room in our hearts for Jesus. Whether it's new commitment or renewed love, He is the reason we are filled with gratitude and expectations.

We pray that this season is just as filling for you.

Gerre Brenneman, Executive Director

2017 BANQUET IN REVIEW

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

If we could write a thank you letter that matched the love and encouragement from our friends at this year's banquet, we would send each attendee and supporter a bouquet of roses – pink roses. We did send the Evangel Home women who participated in the program flowers, and it's safe to assume they have not received many bouquets throughout their lives – just as it is safe to assume they have not experienced the kind of love that filled the room during our banquet. Thank you for supporting us, whether through prayer, finances or showing up. It's people like you who give our women that kind of bouquet.

If imitation is the highest form of flattery, then there are two things we are especially "flattered" about as people said they were going to copy some ideas.

One was the theme. Yes, "A Night at the Movies" was a bit mysterious but it worked as a wonderful "wrap around" for the evening. It was more than a theme – it provided atmosphere, action, fun, focus and meaning. Several said they were going to use the idea at their next event.



The second thing to be "imitated" was a comment made on the main feature event – Victoria's story. Evangel Home is best at "helping one woman 1,000 ways rather than 1,000 women one way." They have a better chance to be helped when that thought is put into practice. Our women, and others like them, respond best to deep individual attention; attention that can build trust and point to a relationship with Christ. If God knows every hair on their heads, we'd better know their stories and how best to help!

Left to right: Past EH Board President Nelda Baker, Executive Director Gerre Brenneman, and Office Manager Emily Dull

continued on following page

A Night at the Movies continued from page 3

We can't imagine that there will ever be another gift as meaningful to us as the new pink door pin. When the women handed out pins to the attendees at the banquet, they felt tremendously loved and encouraged. One of the women was so nervous that she even asked, "What if someone says they don't want it?" We assured her that would not happen – everyone would say yes. It was wonderful to see so many people wearing their pins as they left for the evening.

It is even more wonderful to know that so many will be praying for us every time they look at that pink door. We're grateful and want to say thank you.



Volunteer of the Year



Marvella Erickson

Just in case you missed it, Marvella Erickson was honored as this year's Volunteer of the Year for her dedicated service to bringing chapel to our women -- a role she has filled faithfully since 2001.

We shared a little bit of her story at our banquet and what a story it is! Marvella came to the Evangel Home in the mid-90s as a resident. She came with her son who would be turning five the next day. So on that day, staff did what it always does and had a birthday party. That was an amazing event and powerful memory for both Marvella and her son, Caleb, because he had never had a birthday party.

After some help from Evangel Home's emergency shelter, Marvella left for a new job and a home of her own. She said she always knew she would come back to the home to give back to the Lord by leading chapel. She leads chapel twice a month -- that means she has filled this crucial role almost 400 times! That's a pretty good reason to be Volunteer of the Year!

Thanks to your generosity, we received almost \$75,000 in donations and ticket sales. This compares to \$66,000 last year. When all costs are factored in, the net gifts for the night were \$51,000! We almost have the \$15,000 for the Learning Center roof that was one of the needs presented at the banquet.

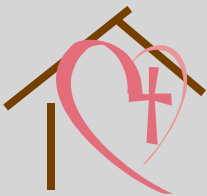
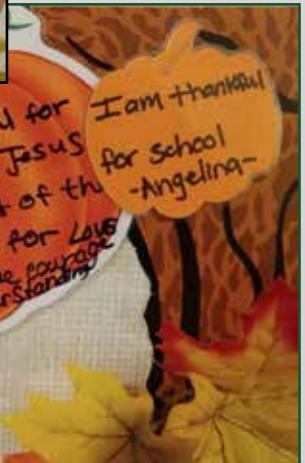
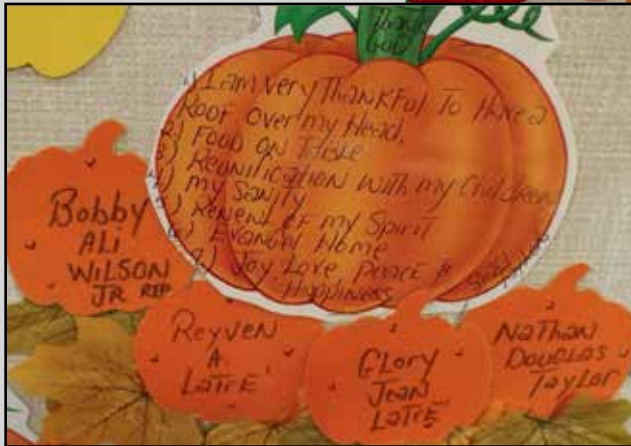
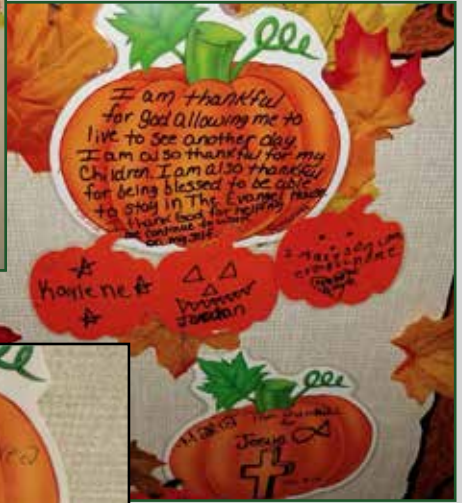
Thank you!

Note: Our "Night at the Movies" videos — "Volunteer Appreciation," "Evangel Home News Reel," "Coming Attractions," "The Pink Door Pin", and "Victoria's Story: The Long Way Home" — can all be seen on YouTube at Evangel Home Fresno.

THE THANKSGIVING TREE



Sentiments, written by our residents — women and children — each rich with thankfulness. They represent lives touched by God's Grace and forgiveness.



OUR APARTMENTS

The Evangel Home campus includes 14 apartments which house residents in our Community Connection and CrossRoads programs, and there are items in each which are badly in need of replacement.

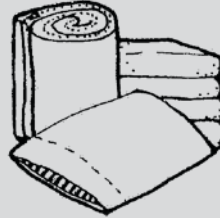
For the apartments:

- Twin-size comforters
- Pillows
- Bath towels
- Dish drying racks

If you'd like to give or know someone who wants to help, please give us a call at (559) 264-4714.

By the 6's:

- 6 coffee makers
(no individual pod types)
- 6 toasters
- 6 can openers



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

GRADUATION DAY!

AMANDA ROMERO — July GARDEN Graduate

They said, "Come on Amanda, trust us." That really is what the whole program is about -- surrendering to God and being lifted up by one another. Amanda moved off campus after graduation, and has been very faithful to return for after care classes and visits.



Amanda trusting her friends to "lift her up."

NICOLE TUCKER— August CrossRoads Graduate

Such a beautiful family. Nicole graduated from CrossRoads in August. As they have been throughout the program, her children were also an important part of the day. We are very proud of each of them. They are now in our Community Connection program. Nicole is looking for work, but says that the most important job she has now is learning to be a better mother to her children: "I know now that I'm shaping them. I'm shaping human beings and it takes time, effort and hard work that I've learned to do here."

Each graduate receives an Evangel Home pin and chooses someone to participate in the "pinning" ceremony. In one of the most touching pinning moments we have ever seen, Nicole's mother Cheryl, did the honors (*pictured at right*).



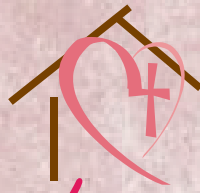
A touching moment



There are several significant symbols in each ceremony, including the graduate's name plaque. At the end of each year the plaques are taken from the graduate wall and placed in the hall of faith. From the first name in 1985/86 to Amanda and Nicole's names, there are about 300 plaques.

We started the tradition of plaques about 15 years ago, and still managed to include graduates from the very beginning. We are thankful to Lillian Holmes for the idea and Mandeep Sidhu for making the plaques.

HOME LIFE



Our Hero!



Boss's Day, in Gerre's words: "It's a wild and faith-filled adventure doing life with this group of amazing women. Evangel Home staff is not always together for a picture, but we are when it comes to everything else. I totally forgot this is Boss's Day, but they reminded me. Sometimes I'm the boss; sometimes they're the boss!"

Congratulations!



Our wonderful cook, Cynthia, became Mrs. Rosales in October.

We are so happy for this beautiful couple.

Grace Rocha - She's come a long, long way!

One day last summer, Grace was introduced to Tree of Life owner, Carolyn Ocheltree. They had lunch, Carolyn asked lots of questions, and Grace had lots of answers. It was a match!

Our Grace: GARDEN graduate, Community Connection resident and Five Gals employee is now also a Tree of Life employee!

Exceptional!



Hilltop Chapel

Thank You!



One of the most faithful congregations in the life of Evangel Home is Hilltop Chapel -- a little church about 50 miles up the hills to the east of us in Miramonte. Pastor Rod Davison and his missions-minded Hilltoppers never miss an opportunity to help out their mission partners. Jessica Lusk, our Volunteer Coordinator, joined friends from Christians in Action to spend the day with these friends.

Front from left: Jessica Lusk, Rauna Sarno; Back from left: Lesley and Rod Davison, Stephanie Anderton.



Gifts for our Holiday & Everyday Pantry

SPECIAL FOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Turkeys and hams
Fresh yams and cranberries
White potatoes
Dinner rolls
Pies (pre-cooked)
Cool Whip
Sour cream and dip mix
Butter & margarine
Instant Pistachio pudding

Yellow onions
Fresh vegetables for trays
Corn meal
Black and green olives
Punch mix and apple cider
Crushed pineapple
Sweetened Condensed milk
Evaporated milk

EVERYDAY NEEDS

Canned food (LOTS of it)
Hamburger meat and chicken
Macaroni and cheese
Spaghetti and other pastas
Tomato and pasta sauce
Canned fruit
Kidney beans
Coffee and tea bags
Unopened reams of 8 1/2 x 11
copy paper

Hot chocolate mix
Splenda and coffee creamer
Cooking oil and sugar
Mustard and ketchup
Peanut butter, jam, jelly
Salad dressing
Paper towels and napkins
Gallon-size Zip-Lock bags
Toilet paper

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

We send a short monthly email update of Evangel Home activities. Sign up is very easy. Just go to our website at www.evangelhome.org and scroll to the box on the left that says "Sign Up for our Newsletter." Your email address goes in the first box, then your first name, your last name, and click on "subscribe." That's it!

The newsletter is delivered to your inbox the second Tuesday of each month. Our print letter is our most detailed and comprehensive publication, but receiving short items by email or Facebook is a great way to keep up with us — and us with you.

KIDDING AROUND

Our young residents find joy in the simplest of activities and possessions. ❤️



Left: Reading a book to a friend.



Right: A giant balloon and your own bed.



Left and above: Fun and laughter — being silly with friends!



Right: Crafts on a Saturday afternoon.



CHRISTMAS SPONSORSHIP



🎁 WHAT ARE CHRISTMAS SPONSORS?

Christmas sponsors are families, individuals or groups who donate 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.

🎁 HOW DOES A SPONSOR KNOW WHAT TO BUY?

Sponsors know exactly what to buy, because each woman prepares a “wish” list which has been composed following specific guidelines so that requests are appropriate and none too costly. Sponsors do not need to purchase everything on the list.

🎁 WILL I BE ABLE TO MEET MY FAMILY OR PERSON?

Yes. This can be worked out between you and them. We do ask, however, that any meeting take place at Evangel Home.

🎁 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 for Christmas.

🎁 MAY I BE PRESENT WHEN MY GIFTS ARE OPENED?

You may be present if you are sponsoring a woman or family who are either in Community Connection or CrossRoads. Residents in our GARDEN program open their gifts together on Christmas morning.

🎁 HOW DO I BECOME A SPONSOR?

Simply call the Evangel Home (264-4714) and ask to speak with Ruby Cox. You may specify your desire to sponsor an individual or family at that time.



FIVE GAL'S: Update



We started Five Gals in 2015 as a small business for our on-campus graduates. The purpose was to clean empty properties, and then we added churches. However, child care became too much of an issue and we had to change the direction of the business.

Five Gals is very valuable in two directions — for the women and for Evangel Home. It provides them with work and interpersonal skills; it gives Evangel Home a layer of back up interns who help around the home. The Five Gals interns are paid and we are supported.



Vickie Corpus

Five Gals is a 501c3 organization, can receive donations, and has its own small board of directors. The only thing missing is money. We currently are supplementing the business with EH general funds. So if this is something you are supportive of, and you would like to give a gift to Five Gals, contact Emily Dull at (559) 264-4714.

Vickie Corpus, a 2016 CrossRoads graduate, has been a Five Gals employee since March of this year. She works in day care and the kitchen and says that these jobs give her a sense of confidence and encouragement. "I feel so good knowing that I can acquire a job being clean and sober."

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Giving and Expense through September 2017

<u>Income</u>	<u>\$580,238</u>
<u>Expense</u>	<u>\$617,638</u>

We have met the \$37,400 deficit with savings from the end of last year. You can see that end-of-year giving is crucial. We are grateful for what you do every day, and prayerful that once again, faithful as well as new friends will help us close the year on a positive note.

CREATIVE GIVING

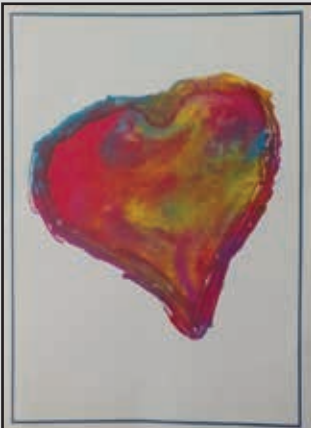
We received a donation from the Riverpark Bible Church High School group of \$24.60. They had recycled cans and given us the money. We thought a note on the bottom of a can was a good way to thank high schoolers.



We received a box one day from out of state. On the inside was a letter from a 13-year old girl explaining that she was sending us bracelets she had made by hand. She said that she likes to ask the question, “What do you do to help people?” She sends a note with the bracelets that says,

“I pray that these bracelets will brighten up your day, and let the bracelets serve as a reminder that God loves you and He cares for you.”

Our kids love receiving new books and they now have some new ones for their library. They came from a bookstore in Tucson, Arizona called Antigone Books. What a great gift!



Words of encouragement and a generous cash gift came in this card from one of our banquet guests: “The Evangel Home is the Energizer Bunny that never stops moving, always seeking ways to encourage, motivate and instill self-worth into God’s precious women. Thanks for continuing to do God’s work and for keeping the pink door open always!”

IN MEMORIAM

June 28—October 18, 2017

Jeffrey Aivasian

Jim & Sina Shamp

Richard John Bos

Jim & Sina Shamp

**Marian Ruth “Zion”
Brown**

Herbert & Rebecca Liles

Dave Byer

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Bob Deel

Loretta Deel

Harriet Deshayes

Nan Forrest

Gail Gorman

Jack & Bernice James

Francis & Nancy Weaver

Linda Dickie

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Brenda Edwards

Lois Williams

Andre A. Escobar

John Joe Escobar

**Ernie & Adelaide
Gabrielson**

Ted Morgan

Carl Gatto

Roberta Rohde

Clemmie Gilstrap

Marsha Miguel

Marian Giffin

Elsie Lamborn

Walter Heidick

Avanell Patillo-

Demmers

Violet Jamgochian

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Louise Johnson

Larry & Judy Ingoldsby

Dolores Kennedy

Daral & Rosemary

Kennedy

Opal Mazzei

Jim & Sina Shamp

Maxine Miller

Ted Morgan

Gladys Mitchell

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Mary Ray

Cheryl Nelson

Tim Shamp

Jim & Sina Shamp

Dorothy Stumpf

Timm & Sharon Crabtree

Elmer & Dorothy Stumpf

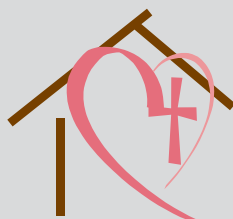
Deb Avedisian

Betty Timmons

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Geneva Yale

Nita Yale



HONORARIA

June 28—October 18, 2017

Shirley Armbruster

Anonymous

Jerry Baker

Kopi & Elaine

Sotiropulos

Carl Campbell

Dave & Adrienne

Kimball

Phil & Jan Crantz

Dave & Adrienne

Kimball

Evangel Home Staff

Anonymous

Sue Gipson

Anonymous

David Haskins

Family Focus

Missions/

Brenda English

Pat Johnson

Ray Long

Mary Ramos

Grace Hernandez

Richard Samuelian

Skin & Andrea Mead

Cameron Weaver

Amy Weaver



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	

Proud Member of



Enhancing Trust

EVANGEL HOME

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evangelhome.org