

# EVANGEL HOME

Ministering to homeless women & children since 1955

Fall/Winter 2018

*'Tis the season for . . .*

LOVE · JOY · PEACE

*patience, kindness, goodness*

*faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*

*To These I Commit My Day*

*& My Life.*



Christ Leads

People Care

Lives Change

# Greetings from the 2019 Board President

Gerre Brenneman, Executive Director, has asked me, as the incoming 2019 Evangel Home Board President, to share some of my journey as well as my vision for the upcoming year. It will be a tough act to follow after Deb Avedisian's great leadership this past year! Deb served as board president with a steady hand and a passionate heart. She has played a pivotal role this year as we have prepared for the Home's executive leadership to change in 2019.



After meeting Gerre some 30 odd years ago, and beginning our involvement with Evangel Home, my wife, Leslie, and I discovered that Leslie is the great niece of the founder, Pauline Baker Meyers. That connection solidified our commitment as a family to support the Home. Since then, Leslie, our daughter, Stephanie, and I have all worked on the board at various times. It has truly been a blessing to work alongside Gerre and the staff,

and to watch God work through them to impact so many lives over the years. We believe that the power of Christ, working through His Body in this Home, has the ability to impact our city by working with women and children in crisis.

This is my second term on the board and my first opportunity to serve as Chair. I can't think of any people more qualified, loving, and caring than the people I have the privilege of working with on the current board. Our role as a board is not only to provide leadership for the Home, but to support and work alongside the faithful staff and volunteers who guide these women and children back to emotional and spiritual health. I look forward to working with the new director, Sarah Dawson, to help her 'settle in' to her new role. Her excitement is contagious.

Will you pray with, and for, her and the board as we set about the Lord's work this next year; and will you continue to support the Home financially, as you have so generously in the past? Without you, these gentle souls, along with their children, would be on the streets, or in the 'system'. So let's walk with them together, and see what the power of God can do in their lives, and ours.

Sincerely in Him, Gary Catron

# Moving Forward . . .



## *A New Graduate and Soon a New Citizen*

Akosua graduated October 12 from Crossroads and has been accepted into Community Connection. We are so proud of this Warrior Woman of God. She never gives up, encourages everyone around her with both joy and honesty, and is always willing to learn new things. She is originally from Ghana and is now working on taking her U.S. citizenship test. Congratulations Akosua! You are an inspiration to all of us and a great mom to Mathilda, Gabriel and Olivia Rose.



The pinning ceremony is an important part of each graduation. Mathilda and Gabriel got to be special “pinners” with just a little help from Gerre Brenneman, Executive Director.



## *‘Tis the Season - for Graduations*

Our most recent graduate, Akosua (left), cheers on the next two CrossRoads graduates: Stephanie (center) and Sylvia (right). Sylvia’s ceremony is Nov. 2 and Stephanie’s is Dec. 7.

Guests are welcome. Just let us know if you would like to come.



*continued on page 4*



## ***When dreams come true: From discouragement to joy!***

After failed relationships and running from God, Maria ended up at Evangel Home a little over a year ago feeling defeated and discouraged. She was accepted into our CrossRoads program and decided that she would give all of herself to God, including her dreams. October 2nd, 2017, is a day Maria will never forget. This is the day she moved into her new

apartment, began praying for her future job, and for Him to have His way in her life.

After graduating this summer, Maria was accepted into our Community Connection program. She enjoyed summer vacation with her daughter but was a little fearful about applying for work because she had been fired from jobs before, and doubts started to creep in her mind. She was having a hard time being still before God but one day she broke through all this, listened to Him and asked for help to move on.

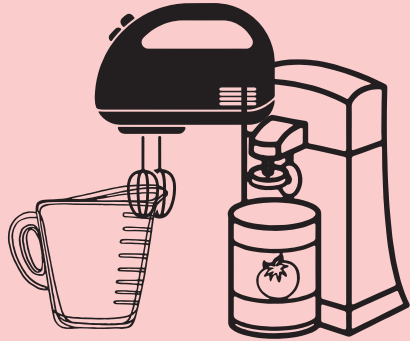
Maria got up the courage and started applying for jobs. Her dream had always been to be an elementary school teacher, but she needed a way to support herself and her daughter until she could go back to school. Working with children, driving, and bringing others Christ's joy were a few of the things that were at the top of her list for a good job. Her counselor mentioned the idea of being a school bus driver. Maria really liked that idea because it met some of her top ideals for a job. She remembered seeing a sign advertising employment as a school bus driver. She was still a bit intimidated but she overcame her fears and applied for the position. She got the job!!! Maria is now in the process of learning to drive the bus. She allowed God to have His way in everything. Now she is grateful and excited to see the beginning stages of those dreams being fulfilled: the road from discouragement to joy is sometimes traveled by bus.





# Special Kitchen Needs

- *Electric can opener*
- *Hand mixer*
- *Small potato masher*
- *3 measuring cups*
  - *Tupperware containers*
  - *Steak knives*
  - *Toothpick containers*
  - *Cookie sheets for baking (13x18)*



## 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**

# BANQUET WRAP-UP

Thanks to all who made our 2018 banquet a great success, and many thanks to two people who make everything special: Jeannie Milne and Pastor Rod Davison.



*Jeannie receiving thanks from Executive Director Gerre Brenneman.*

## *Jeannie Milne* *From resident to* *Board Member*

Jeannie is our first graduate to become a board member. She came to Evangel Home in 1998, graduated from Cross-Roads in 1999 and will serve on the board beginning in 2019. She spoke at the banquet and inspired us all with her faith, gratitude, humor, honesty and excitement. She is a dynamic Christ-follower who is going to be a great addition to the board.

## *Pastor Rod Davison* *2018 Volunteer of the Year*

He is always there for staff, ready to drive anywhere to pray for us or lead worship at our annual retreat. He has served on the board, and keeps his Miramonte



Hilltop Chapel congregation involved with us. Pastor Rod always has his Bible and guitar. Our kind of guy!



*Pastor Rod receiving his Angel award and a congratulation hug from Volunteer Coordinator, Jessica Lusk.*

*Go to [evangelhome.org](http://evangelhome.org), click on the "Media" tab and then on "Videos" to see those shown at the banquet.*

# TRAINING SARAH: Covering All the Bases

Training the next Evangel Home director even involves hospital visits. Our friends and donors are very important to us, and sometimes that involves having to wear special clothing to see them. Praying and visiting with hospitalized friends is one way we can let people know how grateful we are for them and all the encouragement they give us.



*Sarah Dawson (left)  
and Gerre Brenneman*



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## *You are invited to schedule a Holiday Bite of Lunch & Tour!*

**B**  
**L**  
**T**

Are you looking for a unique way to celebrate the holidays? An event where your guests come and have the opportunity to shower gifts on a ministry? If so, we invite you to call and schedule a Holiday BLT!

You and your guests will enjoy celebrating over lunch (with our staff and residents) preceded by 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., with the tour from 11:00 a.m. until noon. If you are interested in learning more or to schedule a date, please call and talk with Jessica Lusk, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 264-4714.

## from the **DIRECTOR**

The tendency as a career winds down is to view daily events with a “last time for this” frame of mind. Yes, this is my last newsletter, but rather than think of the lasts coming my way, I’m remembering all I have learned at Evangel Home and what this special place will always mean to me.

There is a sign on our back fence that has been there longer than my 30 years here, and every day I park near it. It has our name and theme verse -- Matthew 11:28: “Come to Me . . .”

Recently, a little rubber yellow duck appeared on top of the sign. It’s been perched there now for several weeks, and even when it falls off, someone picks the duck up, dusts her off and puts her back in her spot. The message to me is that the sign might be a little worn, but Evangel Home still makes a good landing place – even if we fall a few times. And as I think of this special place, and that little duck, I am reminded of these things:

-- When I landed here in 1988, I had no idea what I was in for. Even though I felt very confident that I had heard and obeyed God’s call, I felt so out of place (truly a duck out of water) that I thought God had made a terrible mistake. During that time and a few times since, I’ve learned you don’t run away or fly off, you seek counsel. Someone reminded me that when God calls, He equips. So, I stayed, asking to be equipped every day.



-- Part of that equipping came from women who lived here and taught me – yes, THEY taught me -- much. Something I realized very early is the importance of role models in our lives and the depth to which our early training goes. I learned that, as with baby ducks, “imprinting” is a powerful force. A baby duck will adopt, as its mother, the first moving thing, person or animal it sees. Once that duck has imprinted on something,



it is very difficult for it to break the habit and focus on something else. In a way, our women have done the same thing by attaching themselves to things that might not be for their good, but bring them comfort and security in the moment. Trust is difficult for them to build because they have had years of negative imprinting. If they can begin to trust our staff, they can eventually learn new ways. Ultimately, we want them to be imprinted with God's character, and only He knows what each woman and child really need.

-- I've learned to let the negative go "like water off a duck's back." Whether it's a spiritual battle, being misunderstood, or a difference of opinion, we tend to personalize the negative. Our women will often assume the worst, so it is crucial that we understand this aspect of human nature. Someone once told me to take a "spiritual bath" every day, and I have found that "bath" to be very cleansing and refreshing. I ask the following each night: "Wash away my sins, Lord; remove any negative left behind by others, and show me where I can be better tomorrow."

-- Finally, I have realized that Christians cannot be solitary creatures. We were made for family, community, engagement, service and worship. We belong with others. So, even though Evangel Home is God's place for women in need to land and rest, at some point it's time for them to fly and re-engage. That's the model we try to "imprint" our women with; it also is a good flight pattern for staff and for me: rest, go, serve.

So as I review the past and look ahead to the future, I remember that just as Jesus says to rest in Him, He also says to serve others. He says "Come" but He also says, "Go." He never says, "Stop."

Still Serving Him  
Together,

Gerre Brenneman,  
Executive Director

*Dear Friends,  
I can never thank you enough for your support and encouragement as I approach retirement from Evangel Home. I am also thankful for your embrace of Sarah Dawson who will take over leadership in January. And finally, I am overwhelmed by your generous gifts to my retirement fund. One of my first retirement projects will be to thank each and everyone of you.  
Onward!*

*Blessings,  
Gerre Brenneman*

# Charitable Giving Under the New Tax Law May Require Some Changes

by President Dan Ray, Client Advisor and Elizabeth Muñoz,  
Retirement Plan Advisor at Regency Investment Advisors

With Congress passing the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* in 2017, 2018 will be the first year we file our taxes under the new law. For many tax filers, it could mean somewhat lower taxes and simpler tax filings. But one important change means many who gift to charity may find they can no longer claim their charitable contributions as an itemized tax deduction.

## Why?

The new law increases the standard deduction, which is intended to eliminate the need for taxpayers to itemize deductions such as home mortgage interest, real estate taxes and charitable gifts.

In previous years, if your itemized deductions exceeded the standard deduction you would complete Schedule A and claim your charitable gifts along with other deductible items. Under the new law, you will have the option to either claim the newly increased standard deduction or to itemize deductions. Generally, this is good news. Many people will get to claim a higher standard deduction and no longer need to itemize deductions on Schedule A. According to Howard Gleckman, a senior fellow at the Urban-Bookings Tax Policy Center, estimates show that the number of people who will itemize under the new law will decrease by 56.7% in 2018.

One example: For a married couple both over the age of 65 and filing jointly in 2018, the standard deduction will increase from \$13,000 to \$26,600. If that couple claims the higher standard deduction, they will not be able to claim any itemized deductions including charitable contributions unless those itemized deductions total more than the new, higher \$26,600 figure. There is, however, a simple strategy that may allow people subject to Required Minimum Distributions from their IRA to get the benefit of the new higher deduction and reduce their tax liability by gifting to charities like the Evangel Home.

## Qualified Charitable Distributions

People age 70 ½ with an *Individual Retirement Account (IRA)* are required to take an annual *Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)*. Typically, 100% of the RMD is reported as taxable income. However, a person can elect to gift some

or all their RMD, up to \$100,000/ year, to a charity as a *Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)*. The money distributed from the IRA as a QCD will meet the RMD obligation and you will not reflect it as taxable income on your tax return. As a result, the donor can receive the benefit of the new higher standard deduction and avoid paying taxes on the portion of the RMD gifted to charity as a QCD.

## Examples

**Scenario 1:** Sam takes *a portion* of her annual RMD as a QCD

Annual RMD	Qualified Charitable Distribution	Results
\$15,000	\$10,000	Remaining \$5,000 will count towards her taxable income

**Scenario 2:** Sam takes her *entire* annual RMD as a QCD

Annual RMD	Qualified Charitable Distribution	Results
\$15,000	\$15,000	She satisfies her full RMD by making a QCD; her taxable RMD income is \$0, rather than \$15,000

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Thank you for your generosity in supporting Evangel Home. Our income is generated by individuals, churches and groups who believe in what we do and want to help the good work. We have never accepted government funds of any kind and pledge that we never will. We believe that acceptance of such money would limit our ability to reach women and children with the redeeming message of Jesus Christ.

We enter the last quarter of the year down about 12 percent from where we were last year at the end of September and about 9 percent under budgeted income. On the flip side, we have held expenses down and are about 3 percent under budgeted items. We budgeted \$628,860 through September and have spent \$613,553.

### Income (comparing through September)

**2017: \$644,530**

**2018: \$568,193**



# Gifts for our Holiday 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 and 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 EXTRAS

*Canned food (lots, please)  
 Hamburger meat and chicken  
 Macaroni and cheese  
 Spaghetti and other pastas  
 Tomato and pasta sauce  
 Canned fruit  
 Kidney beans  
 Coffee and tea bags*

*Hot chocolate mix  
 Splenda and creamer  
 Cooking oil and sugar  
 Mustard and ketchup  
 Peanut butter, jam, jelly  
 Salad dressing  
 Paper towels and  
 napkins*







# CHRISTMAS SPONSORSHIP

Would you like to become a sponsor for a woman or a family staying at Evangel Home? Below are answers to some of the most-asked questions about Christmas sponsorship.

- ***WHAT IS A CHRISTMAS SPONSOR?***

A Christmas sponsor is a family, individual or group 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?***

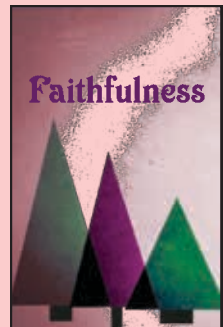
Those women and children living in the Crisis Home are remembered through generous donations of generic, unwrapped gifts since we never know in advance who will be here for Christmas.

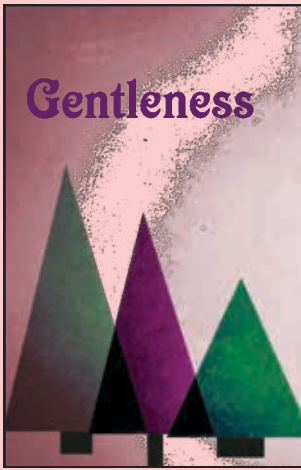
- ***MAY I BE PRESENT WHEN MY GIFTS ARE OPENED?***

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 Evangel Home (264-4714), ask to speak to Ruby Cox or Gina Walker. You may specify your desire to sponsor an individual or family at that time.





# GIFT IDEAS FOR THE CRISIS HOME

Selecting gifts for our women and children living in the Crisis Home isn't as specific as for our other residents because we do not know who will be here. Please leave these gifts unwrapped or their specific contents listed on the outside of each package. Wrapping paper, ribbon, tape and scissors would also be very much appreciated. This may be the first time that a mother wraps a gift for her children.

## GIFTS for our WOMEN

### *Personal items*

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

### *Clothing*

Warm pajamas, sweat outfits (both M or L size), purses, M/L/XL t-shirts, socks, tennis shoes, slippers, sweaters, gloves, underwear (all sizes), jackets, scarves.

### *This 'n That*

Gift cards, umbrellas, Bibles, devotionals, stationary, postage stamps, journals, nice pens and pencils, calculators, watches, radios, alarm clocks, wallets, sewing kits, crossword puzzle books.

## GIFTS for our KIDS

### *Infants*

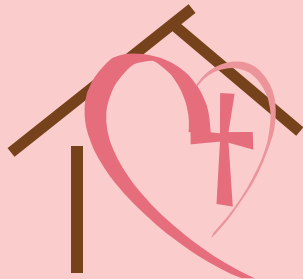
Sleepers, onesies, booties, infant toys, blankets, diapers, infant coats, bibs.

### *Toddlers*

Sweat outfits, socks, shoes, coats, sweaters, caps/hats, books, toys, age-appropriate art supplies.

### *Older children*

Sweat outfits, socks, gloves, coats, backpacks, pajamas, school and art supplies, books, games.



# IN MEMORIAM

July 1, 2018 — October 17, 2018

**Maureen Begley**

John & Janice Gilbert

**John Bell**

Kathy Bell

**Tim Blasko**

Christy Blasko

**Nancy Browne**

Rita Evans

**Gail Campbell**

John & Judy Edmondson

**Richard Herzog**

Verna Hagemier

**Myranel B. Hovland**

Lori Barigian & Alice Mooradian

Paul & Darla Giffen

Allan & Bernice Hedberg

Nancy Jones

Shirley Keith

Lesly Long

Judy Masada

**Jake & Marie Kehler**

James & Roberta Heintz

**Adeline Kezirian**

Susan Abrahamian

**Kenneth E. Kreitner**

Dave & Ann Meyer

**Travis Libby**

Rick & Carol Pharr

**Travis Lindsay**

Randy & Angela Lindsay

**Robin Lockie**

Joseph & Gail Cole

**Fred Machado**

Eldora Sabbatini

**Gene Marshall**

Verna Hagemier

**Eunie McEntee**

Jerry & Nelda Baker

**Marilyn Mikow**

Anonymous

Jerry & Nelda Baker

**Louise Najarian**

Susan Fujikoa

**Millie Nephew**

Daral & Rosemary Kennedy

**Larry Psaltis**

Laurel Friesen

LeRoy & Marilyn Kinzel

Lynn Psaltis

**Dorothy Pipes**

Joanne Mickaelian

Verna Hagemier

Lynn Psaltis

**Christine Segress**

Cheri Segress

**Maureen “Mo” Weidenheimer**

Patricia Gibson

Robert Lifeset

Carol Phelps

# HONORARIA

July 1, 2018 — October 17, 2018

**Donna Robinson**

Diana Mazman





[www.evangelhome.org](http://www.evangelhome.org)

RADIO SCHEDULE	
<b>'HEARTLINE'</b>	
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.
<a href="http://www.evangelhome.org">www.evangelhome.org</a>	
or visit us on <a href="#">facebook</a>	

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Enhancing Trust

# EVANGEL HOME

137 N. Yosemite, Fresno, CA 93701

559-264-4714

[evangelhome.org](http://evangelhome.org)