

EVANGEL HOME

Ministering to homeless women & children since 1955

Winter 2021

“If I should say, ‘My foot has slipped,’ Thy lovingkindness, O Lord, will hold me up, when my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Thy consolations delight my soul.”

Psalm 94:18-19

CHRIST LEADS PEOPLE CARE LIVES CHANGE

From the DIRECTOR

Sarah Dawson

PEACE & REST



In last year's winter edition of the Evangel Home newsletter, I wrote about rest. It came from our founding verse, Matthew 11:28, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

This entire last year, God has revealed how important rest is, not only for myself, but for the staff and residents. Here is a story of how God showed me a new aspect of His rest.

While I was out of town not long ago, I got sick and couldn't do the things I had hoped to do. On the final day away, I wanted to get a lot of things done before catching my flight to meet up with my family but instead I felt God was leading me to get more rest. I had just stayed in all weekend so I was not sure how much more rest I could get but I laid down for a little longer before having to check out. Part of the prompting I was sensing is that the rest was needed because it was going to be a long day, which was true, but I didn't realize how long it would actually be. I needed to catch a flight later that day and then I had a couple of late night work meetings. What actually happened after my nice little nap was a not-so-pleasant walk in the rain to the bus that would take me to the airport. The flight was uneventful and even picking up my car was no problem. I called my family to let them know I was a half an hour from home and everything was fine, but oh how things changed in that thirty minutes. I arrived home and discovered my sister-in-law frantically waving me inside and giving me the news that an ambulance had been called for my dad. My dad was rushed to the hospital. Thankfully, they ruled out all of the major things his symptoms had seemed to indicate before arriving there. I drove to the hospital and waited several hours with my mom until we could take my dad home. We didn't get home until almost 3:00 a.m., much, much later than I thought my "late night" would be. But this is just like our great God who always provides everything we need when we choose to listen to the promptings of the Spirit. It seemed like every little thing was taken care of and there were little blessings all around. I had just gotten back from a trip so I had a lot of things in my bag all ready to go, like sweats and blankets to keep warm. If you have recently had to wait for someone in the hospital, you understand the waiting outside in the makeshift tents with very little heat. My dad was going to be alright. I had fun with my mom watching and making up stories about the craziness that happens outside the E.R. in the middle of the night.

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From the DIRECTOR - continued from page 2

Here was the most precious time of the whole day: As we got home at 3:00 a.m., even the town seemed to be resting. There was a stillness and quiet after the rain. There were no barking dogs, the cars and all the noises were sleeping and there was simply peaceful silence. The only thing I could hear were my feet crunching the leaves as I walked to the house. I wished I could have stayed there longer. When I wonder what rest should be like, this sure seems close: a stillness that can make you pause and reflect. It quiets all the noise in your head because you don't want it to be disturbed. What would it be like if our souls were always this peaceful and quiet? What if all the noises of this world were shut down so we could hear our Lord so clearly as He speaks with us? This seems like Heaven to me. No more worries or heartbreak. Just hanging out with God all the time. The ultimate peace. In John 14:27, this is exactly what Jesus says we have now, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* With joy, Sarah Dawson

Harvest Festival Fun

Fall at Evangel Home ushers in a time of celebrating God's gift of a change in the weather and the beginning of the fall and winter holidays. It is a time filled with excitement and anticipation — for many of our women and children it may provide the



very first opportunity in their lives to enjoy renewed hope in the season when hope is its very reason.

Women and children enjoying a hayride and dressing up in costumes.

BACK TO SCHOOL!

This year we had three staff and three residents head back to college, one resident finishing her GED and a whole bunch of kids headed to class! Tenisha, Gina, Kortney and Kimberly (below) pictured here studying for their college classes. Gina and Kortney have helped them face the challenges of all the new technology involved in getting back to school.



Reflecting Grateful Hearts

As the seasons change, we are continuing our tradition of changing the bulletin board accordingly. In November, the staff and residents got a chance to honor their families by putting each of their names on the wall.

Some residents get to have their families with them, some are working to reconnect, and others will never get that chance. The one thing they all have in common is that they are very grateful to have the opportunity to recognize those they love.



4th of July at Evangel Home

For the last several years, our staff member, Roslyn, has taken our recyclables (which we collect all year), redeemed them, and then bought fireworks for the ladies and the kids to enjoy on the 4th of July. She also teaches fire safety and the ladies and kids have so much fun. This year, even days later, one of the kids kept coming back to the spot to see if there were more fireworks to be found!



Roslyn (middle back row) and friends having a "blast."



Selena is our artist in residence. She is really creative and takes unique photos.



Anastasia enjoys experimenting with filters to produce interesting effects in her photos.

B In previous years, we have been delighted to invite guests for our BLT (Bite of Lunch and Tour). Over the past year and a half, we have not been able to host these fun events and had to adapt to new things as our 2021 theme, "All Things New" has suggested. Starting in 2022, we will be adapting our BLT to a "Tasty Tour." We still get to take you on a tour of our facilities to see all the things happening at Evangel Home and instead of lunch we will send you home with a tasty treat!

T We will be limiting groups to six people and we still wear masks inside our facilities. Please email Jessica Lusk at volunteers@evangelhome.org to schedule your tour today!

2020 Security Project Update

We are getting so close to finishing the 2020 project which included new fencing, a small park area with a bike path for the kids, repaving the back parking lot, lighting and security cameras. All the major pieces are in place and we are working on finishing touches! We have completely redone our back



Preparing the ground for paving.

parking lot area. There is new asphalt and new fencing. While the asphalt was torn up, conduit was added underground so we no longer have cables hanging from building to building. This conduit allows for better internet connection and additional security cameras. The Master Gardeners are designing the park space and a gentleman and his wife have donated their time to the intensive work of installing the security camera systems. Both of these should be done soon!

Here is a story of how God works out every little detail. *As we were getting ready to choose the company to redo the parking area, there was a prompting to hold off on this. There didn't seem to be any particular reason for this delay and we really hoped the project would be done by the time the banquet came around. The companies were getting busier and busier so it seemed best to engage them as quickly as possible, but we decided to wait. It became clear about a month and a half later why we needed to wait. I (Sarah) was approached by a man who volunteered to do weeks of work to design and install our security systems. While talking with him, he happened to mention that, ideally, we would want to bury the cables*



Trench for burying the cables.

underground which provides easier access and looks a lot better but he said it would be cost prohibitive because we would have to dig up the parking lot. He did not know at the time that it was already in the works for this very thing to happen! I know this seems like a little thing but our great God cares about all the details. If He cares for the sparrows, why would He not care about this Home He has provided for his children?



Kids' new bike path.

A Wealth of Mentoring

This is Lorrie, our office manager, who is a kid magnet. The kids just love her - probably because she loves them so much! Here she is taking her work outside to hang out with the children.

Every staff member at Evangel Home is essentially a mentor and an incredible role model for both the women and children. Hugs are in never-ending supply, as are listening ears and Biblically based answers and advice.

The women who come through the “pink door” find much, much more than food and shelter. They find a haven of rest and a wealth of people.



Financial *Thank You* & Update

We are incredibly honored to have many people, churches, and businesses each supporting this Home. Since our inception, we have chosen not to accept government money. This has allowed us the freedom to be able to run Evangel Home in a manner we believe to be honoring to God. Our foremost goal is to be able to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to ladies and their children who have found themselves in a place where they can no longer provide safe shelter for themselves. When women have left their chaotic places, they find a place of peace at Evangel Home. This allows them to stop and breathe for a bit. Only when they feel safe can they start to get out of survival mode and are then able to evaluate their lives. We not only want to help them find a physical shelter but a shelter with our great God. For 66 years, people like you have helped us provide this place where women learn how to be free again and we thank you for this!

Income and expenses from January 1 through November 30.

Income: \$652,842.20

Expenses: \$725,385.16

There are so many ways to help financially with providing a place of peace and rest for our ladies and we would love for you to join us! Talk to your accountant about how a year-end donation might help you and help us. You can also call Sarah Dawson, our executive director, if you would like to talk more about various opportunities.

2021 BANQUET REVIEW

This is the first time in two years we were able to meet together in person for our annual fundraising banquet and what a joy it was! There were obviously many differences from years past but that was the theme for this year: *All Things New*. It was a new experience to have to wear masks at the gathering, to be at Pardini's instead of Tornino's, and to have a dessert auction.

And yet, even with so many new things, we had a lot of fun and it was great to be together again to enjoy each other's company.



We kicked off the evening with a silent and then live dessert auction. There were so many wonderfully delicious homemade treats. Things got a little competitive but that's part of the excitement! Jim Tuck had a great time as host and auctioneer for the evening.

A delicious dinner followed the auction which featured Chicken Marsala as the entrée.

On the right, is a group shot of our attendees having a good time of fellowship and food at their tables.



Hope & Promise

Kimberly brought everyone to their feet in a standing ovation as she told the story of how God has changed her life in the last year and a half. She came from a place where she was depressed and discouraged and had lost everything to a new place of hope and promise of the future.

Both staff and residents (pictured to the right) were delighted to be included in this year's special night — a night honoring both groups and all of their hard work.



Volunteer of the Year: *Jim Quist*



Jessica Lusk, Volunteer Coordinator and Volunteer of the Year recipient, Jim Quist.

There are so many people who contribute their time to make this Home a better place. Each year, we honor one person at the banquet and Jim Quist was our man this year. He served on the board of directors in the 90s, and has been so faithful to make sure we have milk every week for years. Faithfulness kept coming up when described by the staff. Even in the midst of a chaotic year, when it was nearly impossible to get milk, he went to the store, purchasing one gallon at a time until he had several gallons for us. His faithfulness inspires us! Thank you Jim.

2021-22 Special Project: Adopt-a-Home

We asked people to consider adopting an apartment which our long term residents live in, and to make necessary, critical improvements. Each apartment has a different list of needs, but the main item on all of them is air conditioning. Our evaporative coolers are old and on their way out. Our goal is to replace them with units which will actually make the apartments comfortable in the summer. To those who indicated a desire to adopt an apartment, they will receive a call from Ruby or Gina (our Crossroads staff) to see what apartment would make a good fit for that person. **It's not too late if you would like to be a part of this project, please email Ruby Cox for more information at crossroads@evangelhome.org.**

Thank You! Thank You!

Evangel Home could not operate without our volunteers and donors. There are countless numbers of people who go out of their way to bring in gifts, food, clothing, talents, money, and so much more. Each of these people have taken the time out of their day to not only think about the women and the children but have acted on this thought and brought so much joy to our residents because of it. You care about people you don't even know. This is truly a blessing! Here are snapshots of just a couple of the cheerful givers.



Everyday Needs

This past year we started more new things. For example, an Item-of-the-Month club. Each month a new, highly needed item or type of item is highlighted. Please go to our website, evangelhome.org, to see our latest item.

PANTRY & HOME

- Meat—all kinds, especially chicken, hamburger and lunch meat
- Cheese
- Pasta—all varieties
- Canned vegetables
- Tomato sauce
- Gloves (non-powdered)
- Bath, hand & kitchen towels, washcloths
- Deodorant
- Hair conditioner
- Denture adhesive
- Laundry soap (for clothes)
- Bleach

Our greatest needs right now are for paper plates, paper bowls, plastic cups (12-16 oz.), napkins, paper towels, plastic utensils.

This ‘n That

LISA

Lisa, a Community Connection resident, gives back by helping in the kitchen and we are so glad! She cooks up some delicious meals and makes great sloppy joes.



LAVELLE

Studying God’s Word is a precious gift. We have the freedom to do that. Our residents take the opportunity, while having less distractions in their lives, to truly study and learn more about the One who created them and made them precious in His sight.

KORTNEY

She is pressing on towards the goal. Kortney is very dedicated and when she sets her mind to it, she does achieve her goal. She is not afraid to aim high and challenge herself. She has shown that by concurrently taking classes in CrossRoads, graduating from high school, and then starting college — and doing it all extremely well. She is pictured here at Woodward Park, working towards yet another goal — that of further conquering the road to Vernal Falls.



SELENA

Enjoying one of our monthly birthday celebrations thanks to our board of directors who supply delicious treats.





Birthday Celebrations

It's always a special time when we get to celebrate birthdays. We are so grateful to our board of directors who supply us with a birthday cake each month so we can honor staff and residents whose birthday falls in that particular month.

Heart Sister's Week



Heart Sister's Week always seems to arrive much sooner each year than we anticipate! Each February, during the week of Valentine's Day, we celebrate with and for our women, with special treats which gives them tangible examples of our love for them. This is accomplished by each woman having a secret sister to exchange gifts with.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful event and help supply gifts, below are ideas (noninclusive). We would love to have them (unwrapped) by January 31, so the ladies have time to prepare and select the gifts to exchange.

- Decorative mugs*
- Journals & pens*
- Colored pencils & adult coloring books*
- Basic make-up items (blush, mascara, etc.)*
- Manicure/pedicure items*
- Head bands & scrunchies*
- Art supplies*
- Fun socks*
- Assorted candy/chocolates*
- Gift cards*
- Due to fire regulations, no candles please.***

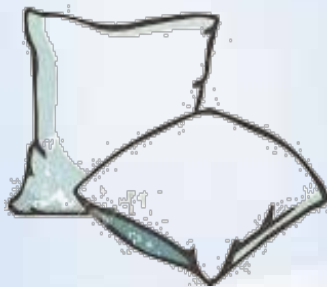


Restful Sleep

In the last newsletter, we indicated a special need for new bed pillows. The women are all resting well now, thanks to all of you who donated them.

We received enough pillows to give each bed a nice, new fluffy one.

Thank you for this wonderful gift!



COVID Update



We have all seen that as the world continues to face many issues with the pandemic, there are different ways that we can respond. There are extremes on both sides of the fence and all sorts of varieties in between. It is difficult to know how to lead in this environment. For us, it comes down to what we believe is best for the residents that have been entrusted to us.

We have chosen to maintain a restricted environment because Evangel Home is a congregate setting where many households come together in one community. Limiting who comes in and operating at a reduced capacity has allowed the residents to have a comfortable space where there is one less worry (exposure) on their mind. Consistency is important in our line of work. We are conscious that the ladies' lives are already embroiled in chaos when they arrive and the rapidly changing (and sometimes conflicting) rules and regulations do not help. For this reason we have maintained many of the practices we implemented in the beginning of the pandemic.

There was over a year between our first case of COVID on campus and our second. It could have been so much worse and we know it is only God that has been protecting us. These cases of COVID were also not as extreme as they could have been. Last year, Acts 27 & 28 were important scriptures about going through a chaotic time where there was much uncertainty about what would happen next or if Paul and his companions would even make it out alive. God promised that they would lose everything but their lives. We have all lost much through this chaotic time but God has preserved the lives of our ladies here. To Him we are eternally grateful!

Evangel Home on the Air

It's nice to read stories of our residents but sometimes it can give a whole new insight by listening to what they have to say.

To hear Jim Tuck interview the people of Evangel Home, you can go to our website (evangelhome.org), click on the Media button and then Radio Schedule. Scroll to the bottom and you will see a section that looks like this.



Nancy & Karl Avakian

Bruce & Karin Baloian

Bruce Baker

Verna Hagemier

Stephen S. E. Beals

Judy Wathen-Farris

The Clawson Family

LeRoy & Marilyn Kinzel

Leonard John Cox

Roy & Shirley Killion

Douglas Bruce Davidian

Dolores Davidian

Christine M. Krikorian

Diane Davis

Fred & Kathy Goehring

Bob Deel

Loretta Deel & Family

Anna Farris

Ann Verwey

Marianna Gaede

Tom & Debra Avedisian

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Bill & Judy Cockerham

Ira Falk

Don Gaede

Edward, Alice & Opal Huang

Jonathan & Jaclyn Huang

Judy Nachtigal

Naomi Gaede Penner

Will & Luetta Reimer

Doris Isaak Siebert

Debbie Gage

Rod & Lesley Davison

Virginia Garabedian

Harold & Dianne Antranikian

Tom & Debra Avedisian

Dolores Davidian

Harry Habib

Dolores Davidian

Naomi Lichti

Patty & Cheryl Hicks

Sandra L. Hicks

Diana Blackburn

Dorothy Mayeda

Aram & Barbara Garabedian

Don Nielsen

Wes & Daryl Lusher

Paul & Nina Nixon

Don MacAlpine

Tiz Kline

Tom & Debra Avedisian

Sandy Rocca

Barbara Dahlgren

Vahe Simonian

Bruce & Karin Baloian

Patrick Spier

Tom & Debra Avedisian

Leonard & Barbara Badigian

Scott Sudjian

Rita Evans

David & Annilee Meyer

Aleen Sutton

Cheryl Silva & Family

Jeanette Van Wylie

Mary Beth Wold

Marcyene Voth

Marilyn Dean

Verna Hagemier

Kay McKee

Mary Beth Wold

Marcyene & Harold Voth

LeRoy & Marilyn Kinzel

Jackie & Larry Wells

Sandra Christensen

Larry Wells

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Gerre Brenneman

Loretta White

Christopher Salone



Shirley Armbruster

Art & Marlene Dahlin
Karen Eropkin
Linda Tavlin

Jerry & Nelda Baker

Keith & Pat Harrison

Steve & Ruth Dick

Anonymous

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Paula Ganimian

Aram & Barbara Garabedian

Verna Hagemer

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Allen Inouye & Family

Larry Harder

Gladys Melikian

Art & Marlene Dhallin

Marilyn Patten

John Washburn

Lana Patterson

Kathy Patterson

Lucille Pilibos

Kenneth & Robyn Esraelian

Ed & Roseann Saliba

Anonymous

Geno & Patiane Shimizu

Susan Millard

Jan Weston

His daughters



Memorial & Honoraria Donations

If you would like to remember a loved one with a memorial donation or honor a special person or a 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

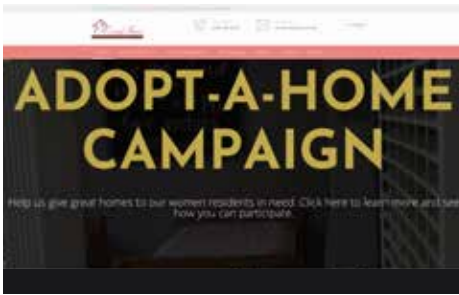
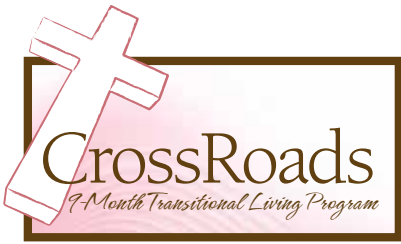
City

State

Zip

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

Mail completed form to:
EVANGEL HOME
137 N. Yosemite Ave.
Fresno, CA 93701



www.evangelhome.org

RADIO SCHEDULE	
'HEARTLINE' KRDU 1130 AM	
Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Saturday.....	5:00 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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