

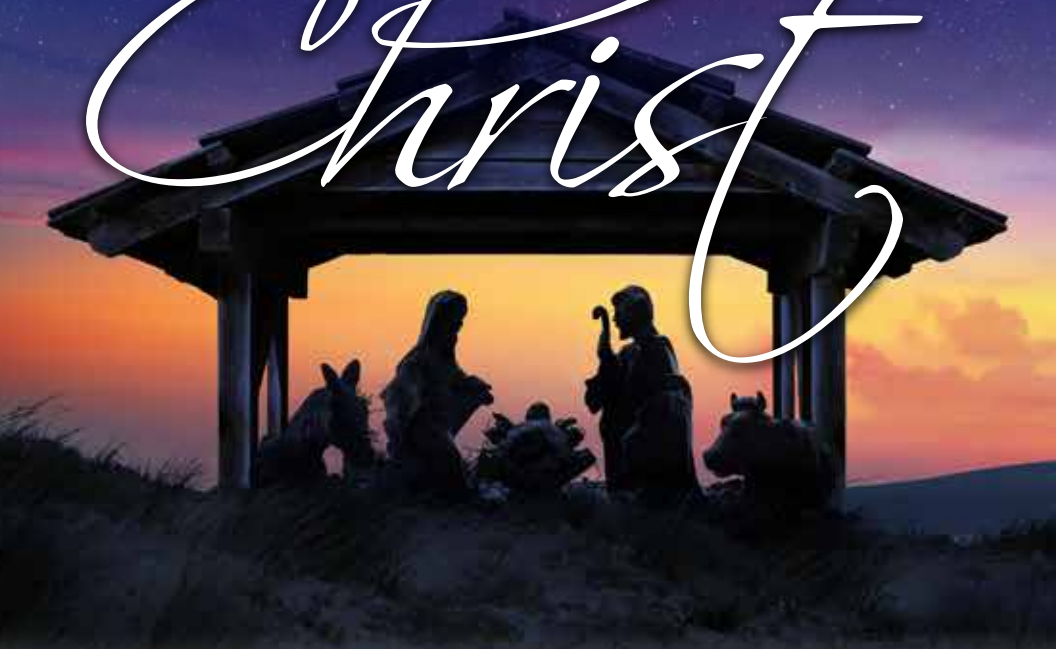
EVANGEL HOME

Ministering to homeless women & children since 1955

Winter 2023-2024

CHRISTMAS
BEGINS WITH

Christ



CHRIST LEADS PEOPLE CARE LIVES CHANGE

From the DIRECTOR

Sarah Dawson

“Getting Squir-r-rly”



A few months ago we had a “visitor” in the community room between our apartments. He went by many names (Jack and Hank were just two) but we never really got to know him. We saw evidence that he had been there but couldn’t find him until the rare moments when, all of a sudden, he would jump out! He terrified those present, ran amok all over the Home and then would dart to another hiding place waiting for the next unsuspecting person to arrive.

There were notes placed on the doors warning people that our little friend might still be inside. Many attempts were made to set up blockaded paths straight to the open doors so that he might experience freedom. He was very clever



and would find the one little hole that we missed leading back to yet another hiding place. He had been there for days with no food, so he must have been hungry. As we had more of these brief interactions with Hank/Jack, we began to realize that he was so afraid that he did the only thing he knew how to do . . . hide!

We were able to finally call in an expert who set traps for us and within an hour, Hank/Jack had taken the bait. He was so hungry, he didn’t care what he was walking into and just like that he was trapped. He did not like being in the cage but really, who does? Little did he know that the cage would eventually lead him to true freedom back in the neighborhood’s greenery with beauty all around.

Thinking back on our interactions with Hank/Jack, they seemed to so clearly parallel what many of us experience as well. We become so traumatized by a situation that we find ourselves in, that we don’t think clearly. We hurriedly return to our captivity because we are used to that familiarity and it feels more comfortable in the moment. It is hard to see that true freedom is just outside the door and all we have to do is walk out. Our awesome Savior came to set us free from those situations which enslave us with a desire to bring us into His beauty. All we need to do is step out and walk in it!

With Joy, Sarah Dawson

*“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit”
Galatians 5:25*



SISTER'S WEEK



In February we celebrated Heart Sister's Week which 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. It is a time to show the great love of our Father to those who are a part of the Home. It is a time of encouragement and care. We were all truly blessed!

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Barbara "BJ" Johnson

Here are a few words that Jessica, our Discipleship Director, had to say about our Volunteer of the Year, Barbara "BJ" Johnson at this year's banquet "She is a beautiful example of going with the flow and being flexible. I heard her say more than once, 'Whatever you want me to do, I'll do it. I'm here to serve the Lord and ladies at Evangel Home.' As a volunteer, she showed up even when health was a bit of a problem. She showed me what perseverance looks like, and the beauty of obedience to Christ even when things are hard."



Congratulations!

2023-24 Evangel Home Focus

BUILDING & REBUILDING

For the past few years, Evangel Home has been in a time of tearing down and only keeping what will be useful in the years to come. Now we have the opportunity to build and rebuild. Here's what's happening . . .

BUILDING

A new child care center in addition to the Evangelounge which comes with the hope of expansion and being prepared for new opportunities.



REBUILDING

The way we do discipleship. Keeping our foundation but adding more intentionality with it.

REBUILDING

Our volunteer base — the ones who help with projects, lead chapel, answer phones, make meals and other services that help maintain the Home.



REBUILDING

Our programming. We are adding new classes, new evaluation structures and new ways of helping one woman in a thousand ways.



REBUILDING

Our process for admission in order to make it easier and less of a burden for those coming through the Pink Door. Like lessening restrictions for admission and being able to give them extra rest when they first arrive.

REBUILDING

Staff with additional training. Times are getting tougher and we are seeing an increased intensity in the challenges our ladies face. We will be adding more training so our staff are equipped to handle these new challenges.



Rebuilding Our Volunteer Base

Giving of your time and talents!

As we build and rebuild this year, we are rebuilding our volunteer base. Volunteers are so essential to what we do here. I truly believe the old adage that “it takes a village” to help change lives. There is no greater thing than to do what God has created you to do!

What has He created you to do? We would love your talents here at Evangel Home. These are just some of the ideas of positions that are beneficial:



reception, cooking, front office help, child care and skilled workers. Contact our Community Coordinator, Jackie Pearson, at community@evangelhome.org to see how you might get involved.

A few of Evangel Home's Angels: Darrell (current board member); Leslie (chapel leader); and the Catrons (both former board members).

Christmas Wish Lists

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APARTMENTS

Pots & pans (starter sets), dish drainers, coffee pots, can openers (electric), toasters, irons, alarm clocks (small), bathroom sets/accessories, bath towel sets, trash cans (small & tall), shower curtains, shower curtain clear liners, 8-piece dish sets

CRISIS HOME

Stock pots (2), frying pans (4), sauce pans (2), colanders (2), potato peelers (2), can openers (2), toasters (2), mixers (2), board games, puzzles

COUNSELING CNTR.

Magic erasers, folders, file supplies, rebounder trampoline, wall calendars, bulletin boards, organization

CHILD CARE CNTR.

Lysol wipes (no bleach), preschool large wooden blocks, counting beads, preschool paints and brushes, canvases, Lego sets for 6yrs & older, honey, graham & animal crackers, vanilla wafers, fruit snacks, Mr. Potato Head, pounding peg toys, trains, puzzles, dress-up clothes for boys

Rebuilding our FACILITIES

As we prepared to give the Crisis Home, our short-term shelter, what we thought was a quick turnover, we uncovered many more items which needed attention than we had anticipated. Even though it is a bit of a pain to deal with, it is truly a blessing that everything could be uncovered and dealt with before any more damage was done.

We had a week where it just happened that all of our short-term guests were leaving about the same time, so we decided to not invite any new guests and redo the paint and flooring in all the rooms. This took a little longer than we anticipated, but we were able to house any new guests in the apartments while we were under construction. As we pulled back the layers of baseboards and flooring, we discovered termites.



We were preparing to be tented to deal with termites, when we had to get a new HVAC system installed.

Then the electrical went on the fritz only to discover that we had several burnt out breakers on the electrical panel. Because of this, our walk-in freezer that stored all of our meat went out unbeknownst to us and we lost everything that was in it. Due to the timing

(just prior to being tented) we were unable to clear the freezer of all the meat and it all ended up decomposing and giving off the rankest smell you can

imagine! It required hiring professionals to come clean it up.



*What's the old saying . . .
"When it rains it pours!"*

Amos 4:17 “I sent plagues among you like I did Egypt. I have slain your young men with the sword, and have carried away your horses; and I filled your nostrils with the stench of your camp, yet you haven’t returned to me,” says the LORD. Our “camp” had a horrible stench, literally. God in His graciousness is the professional who comes to clean us up and make us right with Him. If we have any unconfessed sin in our camp, it needs to be dealt with, submitted to Him and changed so that the stench does not grow more foul.



In all this, we have seen the blessing and protection of the Lord. We averted a more severe disaster by catching the electrical problem before the whole house caught fire. We found termites before they caused permanent damage. We have new, beautiful rooms to welcome our guests. We get to start fresh!

I Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here.” He makes us new.

Maintaining our beautiful campus with regular repairs and upgrades is extremely important if the “Pink Door” is to remain a vital entrance to hope, healing and blessing for our women and children for many more years to come.



We are very grateful to our volunteers who come in and refurbish the shelter so our women and children have lovely places to stay.

2023 BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

Our theme this year was “Building and Rebuilding,” and as we have been laying plans, the term that has come to mind is “shoring up.” According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, “shore up” means to support (something) or keep (something) from falling by placing something under or against it. This is what we do with our ladies. We come alongside them to keep them from falling and let the Lord do what He does best. It is the Lord who holds us up and heals us.



SILENT AUCTION BIDDERS

Who doesn't like a little friendly competition? Well, I guess some don't, but for those who do, there was some fun strategy happening amongst the bidders in order that they win their favorite dessert for their table.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Our emcee and auctioneer for the evening was nonother than Jeremy Lusk, who was making his second-year debut with us. Jeremy is gifted with the ability to use exceptional humor to keep the auction rolling and everyone entertained.



EH's DESSERT "VANNA"

Jeannie, a current board member, served as our dessert "Vanna." She would circle the room, beautifully displaying each dessert up for bid.



RESIDENT STORY

It takes great courage and vulnerability to open up and share your story, yet that is exactly what Melissa did! She wanted those who came to the banquet to know what the Lord has done in her life. Melissa is a hard worker who has always held down a job and raised her children to adulthood, but realized she needed to restore her relationship with the Lord so she came to Evangel Home. Now she is a great example, overcoming many obstacles (like anxiety) and is moving forward in step with the Spirit.

OUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST



FOR KEEPING OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN & SAFE

Laundry soap, bleach, toilet bowl cleaner, glass cleaner, Pine-sol, Clorox wipes, Comet/Ajax, dish soap (not dishwasher), hand soap, Swiffer mop pads, baby wipes

FOR OURSELVES

Deodorant, panty liners, multicultural hair products (shampoo, conditioner, coconut hair oil, etc.) body lotion, body wash

PAPER GOODS

Paper towels, napkins, paper plates (sturdy/microwavable), plastic flatware, cups (8 & 16 oz)

HOUSE MAINTNANCE

Home Depot & Lowes gift cards, battery operated framing nail gun

PANTRY

Cooking oil, mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, salad dressing, peanut butter, jelly, hot/cold cereal, Cup of Noodles soup, coffee, creamer, spaghetti noodles, pasta sauce, Mac-n-Cheese, canned goods, shredded cheese, lemon juice, honey

HOLIDAY PANTRY

Cranberry sauce, cake mix & frosting, tin pans

CLOTHING

T-shirts, pajamas, slippers, sweat sets, socks, underwear, shoes (women's size 11-12), large boys' shoes, tennis shoes all sizes. *Clothing in all sizes including XXL & XXXL*

ACCESSORIES

Jewelry, cosmetics, hair ornaments, make-up bags, nail polish brushes make-up mirrors

GIFT CARDS

Target, movie tickets, Walmart, Kohls, Bible store, Starbucks, Old Navy, Barnes & Noble

MISCELLANEOUS

Wallets, pocket calendars, stationary sets, stamps, Bible devotional, small radios, small alarm clocks, journals, pens, purses, adult coloring books, colored pencils & pens, easy to read Bibles, kids & teen Bibles

FOR BABIES

Sleepers & caps, baby accessories, bottle sets, bibs, crib sized mattresses and mattress covers

TODDLERS

Toys, sweat sets, pajamas, socks, Pampers, baby wipes onesies, diapers (large) size, bibs

OLDER CHILDREN & BOYS

Sweat sets, school supplies, books, board games, tennis shoes (all sizes), tablets, puzzles, hoodies, action figures, Legos, basketball, football, soccer ball



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GRADUATION TIME!

A graduation celebration is both the culmination and the beginning of a time of growth and healing. It ends one chapter and opens up new opportunities. We got to celebrate all the hard work that Annette put in to do something different with her life.

One of the great things about a graduation is the time when we get to hear from others about the impact the graduate has had on others. Annette impressed others with her love for learning, her motivation to move forward, attention to detail, and how organized she is.

She gave up a lot to complete classes, trusting God for her provision along the way. “All in” is a great way to describe her. She jumped in and poured over the material to, not only learn, but put into practice the things she learned about God and different ways to approach relationships. She jumped in and never looked back!



Her family all came to celebrate with her. She loves her grown children and she loves all the little children too. One of the young children even had this to say, “She and the Lord have a great connection and I love how much she has been here for me and really cares about me.” This is so true of Annette!

As Annette has completed classes she has moved on and is working full-time. Her work ethic is putting her in line for opportunities of advancement because she picks up on things really quickly and works diligently in all she does. Please remember her in your prayers as she grows in her love for the Lord and continues to work hard.



New Board & Staff Members

Welcome New Board Members



DAYLA

A first time board member. She is a retired educator and comes to us with a wealth of creativity! She has been married to Chuck for 38 years and spends a great deal of time with their six grandchildren.

RICK

Is a returning board member. He has been involved with the Home for over 45 years leading chapel. Rick has a heart and passion for teaching God's Word.



Welcome New Staff Members



JACKIE

Our new Community Coordinator. She joined us last summer to help in child care while Tenisha was out for a couple of months. Jackie was able to stay on in the role of Community Coordinator (formerly Volunteer Coordinator). She loves connecting with the community and connecting the community with opportunities to share their God-given gifts.

AARON

Joined us in May to help out Rudy, our maintenance man, with all the projects we had going on here. Aaron has a servant's heart and helps anywhere it's needed.



Goodbye to Retiring Board Members

Board members can serve two terms of three-years each before taking a year off. We had three "retire" this year after six years of governance. Together they possessed a wealth of wisdom, knowledge and faithfulness. They were always ready to pray and give of their time and talents. Thank you to Gary Catron, Brian Cochran and Sina Shamp for your years of service.



Gary
Catron



Brian
Cochran



Sina
Shamp

IN MEMORIUM *Nov. 2022-July 2023*

Lance Hairabedian

Marsha Dunlavy

David Liberta

Roberta Rhode

Doug McKinney

Roberta Rhode

Stephen Guinn

Connie Rae Clendenan

Darrell Miller

Diane Miller

Mary Quist

Susan Carmichael

Dan Souza & Sandy Tavares

Marydell Quist

William & Sharon Thornbury

Danny & Mary Van Groningen

Mary Elaine Anderson

David & Carol Graham

Jacqueline Bishop

Marleen Siussoev

Verna Hagemier

Bernice Nachtigal

Randy Pinal

Robyn Kelley Krebs

Bud & Nancy Kelley

Dr. Judy Pack

Nelda Baker

Ben Dunn

Nelda Baker

Imogene Davis

Gerre Brenneman

John Cotton

Rosemary Cotton

Doug Hazelton

Arlene Cowdrey

Edward J. Regier

The Windom Sr. Living Comm.

Residents Association

Charles & Linda Alstrom

Carole Blomgren

Gerre Brenneman

HONORARIA

Nov. 2022-July 2023

Jerri & Dave Plassman

Robert Rees

Solstice Chapel

David Slater

Evangel Home Staff

Emily Dull & Family

Karen Renee Hogendorn

Courtney Hogendorn

Rosemary Cotton

Jannay Erbe

Gerre Brenneman

Anonymous

Verna Presley

Wayne & Alvina Martin

Current Needs

We have the Item-of-the-Month listed on our website - evangelhome.org. Because we recently lost all of our meat and other frozen food items when the power went out, restocking is currently our big focus.

Turkeys, hams, hamburger meat and chicken are in great demand as we prepare for upcoming holiday meals.



REBUILDING OUR STAFF

Changes in our world these past few years have taken a toll on our staff. But we are rebuilding. Training to help us “shore up” our staff and put us on solid footing together will help us move forward in the amazing plans God has for us.

Tenisha, Child Care Director (top, left); Ruby, Crossroads Director (bottom right); Gina, Crossroads Assistant (top right); and LaLa, Ruby’s daughter (bottom left).



ARTISTIC Stress Relief

There are ways each of us deals with the stresses of the world. It is good and sometimes not so good. There are positive coping skills and destructive ones. We have been delighted to have a couple of interns from Fresno Pacific University who shared one possible way to let go of frustrations through art. Many of the ladies commented how relieved they were to be able to let go and have a relaxing time.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

We ended the 2022 year with such generous giving that left us with a surplus of over \$375,000. As you have read, we had multiple projects come our way and we needed to rebuild our Home so this was an absolute blessing at just the right time.

In the first three quarters of this year, hits to the economy have impacted our income; we would love your help to end this year in the black! There are many ways to participate. Consider a legacy gift or part of your RMD as other options. We are so grateful for how each of you has participated in this Home over the years. Thank you!

January to September 2023

Income: \$511,564

Expenses: \$658,675

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.

Memorial

Honoraria

Name of deceased or honoree:

Honoraria occasion (optional):

Send acknowledgement 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:

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Fresno, CA 93701



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