

# EVANGEL HOME

Ministering to homeless women & children since 1955

Spring 2017

Today

I choose JOY!

See page 10



Ministering to homeless women and children since 1955

Christ Leads

People Care

Lives Change

## *Stars, Dots & The Carpenter*

One of the most beautiful and powerful events of all the many things that go on at Evangel Home is our annual two-hour Heart Sisters secret pal revealing party. In addition to the gift exchange, I read a book called *You are Special*. The author is Max Lucado, and the story is about wooden people named Wemmicks who live in a village called Wemmicksville. They are made by Eli, the master carpenter, and they spend all day giving their fellow Wemmicks gold stars or gray dots. Stars for good and dots for not so good. Punchinello is a little Wemmick who always gets gray dots. One day he meets a Wemmick with no stars or dots, and at her urging the little dot-filled Wemmick goes to visit Eli.

After meeting with Eli, the dots begin to fall off of Punchinello and he learns that it does not matter what the other Wemmicks think or say about him. It only matters what Eli says, and Eli tells Punchinello that it is important to visit him every day. Eli is always there, but Punchinello must turn the key, open the door, and walk into the shop.

I have been reading this book at this event for about 10 years, and I am always nearly in tears when I finish. It is apparent that the women see themselves (or their children) as Punchinello and they are totally captured by the simple little story with the powerful message. The things they share after this story are heart breaking yet hopeful. They realize that a relationship with Jesus is helping them not worry about other Wemmicks and that to continue their daily walk to visit the carpenter is the way to stay free of dots and stars (which can also become a trap).



Hearing and realizing that they are special is the perfect way to have celebrated Valentine's Day and to end Heart Sisters week.

Hope you are carrying the key to the Carpenter's shop.



*Carpenter's door key*

Gerre Brenneman, Executive Director

# From our Volunteer Coordinator

*Jessica Lusk  
Volunteer Coordinator*



Second graders at Liddell Elementary are awesome! I had the privilege and joy of talking to some of the little ones this morning. They worked so hard to gather donations of clothing for the women and children of Evangel Home. These kids get it.

They asked some fantastic questions, but two questions were my favorite. "What happens when a boy or girl has a birthday when they are staying there?"

Excellent question! Well, we have a special room filled with toys! The mamas are able to go to this special room and choose a toy just for her little one. We even have a spot for gift bags, tissue paper and cards! We can always use donations of new toys for this special room. We even have a spot for kids to pick a gift for his or her mama!

"Do they get to have cake for their birthday?" Yes! Every second Tuesday of the month is birthday cake day! Anyone who has a birthday that month is invited to come to the dining room and celebrate by having some birthday cake.

I wish you could have seen their little faces light up when I told them about the toy room and birthday cake. As adults, we may not think much about this sort of thing, but as a child who is homeless, or has been homeless? This is important.

Thank you, Liddell Lions for all of your hard work and support. You help make Evangel Home a better place!

**I LOVE MY JOB!**

*2nd graders from Liddell  
Elementary School*



# FIVE GALS UPDATE

Sometimes our greatest needs are not the kind of things you can write on a list. That's the case now with our business, Five Gals Cleaning. We started this business in 2015 so that CrossRoads and GARDEN graduates living on campus (Community Connection) could have a job, earn money, and build confidence.

We knew that the most difficult hurdles would be child care and transportation. With help from some great board and staff members we were able to handle transportation. Child care remained an issue and was simply something we could not solve. Five Gals carved out a little niche in cleaning empty properties and churches. However, it became apparent early this year that continuing as we were was not an option.



*From top to bottom: Billy Jo, Corina, Grace and Victoria. Victoria has moved off campus, but was one of our first Five Gals employees. She was there to lay the foundation and, like all of the Gals, was always excited about the potential and possibilities of the business.*



The business is registered as a non-profit so that donations can be made. We are keeping that structure and modifying our purpose and focus. Our women are hard workers, but some of them are still not quite prepared to enter the work world without more help. So we are developing a more intentional unit for our program to focus on job readiness and employment preparation.

We will then hire Five Gals employees to do intern-type jobs at Evangel Home such as helping in the kitchen, cleaning empty apartments, and keeping storage areas organized. We are also discussing possibilities to connect Five Gals employees with a local restaurant. It is always good to share good news. It's difficult to share the hard stuff, but we ask for your thoughts and suggestions, as well as your prayers, that we provide our women with the best possible employment preparation and readiness.

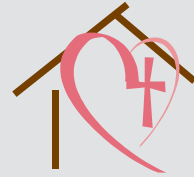
# SUPPLIES WISH LIST

## *for the Crisis Home*



### FOOD ITEMS

- Coffee
- Creamer
- Splenda
- Sugar
- Cooking oil
- Shredded Cheddar cheese
- Rice
- Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce
- Lasagna noodles



### NON-FOOD ITEMS

- Toilet paper (urgent)
- Napkins
- Tissue
- Paper towels
- Bath towels and
- Wash cloths (OK if used)



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## KIDS WILL BE KIDS!



*This is what happens when you interrupt a game of Uno Spin and ask the kids for a cute picture.*



# 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.

## 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**

# BEAUTIFUL GRADUATES



**Vickie Corpus** CrossRoads program manager, Ruby Cox, presents Vickie Corpus with a very hard-earned diploma. Ruby has spent many hours teaching and encouraging Vickie to stay on the right path, and at her graduation in November, Vickie thanked her for all that love and guidance. Vickie and her daughter, Kandice, are still with us, in Community Connection. Vickie has discovered that even at the age of 44, a high school diploma is now required for almost any job. She was taking refresher courses as a medical assistant, but now has to take a quick detour and get that diploma that she left behind 25 years ago.

**Jane Ratzlaff** Among Jane's guests at her October graduation from CrossRoads were three of her cousins. These women encouraged Jane and brought her to Evangel Home in 2015. She is especially appreciative that they gave her space while she was finding her footing in this new place. One of the issues she has worked on hardest is anger: "I had more anger than I realized. Before I could deal with that I had to learn forgiveness of myself."



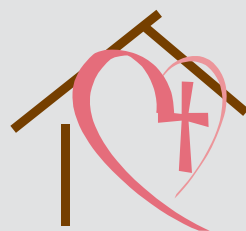
**CJ and Kandice** All graduations are filled with beautiful moments. One of our favorites was CJ's little speech to his friend Kandice at her mom Vickie's graduation. Kim (KidZone director) always prepares a special graduation certificate for the children of the grads. Kim's son, CJ, presented the certificate and said, "Kandice is really nice. Sometimes she asks me why I'm sad, and I tell her. She is always there for me and has been my friend since Day One."



**Maria Toscano** Maria graduated from the GARDEN in November. She chose to have something less formal than a graduation ceremony, and so we honored her with a special luncheon. Maria has moved back with her family.

# LOVE & GENEROSITY

**Kim and Evie:** Aren't these the picture of life-giving faces? Kim, our day care director, and Evie, a staff child, have a very special relationship. Evie loves Kim so much that she lets her wear her very beautiful Rapunzel crown and necklace. However, it hasn't always been this way. We are very grateful to Kim for loving all of our kids and allowing plenty of grace for their "moments." We laugh now about the time Evie was new to day care and "ordered" Kim to sit outside. Kim decided that could be a bridge to a better relationship, so she moved her chair outside, sat down, and watched Evie through the door. It worked. Now she has that beautiful Rapunzel necklace!



**Crumb and Get 'Em:** Jennifer Kenyon (left) is our kind of person! Jennifer owns [Crumb and Get 'Em Cupcakes](#). When a large local business had to postpone an order, Jennifer had already baked 400 cupcakes and did not want to freeze them until the event was rescheduled. So she packed up these delicious little cakes and delivered them to various shelters on Valentine's Day. A classy woman and a class act.





**Junior League:** Seems like the job is never done in the basement – that’s where we store food, clothing and supplies. It’s a hard job; it can be a dirty one, and it never ends. Everything is neat and orderly one day, but the next can bring a load of new things – some we can use and some we can’t. That is the reason we do not accept items on the weekends – too many people were sending us yard sale leftovers.

Junior League of Fresno to the rescue! This dedicated group of women will be organizing and getting things in tip top shape. We will also be working with a group from the Well Community Church on a basement storage and structure remodel. We are very grateful and excited about this.



**Lydianna:** Lydianna stopped by our director's office with Moo Moo and said, "Did you know cows have really big nostrils?" This is very good info to have, and we thought it would be good to share it.

# CHOOSE JOY...

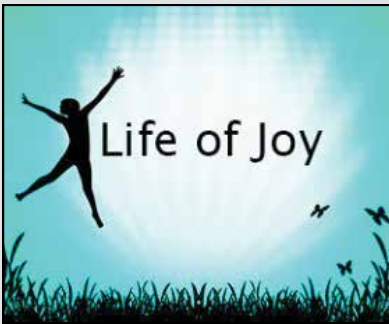
by James MacDonald

## TODAY & EVERYDAY!

*“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” James 1:2-4*

The principle James is applying isn’t automatic or intuitive. We have to be taught that hardships are what God uses to develop our endurance. Unless we’ve been told how God works, our response to “trials of various kinds” is likely to be anything but “joy.”

Knowing what God can do with trials isn’t the same thing as doing life with that knowledge. It is our privilege to respond to God’s work through testing by choosing joy. We all know there are other choices before us when hard times come. We can get angry, we can get discouraged, and we can even develop a persistent bad attitude in a trial that doesn’t allow others to see our hope in Him in the middle of what God is doing.



Joy is a much better choice! Not joy for the “trials of various kinds,” but joy over what those trials will accomplish in deepening our faith. Choosing to be angry or discouraged isn’t the kind of endurance God wants to develop in us. Rather He calls us to “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” He longs for us to persevere— joyfully!

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## Prayer for Lent

*Dear Lord, as we enter this solemn and Holy season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your life on the cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with You. Amen.*

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT!



Introducing some real champions: the Fresno State Women's Basketball Team! It was pretty special last Christmas when a group of tall women wearing red showed up at our front door. These awesome young women had adopted one of our families for Christmas, and they had arrived to meet San Juanita and her children. Their generosity of spirit was a gift to all of us. San Juanita was not expecting gifts, but the Lady 'Dogs changed that. Their special gifts, plus the time spent visiting, gave this family something that will last a lifetime. Ladies, you made a real difference in some precious lives today, and you made some new fans.:) Go 'Dogs!

I'm not  
where I need  
to be, but  
thank God  
I'm not  
where I used  
to be.

## Upcoming Graduations

**Tishana Strong**

April 28

**Sonia Flores**

May 5

# PASSING THE GAVEL

These “presidential” smiles say it all. This was the official changing of the guard for our Board of Directors as Nelda Baker handed over the gavel to Rick Pharr on December 3, 2016. Nelda served as president with amazing energy and dedication. Rick brings a humble heart and years of dedication to this important position. He has conducted a weekly chapel service here for more than 30 years — first with his wife, Carol, and then with a group of men. It is powerful to have a group of godly men serving Evangel Home in this way.



*Nelda Baker and Rick Pharr*

We recently found a letter in a board file dated August 2007 from Nina Nixon. Nina had written a note to send along with a board committee report from 1971 that opened with this paragraph:

*“In this day and age, when many people seem to be so intent and preoccupied with accumulating more and more material possessions for themselves and their loved ones, it is truly a heart warming experience for me to know that you dear friends are concerned with helping others that are less fortunate than yourselves. I do thank the Lord for each of you.”*

Her report ends with these words: “It has been a real joy for me to have had the privilege of serving on the Evangel Home board for the past term, and as I leave I want to say “thank you” for all that you have done for us.”

Nina was one of our earliest board members, and her commitment and faith were typical of what board members of today exemplify—true servant leadership.

## **Board members for 2017:**

Rick Pharr, President; Deb Avedisian, Vice President;  
Sarah Hubert, Secretary; Carl Campbell, Treasurer;  
Gary Catron; Brian Cochran, Dave Kimball, Denise Lewis;  
Judy Nachtigal; Sina Shamp; Larry Thompson; Cherry Verwey

Thank you, Nina Nixon, all of those who served before you; those who came after your time, and those who will serve on this board for years to come. And on behalf of all board members, “Thank YOU!”

THE RESURRECTION  
GIVES OUR  
LIVES

MEANING, DIRECTION AND  
THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO START OVER  
NO MATTER WHAT OUR  
CIRCUMSTANCES!

*Resurrection Blessings*

# HONORARIA

October 5, 2016—February 23, 2017

**Judith Aced**

Wilda Frasher

**Bill & Susan Adams**

Joseph & Gail Cole

**Steven & Salpy Adams**

Russell & Nina Adams

**Thomas & Donna Adams**

Russell & Nina Adams

**Nelda Baker**

Marilyn Mikow

Carol Pharr

**Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Corea**

Winifred Bretz

**Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan**

**Corea**

Winifred Bretz

**Mr. & Mrs. Tom Corea**

Winifred Bretz

**Rosemary Cotton**

Cheyen Towne

**Evelyn & Simon Dull**

John, Lisa & Lindsey

Goodell

**New EH Board & Staff**

Carol Pharr

**Miaka Hardcastle**

Kelly Taylor

**Patty Lehman Dykstra**

Ken & Sue

Abrahamian

The Houghton

Kearney Queens

**Wilda Frasher**

Judith Aced

**CSU Fresno**

**Communications Staff**

Shirley Armbruster

**Linda Gretz**

Westminster Christian

Preschool

**Der & Yn Roberta**

**Hairabedian**

Russell & Nina Adams

**Ben & Amber Holscher**

Kim Anderson

**Ken & Adele Hopper**

Jeffrey Hopper

**Doris Kooyumjian**

Kenneth & Robyn

Esraelian

Aram & Barbara

Garabedian

**D.L. & Mary McCoy**

Doug & Toby

Harrison

**Jay & Debbie Mills**

Doug & Toby

Harrison

**Russ Mott**

John Washburn

**Larry & Dot Powell**

Anonymous

**Santa Claus & The**

**Elves**

Anonymous

**Sharon Soghmonian**

Susan Millard

**Linda Tikijian**

Robyn Esraelian

**Francis & Nancy**

**Weaver**

Sharon Weaver

**Joyce Williams**

Marilyn Zuercher

**John & Lois**

**Yakligian**

Mr. & Mrs. Tim

Da Silva



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### Giving and Expense through February 2017

Income      \$193,000\*

Expense      \$128,000

\*Includes Estate of \$95,000



**Karl Avakian**  
Bruce & Karin Baloian

**Pauline Baker**  
Fred Wittwer

**Roslyn Baker**  
Jerry & Nelda Baker

**Ruth Beberian**  
Verna Hagemier  
Craig & Marilyn Meadors

**Merlin Bowser**  
Verna Hagemier  
Julie Krebs  
Marilyn Zuercher

**Nancy Cencibaugh**  
Jerry & Nelda Baker

**A Vernon Conrad**  
Roy & Shirley Killion

**Mary Lou Corea**  
Winifred Bretz

**John Cotton**  
Bob & Robin Skaggs

**Virginia Cristando**  
Frank Cristando

**Marven J. Curteman**  
Joe & Gail Cole

**Pat Dahlgren**  
Dave & Sharon Knoll

**Carolyn Engelman**  
Larry & Phyllis Isheim

**Helen Gejeian**  
Douglas & Charlotte  
Foster

**Bob Gipson**  
Jerry & Nelda Baker

**Margaret Goertzen**  
Bethany Mennonite  
Brethren Church

**Marian Griffin**  
Elsi Lamborn

**Donna Gustin**  
Larry & Phyllis Isheim

**Estelle Hayes**  
Kathryn Belmont  
Ken & Adele Hopper  
Conrad & Donna Sanborn

**James Hansen**  
Charles & Linda Alstrom

**Joan Heckel**  
Jeri Theusen

**John Hogendorf**  
Courtney Hogendorf

**Virginia Ichihana**  
Winifred Bretz

**Helen Keith**  
Shirley Keith

**Robin Locke**  
Joseph Cole  
Tamara Schmidt

**Suzi Martin**  
Ken & Sue Abrahamian  
Jerry & Nelda Baker  
Michael M. Buettner

Eunice Fitzgerald  
Marjorie Freeman  
J. Philip & Sandra  
Henderson  
Melena Koligian

**Sunny Messenlehner**  
Louise Avedisian

**Gerry Milne**  
Jerry & Nelda Baker

**Connie Mishler**  
Dave & Sharon Knoll

**Tom & Helen Mott**  
Matt & Sue Mott

**Herb Names**  
Verna Hagemier

**Bernice Nachtigal**  
Randy Pinal

**Imogene Nelson**  
Aram & Barbara  
Garabedian

**Kathryn Nichols**  
Rod & Shelly Coburn

**Guildo Nonini**  
Robert Levinson

**Jean Norman**  
Dave & Ann Meyer

**Linda Peters**  
Dave & Sharon Knoll

**Lori Pond**  
Janice Hewitt

**Genevieve Radovich**  
Martin & Christine  
Krikorian

**Irene Raymond**  
Robert & Robin  
Levinson

**Bobby Roberts**  
Dr. Malcolm &  
LaVerne Masten

**Jerry Saylor**  
Jerry & Nelda Baker  
Glendon & Debbie  
Becker

Carl Campbell

**Margaret Schroeder**  
Dottie Kuehle

**Vahe Simonian**  
Bruce & Karin Baloian

**Katherine Sinner**  
Gene & Barbara Kline

**Bob Smith**  
Bob & Robin Skaggs

**Eileen Staley**  
Marjanne Claassen  
Jim & Carol Conrow

Susan, Sherman &  
Jr Fujioka

Ron & Carol Jones  
Marjorie Layton

Mark & Lynda Snauffer

**Burl Walter**  
Dave & Sharon Knoll

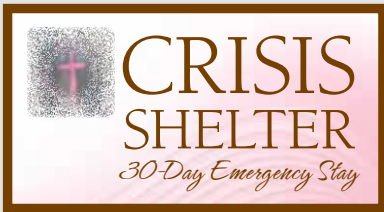
**Fred White**  
Lillian Holmes

**Randy Wilkins**  
Rosemary Cotton

**Barbara Willett**  
Janice Hewitt  
Frank Shannon

**Lonnie Yunker**  
James Ray & Mary

Ray-Yunker



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.
www.evangelhome.org	
or visit us on <a href="#">facebook</a>	

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

Proud Member of



Enhancing Trust

# EVANGEL HOME

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559-264-4714

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