

ECHO OUTREACH
MINISTRIES

FALL 2011

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ISSUE

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MARK DOWN
THESE DATES

**One Warm Coat Drive
October 28–January 31**

**Community Shred-It
November 5th**

**Crop Walk
November 13th**

**National Recycle Day
Panhandler's Kitchen
Store November 15th**

**Alternative Christmas
Market at John Wesley
UMC—December 3rd &
4th**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: SIGNS OF THE TIMES

For 30 years ECHO has been a frontline ministry striving to meet the immediate needs of our clients. People from all walks of life with a multitude of life stories have come through our doors to receive help over the years. We've attempted to meet their basic needs of food and shelter, while providing counsel to guide them to a brighter future. Some need to be challenged while most just need an encouraging smile and a helping hand to get through a rough time in their lives.

However, over the last year the stories have been harder, the stress levels higher, and more people than ever are just plain scared of what tomorrow holds for them and their families. More dual income families have lost one income, more grandparents are rais-

ing their grandchildren, and more families are "doubling up" in single family homes as foreclosures take their toll. Some feel they are at the end of their rope and think "Now what?"

We realize the needs are great. But here at ECHO our staff and our board are continually amazed and blessed by the generosity, creativity, and willingness of so many individuals, churches, and organizations in Tallahassee. People are becoming more aware of the difficult circumstances others are facing and are stepping up to help us meet those needs (some while facing their own challenges). Please take time to read about a few of them in the pages of this newsletter. From an 8-year old's lemonade

stand to an FSU basketball coach's support of our anniversary dinner...from a church ministering to our Bethany families to an international motocross champion leading our golf tournament, we hope you will be inspired to act in whatever way God leads you.

Marta Arrington



Executive Director, Marta Arrington with 8-year-old Graham at ECHO's 30th Anniversary Dinner. Read about Graham's contribution to ECHO on page 2.

TURKEY TIME IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!
KIM LADNER, EMERGENCY RESOURCES PROGRAM DIRECTOR

In keeping with Thanksgiving tradition, many of us will celebrate the harvest by gathering family and friends around a table to give thanks for our blessings. We will feast on turkey, delicious dressing and vegetables, and enough desserts to keep us sweet for the rest of the year. But for some of our ECHO clients, Thanksgiving is a day of struggle just as all their other

days. Please help us give our less fortunate neighbors a reason to celebrate this Thanksgiving season by purchasing a turkey or any of the following items and have them to us by **November 5th** so that we can sort items into baskets and give them away during the two weeks prior to the Holiday. Thank you for your generosity and we hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving!

**Frozen Turkey
(approx 12 lbs)**

- **A grocery store gift card or check for the amount of a turkey**
- **Can of Yams**
- **Box of stuffing mix**
- **Can of Cranberry sauce**
- **Can of Green Beans**

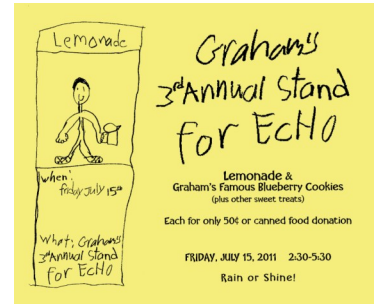
ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS: GRAHAM & STREETCHEFS

We are always amazed by the creativity of those who support us. For the third year in a row, 8 yr. old Graham H. (pictured on front) opened up shop in his parent's garage and attracted swarms of people thirsty for his lemonade & a dose of his youthful enthusiasm. In total Graham raised \$1,111 selling lemonade and his famous blueberry cookies! He also requested his birthday money

be sent to ECHO. Since his generous spirit is such an encouragement, ECHO's board decided to thank him by recognizing him at our anniversary dinner and giving him a lemon tree!

Street Chefs, a popular food truck, along with several local businesses and musicians hosted "Street Fest" on July 2nd. The event promoted

tasty home-made food, live music, and information about ECHO's impact in the community. Co-owner, Rebecca Kelly, did a great job exemplifying how a person can use their passions and creativity to raise support for a non-profit. She used her cooking and entrepreneurial skills to draw people to the event and collected food and money. The event raised dollars, donations, and awareness.



LOCAL PARTNER CHURCHES: A SERVANT'S HEART

Each fall **First Baptist Church** sets aside a day of service to the community as part of their *First Love* ministry. This year ECHO was blessed to be one of the beneficiaries of their hard work and the interior of our offices on W. Madison Street are now freshly painted! The team of adults and youth also spent the day ministering to our 12 families from Bethany Apartments. Clothing, blankets, and books were given out and the children

played games and made beautiful picture frames. Those frames were soon filled as everyone had a family portrait taken. The families also enjoyed a delicious BBQ meal and each one received a gift basket. Others from the team painted one of the apartments at Bethany as well as repaired some furniture and drywall. Our families were truly blessed by it all! THANK YOU!



"In as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."
Matthew 25:40

ATHLETIC ABILITY: RICKY CARMICHAEL & GOLF

The 3rd annual **Ricky Carmichael Golf Tournament for ECHO** was held on September 12th and everyone involved enjoyed a beautiful day at Southwood Golf Club. Fifteen-time motocross champion and current NASCAR truck series driver, **Ricky Carmichael** brought along some of his sponsors - **Camping World and Monster Energy Drinks** to create an awesome atmosphere. Along with many local sponsors \$30,000 was raised for those in need in our community! Golfers enjoyed getting their pictures taken with Ricky and wonderful prizes such as a family 4-pack to the **Daytona 500** were raffled off. But the highlight of the day came when Ricky drew the winning ticket for a brand new **E-Z-GO Golf Cart!** The winner, **Yi Cauble**, was thrilled as she picked up the cart along with her husband and three sons. Congratulations to this family and a big THANK YOU to all of our sponsors and participants! We will see you next year!



Yi Cauble, her husband David, and their three sons prepare to take their new E-Z-GO Golf Cart home!

MOVERS...AND SHAKERS- ROGER AND MIKE

JON HINKLE, WAREHOUSE MANAGER

Whenever I talk about the nearly 350 pieces of donated furniture that were given out last year, I usually follow that by saying "That's not bad for one warehouse guy, one pickup truck, and a few dedicated volunteers. Two of those dedicated volunteers are Mike Kosturko and Roger Henry.

Mike has been picking up furniture for ECHO for several years and if there is donated furniture waiting to be picked up on the

east side of town, chances are that Mike will volunteer to go get it. Since he is retired, Mike can call and arrange a pickup time that is most convenient for the donor. He also often volunteers to help with large pick-ups, and has many not-so-fond memories of carrying furniture down the narrow, winding stairwells at Burt Reynolds Hall.

Four months ago, Roger Henry thought he was going to volun-

teer packing 3-Day Food Boxes for ECHO, but when he drove into the parking lot in a Toyota pick-up truck, his luck suddenly changed. Now his Tuesdays are usually spent helping Jon pick-up donated furniture even in exotic locales such as Medart. If you would like to join ECHO's version of Robin Hood and his band of merry men and women, call me at 224-3246 ext. 205 for more informa-



Mike Kosturko (top) and Roger Henry (below) stand by their trucks ready to pick up donated items for ECHO

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS: ANSWERING THE CALL

TASHEIKA WILLIFORD, FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM

Our residential program for homeless families, Bethany Family Services, has been serving families for over 10 years, since August 2001. We are able to house twelve families for up to four months and we serve 36-40 families a year. While ECHO provides new mattress covers when a new family moves in, the original mattresses in use from the conception of this program had begun to wear out.. A request was given to

Capital City Kiwanis Club, a partner for many years, who began to work on this need. They were able to arrange a huge donation from the **Phi Nu Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Sorority**. Together they were able to donate and deliver 23 twin sized mattresses to Bethany Apartments! Additionally, an article in the **Tallahassee Democrat** assisted ECHO in sharing this need and in response, we received 10 twin

sized mattresses and 1 full size mattress from **Capital City Women's Club** and other individuals. Because of these responses we are now only in need of 15 twin and 5 full sized mattresses. We hope to report back to you in the next newsletter that this need has been fulfilled. If you would like to help, please contact TaSheika Williford at Bethany Family Services at 878-7122

While ECHO provides a new mattress cover when a family moves in, the 10 year old mattresses had begun to wear out.

ENCOURAGEMENT & MOTIVATION: SUE SEMRAU & ALVIN LEE

MARKING ECHO'S MILESTONE-30 YEARS OF SERVICE

On August 27th almost 200 friends, staff, volunteers, board members, and former clients came together to celebrate ECHO's 30 years of service to the community at St. John's Café . **Doug Apple** of **WAVE 94.1** was our enthusiastic emcee and set the tone for a great evening. **Outback Steakhouse** catered a delicious meal and eve-

ryone enjoyed the beautiful voice of local gospel singer, **Anita Franklin**. We were blessed to hear from one of our former clients, **Alvin Lee** who shared his inspirational story and gave us a new sense of purpose to continue ECHO's mission. And nothing could match the enthusiasm and motivation we experienced

from hearing **Coach Sue Semrau**, head coach of the Florida State Women's Basketball Team. The 3 time ACC Coach of the Year shared how she was motivated by Alvin and all that ECHO does for the community. Thanks to all who participated in a wonderful night of remembering the past and looking forward to a bright future.



FSU Women's Basketball Coach Sue Semrau

ONE WARM COAT DRIVE: OCTOBER 28-JANUARY 31

Brrrr...there's that definite chill in the air, now that Fall is here! ECHO is once again partnering with the national "One Warm Coat" Drive. From **October 28 through January 31st**, you can drop off your gently used coats to **Burlington Coat Factory** at Tallahassee Mall, or at the main ECHO office, 702 W. Madison Street. We will soon be seeing many clients who are need of a coat to keep them warm, so please keep this opportunity in mind. Everyone needs ONE warm coat!



COMMUNITY SHRED-IT DAY: NOVEMBER 5



We appreciate **Shred-It** for allowing ECHO Outreach Ministries to be the beneficiary of their upcoming **Community Shred-It Day** on Saturday, November 5th! Bring a non-perishable food item and get your documents shredded for free!

When: Saturday, November 5, 2011, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: Tallahassee Police Department, 234 East 7th Ave.

What: Free document shredding (no commercial jobs, limit of 5 boxes, paper only).

Accepting non-perishable food donations to be distributed by ECHO to those in need in Tallahassee. Protect your identity while you help your neighbor. We hope to see you there!

CROP WALK 2011: NOVEMBER 13

Over a billion people are at risk of death due to inadequate nutrition and clean water. You can be a part of the solution by coming out and walking with us at the 2011 Crop Walk sponsored by Church World Service. Hundreds of Tallahasseeans will lace up their shoes to walk for those who suffer daily from a lack of food and water.

When: Sunday November 13th ~ Registration starts at 12:30 ~ Walk begins at 2:00

Where: E. Peck Green Park across from Collins Library

What: Walk to fight hunger in the world and our own community

You can help by: 1) sponsoring yourself and getting others to sponsor you with monetary and food donations, 2) by sponsoring another walker, or 3) by forming a team to walk together. All of the food collected and 25 percent of the proceeds will go to local relief agencies **including ECHO** and the rest goes to Church World Service, to provide assistance for those who need it most domestically and throughout the world. For more information, contact Barbara Bookholt at 562-8984.



ECHO INFORMATION CARDS: A WAY TO HELP EVERYDAY



We are sometimes surprised by the number of people we meet who do not know about ECHO, where we are located, or the services we provide. Please take a moment to **cut out the cards** on the next page, carry them in your wallet, and pass them along to those you meet who: 1) are in need of our services or 2) are looking for a place to donate furniture, household items, clothing, or food. Thank you for being part of our efforts to let people know how they can receive help and give help.

I support those in need through

ECHO OUTREACH MINISTRIES

which provides

Food to assist through a temporary crisis
Short-term housing for homeless families



www.echotally.org

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PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOME BUSINESS CARDS WITH THIS INFORMATION,

PLEASE CALL ECHO AT 224-3246 EXT 209

How to find ECHO

702 W. Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304
(one block north of Gaines St.
between Woodward & Railroad Ave.)
Phone: (850)224-3246
Fax: (850)224-3267

Hours of Operation
Monday-Thursday 9am-11:30 am & 1pm-4pm
Friday: 9am-12pm
Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED

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It started simple—a baby born in a manger. But celebrating Christ’s birth has become anything but simple. If you are looking for a way to put more meaning into your family’s celebration of the season, mark your calendar for the **25th annual Alternative Christmas Market** at John Wesley United Methodist Church.

When: Saturday December 3rd ~ 9 am to 4 pm and Sunday December 4th ~ 1 pm to 4 pm

Where: John Wesley United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall ~ 1689 Old St. Augustine Rd. Tallahassee, FL

What : Gifts to honor those who have enough by giving to those who have too little

With your gift purchased through **ECHO** you can honor a family member, teacher, or friend by providing:

- ~ a travel pack (bag of food) for a hungry client for \$5
- ~ a 3 day supply of food for 1-2 people who are hungry for \$15
- ~ housing for one week for a homeless family for \$75



You can also shop on their website <https://sites.google.com/site/acmatjwc/Home> beginning November 28th. Please consider making ECHO part of your gift giving this holiday season through the Alternative Christmas Market.

HOPE RENEWED AFTER THE STORM: KATHY & DAVID
KIM LADNER, EMERGENCY RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Kathy and David moved to Tallahassee earlier this year after losing all of their possession when tornadoes ravaged their hometown in North Carolina. After losing their home, Kathy suffered a stroke which made their situation that much more dire. After travelling from homeless shelter to homeless shelter, and even after spending a few nights sleeping under a bridge, the couple landed in Tallahassee with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. After learning of their story, a local apartment complex owner, offered Kathy and David an apartment for two months to help them get back on their feet.

The couple then came to ECHO hoping to find some assistance with food and any other guidance for

their situation. ECHO not only helped with food, but gave the couple furniture and household items to make their new house a home.

Kathy’s health is slowly starting to improve and David has found employment with another agency that also helps homeless people in time of need. Their story reminds us that bad things can happen to good people, but getting back on one’s feet takes perseverance and sometimes a little help along the way. We count Kathy and David as one of our “success” stories and hope they continue to thrive in their new home.

...even after spending a few nights sleeping under a bridge, the couple landed in Tallahassee with nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ECHO
YOUR FAITH IN ACTION ALLOWS US TO HELP OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES

ECHO STAFF - call 224-ECHO (3246)

EMERGENCY RESOURCES PROGRAM
Kim Ladner, Director, ext 206
Sybil Thomas, Case Worker, ext 207
Erica Simonian, Administrative Asst, ext 213

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/WAREHOUSE
Jon Hinkle, Director, ext 205

ADMINISTRATION
Marta Arrington, Executive Director, ext 206
Robert Duha, Accountant, ext 203
Nancy Burke, Asst. to the Director, ext 209

FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM
TaSheika Williford, Director 878-1722
Kescia Pride, Case Worker
Mary Coker & Leslie Fudge,
Overnight Staffing

DONATE ONLINE !
WWW.ECHOTALLY.ORG

or send donations to:

**EMERGENCY CARE
HELP ORGANIZATION**

Address: 702 West Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Phone: 224-ECHO (3246)

Fax: 224-3276

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9-11:30 am
and 1-4:30PM
Friday 9AM-12PM only



ECHO Outreach Ministries puts faith into action by serving people in crisis and poverty. For over 30 years, ECHO has served Leon County residents and the homeless. Through our Emergency Resources Program and our Family Services Program we assist people in their efforts to become independent, productive, and stable.

ECHO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Catherine Chapman
- President Elect:**
Randy Barr, Sr.
- Secretary:**
Wyntress Patterson
- Treasurer:**
Theresa Westerfield
- Directors:**
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