

THE VISION



ECHO— 702 West Madison Street, Tallahassee, FL 32304
www.echotally.org 850-224-ECHO (3246)



‘Tis The Season To Be Thankful

By **Sandy Noel**, *Community Ambassador at FSU*

Despite a few setbacks this year, ECHO has not stopped from being thankful! This is the time where we tell our loved ones what we are most thankful for. Typically, we often think of loved ones as family, friends, and co-workers. Here at ECHO, **YOU**, our supporters, donors, and volunteers are who we are most thankful for this year.

If any questions, comments about this newsletter email us: newsletter@echotally.org

FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM: A Blessing in Disguise

By **Felicia P.**, *Family Services Client*

In December of 2009, I found myself needing assistance with food for my family. Fortunately, I was directed to contact ECHO, Inc. to seek food and assistance for my children. Sadly, my needs did not end there because in January 2010, the mobile home my family and I lived in caught fire. I could not depend too much on hotel stays because my savings began to dwindle. It was at this time that I contacted the Family Services Program to request an interview.

Amazingly, the staff of this program really opened their doors and hearts for me and my family to have a place to stay.

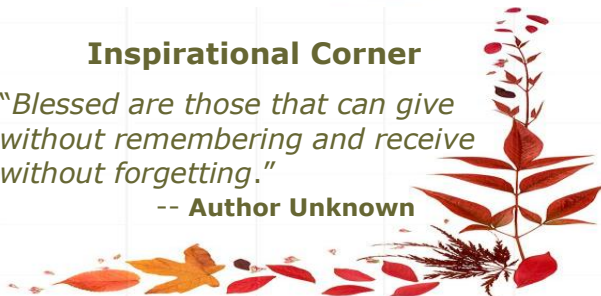
“My entire stay in this program has given me a better perspective on life and has enriched my inner being.”

– Felicia P.

Inspirational Corner

“Blessed are those that can give without remembering and receive without forgetting.”

-- **Author Unknown**



A Blessing in Disguise, cont'd

Thankfully, my Case Manager has helped me in so many ways ranging from: paired with my job security and allowed me to move into the Bethany Family Apartments, the 2 year transitional phase of the Family Services Program to helping me with in the process of enrolling my youngest in school and my with my eldest, who graduated from high school and is considering the Military. Everything seemed to me going on the right track, the only thing I had left to do was to work towards home ownership.

My Case Manager suggested I contact Habitat for Humanity regarding home ownership. She supported me through my process with Habitat for Humanity. It excites me to think how in one year, I will have my own home!!

The Family Services program has given me a better prospective on life and has enriched my inner being. Of course, it was a two-way relationship. My determination, steadfastness, and motivation, allowed them to will lead me to self sufficiency.

Sheika Willford, *Director of Family Services*
familyservices@echotally.org

ECHO’s NEEDS Corner:

- ***FOOD** (view the insert page for specific details)
- ***Interns** for the Employment Assistance & Family Assistance Programs (hopefully by January 2011).
- ***Sponsors/businesses** to donate planners and food to accommodate clients involved in the Job Seminars.
- ***Volunteers** to work Wednesdays (2PM–4:30PM) to Answer the phone and greet clients.
- ***Pots, pans, silverware, and furniture** for clients.



“One Warm Coat” Drive, A National Effort Meeting Local Needs

By Kim Ladner, *Emergency Program Director*

ECHO will be participating in the national “One Warm Coat” drive put on by Burlington Coat Factory and Old Navy. The main goal of this initiative is to provide any person in need with a warm coat, free of charge. This drive allows ECHO clients to stay warm during the cooler [will be colder] weather. Please do not hesitate to stop by any local Burlington Coat Factory, Old Navy, or even ECHO to donate any of your “extra” coats. We also accept any extra space heaters (in good, safe working condition), gloves, hats, scarves, and blankets. Sparing any of these mentioned items will definitely make a difference to those without.

CROP Walk Benefits ECHO

By Jon Hinkle, *Manager of Community Outreach*

Around the globe, over a billion people are at risk of death due to inadequate nutrition. A billion and a half people are without clean water. 30,000 children are dying due to these conditions. These are staggering statistics indeed, but you can help by participating in CROP Walk 2010 on Sunday, November 14 at 2 PM downtown at E. Peck Green Park across from the Collins Library.

CROP Walk, sponsored by Church World Service, collects money and canned goods to help fight hunger both here in Tallahassee and around the world. In the previous 21 walks in Tallahassee, over \$350,000 and nearly 50,000 pounds of non-perishable food have been collected. This year’s goal is to collect \$22,000 and 4,000 pounds of

“In the previous 21 walks in Tallahassee, over \$350,000 and nearly 50,000 pounds of non-perishable food have been collected.”—Jon



“1 in 3 homeless persons is a child under the age of 18” —*National Coalition for the Homeless*

Remember:

Stay safe & warm through the Holiday months.
THANK YOU for all you do for ECHO.
We certainly couldn’t do it without you!

CROP Walk, cont’d

food. You can help by (1) sponsoring yourself and as well as getting other people to sponsor you on your walk with monetary and food donations, (2) sponsor a walker yourself in lieu of walking, (3) encouraging a group of which you are a part to form a team for walking. All of the food and 25% of the money collected will be distributed to local Tallahassee agencies (including ECHO) fighting hunger here at home. It’s a perfect blend of good exercise for a worthy cause.

Interested in joining this cause?

WHEN? -> Sunday, November 14, 2010

WHERE? -> E. Peck Green Park across from Collins Library.

Registration starts: 12:30PM/walk begins: 2 PM.

For more information, call

Barbara Bookholt at 562-8984.



5th Annual ECHO Golf Tournament Draws Players and Race Fans

By **Marta Arrington**, *Executive Director of ECHO*

This year on September 13, 2010, turned out to be the perfect day for ECHO's Fifth Annual Golf Tournament, as 22 teams enjoyed a wonderful day on the South Wood course.

In addition to playing golf, participants enjoyed meeting and having their picture taken with our celebrity host and 15-time motocross champion, **Ricky Carmichael**. Ricky also brought NASCAR star Kevin Harvick, along with representatives from many of his sponsors, including Monster Energy Drinks and Suzuki. Even racing fans who do not play golf came out to meet Ricky and hear a little bit about ECHO and our mission. If you were not there for the fun, please plan to join us next year.



****From 11/08/10 to 11/21/10, we will be auctioning off Ricky Carmichael's paraphernalia online at echotally.org [click on Online Auction]. All proceeds benefit ECHO!!**

****The fun doesn't just end on the course →**

Back to School Clothing Drive– GREAT SUCCESS!!

By **Kim Ladner**, *Emergency Program Director*



Ruler: \$0.60

Mead #2 Pencils: \$1.99

Kids' Scissors: \$2.99

2-inch Binder: \$4.99

Jan-sport Backpack: \$29.99

THANK YOU so much to all of our wonderful Back to School Clothing Drive donors. You really helped make this year's clothing drive a HUGE success. In fact, the drive went SO well, we ran out of kids before we ran out of adopters! With your help we served over 160 kids by providing them with two new outfits to start their school year off right. We look forward to continuing this program again next year, so if you'd like to be put on the adopter list to adopt one of the children we provide clothes for – just give Kim Ladner a call: 850-224-3246 ext 206.

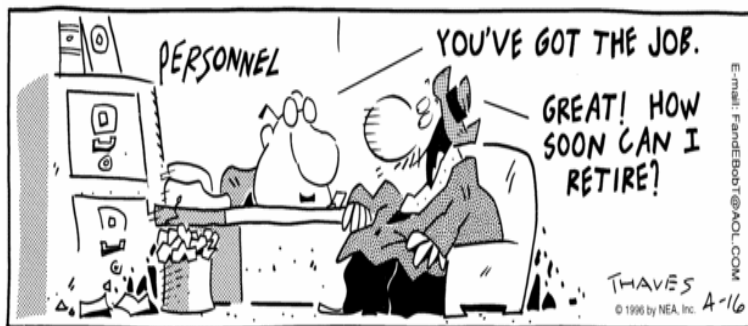
We'll be happy to add you to our list of "angels"

Sending a child to school prepared = Priceless.

Look at me now...

By Lynnward M., *EAP Client*

No words can truly describe what I have been through. Despite being homeless and unable to get decent employment with just a high school diploma, I am still here. It took for me to join ECHO’s Employment Assistance Program (EAP) and participate in their two-day seminar for me to finally shed some light into my life. The services of EAP have provided me with so many skills pertinent to seeking employment. The skills include: networking, interviewing, and follow ups. It was not too long after I attended the job seminar when I got a full-time job at Longhorn Steakhouse. To be honest, EAP’s services were not limited to just helping me find a job. With the support of my counselor, Ms. Sybil, my life has changed drastically. I am no longer homeless; I am currently living at Hope Communities. I also decided to go back to school full-time student at Lively Tech in hope of acquiring more skills to compete effectively for a better paying job. I must say that ECHO overall was a blessing to me. I can definitely attest to the fact that they are the reason why I am the way I am today. Thank you ECHO for everything!



Sybil Davis, *Director of Employment Assistance Program (EAP)*

employassist@echotally.org

Imagine School at the Evening Rose, “Thanksgiving Food Drive”

By Sandy Noel, *Community Ambassador*

This year, from 11/1/10 to 11/5/10, ECHO will host a “Thanksgiving Food Drive” at the Imagine School at the Evening Rose. Students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade will be encouraged to raise as much non-perishable items as possible to help ECHO feed **280 families** for Thanksgiving this year. The class that collects the most goods will be the first place winner. The first place winner will win the ultimate incentive of FREE LUNCH donated by Panera Bread. Kids love contests, and this Thanksgiving food drive is a win-win situation. Kids get awarded to participate and learn the significance of serving for others and needy families get a fulfilling Thanksgiving meal.



Let's see how Imagine CAN help those in need!

Thanksgiving Word Search



S	M	K	E	Y	L	E	Z	I	A	M	C	N	N	AMERICA COLONY COOK CORN ENGLAND FALL FAMILY FEAST FREEDOM GRAVY HARVEST INDIANS MAIZE MAYFLOWER PIE PILGRIMS PLYMOUTH PUMPKIN SAIL SETTLERS SICKNESS SQUASH STUFFING THANKSGIVING TURKEY YAMS
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	G	G	K	A	O	G	Z	
M	C	M	R	G	L	G	M	C	O	L	O	N	Y	
O	M	O	C	R	H	L	F	F	T	T	K	I	X	
B	S	D	S	Q	U	A	S	H	S	E	D	V	P	
A	S	E	C	O	R	N	M	A	E	A	D	I	I	
J	E	E	I	P	A	D	E	E	V	G	W	G	L	
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L	I	I	P	I	R	E	W	O	L	F	Y	A	M	
B	S	G	M	U	L	A	R	B	U	U	W	H	S	
Z	F	A	T	P	O	D	V	S	I	T	U	T	A	
J	F	A	L	L	S	M	A	Y	H	S	H	Z	B	



Welcome to ECHO!!



Hello everyone! My name is **Elizabeth**; I am a fourth year at Florida State University majoring in Social Work. I am here at ECHO to gain invaluable firsthand experience applying my social work education and working with the families in crisis which ECHO serves. My main role is working as a counselor in the Emergency Assistance Program, providing hurting families with desperately needed necessities and helping them form a plan to work towards self efficiency. My absolutely favorite thing about ECHO is the clients. Being able to help empower them and help them find the tools they need to obtain independence is such a joy. I enjoy getting to be a small part of someone's story and journey.

Hi! My name is **Sandy**; I am a junior at Florida State University majoring in International Affairs with a minor in Social Welfare. Why am I here at ECHO? Well, I am a Community Ambassador for Florida State University (FSU). We serve as liaisons between various community service agencies and FSU. My role in ECHO is to assist in the recruiting, training, and organization of FSU students to volunteer at ECHO, planning/executing fundraisers and food drives, and overall providing an extra hand to both the directors and counselors with just about anything. What I love about ECHO is the drive and commitment of the employees. It's so exciting when we are each in our office and one of the career counselor screams in excitement that her client just got a job and then that makes us all scream in excitement together. ECHO IS JUST SO EXCITING!!! I definitely look forward to doing what I can to help ECHO serve those in need.



Welcome to the ECHO family:
Elizabeth, and Sandy!!!
You all bring experience, knowledge
and skills that enhance our
capabilities

Fall Brings Activity, Excitement to ECHO

By, *Marta Arrington, Executive Director of ECHO*

The fall here at ECHO is a very busy time. We just finished our Back to School drive and our golf tournament, and we are now beginning to plan our ever-popular Turkey giveaway, church food drives and other holiday events. All this in addition to providing food, shelter and employment assistance to our clients!

Our Board of Directors has also been quite busy. They recently participated in a two-day retreat to improve their understanding of effective board governance and select new committee chairs. On October 1, Board President Keith Gaskins passed the baton to Tom Hall.

We thank Keith for his dedication and service to ECHO during his year as president as well as his seven years on ECHO’s Board of Directors. Keith and his wife, Angela, have provided tireless support to ECHO and our clients. We look forward to working with our new president, Tom Hall, who brings with him years of management experience with the Florida Courts, board service with other professional organizations, and most importantly, a desire to serve others.

We are excited to share that we have been selected by the AAFT (American Advertising Federation, Tallahassee) as its 2010/11 Public Service Project. This means a team of marketing specialists will assist us in more effectively communicating to the community the important work that we perform and the different ways they can help ECHO help others.

Blessings to each of you,

Marta Arrington

Echo’s Pantry



With your help and the help of volunteers, we have serviced an average of 804 individuals per month, during this fiscal year.

“I Was Hungry And You Gave Me Something To Eat...”

Matthew 25:35

Echo’s Service Report for the fiscal year (October 2009–October 2010):

TOTAL Clients (individual)	4695
TOTAL Dependents	4959
TOTAL SERVED (indiv. & dep.)	9654
Homeless (out of total served)	26.86%
YOUNGEST Client	13yrs
OLDEST Client	88yrs
TOTAL <u>Food Units</u> DISPENSED	129522
TOTAL <u>Clothing Units</u> DISPENSED	12785
TOTAL <u>Diapers</u> DISPENSED	3832
TOTAL <u>Household Units</u> DISPENSED	11175
TOTAL <u>Furniture</u> DISPENSED	803
TOTAL Volunteer/Intern Hours	436

Did you know? --> Your online shopping CAN benefit ECHO!

Imagine this: buying your favorite person a gift they want, maybe some beauty essentials, books, CDs, any of those wonderful items online, only now it makes a difference for your favorite worthy cause. At www.iGive.com/ECHO, you can shop for just about anything, from his favorite cologne or her favorite perfume to the biggest L-shaped couch, and a percentage of every purchase generates a donation to ECHO.

Turn your shopping habits into acts of kindness toward others by becoming a member of www.iGive.com/ECHO. It's **FREE**- no extra costs or compromising obligations. Shop for items at the over 600 stores at the Mall at iGive.com, like Vitamin Shoppe.com,



Office Depot, Barnes & Noble, Drugstore.com, Lands' End, QVC, and PETSMART. Up to 26% of each purchase is donated to ECHO.

Though you're likely to find dozens of items, a simple purchase is a good way to start giving to both your favorite person and ECHO. So get shopping!

Join now at www.iGive.com/ECHO

Information is subject to change. Visit www.iGive.com for current details. © iGive.com Holdings, LLC

**How far can
YOUR pennies go?
Just SEARCH the internet!**



Search the web with
www.goodsearch.com
and money from Yahoo advertisers
will go to ECHO without you
spending a dime!—that's so **EASY!**

ECHO

Helping Others Help Themselves

En • dow • ment

- n. **1:** a charitable savings account
- 2:** a lasting gift **3:** a permanent fund
- 4:** a repository for other current or deferred gifts **5:** a source of future income **6:** a memorial or legacy
- 7:** a charity's best friend.

Our endowment fund at the Community Foundation of North Florida will provide us with financial security in the future. Please contact us to learn more about our fund and the ways in which you can support us. Additional information is available from the Community Foundation at 222-2899 ext. 104 or jwatkins@cfnf.org.



ECHO GIVES THANKS:

With the generous support of churches, schools, businesses, and individuals, we are still able to continue our mission to “serve people [in Leon County] in crisis and poverty. You've all helped in making ECHO stay strong for 29 years and counting...THANK YOU!

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.echotally.org

ECHO

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"Faith in action allows us to help others help themselves"



Helping Others Help Themselves

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