

THE VISION



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

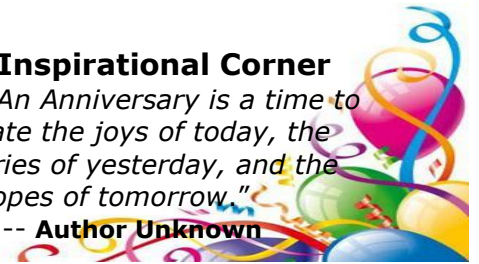
Happy 30th Anniversary ECHO !

30 years later, ECHO Is Still In Demand! Founded in April 1981 in response to a down economy and the inability to meet basic needs, Toni Tran and local churches established the Emergency Care and Help Organization (ECHO). Thirty years later, ECHO has evolved into one of the largest faith-based organizations in Leon County working to empower and serve people in crisis and poverty. Through this newsletter we would like to especially say THANK YOU to all of our wonderful supporters and volunteers, whose heroic efforts over the years have helped ECHO “help others help themselves.”

Inspirational Corner

“An Anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday, and the hopes of tomorrow.”

-- **Author Unknown**



Flashback to 1981

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

Take a trip back to 1981... the year of many notable advances. They range from the inauguration of Ronald Reagan as the 40th President of the USA to the “Marriage of the Decade” with Prince Charles and Princess Diana to the invention of Personal Computers (PCs) by IBM. Not to mention, during the year 1981, the term Internet was first mentioned, UNBELIEVABLE!--The 80s was an age with great social, economic, and general change as wealth and production migrated to newly industrializing economies. With the inception of ECHO as an organization in 1981, I compiled a few very interesting facts that took place. Peruse below and read how life was like for our initial clients then.

Cost of Living

- Average Cost of new house: \$78,200
- Average Income per year: \$19,074
- Average Monthly Rent: \$315.00
- Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.15
- Cost of a gallon of gas: \$1.25
- Cost of a gallon of milk: \$2.22

The Economy

- President: Ronald W. Reagan
- Leon County Pop.: 149,000
- Inflation: 10.2 %
- Unemployment: 7.1%
- Minimum Wage: \$3.10
- Household Net Worth: \$10,266

Potpourri

- Columbia, America's first reusable spacecraft was launched
- "Honey I forgot to duck." --says Pres. Reagan to Nancy after being shot
- The *Donald L. Tucker Center* opened in Tallahassee costing \$33.8 million

In The News

- Sandra Day O'Connor becomes first female Supreme Court Justice
- Reagan lifts grain embargo
- Major cutbacks in the Food Stamp Program
- Comedians Robin Williams, Whoopi Goldberg, and Billy Crystal host *Comic Relief* to raise money for the homeless

ECHO's NEEDS Corner:

- *Diapers & Hygienic products
- *Sponsors to donate lunch to accommodate clients involved in the Seminars.
- *Comforter and Blankets
- *Pots, pans, silverware, & furniture
- * Volunteers for the Warehouse



ECHO Program Changes: EAP Development

By Jalessa M. Williams, Intern Case Manager

New year, new changes, new Employment Assistance Program (EAP). EAP has developed a new and improved assistance program seminar. Clients must now pre-register for the seminar and include their resumes along with the reasons they feel this opportunity benefits them personally. EAP still provides the same great services providing opportunities for job seekers to receive free training on networking, full mock interviews, job searching techniques, one-on-one job counseling, and resume assistance.

If selected, participants will take part in the seminar, which will now take place on the first Monday of every month from 8:30AM to 4:00PM. These changes took effect Jan. 24, 2011 and it has proven very successful. Our clients, Craig and Dilworth, agree with the program changes and believe that their success lies within miles of their hard work and our efforts. Below are the testimonies of their experience:

Craig says, “Thank you for the invitation to participate in ECHO’s Employment Assistance Program. It was a pleasure meeting [the staff]. I am excited about the skills, assistance and hope your program offers. The January 24 workshop was very helpful. Your expertise helped me to clarify my career goals and identify the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to achieve them. I found the network and interview role-playing to be especially useful (and fun!).”

“I, Dilworth, thank you for giving me the



“Your proposal is innovative. Unfortunately, we won’t be able to use it because we’ve never tried something like this before.”

EAP Development cont’d:

opportunity to be a part of your class. I look forward to my next appointment, and the help of you guys in obtaining employment. Til’ we meet again, be blessed! Thanks,” writes Dilworth.

ECHO and EAP congratulate these two determined souls and pray that they continue on their journeys to success. EAP gives individuals in the seminar programs hope for the future and the support that they need to reach their goals. EAP as a whole will continue to use these new techniques to enhance the program further and we are open to new ideas from our clients.

If you would like to donate your time or help provide lunch for one of the seminars feel free to contact Ms. Sybil Davis, Director of the Employee Assist Program at employeeassist@echotally.org or (850) 224-3246/ext.212

Did you know?

1980’s Fashion—The “Dress for Success” Decade

Clothing styles of the 1980’s saw big changes from the previous decade. Gone were the days of bell-bottoms and floral shirts. Instead, men and women alike began dressing like rich and successful people; designer suits and professional clothing became a popular choice among young urban professionals a.k.a. “yuppies”.

From Small Beginnings, Come Great Things... **How Did ECHO Get Started?**

In 1981, ECHO's Founder, Toni Tran was working as a manager of a private employment agency in Tallahassee. At work she was assisting a client for the first time because all of her counselors were busy. After hearing the client's story, her heart was broken for him and his situation. Toni thought, "maybe this is something God wants me to do." Then a second man came in and her heart went out to him again. Then she became afraid because she thought this might be the ministry God had for her. She was afraid because she was comfortable with her current job because it paid well. Even so, she had been asking God for something 'different' and here was an answer. Resolutely she made a deal with God and said if this was what He wanted her to do, He'd have to send another client to her that day. Sure enough, a third man walked in the door later that day. From then on, she knew it was not just a coincidence.

Not having any idea of what to do, Toni trusted God and told her boss she had good and bad news. Good news: God revealed her ministry to her. Bad news: Toni was quitting her job to follow this new passion. Right then, Toni's boss blessed her and she went off to sharing the vision God gave her with many local churches. Toni's biggest supporter was *Forest Heights Baptist Church*. Most of ECHO's donations came from Pentecostal, Baptist, and United Methodist churches. Toni and the churches organized their ideas and created the Emergency Care and Help Organization (ECHO). Collectively, they started the Emergency Resources Program to help people with their basic needs, but more so getting to the root of their problem.

ECHO began its operations solely from volunteers. Many churches, artists, community groups, and concerned individuals donated money, food, items, and time into helping those in need. Businessmen would often come during their lunch breaks and donate their lunch money to help ECHO reach others said Toni. During this time, ECHO was 100% run from donated funds. The fact that ECHO was not affiliated with the government made ECHO more of a "people helping people" organization Toni says.

After much hard work in facilitating fundraisers and having the support of various members/groups in the community, by June 1985, ECHO purchased the current location of its main office, 702 W. Madison, for \$100,000.

*NOTE: This article was based off of a phone
interview with Toni Tran, ECHO's Founder and First
Executive Director on 01/04/2011*



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

By Kim Ladner, *Emergency Program Director*



The “One Warm Coat” Drive is STILL in full swing!! The ECHO Emergency Resources Program (ERP) gives away coats to our clients who do not have a coat of their own. We have partnered with Burlington Coat Factory to accept coats for donation, and have picked up several boxes of good quality used coats to chase away the weather’s chill. If you have a coat you can spare, please take it into *Burlington Coat Factory in the Tallahassee Mall*, or drop it by our office at 702 W. Madison Street.

A special thanks to **Burlington Coat Factory and the group **FSU Fellows** for their assistance in helping us take care of our clients during this drive. We Certainly Couldn’t Do It Without You!

The Importance of Volunteers at ECHO

By, Marta Arrington, *Executive Director of ECHO*

Dear Friends,

In our thirty years of service, ECHO has seen the ebb and flow of the economy, changes in government policies, loss of grants, cutback in programs, and many other tribulations that affect the services we provide to our clients. The impact, however, has never been as significant as this past year. People have asked – how are you continuing to provide all the direct services and support to those in need? The answer is easy...Volunteers. Our volunteers give a new meaning to the word ‘committed.’ Their immeasurable service ranges from helping with the sorting of goods and supplies in our Warehouse, to answering our phones each and every day, to organizing and playing games with the kids at our family homeless shelter.

In the past year, we have seen wonderful volunteers step up to help us provide needed resources and services in a year when our funding has decreased. Just in the past year, our volunteers have worked over 1400 hours! In addition to community volunteers, we are now partnering with AmeriCorps and Florida State University’s Center for Leadership & Civic Education through the *Community Ambassador Program*. Individuals in these programs receive education credit for their volunteer experiences. Our Community Ambassador, Sandy Noel, works with us 10 hours a week. She has helped market our events and recruit other volunteers from FSU and the community at large. She has also been invaluable in writing our newsletter and updating our website.

On this 30th Anniversary of ECHO, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for offering your time and talents to serve those in need. It really is appreciated!

Blessings to each of you,

Marta Arrington

Volunteer Spotlight

Name: Fanne Smith

Hometown: Dayton Ohio

Title: Front Desk Volunteer

How long have you been volunteering?

I have been volunteering for twelve and a half years.

What encouraged or inspired you to be involved with ECHO?

After retiring and moving to Florida from New York, I searched on the yellow pages for my top three organizations to volunteer with & ECHO happened to be one of them.

Why have you continued to volunteer with ECHO? What keeps you interested?

I enjoy it! Similar to counselors, I think that it is most important for the clients to have regulars working at the desk. I also love meeting interesting people.

How often do you volunteer?

Twice a week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

What do you see in the biggest need for clients?

Individual attention. They do not only need people to hand them food

What would be your favorite memory about ECHO?

Mr. _____ is one of our long term clients. Through all the years I have worked here, no one has ever thought to remember his birthday. This past January I bought a birthday card and got everyone in the office to sign it. When he received it his reaction was just priceless. I can never get that look out of my mind. He was shocked and very appreciative of that small gesture.



Fanne Smith

SAVE THE DATE!: UPCOMING EVENTS



Back to School Clothing Drive Starts In May

Starting in May, we'll begin our "Back to School Clothing Drive" for children in need of new clothing for the 2011-2012 school year. Social workers from the Leon County School system, Guardian ad Litem and Children's Medical service identify families in need and ECHO matches donors to kids. If you would like to participate as a donor please contact Kimberly Ladner at 224-3246 ext 206 to get on the list.

Annual Golf Tournament Coming Soon to A Golf Course Near You!



Tee Time Everyone!— We will be hosting our Annual Golf Tournament on **September 12, 2011**. We had an amazing turnout last year and we could not have done it without the help of our volunteers, staff, and sponsors. Stay tuned for further updates on how you can join in on the fun and festivities of this year's golf tournament.

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Administration

<u>Executive Director</u> Marta Arrington	<u>Exec Dir. Assistant</u> Nancy Burke
<u>Accountant/HR</u> Angie Lane	<u>Community Ambassador (FSU)</u> Sandy Noel

ECHO

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“Faith in action allows us to help others help themselves”

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
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