

Spring 2017



Getting Ahead Graduation

A Message from Executive Director Dawn Morris

On June 5th, 2017, 23 clients will graduate from the Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By-World program. This curriculum is designed for people living in poverty and teaches them to investigate the impact poverty has on them and their communities. The graduation ceremony will include a certificate presentation to each graduate and a reception for family and friends.

We are humbled to offer such a program to the women we serve. Completing Getting Ahead is just the beginning of the journey of a lifetime for our graduates. Studies show that Getting Ahead graduates build their personal resources to prepare them to take a place at the table where community decisions are made. It gives them the skills needed to be successful in the workplace, and they apply their time, knowledge and problem-solving abilities in all areas of their lives.

None of this would have been possible without our supporters. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who stands in agreement that this program is changing lives! To the women who have worked hard to complete this course I say, "Well done, ladies!" You continue to inspire me daily. What incredible steps you are taking to not only better yourselves, but to improve the lives of your children.

With gratitude, Dawn Morris, Executive Director

(See more information about Getting Ahead in the Litchfield and Springfield Program Updates section of this publication)



EAS Rocks!



The annual EAS gala held February 25 rocked things a bit this year with our colorful and artistic rocking chairs. The evening featured Adirondack rocking chairs painted by local artists, terrific hors d'oeuvres provided by Hi-Vee Catering, live music by Take 10, and much more. The entire EAS family: clients, staff, board and volunteers are grateful for the turnout and support from our artists, event sponsors and all who attended.

Thank you, event sponsors and artists:

We Will Rock You - **Robert and Anne Barker; Heartland Credit Union; Dave and Mary Lou Roszhart; Kevin and Lisa Coakley**

Rock N' Roll - **Mike and Karen Beckmann; Barb Butler; Comfort Air Heating and Air Conditioning; Leslie J. Fyans, Jr. M.A., Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist; Hospital Sisters of St. Francis; Tammie Klein and Patrick Kelly**

Rockabye Baby - **Mike and Karen Beckmann; J.P. and Kristin Fyans; Griffin, Winning, Cohen, and Bodewes P.C.; Sorling Northrup Attorneys; Watts Electric, Jim Watts**

EAS chair artists: Kathy Feraris; Courtney Landholt, Kelly Sholtis and Kathi Lee – Kathi Kelly and Me; Rhiannon Gurley – Our Vibrant Community; Felicia Olin – Felicia Olin, Artist; Beth Pianezza; Renee Ryals; Janet Gaffney, Sue Moredock, Leigh Reed, Jo Wassell and Lisa Coakley – The Coffee Group; Kimberly Stevens; Maureen Cavanagh; SHG National Art Honor Society Students; Janet Gaffney and Meghan Gaffney; Mary Lou Roszhart; Kristin Fyans; Lyn and Beky Drainer; Kara Dubois and Trudy Malkey; Kathi Lee; Cynthia Sies; Megan Coakley; Rebeca Coakley; Lisa Coakley



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Save the date!
Moms Go Back to School Luncheon
Thursday, August 24
11:30 am
Christ the King Parish Center
All proceeds from this luncheon support the EAS Education Program

Litchfield and Springfield Program Updates

The **Teen Mom Program** in Springfield continues to help young women reach their education goals. EAS will celebrate with our teens as they receive their high school diplomas or GED certificates this June.

Parenting Classes held at both program sites continue. The positive parenting curriculum utilizes written material and classroom discussion that individualizes the content to fit the needs of each participant so they can apply the techniques at home. **Pork Patty Sales** in Litchfield, a popular warm-weather fundraiser, continue this year on the second Wednesday of each month April through October. They're a perfect lunch option prepared and operated by the EAS participants and volunteers in Litchfield.

Litchfield EAS is dedicated to improving the lives of the women in the program. Additional classes emphasize improving the self-esteem of the women and creating an awareness of how domestic violence can destroy families.

The Mission of the Elizabeth Ann Seton (EAS) Program is to embrace the sanctity and dignity of life by nurturing pregnant and parenting women. EAS partners with multi-faith congregations and community organizations to provide support, education and practical assistance to women and their children.

Thank You!

Litchfield and Springfield Program Updates, con't.

On June 5, 2017, twenty-three women from Litchfield and Springfield will graduate from the first **Getting Ahead In a Just-Gettin'-By-World Workshop**. The women are eagerly anticipating the ceremony to be held at the Waggoner Centennial Building, Waggoner, IL. Following are replies from some of the students when they were asked what they think about the class:

- Carrie: "Personally, learning about resources available to me has been the absolute best. I had no idea about the many different programs that try to help people."
- Anon: "(there are) many people out there that struggle just like myself and I'm not alone.....this class is definitely helping me get ahead with life and do better!! Love our group of ladies!!"
- Cindy: "I've learned that there are so many contributing factors to poverty. Poverty isn't about making the last few dollars stretch, it's not having the funds at all and having to find any means possible to get by. This program is a great way to give us goals to push us ahead. WE have to WANT to get ahead."

Diapers, Diapers, Diapers!

As an incentive for staying in school and making progress, the young women enrolled in the Teen Mom Program at EAS earn diapers for their babies. The Teen Mom Program at EAS is growing, and baby, oh baby, do we need diapers!

This year's class size averages 20 Teen Moms weekly, and because they have very good attendance, the number of diapers they earn continues to grow, too.

If you want to help our Teen Mom Program here's how:

Bring diapers to the EAS office or make a monetary donation to purchase diapers. Our Moms, their babies and EAS thank you!

EAS receives partial funding for specific programs from these donors: Memorial Medical Center Foundation; the 2016 Carter Drive Golf Outing; Campaign for Justice and Hope, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois; Cardinals Cares; TJX Foundation. This newsletter is printed courtesy of St. John's Hospital.

EAS Board of Directors

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We couldn't do it without you. Your generous gifts make EAS programs possible. We want to acknowledge these organizations and individuals for their kind-hearted gifts. Thank you!

Knights of Columbus Council 364 and Council 669 for their donations

The Zonta Club for 955 diapers and 1,555 wipes

Rochester Baptist Church for the much needed baby items

Phillips 66 of Litchfield (Mark and Tammy Miller) for a generous donation

Henkel and Company for their generous donation (and those who helped unload the semi!)

Trisha Brownlow for organizing a diaper drive for our program



In April the Villa Maria Quilters Group donated handmade items for our Baby Boxes



Members of the Church of the Little Flower chose EAS as their 40 Days for Life Campaign charity



A hard-working group of Sacred Heart Griffin HS students painted the EAS board room in April.



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