

# echo board of directors

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Food, Hygiene Items, Clothing & Houseware Donations may be made during office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Furniture donations should be scheduled for drop off or pick up:  
Contact Jon at 850-24-3246 ext 205 or [donations@echotally.org](mailto:donations@echotally.org)

Financial contributions may be made at our website:

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

or mailed to:

1707 S. Gadsden St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

**THANK YOU!**

Phone: 850-224-3246

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



1707 S. Gadsden St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

HELPING OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES



ECHO Outreach Ministries puts faith into action by serving people in crisis and poverty. For 34 years, ECHO has served Leon County residents and those experiencing homelessness. Through our Emergency Resources Program & our Family Services Program, we assist people in their efforts to become independent, productive & stable.

## echo outreach ministries >>> Spring 2015

*"Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'"*

*"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"*

*Matthew 25:37-40 NLT*



# ECHO

# HAS MOVED!

You Are Invited>>>

## ECHO Open House & Building Dedication

**Friday, May 28th**

**3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

**1707 S. Gadsden St.**



## Our New Location: 1707 South Gadsden Street

We are pleased to announce that ECHO has relocated to better serve our clients. Our new location at **1707 South Gadsden Street** is a great location, just across street from Bond Community Health Clinic and the Pregnancy Help and Information Center. We began serving clients on March 30th, and pray our new building will be a source of hope and encouragement to all whom we will serve in the future. Situated on the Star Metro route, clients who use city bus service will have access to our new location.

We invite all of our supporters to join us at our new location for an **Open House on May 28th from 3:30 to 5 p.m.** and visit with our staff and board members. We will have refreshments and a time of prayer and dedication for the ministry that will take place here. We thank God for His provision of this new location to help us continue to serve our neighbors in need.

## Seasonal Need >>>

*Even before school ends, ECHO is beginning our back to school clothing drive for the 2015-16 School Year.*

Through generous donations, we were able to provide 150 local children with new backpacks and clothes last year. Please contact **Sabrina Austin at 224-3246 ext 206** or email **[assistance@echotally.org](mailto:assistance@echotally.org)** to find out how you, your church, business, or organization can get involved for this year's back to school drive. This is a great outreach to kids in our community who need some help to start their new school year off right. We will be accepting donations through August.





# ECHO helps find housing for the homeless

by Paula Wibberley, Services Coordinator

ECHO received the Rapid Re-Housing Grant this year which has given us the privilege of assisting fifteen individuals/ couples with no minor children to move into housing and off of the streets. When the pre-screening began for this grant, a multitude of people applied, yet we could only help the first 15. As I talked through the application with each client to see if they qualified, I learned their story, their difficulties and the cause of their crisis. There was a great sense of urgency, as many were literally sleeping on the streets.

On the third day, about 3:00 p.m. a young man, BJ, sat in my office. I began to explain to him what Rapid Re-housing

would do for him, if he qualified and that we would only be able to help 15 people. As I told him this I reached for the next folder filled with paperwork. As I picked up that folder I realized it was the last... the 15th. I smiled and told him, "And you are the 15th."

Upon hearing he had just barely made the "cut" BJ's hands covered his eyes and he began to weep. It was a moment I will never forget! For a second the tears seemed mixed – pain and relief, but seconds later this young man lifted his hands in praise and for several minutes thanked God for His faithfulness, love and goodness. Needless to say, I too was crying and praising the Lord with him.

When the rejoicing calmed down, BJ told me about his struggles. He is a father. He has a son that he loves very much and he wants his son to know and understand there are consequences to our actions and we need to be responsible for them. He told me that he sees his son as often as he can and he wants him to know that God is faithful.

BJ believes that God will use his experiences for His glory – to help others.

And I'm happy to say he did qualify, and he moved into his apartment this week!

I am so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of ECHO and stories like BJ's.



## ECHO's Most Successful Empty Bowl Supper Ever!

ECHO was truly blessed to receive an overwhelming response to the 6th Empty Bowl Supper on Sunday, March 29th at The Front Porch. Over \$8,500 (3 times the amount of previous events) was raised to benefit ECHO's programs to serve those in crisis and poverty.



Over 250 guests enjoyed a beautiful spring evening for our 6th Empty Bowl Supper held at **The Front Porch** this year. The wonderfully skilled artists from the **Big Bend Potters Guild** once again provided beautiful bowls for our guests to select from. Also this year, a new group, **Tallahassee Clay Arts**, provided many beautiful pieces as well. **Hot Tamale** provided musical entertainment and The Front Porch provided three delicious soup selections. This signature event continues to grow each year!



**THANK YOU to our generous sponsors:**

- **Planned Giving Network**
- **Wells Fargo Bank**
- **Allen Mooney Barnes**
- **Taproot Creative**
- **Kathy Fain State Farm**
- **Accent Office Interiors**
- **Sandra's Flower Basket**

In 2014, through the generosity of our donors, ECHO was able to provide:

- **90,589 food units**
- **22,500 diapers**
- **8,460 household items**
- **2,756 clothing items**
- **655 furniture items**
- **650 bus passes**

**THANK YOU...**

for helping us meet the immediate needs of our neighbors right here in Leon County.

### From the Director >>>

## A New Chapter for ECHO

Executive Director, Marta Arrington, says goodbye after 5 years of dedicated service

I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to work at ECHO and experience firsthand how the Lord provides for His people right here in Tallahassee. Walking in the first day I remember thinking, "I have no idea what I am doing here or what this role of 'Executive Director' entails". But then I decided - first things first - so I found my office, the coffee pot and the restroom.

Then...I decided to walk around to observe, listen, and learn.

- I observed the waiting area filling up right at 9am with individuals in need of food, or clothing, or a bus pass.
- I observed staff who listened and cared about each of their clients –even if they were having a bad day themselves.
- At our transitional housing program, I observed families who had previously slept in their car, or at the shelter, given a private place where they could catch their breath and begin planning for the future.
- I heard lots of please and thank you's.
- I heard "Praise the Lord"
- I heard voices change from words of desperation to words of calm and reason.



What I witnessed was hope and love for one another. I knew then, that the role of the Executive Director, was to roll up your sleeves and do whatever it takes.

For 34 years, The Lord has worked through ECHO to serve others in our community. Please consider dropping by to "listen and learn" for yourself. The Lord may be calling to step just a little bit out of your comfort zone. Believe me, he will bless you when you obey.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our clients, staff, board, and ECHO's new director to be named next month.

Blessings to you and your family,

Marta



Hard Working ECHO Volunteer: Gary Furman

**Gary Furman** retired on December 14, 2014, "recycled" some of hobbies, and then began volunteering with ECHO on January 14, 2015. A very short retirement! Now Gary faithfully works behind our receptionist desk greeting clients when they come in, as well as cheerfully completing just about any other task that is asked of him. A native of Jacksonville, he moved to Tallahassee seven years ago and is a member of Christ Presbyterian Church.

Gary shared that volunteering at ECHO has been an "eye-opening experience" and he's realized the great needs here in Tallahassee. He met one gentleman who came in our doors that stood out to him. "Bob" was a Vietnam vet who Gary described as being "from my generation". Due to an injury, Bob was unable to work in his previous job and was having trouble making ends meet. But this man truly wanted to work and just needed someone to give him an opportunity. Gary got to witness that happen as the gentlemen began working at a business close to ECHO and now is one of their most valued employees.

"It has opened my eyes that situations and circumstances can cause hardship in anyone's life. And we all need a little help getting over those rough patches."