



Join us for an evening and dinner with Ernie Hudson at our 10th Annual Angels of Destiny!

Ernie Hudson is one of the most sought-after actors of our time and has an impressive list of credits and awards. His body of work has a diverse range, including *Ghostbusters 1 and 2*, TV's *Law and Order* and *Grace and Frankie*, HBO's award winning series *Oz*, and the acclaimed movies *The Crow* and *Miss Congeniality 1 and 2*, starring Sandra Bullock.

His road to fame, however, had its share of hardships. In his early years, Hudson was born in poverty and raised in the housing projects of Benton Harbor, Michigan, in a time when civil rights had a long road ahead. The odds were more in favor of Hudson spending a life in prison than having a successful life in Hollywood. Whether it was reconciling the loss of his mother and the absence of a father, gaining the reputation of being the toughest kid in school, serving in the Marine Corps, attending Yale, raising his sons as a single father or overcoming racism in the entertainment industry, Hudson was always supported first and foremost by his grandmother, who taught him patience and graciousness.

The wisdom Hudson gained before his Hollywood days allows him to relate to struggling individuals and communities. He understands the challenges of overcoming seemingly insurmountable problems and inspires others to always persevere.

Hudson's persistence has had him working in the film industry for over four decades. With such a resume, he can entertain audiences with stories of his humble beginnings, his Hollywood ups and downs, and the lessons he has learned. Ernie will share the secrets of how to get out of the box of limitation and land dream roles, not just on the stage or screen, but roles important to everyday life.

For over 117 years, we have been defending the life of the unborn by offering free services to expectant parents in unplanned pregnancies. We are proactive in supporting life by providing forever families for waiting foster children who are at risk of aging out of custody without one. We are committed to helping those who are struggling with emotional wounds heal so they can enjoy an abundant life. Every life saved, every family created, every heart healed is work for His kingdom. Pro-Life + Pro-Family = Possibilities.

Monies raised from this event will allow us to continue to offer free services to clients.

When: Thursday, August 24, 2017

**Time: Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for a chance to participate in the mystery pull and silent auction.
Program begins at 7:00 p.m.**

Where: National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

Reservation Pricing:
\$100 for an individual reservation
\$150 for a couple reservation

Sponsorships available by calling Debbie Davis at 405-949-4200.

2017
10th Annual
*Angels
of Destiny*
Choosing Life... Creating Possibilities at Any Age

Where Are They Now?



Many times, adoptive families receive calls about children who have already been born! Her family recently shared this memory with us. . . . When we got the call about her, we were so unsure on what to do. We called our pediatrician and the recommendation was to not take her. He said she would likely have a lot of issues. After a sleepless night of prayer and discussion we came to the peace that we were to move forward in making her a part of our family.

We spent several days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with her before bringing her home. For the next six months, she was on monitors, had to be awakened every three hours to eat, and was going to weekly doctor appointments. In addition to a high calorie formula, I had a dear friend pumping breast milk for her. It has been amazing to watch the Lord cleanse out all the junk she was born with and regenerate her little body to such a picture of health.

Roxie Grace is now 4-years-old and is already doing kindergarten curriculum. She read her first word yesterday! She smiles constantly. We get so many comments about how happy she is. She has not been behind on one milestone. We are so grateful for her and for Deaconess and the ministry the Lord has in each of you. I know you prayed for her often and I wanted to share how God is working in her. I can't wait to see what He has planned for her life.

connect

Hope Groups is a new initiative being provided by DPA's Connect Counseling Center in 2017!

After a year of trying two very different pilot programs, participants have shared that the greatest benefit is having the opportunity to walk some of their journey together. Connecting with others who are experiencing the joys and trials of raising a child who was not born to them can be one of the most powerful sources of healing and support available.

Connect's Hope Groups will provide the opportunity to join with four other families in starting and ending a therapeutic plan at the same time. Connect therapists will work with participants to develop a family-specific treatment plan geared toward meeting each family's unique needs, while also having the option to participate in a group session with the other parents once a month. Groups provide a safe space to share thoughts, trials and questions with each other while under the guidance and support of a licensed, adoption/foster-competent Connect therapist.

For more information regarding Hope Groups, please check out Connect Counseling's website at www.connectcounselingokc.org, or call 405-949-4200 and ask to speak with a Connect therapist.

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, "What! You too? I thought I was the only one."

~ C.S. Lewis



Remembering Betty Hollingshead

August 20, 1927 – December 20, 2016

It is with great sadness that I share Betty Lucille Hollingshead, former DPA Director, passed from this life to the next on December 20, 2016. Betty faithfully served DPA for 22 years. She holds a very special place in my heart and she gave me, and my husband Greg, the opportunity to lead Bible studies at "the Home." Her passion for Jesus and for those she served was contagious. Her legacy is a great one.

~ Executive Director, Dierdre McCool



A Long Awaited Hug

We recently had the privilege to reunite a birth mother with the son she released for adoption in 1979. Here is a snippet from an email she sent us:

This has been such an incredible journey already and I remain just overwhelmed by how good and kind God has been to me. It is an absolute roller coaster of emotion and healing and my heart is so full I can barely take it all in most days. I am just so, so thankful for the choices that I made and so overwhelmed with love and goodness from my son that I have not yet found the words to describe this whole experience. I have even been in communication with his mom and she is such a beautiful person and I am so blessed to know both of them.

I wanted to reach out to you to let you know how much I appreciate you and this work that you quietly and faithfully do. Also to let you know that God is writing a really beautiful and sweet chapter in the story of my family right now.

please join us for an official

KENDRA GIVES BACK PARTY

enjoy sips, sweets and jewels
Tuesday, April 4th | 5pm - 8pm

KENDRA SCOTT OKLAHOMA CITY - CLASSEN CURVE
5810 N. Classen Blvd, Suite2, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

20% of the proceeds benefit Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption



We invite you to join our Deaconess Mobile Community today! You will receive exclusive alerts for new services and special events. You will also receive fun and interesting facts through these special mobile updates.

Join today by texting
CHILDHOOD to 27722 to join
our mobile community.



**Together, we can ensure
all children get a family!**

Angels in Adoption

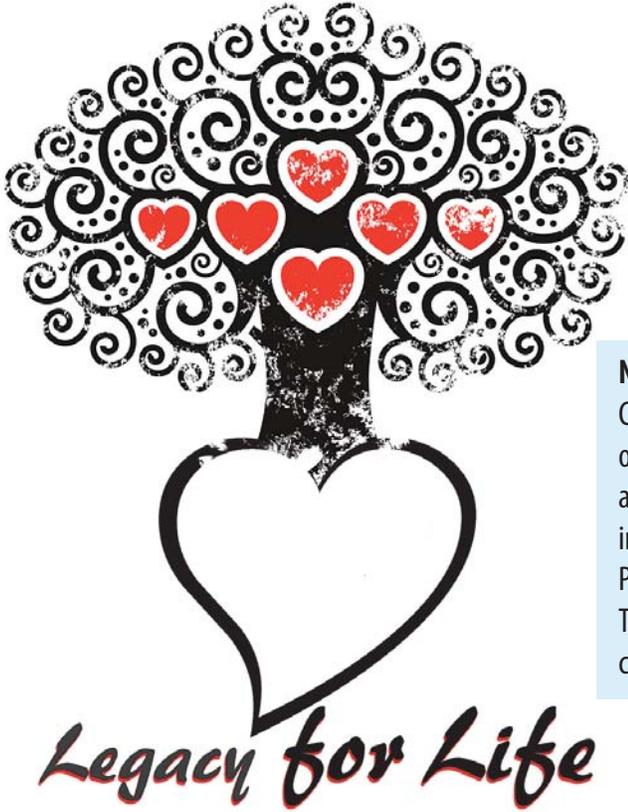
We were thrilled to learn we were being recognized as a 2016 Angels in Adoption® award recipient!

Each year, Members of Congress are given the opportunity to celebrate individuals, families or organizations from their home state who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving homes. This year, U.S. Senator James Lankford chose to honor our organization because of our dedication to positive child welfare practices. Angels in Adoption® honorees from across the nation were recognized for helping the world's most vulnerable children, those without the love and protection of a forever family.



Dierdre McCool, Senator James Lankford & Heather Hails

Our own Dierdre McCool accepted the award at the gala on September 21, 2016 at the Ronald Reagan Building and Trade Center in Washington D.C. "We are honored to be nominated and delighted to accept this award," states McCool. "We are also grateful for Senator Lankford's commitment to defending the helpless among us."



Not all of us are called to adopt a child, but we are commanded by Christ to defend and protect life! God has written a unique story for every one of His children and you can become part of their history by becoming a member of our Legacy for Life monthly giving program. By participating in this program, you are ensuring the works and ministry of Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption continue to transform lives for the next 117 years. To join this life-changing program, visit www.deaconessadoption.org or call Debbie Davis at 405-949-4200.



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“Blessed” is how we feel when we compile the names of the donors who have entrusted our ministry with their treasures. It is an honor to know you have confidence in our ability to serve the unborn, the wounded and the broken-hearted on your behalf.

Your generosity impacts generations to come!

Guardian \$50,000 +

Bill and Robbie Campbell
Hobby Lobby
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(Steve and NeAnn Trice)

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Hobby Lobby
(Steve and Jackie Green)
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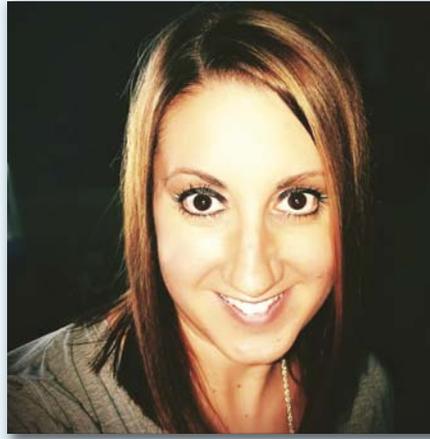
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 Dennis and Karen Wing
 Ben and Rebecca Winter
 Kevin and Jeanne Wisner
 Kenneth and Lori Wohl
 Paul and Linda Woody
 John and Myrna Wyckoff
 Kerri Young
 Jason and Angela Young



2017 Angels of Destiny Chair

We are privileged to have Samantha Bentson be our 2017 AOD Chair. Being adopted herself, Samantha is a wonderful advocate for adoption! She is fearless and brings her great business knowledge when it comes to promoting this event. Samantha's passion for adoption is contagious and we are better because of her!



2017 Angels of Destiny Honorary Chair

We are so fortunate to have Tara Tucker as our 2017 AOD Honorary Chair! We came to know Tara and her husband, Josh, when they adopted Sullivan from us several years ago. Tara's heart for adoption led her to begin volunteering on our AOD committee in 2013. Tara is a person you can count on...she is willing to do whatever is needed to get the job done! We are so excited to honor her this year.

2017 *10th Annual*
Angels
of Destiny
 Choosing Life...Creating Possibilities at Any Age

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