



Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption (DPA) has been transforming lives of children, women and families for over 117 years, and we want to ensure this ministry continues for the next 117!

If you share the same heart and vision, we ask you to consider joining our monthly giving program - Legacy for Life. This fund is dedicated to building our endowment to serve future generations. To learn more about Legacy for Life, call Debbie Davis at 405-949-4200 or donate online at www.deaconessadoption.org.



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A publication for those who invest in the destinies of children, women, and families through adoption.



Join us for dinner and an evening with Ernie Hudson at our 10th Annual Angels of Destiny on August 24, 2017 with News 9's own Amanda Taylor to serve as event host!



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 acclaimed movies *The Crow* and *Miss Congeniality 1 and 2*, starring Sandra Bullock.



Ernie's 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.

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, Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption has been defending the lives 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.

2017 10th Annual Angels of Destiny

Choosing Life...Creating Possibilities at Any Age



Date:
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.

Location:
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

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

OKLAHOMA SELECTED AS A PILOT STATE!

Connect is playing a major role in a national initiative to spread the awareness of the need for adoption competency for professionals working with adoptive and foster families.

The National Training in Adoption Competent Mental Health Initiative (NTI) is a two-part training for child welfare professionals and mental health professionals developed by the Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE). The Children's Bureau has partnered with CASE to pilot this web-based training with only eight states in preparation for a nationwide launch in July of 2019. Oklahoma is honored to be one of the states selected, and Connect Supervisor, Bonni Goodwin, LMSW, was chosen to serve on the implementation team to roll out the training with Oklahoma Department of Human Services this year. Next year, this team will plan how to pilot an expanded version of the training with hundreds of public and private mental health professionals across Oklahoma. This is an excellent step for our state in providing the best practices for our children and families.



WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO SHARE THE OPTION OF ADOPTION?

You may have never considered a need for it, but being able to present the option of adoption puts your pro-life belief into action. Being able to learn about the adoption option is vital for men and women who feel they don't have another choice besides abortion.

DPA provides training to equip people to share about the beauty of adoption and to be able to answer basic questions. There are often many misconceptions about adoption. After this training, you will be fully informed and ready to assist expectant parents who desire to choose life but may not be ready to parent.

If you are interested in learning more about presenting the option of adoption, please call us at 405-949-4200 or email Dierdre McCool at dmccool@deaconessadoption.org.

Who would benefit from this training?

- School counselors and teachers
- Staff at physician's offices or hospitals
- Pregnancy Resource Center directors and volunteers
- Church staff
- Youth group leaders
- Pro-life organizations
- Bible study groups

HOPE GROUPS LAUNCHED

We are off to a great start with Connect's Hope Groups!

One group of five families has been meeting once a month since January to encourage each other and continue learning parenting tools for challenging situations. Each parent reported this group has become an incredibly valuable place of accountability and support. We are thrilled to announce a second Hope Group started May 22 and another is quickly forming. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to walk with more and more families and children touched by adoption or foster care each month. If you would like to provide a family the opportunity to participate in a Hope Group, just donate to the Hope Fund.



HEALING HEARTS

It was a milestone to have celebrated our 10th Birth Mother Retreat!

This retreat is a time to remember the women who made the choice for life... a choice made over 25 years ago or one made just a few short months ago. Her decision was difficult, the sacrifice great. Although the heartache may fade, it never goes away. The healing and bonding this retreat brings grows stronger and stronger every year. The women who attend become like a family to each other... offering love, support, and understanding.

If you would like to support our birth mothers, we invite you to learn more about our Mary Fund by visiting our website at www.deaconessadoption.org.



connect
counseling center