



Elizabethtown Community  
Housing & Outreach Services

# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

FALL/WINTER 2021/2022

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO EMPOWER STABILITY

**E**CHOS moved into its new home on the Community Place on Washington (CPOW) campus this fall. This move is so much more than a transition of office space, it is an opportunity. An opportunity to provide private rooms for up to three families each shelter night, an opportunity to meet privately with clients in offices built to maintain confidentiality, an opportunity for community members to walk in and be met with someone equipped to listen and help meet their needs, an opportunity to grow.

This project started with a vision, a foundation, and has now become a reality. In many ways, ECHOS' new home is a metaphor for the birth of this agency. Helping individuals experiencing housing insecurity and insufficient income is what ECHOS was founded on. The base of Phase II is the Elizabethtown Emergency Shelter, which is the core of ECHOS programming. The new shelter space boasts over 6,800 square feet and can accommodate thirty individuals and three families of any makeup. As you move up to the first level, there is the Enrichment Center, staff offices, and confidential meeting spaces for client interactions. The double doors leading into the building are an entryway into a network of community connections. Moving to the second and final floor, there is growth. A new housing program that will provide affordable apartments accompanied by supportive services with ECHOS staff – something that ECHOS has yet had the opportunity to offer. This newsletter provides you with a narrative tour of ECHOS' expanded programs and all we hope to accomplish in this next year. To empower stability, we must embody stability.



New home  
of ECHOS at  
Community Place  
on Washington





# FIRST ANNUAL ECHOS OF HOPE

# Gala

On Thursday, October 21, 2021, we were pleased to be able to host our first ECHOS of Hope Gala! The much-anticipated event brought together ECHOS' passionate staff and our dedicated community supporters. It was an evening filled with heartwarming stories, many laughs, and inspiration for the future of ECHOS and how we will be able to better serve our community moving forward.

The event was held on the beautiful Star Barn property and featured a silent auction, cocktail hour, program from our key supporters, dinner, and ended with live music and dancing! We were able to raise over \$46,000 but more importantly, it raised spirits, momentum, and awareness of the work ECHOS is providing to our local community.

ECHOS extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to make the ECHOS of Hope Gala an overwhelming success. Everyone involved – volunteers, fundraising committee members, board members, attendees, sponsors, staff, and more – stepped up and we are deeply grateful for your generous contributions. Your support inspires us and encourages us as we work towards our mission of preventing and alleviating poverty and empowering stability amongst our neighbors.

A special thank you to our Hope Maker Sponsors, DAS Companies and DDMP, and our Wish Maker Sponsors, Christ Lutheran Church and Hollinger Services. A full list of Gala sponsors can be found on the ECHOS website.

With the gala over for this year, our thoughts are set on making next year's gala even more spectacular and impactful. Stay tuned for more information!



ECHOS Board of Directors and Executive Director



ECHOS of Hope Gala Silent Auction and Cocktail Hour

# ENRICHMENT CENTER OPENS AS A GATEWAY TO SERVICES

**E**CHOS is thrilled to finally have a physical space to provide enrichment services. We have dedicated space on the first floor of the new building as a place to take our current Enrichment Services to the next level. The enrichment center will serve as a low-barrier gateway for navigating the services and support that can make a difference in the journey to a stable life and a sustainable community. Services come at no cost to our clients and provide direct assistance, education, and resources such as job readiness help, acquiring basic necessities, and referrals to community partners. All community members are welcome, regardless of income levels or housing status.

With these services, clients receive consistent, reliable information to begin to build trusted relationships with community providers. The Enrichment Center does not replace community services—it enhances them. We're growing our relationships with our clients and partners so we can serve more people and meet more of our neighbors' diverse needs. Through the Center, we engage with community members through partnerships and advocacy and promote stability in their lives.

Particularly, ECHOS Enrichment Center offers job readiness services to strengthen our community's workforce. These services provide clients the resources, education, and assistance to find a job or increase income. Clients gain back purchasing power and reinvest into the community by supporting local businesses and volunteering for good causes. By empowering our clients, we empower Lancaster County.

In this new location, ECHOS seeks to expand our partnerships with mainstream services and community-based agencies. These relationships will provide our clients with even more onsite services like legal consultations and community paramedicine. In the conference room, ECHOS looks forward to offering education and training on topics like health and nutrition, stress management, workforce development, poverty, homelessness, and more.

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“ECHOS has served the community with enrichment services since the start of our operation. We are excited to have a dedicated space to connect with community members and partners to work towards the goal of stability. The Center provides basic needs while also looking to address service gaps in our area. We are excited this vision has taken physical form.”

– Heather Zuppa, ECHOS Resource Director



Private rooms for advocates and community partners to meet with clients

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## ENRICHMENT CENTER HOURS

**Walk-ins accepted:**

**9:00am – 3:00pm**

Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday, and Friday

**12:00pm – 3:00pm**

Thursday

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Work stations for clients to use at no cost



Space for children that need to accompany a client





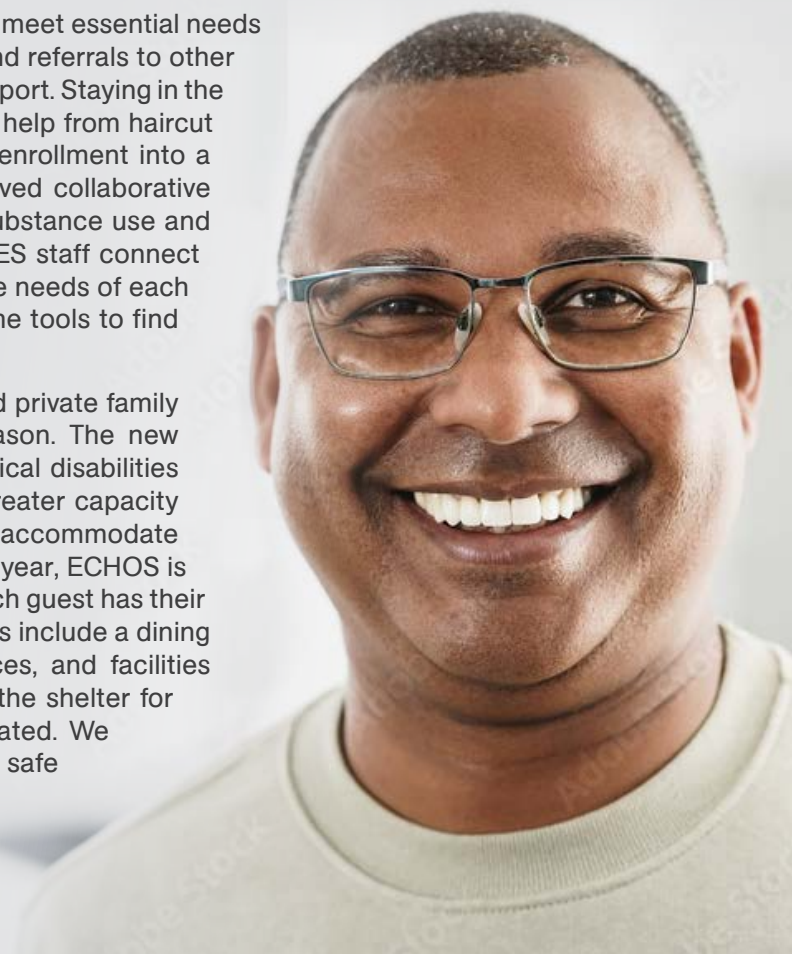
# EXPANDED EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVES MORE GUESTS

This season, ECHOS will host the Elizabethtown Emergency Shelter (ES) program in the lower level of the new building, where staff and volunteers will have almost 7,000 square feet to serve our community.

This program provides emergency shelter to individuals experiencing street-level homelessness during the cold winter months. The ES will open its door on Monday, December 6, 2021, to offer individuals and families experiencing homelessness a safe, warm, and dry place to sleep.

While at the shelter, guests have access to services that help meet essential needs such as hot meals, showers, clothing, basic hygiene items, and referrals to other ECHOS programs and community providers for additional support. Staying in the Elizabethtown Emergency Shelter enables guests to receive help from haircut and clothing bank vouchers to more intensive support like enrollment into a housing program. It also gives guests access to more involved collaborative services and referrals such as medical aid, counseling for substance use and mental illness, and employment services and job searches. ES staff connect individuals to agencies that have the expertise to address the needs of each individual, with the hopes of equipping shelter guests with the tools to find and keep stable housing.

In the new space, the shelter will offer 30 individual beds and private family rooms and will call for more than 150 volunteers this season. The new shelter includes an elevator to assist individuals with a physical disabilities with access to the shelter, expanded family rooms, and a greater capacity to serve on-site hot meals. Expanded space will also better accommodate COVID-19 mitigation efforts, including social distancing. This year, ECHOS is transitioning from bunk beds to single beds to ensure that each guest has their own space, safely distanced from other guests. Our blueprints include a dining room that inspires social interaction, onsite laundry services, and facilities to mitigate bed bugs. ECHOS created a calming station at the shelter for guests to break away from communal living when exasperated. We believe that safe and secure housing is the gateway to feeling safe and secure in all other areas of life.





# NEW AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS COMING SOON

**E**CHOS is excited to announce six, affordable apartments through the Homestead Housing program, available to county residents who are 55 years and older. Priority will be given to veterans, Northwest Region of Lancaster County residents, and those with low-income. Through program evaluation, ECHOS identified an emerging need among older adults seeking affordable housing who often are on fixed or low income. Each household will have a dedicated advocate to help connect them with resources and navigate systems to enter a path of sustainability. Applications are now being accepted and are available at ECHOS at 105 E. Washington Street and on the website [www.echoslancaaster.org](http://www.echoslancaaster.org).

**ECHOS apartments are scheduled to open in 2022**



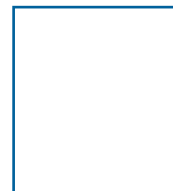
ECHOS has developed the Homestead Housing program to expand on the needs of the community and encompass the strong foundation of supports and services already offered. I look forward to being a part of the program.





Elizabethtown Community  
Housing & Outreach Services

105 E. Washington Street  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
717.361.0740 • 717.689.3423  
[www.ECHOSLancaster.org/Gala](http://www.ECHOSLancaster.org/Gala)



# NEW VOLUNTEER WEBSITE

IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO  
VOLUNTEER WITH ECHOS!



One of the most common questions we receive in the ECHOS office is regarding what type of volunteer opportunities we have available. We're so grateful to be located in a community that is willing to donate their time and skills to our mission.

We're excited to announce that the volunteer process just got significantly easier and more streamlined! You can now visit our new volunteer website that will allow you to view all of the volunteer opportunities available along with the descriptions and requirements. You'll be able to see a calendar outlining available shifts and sign up immediately for your slot.

**You can see the new website by visiting [echoslancaster.com/galaxydigital.com](http://echoslancaster.com/galaxydigital.com).**

This new volunteer website is also offered in a mobile version through an app. Now you can track your calendar and volunteer obligations through your desktop computer or through your phone. We're hopeful it makes volunteering with ECHOS easier for everyone!