NOVEMBER 2025 VOLUME 23



COMMUNITY **MATTERS**

Building Community. Enriching Lives.



LEADERSHIP LENS A Message from Eavannah Whicker

November has been a remarkable month, filled with celebration, gratitude, and strengthened commitment to those we serve. On November 1st, we proudly hosted our inaugural Patriot Gala at the CK Newsome Center-and what an unforgettable evening it was. With the support of our generous sponsors, dedicated partners, and passionate community members, the event was a tremendous success. We were especially honored to have three of our veterans from Lucas Place II join us for this year's celebration, reminding us why this mission matters so deeply.

As we observed Veterans Day, we reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to those who have served. Through permanent supportive housing, employment opportunities, comprehensive resource navigation, and wraparound service support, ECHO works every day to ensure veterans have the foundation they need to achieve long-term stability. We are also pursuing a bold and meaningful goal: meeting the federal benchmarks to effectively end veteran homelessness. This does not mean that no veteran will ever experience a housing crisis; rather, it means that when homelessness occurs, it is rare, brief, and non-recurring, and our community has the system capacity and partnerships in place to respond quickly and effectively. This is the future we are working toward-one where every veteran has the chance to thrive.

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, we are filled with gratitude. We are deeply thankful for our donors, supporters, partners, volunteers, staff, and-most importantly—the individuals and families we serve who trust us to walk alongside them. Your belief in our mission fuels every step of our work, and together, we are building a community where everyone has a place to call home and the opportunity to thrive.



From all of us at ECHO, thank you—and Happy Thanksgiving.



Giving Tuesday—a global day of generosity and hope. This year, TUESDAY ECHO Housing and Community Development will use Giving

Tuesday gifts to help ensure every resident we serve receives holiday cheer, including those in our Scattered Sites, Garvin Lofts, and Promise Home programs who may not always be included in traditional gift drives. While many community efforts lovingly focus on families with children and Veterans, we also serve many single adults working hard to rebuild their lives. Your support helps ensure no one is forgotten this holiday season. * Save the date and help us bring warmth, dignity, and holiday joy to our neighbors transitioning from homelessness to home. Thank you for helping us make the season brighter for everyone.

Mission

Improving lives by reducing barriers housing, social wellbeing, and economic opportunity

Vision

Our vision is a community where housing, social wellbeing opportunities are accessible to all, fostering a thriving and compassionate society where every person can reach their full potential.

Core Values

Innovation Compassion Integrity Advocacy Accountability

Board of Directors

Dane Chandler - President Banterra Bank

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Noah Stubbs CenterPoint Energy

Charlotte Critchfield Southwestern Behavioral health



FROM THE FRONT LINES

For Veterans Day, we proudly honored the brave men and women who served our nation. Their courage, sacrifice, and ongoing resilience inspire us daily, and we are grateful for the Veterans who called ECHO home. Several of our community partners planned special events to show appreciation, including shared meals, celebration gatherings, and opportunities for our Veterans to connect with one another and the broader community. These moments of fellowship and recognition remind us how deeply valued our Veterans were — not just on Veterans Day, but every day of the year.

We hope these celebrations offered comfort, connection, and gratitude to those who stood in service for our country. To our Veterans: thank you for your service, your strength, and your continued presence in our community. We are honored to walk beside you every day.



Collective Action **Network's** The CANdid Conversations is on the air every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday at 8 a.m. on WEOA 98.5 for engaging and authentic discussions about the issues, concerns, and celebrations happening in our community.

each episode, our host and Community Development Director. Merrick Korach, highlights the voices of residents, community leaders, and local partners, offering insight into the challenges and successes that shape our neighborhoods. From important community updates to inspiring stories of resilience, CANdid Conversations is your window into what's happening in and around ECHO's service area.

Join us, listen, and be part of the conversation that celebrates, informs, and strengthens our community.











Halloween in Jacobsville + Extension Homemakers Party at Lucas Place









Promise Home Monthly Birthday Party





WIKY Extortion Breakfast

2025 Annual Golf Scramble







Fall Fest Team Building

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT



Thanks to the Jasper Home Depot team for building a deck for Lucas Place II Vets!

Let's Get Social









ECHO Housing

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HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

At House of Bread and Peace, every resident's story is unique, inspiring, and a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit. One of our residents, who communicates through sign language, joined our community and has been working diligently toward stability and independence.

Despite receiving SSDI, she has pursued opportunities for personal growth and engagement by seeking part-time employment through AARP. Her dedication and determination are paying off — she recently interviewed for a new position and is preparing to move into her new apartment.

This milestone marks an exciting step toward her independence and a brighter future. Her journey reflects the strength and perseverance of our residents and highlights the importance of community support in achieving meaningful goals.

We celebrate her accomplishments and look forward to seeing her thrive in her new home and opportunities.

★ COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGH FIVES

Celebrating the Success of Our First Annual Patriot Gala

We are overflowing with gratitude for everyone who made our First Annual Patriot Gala such an incredible success! From our amazing vendors and dedicated volunteers to our outstanding EMCEE, Lt. Chris Roe, and the community members who took the time to nominate our local heroes for awards, we truly could not have done it without you.

There are countless individuals and groups in our community whose selfless service deserves recognition. At the Gala, we were proud to celebrate four outstanding individuals:

- Dep. Chief Jarrod Brown- Honor
- Sgt. Josh Brewer Unity

solidarity truly embodied the spirit of community and service that the Gala was designed to honor.

- Lt. Erik Nilssen- Valor
- Brig. Gen. Walter Lindsley- Patriotism

ONGOING NEEDS @ **HOUSE OF BREAD &**

- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products

PEACE

- Baby Wipes
- Trash Bags
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Larger-Sized Diapers
- Body Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Towels/Washcloths
- All-Purpose Cleaner
- Backpacks



deliver straight to the House. Or to arrange a drop off at 250 E. Chandler, call 812-425-6754

Amazon will

HBP Amazon Wish List

A truly moving moment of the evening came when Deputy Chief Jarrod Brown humbly rededicated his award to Officer Sam Taylor, who was recently injured in the line of duty. In addition, 100% of the Casino Chip Donations were given to Officer Taylor and his family to help cover the costs associated with his injuries. This act of generosity and

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce next year's gala: Masquerade of Honor, happening November 7, 2026! We will once again be asking for nominations for these prestigious awards. Be on the lookout to nominate the heroes in your life and help us celebrate the extraordinary individuals making a difference in our community.

Thank you for helping us honor service, dedication, and community spirit — we can't wait to do it all again next year!

Royal Flush Presenting The House Table Double Down High Roller Sponsor Sponsor Sponsor Sponsor Sponsor Sponsor Woods 🥽

















1st Annual Patriot Gala In Pictures





























