

Empowering Choices for Life, Sexual Integrity, and Healthy Families

Winter 2012

Location, Location

By Traci Fiaretti Client Services Director

As inmates and their families come and go to the Butler County jail across the street from our building, they see this sign – free pregnancy tests. That sign brings us a lot of walk in clients who are just passing by, something that we hadn't anticipated but we're thrilled about.

One of the couples passing by had just been released from lengthy individual prison stays...they saw our sign...the test was positive.

As I'm sure you can imagine, our client Heather was conflicted and undecided about her choices. This was certainly not the best timing for a baby. We helped this couple by explaining all the intricacies of their up till now unseen little one and his or her tiny beating heart during Heather's ultrasound scan. While watching a flutter displayed on the sonogram, they still weren't convinced.

A week later, we offered a second scan. As we talked and watched the little one on the screen, we noticed a change in Heather's tone of voice and could see new hope on her face. She made a decision and said yes, she would choose to give her little one a chance at life! We're currently meeting with Heather on a weekly basis to teach and prepare her for the birth of her first born baby.

Every client who comes through our door has a story to tell. With our continued support, clients' stories come alive as we build a trusting relationship with them. They open up and confide in us the depth and length of their past. I'm sure you can imagine the pain, shame, and oppression a lengthy prison stay brings and the history that lands a person in jail is overwhelming. And while it is huge, we invite Jesus to come in, listen with us, and respond for us with love, grace, and compassion, soothing the wounds that the world has inflicted on clients like Heather, soothing them with His balm. And we watch as He remakes this convict into a mommy.





Chelsea A. Rearick, MA Executive Director

"Legal abortion, widely accepted in the culture, represents the great test before this present generation of Christians." John Ensor

Pope John Paul II referred to our current moral state as a struggle between the "gospel of life" and the "culture of death". There is no denying the destruction that abortion has led our nation to. Beyond the 50+ million babies we have murdered, our country has accepted a culture of general degrading of human life. Consider the fact that things like physician-assisted suicide, cloning, embryonic stem-cell research, and infanticide are each accompanied by a lobby of scientists and celebrities promoting utopian benefits.

According to statistics from the U.S. Justice Department, the rate of infanticide (the killing of a child within a year of birth) has <u>doubled</u> in the United States since abortion became legal. Beyond that, statistics from both the American Humane Association and the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse confirm that child abuse and neglect have risen <u>fourfold</u> since the legalization of abortion.

The ideals promoted by abortion advocates, that some lives can be destroyed to improve the lives of others, are just not true. If it were, with the elimination of more than 50 million "unwanted" children, should we not see a decline in issues like child abuse, suicide, depression, drug addiction, alcohol abuse, and divorce? But as you know, that is not the case.

So how do we combat this? How do we make sure the next generation sees this devastation as a part of our history, not their country's moral state? It takes Christians that are so gripped by moral clarity and courage in the message of Jesus that they cannot help but "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" (Proverbs 31:8). In addition, it takes pregnancy centers like Life Choices offering true help to the women of our communities.

Pastor D. James Kennedy from Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, FL said, "Abortion has become *the* issue in this country, for if you lose life, you lose all. If Christians do not win on this issue, we will not win on any issue."

What will you do to ensure that we win this battle?

2012 Statistics of Life

90 Total Clients

349 Client Visits

41 Ultrasounds Performed

38 Clients At-Risk of Having an Abortion

25 Clients At-Risk who Carried to term!

THANK YOU!

Life Choices would like to thank all of the churches who participated in our 2012 Baby Bottle Campaign. Because of your love for and support of LIFE, over \$35,000 was raised to fight for and save the unborn in our communities. You are truly doing God's work. THANK YOU!!!

Participating Churches:

Alive Community Church, Sarver

Allegheny River Charge, Ford City area

CCC Women's Group

Crooked Creek Co-op Lutheran Ministries, Ford City

Center Hill Church of the Brethren, Kittanning

Christ Community Fellowship, Sarver

Christ's Outreach Church, Butler

Christ, Our Rock, Worthington

Christ, Prince of Peace, Ford City

Concord United Presbyterian Church, Dayton

Elderton Lutheran Parish, Elderton

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Worthington

Faith Community Church, Freeport

First Church of God, Kittanning

First Lutheran Church, Rural Valley

First United Methodist Church, Kittanning

Furnace Run Chapel, Kittanning

Grace at Calvary, Butler

Grace Brethren Church, Kittanning

Harvest Community Church, Kittanning

Holy Sepulcher Parish, Butler

Limestone/Reesedale Church of God, Adrian

Mt. Union Bible Church, Kittanning

New Life Christian Ministries, Saxonburg

North Street Christian Church, Butler

Rural Valley United Methodist, Rural Valley

Saxonburg Memorial Presbyterian Church, Saxonburg

St. James Church, Apollo

St. Lawrence, Cadogan

St. Mary, Mother of God, Freeport

St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Kittanning

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Brady's Bend

St. Paul's Community Church, Chicora

Whitesburg United Methodist Church, Kittanning

Zion of Petroleum Valley, Karns City Zion United Methodist Church, Sarver

Hope for Teens

By Cindy Metz Education Director "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ~ Jeremiah 29:11

Our teenCARE program recently added a new school to our line-up for this new year - Karns City Junior-Senior High School – and we're hoping to branch out to Butler area schools soon. Actually, January 2013 marks the 12th anniversary for teenCARE's public school programs providing abstinence, character, and relationship education for students.

Culture has changed drastically in those 12 years. Cell phones with internet access, text messaging, Facebook, and Twitter didn't exist back then. Now television shows and movies are more predominantly laced with foul language and more sex references

than ever. Sexual scenes and internet pornography bombard today's teenagers everywhere they look. Everything is in your face.

But one constant has remained the same. Teens crave to love and be loved.

During a teenCARE presentation in one of our local schools, a student recently asked me a question after class. You might think she would have a question about pregnancy or maybe even STDs (sexually transmitted diseases).

No, her question was about love. "Do you think there is true love?" she asked.

When I answered in the affirmative, she asked another question. "Do you think someone my age can ever find true love? Can that really happen?"

I assured her it takes time to find real love and that it's very important that you wait for it. Saving yourself for the person who loves you so much, he makes a commitment in marriage to you, vowing to love, honor, and respect you for all of his life, is worth the wait.

That student left the classroom with one thing she didn't have before she came in – hope. She learned through our program that there is hope to love and be loved in return for who you are, not what you can give someone.

Hope for the future. That's what our programs offer teens.

Karns City Jr-Sr High School



2012 Gala, a Blessing for LIFE

This year's Fall Gala was a huge blessing for LIFE. Over 400 guests attended the November 9th Luncheon and Banquet at Lenape Heights Grand Ballroom in Ford City to hear pro-life speaker and 40 Days for Life co-founder Shawn Carney inspire us with God's message of LIFE.

Together, over \$95,000 was raised to help Life Choices continue to touch lives within our communities. Because of the generosity of those in attendance, we will be able to continue what we do best- SAVE LIVES!

A very special thank you to our underwriters! Because of their support, the money raised at our event can be poured directly into Life Choices!

Our 2012 Underwriters:

Platinum Star

Mills Chiropractic Center Dr. Joe & Debbie Salinas

Silver Star

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Snyder Charitable Foundation



Shining Star

Adam Associates Dental
Holbein, Inc
Genovese Ophthalmic Associates
Ankle & Foot Care
Holsinger, Clark & Armstrong
Di Mond Chiropractic



2012 Speaker, Shawn Carney

Bronze Star

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Western Pa

A Banquet for Butler!

Life Choices is so excited to be holding our first Butler Banquet on Thursday, May 16th, 2013 at The Atrium. We are doubly excited to have Carol Everett as our guest speaker.

Carol is unique "at such a time as this" because she comes with an overwhelming amount of experience in the area of abortion. Carol knows firsthand about abortion, having been both a consumer and provider. Carol was involved in the operation of four abortion clinics in Texas from 1977 to 1983, overseeing 35,000 abortions. Carol experienced a change in her life when she came to know Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. Today, she is committed to safeguarding the health of women and their babies all over this nation.

Come and join us on May 16th to hear Carol's amazing story, learn more about Life Choices, and support LIFE in the Butler community.

For more information on the Banquet or to become a table host, please call 724-545-2826 or visit our website at www.yourlifechoicesinfo.com.



We Have REACH-ed Indiana!

Just over one year ago, the Lord gave Life Choices the vision to extend our REACH to Butler and Indiana. In June of 2012, we opened a beautiful clinic on 118 South Church Street, Butler, PA. Our Board of Directors and staff are beyond thrilled to share with you that we have found a location for our Indiana Clinic!

Did you know that over 50% of women who obtain abortions are college age? Also, 75% of women who obtain abortions tell us that the main reason they abort is because a baby would interfere with their work, school, or life responsibilities. It is because of these insights that we have no doubt that the students of IUP need our services, and the next generation of unborn lives within the campus limits will be blessed to have us there.

But we need your help to get our clinic up and running! Would you consider helping in one of the following ways:

\$100 will supply educational material for 5 clients
\$200 will supply a counseling room with a TV/DVD
\$300 will purchase a computer for our clinic director or nurse
\$500 will help purchase marketing material to disperse on
IUP campus

\$1,000 will completely furnish and decorate a counseling room \$1,500 will purchase an ultrasound table and other medical supplies





Our Future My Choice Medical Clinic of Indiana!



13633 State Route 422, Suite B Kittanning, PA 16201

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Client Services:

1-877-223-7558 Help@pregnantnowwhat.com

Information Website:

www.yourlifechoicesinfo.com

Client website:

www.pregnantnowwhat.com

Education website:

www.justwant2know.com



Life Choices is proud to introduce to you the newest members of our team...



Claudia Claypoole (Kittaning Nurse)

Ginger Pillar (Butler Nurse)

Pam Black (Butler Nurse)

Kelly Morgan (Butler Clinic Director)