



A Ministry of Life & Family Educational Trust

2020 Summer Newsletter

Loving People to LIFE for 18 Years!

I'm excited to announce that Women's Choice Center is celebrating 18 years of ministry and pro-life service in our Quad Cities Area Community. You may have been among the thousands speaking out since 1995 when Planned Parenthood first announced its intention to open a clinic here. Or you may have participated or prayed when "Life & Family" organized prayer vigils for many years to end abortion. Our original property on Happy Joe Drive was purchased in November 1999 followed by a \$1.1 million capital campaign with our permanent structure opening in July 2002 when our first abortion vulnerable woman came to us for assistance. Since then thousands have come through our doors and we've positively influenced 1,304 babies who were saved from abortion – and that number grows daily (88-92% average choose LIFE). Just think of the thousands more linked by relationships that have been blessed by these protected ones' lives.

Abortion solves nothing. Planned Parenthood still works to exploit women in their most vulnerable periods of life. Women deserve better. Children and their families deserve better, too. As we look at the current state of our nation and our world, we're inspired daily to continue our ministry in prayer and to provide free services while supporting families who choose LIFE. Because you are reading this newsletter, I can also say "thank you" for your commitment to support Women's Choice Center as we remain dedicated to educate every woman we meet daily – and every day to come.

A time of crisis is the most likely time when life-altering decisions for abortion can happen. 2020 is a crisis year none of us will ever forget! Our Women's Choice Center team has remained OPEN navigating through the recent COVID-19 pandemic without closing a single day since the outbreak. Praise God! We've safely provided our free, essential services while connecting with moms in this additional crisis period and following CDC Guidelines to maintain a safer, low-risk environment for everyone. While so much has changed during these past few months, our commitment to LIFE is stronger than ever. Our caring, compassionate approach to loving each person where she is at and providing life-affirming choices is our commitment, especially during times of uncertainty like these.

We're looking forward to welcoming Kirk Walden to our 2020 Fundraising Luncheon and Dinner on September 29th (see back page for details). As we organize for whatever meeting situation exists at that time, Waterfront Convention Center is prepared for social distancing for everyone's safety. I'm looking forward to introducing you to Kirk after meeting him last year at Heartbeat International Headquarters. I'm confident you'll be inspired by Kirk's tremendous hope and vision when our current social and political structure is aligned against protecting the most innocent.

I've never lived in a time where I felt using my voice and my gifts mattered as much as they do right now. I encourage all of us to use this election year to research and vote our faith and values. We need you now more than ever to stay connected with your time, talent and treasure in supporting and protecting LIFE at WCC. Planned Parenthood's local clinic may be closed, but the number of chemical abortions is rising dramatically. Think about this... one abortion happens every 96 seconds and there are over 98 abortions per hour. That number comes directly from the Guttmacher Institute who maintains data for PP. Be aware, the battle continues! Prayers and action for LIFE, for religious freedoms, and for our nation are critical at this time in history.

Linda Rubey, Executive Director

Women's Choice Center Team

Linda Rubey, Executive Director
Pam Galanius, RN, Clinical Director
Denise DuPage, Volunteer Director
Mona Ross, CDL Driver
Kathy Meier, Development Assistant
Brenda Ripslinger, RN,
Development Coordinator
Melissa Gesing, Marketing Coordinator
Mary Klein, Client Advocate
Rose Schultz, RN
Naomi McCloud, RN
Sarah Leinart, RN
Sarah Jansen, LCSW
Ann Zullo, RRT
Jenny Carr, LPN
Nile Jones, CDL Tour Driver
Travis Jansen, CDL Tour Driver
Travis Morrison, CDL Tour Driver

Karla Polaschek, MD,
Co-Medical Director
Rose Warhank, MD,
Co-Medical Director
Angelika Peiffer, MD, Psychiatrist

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Donations Received In Honor Of:

Charlene Schuetz
Nancy Walsh

Memorial Donations Received In Honor Of:

Kenneth Bush
Ann Raschke

Volunteer Spotlight

Lisa Nauman first became aware of Women's Choice Center when she took part in a book club. The selected reading was Luana Stoltenberg's testimonial book "Singing in the Wilderness". Soon after, the group visited WCC for a Gathering for Life tour and attended the Center's 2019 fall fundraising banquet. Lisa began volunteering one day a week that November. After starting as a receptionist, she found her real interest in helping with project work. "I enjoy the environment and the people, but I prefer to be behind-the-scenes, supporting the *amazing* nurses and counselors in that way" she says. "The staff is so gifted in how they communicate with clients and students at the level they need. I'm so impressed with their love and compassion!"



The Nauman Family

Lisa and her family attend St. John Vianney Church in Bettendorf and live along the river in Pleasant Valley. "I enjoy being in nature and like to be home, just sitting on our deck," she says. An avid reader, she's lately turned from her favorite genre, historical fiction, to non-fiction faith-related books, like "40 Days for Life." In addition to her pro-life work with WCC, Lisa and her prayer partner make weekly visits to pray outside an Iowa City abortion clinic.

Lisa hails originally from Poughkeepsie, New York and met her husband while working in Phoenix after completing college. Joel, a pharmacist, transferred to the Midwest so they could be closer to his large family (he's one of 13 children) while they were raising their own family. Joel and Lisa celebrated twenty years of marriage in 2019 and are blessed with two children. Michael, 17, will be a high school senior in the fall and Danielle, 19, just finished her freshman year at the University of Iowa.

New Development Team Members

We are pleased to announce the addition of Brenda Ripslinger, part-time Development Coordinator, and Melissa Gesing, part-time Marketing Coordinator, to our now 4-person Development Team! In June, Brenda and Melissa joined Executive Director Linda Rubey and Development Assistant Kathy Meier, to begin their work of expanding communications and growing relationships as WCC's ministry and client programs increase to meet our community's needs for LIFE.



*Brenda Ripslinger, RN,
Development Coordinator*

Brenda has been a nurse for over 25 years and is passionate about her faith and helping others. She started out at WCC as a volunteer receptionist, and is excited about becoming more involved with the Center as our new Development Coordinator. She and her family attend St. John Vianney Church in Bettendorf, where she takes part in Bible Study and serves on the Social Justice Committee. Brenda and her husband Jay live in Davenport and have four daughters; two are grown, and two are students—one at Iowa State and one in middle school. In her free time, Brenda enjoys taking long walks and being active outside throughout all the seasons.



*Melissa Gesing,
Marketing Coordinator*

Melissa has several years of work experience in the political and non-profit arenas. She loves finding creative ways to promote causes that she cares about. Melissa grew up in Fredericksburg, Iowa, and graduated from Simpson College in Indianola. She has two rescue dogs—Percy, a puggle, and Gemma, a corgi/chihuahua. In her spare time, Melissa enjoys taking road trips, reading and participating in several book clubs, and spending time with her nephew and four nieces.

Welcome, Brenda and Melissa!

Diaper Giveaways Bless Our Community *By Sarah Jansen, LCSW*



Grace, our Mobile Medical Unit, has not been able to be on the road providing medical services due to COVID-19 restrictions. Women's Choice Center wanted to remind the community that we still love them and are here for them. During two weeks in June, we loaded the Mobile Medical Unit with diapers and held four drive-through Diaper Giveaways at our parking locations in Rock Island, Davenport, and Moline. At each site, a line of cars was already waiting for us when we arrived in the Mobile Medical Unit. We set things up and immediately started to serve these families. In four events and over a total of four short hours, we were able to bless almost 150 families through our Diaper Giveaways. Most of these families had never heard of Women's Choice Center. They were so thankful and excited to learn they could continue to get emergency diapers by calling us at our Center. (Since then, we've gained several new families now coming to WCC and picking up weekly.)

It was amazing to be out in our community, meeting people who need us but never knew we existed. We sweated under our face shields, but it was refreshing to give loving smiles to the families as we wished them blessings on their day. One particularly hot day, our hearts were encouraged when a family we had just given

diapers to come back to the Mobile Medical Unit carrying a large tray. On the tray was ice cold water and a large container of juice. The mother we had served was so grateful for our presence in her neighborhood and wanted to thank us, knowing how hot the work was that we were doing. While times during this pandemic are hard, God is always good. Anything can be used to demonstrate His glory, even the coronavirus. We were able to show God's love during the Diaper Giveaways and were more than happy to receive that love back through our grateful clients.

The word is out and spreading that Women's Choice Center is the place to go for love, support, and encouragement even during these unpredictable times!



Maria's Story

After driving by one of our heavily trafficked locations, "Maria" impulsively came to our Mobile Medical Unit for a pregnancy test. She and her husband had been unsuccessfully trying to have a baby for 10 years, and recently had agreed to stop fertility treatments due to the financial burden. Maria was apprehensive about taking a pregnancy test for fear of another negative result.

We provided the client with a pregnancy test that did, in fact, come back negative. We were then able to be a safe, open space for the client to grieve and share some of her pent up frustrations about her infertility journey.

As Maria was unfamiliar with the option of following up with a NaPro (Natural Procreative) doctor, we educated her on the NaPro perspective and provided her with referrals to a local NaPro-certified physician assistant. We also referred her to free counseling at our Center, when she shared that she had a lot of anxiety and depression from years of unsuccessful fertility treatments.

When we followed up with Maria, we learned that she had reached out to the NaPro doctor and felt encouraged by the possibility of learning more about why she was struggling to conceive. She also had seen our professional counselor and reported that it was a very supportive experience. Maria is a great reminder of the blessing of pregnancy and children. We are glad to have had the opportunity to provide support to her in her sorrow and to continue to pray for the future of her family!



Women's Choice Center
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Educational Trust

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Mission Statement

Women's Choice Center is a faith-based ministry offering free pregnancy counseling, support, and services to help women and families make informed choices for life.

Compassionate • Confidential • Ready to Help



**Women's Choice Center
Annual Fundraising Dinner
and (new this year) Fundraising Luncheon!**



Tuesday, September 29, 2020

To register:
life@womenschoicecenter.org
563-332-0475

Join us for a message filled with humor, challenge, vision and hope. Be prepared for a surprising view on the true impact of Women's Choice Center's path to ending abortion. Let's join together to create a true culture of LIFE in America—and in our own QCA community.

**Waterfront Convention Center
2021 State Street
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722**

**Luncheon 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
(doors open at 11:00 a.m.)**

**Dinner 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(doors open at 6:00 p.m.)**

**Both events will feature national speaker
and author Kirk Walden.**

**Tables at both events will be spaced to protect
individuals and minimize disease spread.**

