Options for Women
pregnancy help clinic
Helping women make an informed choice

Facts for Life

From the Executive Director

A year ago, when the last news letter was sent we couldn't imagine that everything as we know it would change so quickly, but it did and in the midst of it all we've seen God's provisions, God's grace and God's favor!!

This news letter is full of our stories and pictures.

Quite honestly though, we are only able to do what we do because of YOU! We love that you pray, encourage, support and donate to the ministry of Options for Women. Without you it wouldn't be possible to have the stories of patients who come in very intent to abort their babies. They spend time with a caring, loving advocate and a nurse. They they see the ultrasound and many times hear the heartbeat. They hear the gospel and how Jesus can give real peace, and leave choosing "life" for their child. The tears when they arrive are tears of hopelessness. When they leave their tears are of hope and joy and gratitude. They are happy to know someone will reach out to them throughout the whole process.

For this, and all that we are sharing in this newsletter, we owe you, our supporters, a debt of gratitude! May each of you and your families be immensely blessed!

Together for life,

Marilyn Paul

SATELLITE PATIENT STORY

In April we had a very special patient, we will call her Annie (not her real name). Annie had an appointment for an abortion that morning but decided to park in our property after seeing the praying people and reading our clinic's sign.

We followed all COVID-19 precautions and even provided a beautiful mask for Annie. It was evident that she was having a hard time that day, but we are thankful she decided to stay for an appointment. During the course of the appointment, we learned about key stressors in Annie's life. After we completed an ultrasound, we explored the three different pregnancy options with a tool that allows patients to read the pros and cons of each choice. We provided her with a list of resources available to her including, but not limited to counseling and free pregnancy referrals within the community. We also had the joy of sharing the Gospel with Annie and a now calmer patient, made a second appointment to see us in 2 weeks. Her second and third appointments were very helpful as we utilized the ultrasound machine to show her the growth of her baby. It was on her last appointment that she shared with us her change of heart.

That April morning, Annie had an appointment to end the life of her baby, but praise be to God we were there for her instead and Annie is now embracing motherhood for the third time. We will continue to follow up with Annie during her pregnancy and we can't wait to see her and her baby once he or she is born so that we can give her a baby gift and once again praise God for saving this precious life. Stories like Annie's would not be possible if it wasn't for the faithful and abundant cooperation of our amazing donors. We might be the vehicle God uses to touch the life of a patient like Annie, but our donors are the fuel that keep things running smoothly and for them we are eternally grateful.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

July through end of 2019

- We thank "God for the many business owners and individuals who donated labor and materials to get us up and running at our newest location! (Below)
- October 18th-Electric and final inspection of the mobile unit
- November 7th-Ribbon cutting at our new satellite location 4504 S. Florida Ave. We appreciate our friends, supporters and community leaders who took the time to come and celebrate with us.

Thank you to ALL who donated LABOR and MATERIALS for our Satellite Location 4504 S Florida Ave

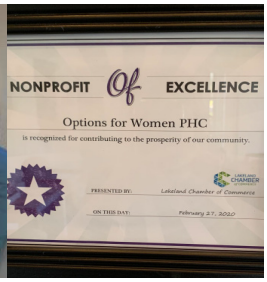
Matthew Johnson-JSK Consulting
Art Stitzel-Engineering Construction
Stuart Baldick-Stuart's Plumbing
Randy Stinson-Stinson Home Design Center
Jerry Preston-Liberty Septic
Carlos Alvarez-Sunstate Landscaping
Ron Hinkleman-Hinkleman Construction
Scott Paul, Jason Ash-Jasper Construction
Tim Paul-Paul Painting, Inc.
Joe and Kristin Murphy-Flourish Design Consulting
Badcock Home Furnishings
Roger Alvarez-Grade Services, Inc.
Josh Borem-Borem Fire Protection
Joes Batts-Installation of security system
Legacy Christian Church- Men's Group
HCC Environmental-Plant City

January 2020

- We are thankful for the pastors who came out and prayed with us and over us January 7th in Bartow, January 9th in Lakeland (Above)
- January 30th OFW hosted our annual nurses training for our sonographers as well as sonographers at other pregnancy help clinics (Below)
- We attended many events, Askival-FSC. Health Fairs, Pro-Family Days in Tallahassee (Below), Chamber meetings and an ABWA Symposium.
- Hosted baby bottle campaigns (Right) at Church of the Resurrection, Bethel Baptist, Christ Lutheran, and St Joseph Concert for Life event.

February

- Victory Girlfriends and Chocolate-honored guests (Below left)
- February 15th We were blessed to have Peoples Church put down mulch and clean the yard at our main clinic (Below left)
- February 27th-Presented the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of Excellence Award! Thank you to those that came to support us. (Below)



Steps to Sexual Integrity Success

At the beginning of this year we met Andy Cochran from the YFA. We were getting ready to start teaching our Integrity Course to the Teens in crisis when COVID-19 interrupted our plans. At Options we are always looking for ways to serve those in need and work with our community so we put together a list of items the teens needed and our amazing community donated abundantly. We were able to provide hygiene products that were hard to find by the YFA counselors and that was a big blessing for them. We also gave them clothes, games and art supplies among other things. Currently we are waiting for clearance to start serving the teens by teaching them our Integrity Course.

We have the privilege to be serving the New Life Center for Family Preservation, Inc. through our Integrity Course. The participants express gratitude for the knowledge and empowerment they gain during our time together. We always look forward to granting them their diplomas of completion.

Seeing people's life change one integrity class at the time gives us an unexplainable joy. We love and always pray for our donors; we couldn't do what we do without them.

March

- March 10th, we hosted a Health Fair at our new satellite location. The Polk County Health Department chose us because it was National HIV Women's Awareness Day. Those that also attended were; Women's Care Florida, Moving Hope Ministries, Healthy Start, Central Florida Health Care and One Hope United. (Right)
- March 10th-STD testing at a local college.
- March 15th-everything started changing drastically. We continued serving patients and actually doubled our patient load in March from February. We followed the new developments and made decisions day by day.

April

- Volunteers stayed home for safety precautions.
- We stopped taking Wellness and STD only patients so we could serve our most vulnerable, the pregnant moms.
- Half of the staff left for a brief time to take care of things at home.
- We temporarily closed the Dream Center.
- We took precautions to keep our remaining staff and patients safe and healthy. (Below)
- Marilyn had the incredible opportunity to care for our patients as an advocate. It was one of the highlights of this pandemic. She appreciates even more the care our nurses and advocates give to our patients.

May

- Some of the staff were able to return
- There are some staff changes. Debbie Phelan, who has worked many years as our Director of Patient Resources (DPR), will return to what she does best, an advocate and receptionist (when needed). We are so grateful fo all she has done and will continue to do. Tami Eggleston has graciously accepted the position as DPR. She started with us in October 2016 as a volunteer advocate and joined the staff last year. She has a heart for our ministry and an incredible love for our patients.
- May 20th, after a visit and training in January with Bob Fouts of Pre-Born, we were chosen to be recipients of a NEW Ultrasound for our Main Clinic. (Below) This afforded us to move the existing machine to the Dream Center.

We know God has even greater plans for us. We are READY, EXCITED, and HONORED to have so many opportunities.

SAVE THE DATE

Vision for Life Fundraiser
Thursday, September 4th, 2020
12:00 - 1:00 PM or
6:30 - 8:00 PM

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MacLan Corporation
Mulling Insurance

Thank You To Our Grantors

The George W. Jenkins Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation provided us with a generous grant to expand our STD testing. We are so grateful for their continued support of our mission!

We are also very grateful to other foundations and businesses whose support has helped us further our mission:
Hazel Crosby Carlton Foundation
Bartow Community Healthcare Foundation
AmazonSmile
Network for Good

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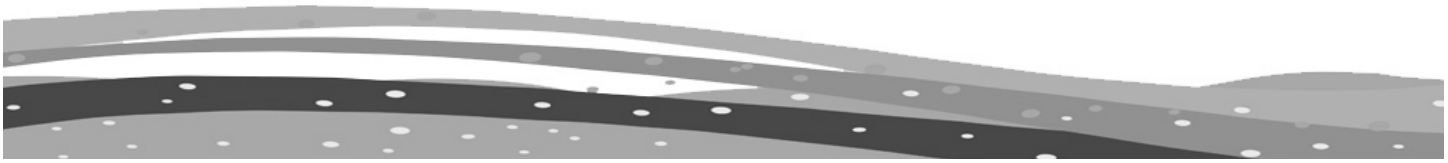

Thank you to our Life Choice Society Members

Through their 5 year pledges, we create a strong foundation for the women we serve.

Mr. Bruce Abels
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Batts
Ms. Becki Bentz
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Rev. Ramon Bolatete
Borem Fire Protection
Mr. and Mrs. Sal Campisi
Mr. Juan Casasnovas and Dr. Maria Martino
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