

LIFE LETTER



Spring 2010 LIFE CENTER/LIFE CHOICES • 825 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 • 847-622-1235 • www.yourlifecenter.org

FORMER PLANNED PARENTHOOD DIRECTOR TO SPEAK AT SPRING BANQUET

Mark your calendars! This year's annual fundraising banquet will be held on Thursday, May 6th at the Villa Olivia Country Club, located off Rte. 20 and Naperville Road in Bartlett. This is a speaker you will not want to miss!

This year's featured speaker is **Abby Johnson**, the **former Planned Parenthood Director** who quit her job to join the pro-life ranks. That simple act has become a national news story. She has appeared on Fox News's *The O'Reilly Factor* and countless other programs since she left her position at Planned Parenthood in October of 2009. Johnson, 29, was the director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Texas but said she experienced a "change of heart" while participating in an abortion procedure. Johnson has now joined a group called Coalition for Life, which prays outside the very clinic where she worked.

Johnson worked at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Bryan, Texas for nine years, first as a volunteer and then as the director. Her duties included running the family planning and abortion programs. The clinic performed abortions two days a month. Although she had seen ultrasounds before, including during her own pregnancy, **Johnson said she had never seen an ultrasound image during an abortion until the day she was asked to be in the procedure room.** Looking back on that day, she is unclear why, as the

director of the clinic, this request was made for her to be there because it was not a normal part of her duties.

"I had never seen an abortion happen on an ultrasound," she said. "My job during the procedure was to hold the probe on the woman's abdomen. I could see the whole profile of the baby at 13-weeks head to foot. I could see the whole side profile. I could see the probe. I could see the baby try to move away from the probe."

Johnson said the experience changed her forever. She knew it was time to leave after she watched the baby "crumple" as it was vacuumed out of a patient's uterus.

"I just thought, 'What am I doing?'" she said. "And then I thought, 'Never again.' I looked out the window and saw a couple of women praying and I thought, 'That's where I need to go.'"

Needless to say, her story is very compelling. You'll want to make sure that you hear Abby tell it in its entirety.

The theme of our banquet this year is taken from Philippians 2:15b-16a: "Shine out among them like beacon lights, holding out to them the Word of Life."

An inspirational musical program is planned for this special evening. Seating will begin at 6:30 p.m., dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. **There is no charge for the dinner ticket; however, an opportunity to support the work of The Life Center will be presented.**

Reservations are necessary and must be made by no later than May 3rd.

We are looking for individuals, businesses or organizations to help underwrite the cost of the banquet so that all donations received that evening would go directly to the work of The Life Center/Life Choices. In addition, **we are looking for banquet table hosts** who would be willing to invite 9 friends who may be interested in supporting the work of the Center (10 to a table). If you would like to underwrite a portion of our banquet, to host a table or make reservations, please call Mary at 847-622-1235.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The National Day of Prayer:

Thursday, May 7th – Noon
Elgin, Geneva, Your Town

Annual Banquet:

Will be held this year
On: Thursday, May 6th -
6:30 p.m.

At: Villa Olivia Country
Club, Bartlett, IL

Annual Mother's Day Program:

Tuesday, May 11th
From: 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
At: The American Legion
Post, Elgin

We need volunteers!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIFE CENTER

MEN'S MENTORING PROGRAM-THE NEW MAN

Having never offered a program specifically for men, as we made plans for a new men's mentoring program, *The New Man*, we hoped and prayed for its success. Now that the program is underway, **we are so excited to see God at work in this new ministry venue!** Read on to hear how our new program transformed the life of one family.

Some weeks ago, a couple came in for a pregnancy test. The Life Choices staff spoke with the wife alone as the husband waited in the reception area, discovering that this young woman had endured a life of great hardship and pain at the hand of her husband who had been most hard and uncaring. We connected her with a local counselor in another agency, but scheduled her for a second visit with our center for an ultrasound.

When they returned for their second visit the Life Choices staff took the information they'd gathered at the initial visit and encouraged the husband to return to talk with one of our male mentors. These mentors are godly men who are well acquainted with God's word and have a background in counseling, so we felt confident that they would be able to help this particular couple, as well as any other male who

needed some discipleship. We were excited when this man agreed to meet with our counselor.

The day of his appointment arrived and much to our concern, both mentors called to say that they had health problems and wouldn't be able to come to our Center that day! As the evening approached, our concern grew with the knowledge that this troubled man would be coming in that evening to talk, but we had no one available to speak with him. We called a local pastor who had expressed an interest in our men's program, but had to leave him a message, as he was unavailable to take the call. As the day progressed, we had not heard back from the local pastor. We started to wonder what would happen when this man arrived for his appointment and we had no male available to talk with him. Finally, the pastor called back saying that he could not make it; however, he was sending a mature Christian man, David, in his place.

Both men arrived around the same time that evening. They sat and talked for well over an hour. To our joy, we found out that **this very troubled man prayed to release his life to Jesus Christ and invited the Lord to take**

over. This formerly troubled man agreed to join a small church group. Since then, both the pastor and David have met with this man and have brought him to church. David's wife has joined in to encourage the wife as well. Now this couple is connected with a small group within a church, getting the Christian support and fellowship they need to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ!

This formerly troubled man's wife said that when she first came to visit that she believed in God, but couldn't understand why He would allow her to go through so much heartache with the man she was married to. Today, what a testimony this is to God's great love for her and for this once troubled man she is married to, who is now growing in his faith. As we continue to pray for this couple, **we see that God has a plan to capture the hearts of the men who visit with their girlfriends and wives. He desires these men to be loving, caring, responsible fathers and husbands.** Our men's program, "The New Man" is at its beginning stages, however, we see that God is already using it to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children (and their children's mothers!) as in Malachi 4:6.

"that you put off, concerning you former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, "and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." Eph. 4:22-24

ABSTINENCE UPDATE

We have been adding to the numbers of our abstinence team which is headed by Connie McDonough. They continue to meet, pray, share ideas and prepare to take the message of sexual integrity to local schools. Please be praying for them. You may sign up for our email prayer warrior list (see article).

Nurses Corner

I want so share with you the story of a young woman who recently came to see us. She came to our clinic strongly abortion-minded and requesting a pregnancy test and help determining how far along she was in her pregnancy. She said that she had already decided to have an abortion because she just wasn't ready to have a baby. As we discussed her relationship with her boyfriend, the father of the baby, she told me that she doesn't expect the relationship to last and that she doesn't want to be tied to him in any way. She seemed confident about her decision but I also sensed some

nervousness.

We talked about her faith background and she told me that she is a Christian but that both of her parents were Buddhists. She shared that her father just died a week ago and her mother, who'd had two abortions herself, felt that she should have an abortion as the pregnancy was too close to her father's death. Yet when I asked this abortion-minded young woman what she was feeling, she said that she thought that it was possible that this baby was God's gift of new life following her Dad's death.

There was no surprise when

the pregnancy test read positive and I was pleased that she wanted to have the ultrasound done right away. **When she saw the baby on the monitor she was amazed and her eyes filled with tears as we saw her eight-week old baby's heart beating.** We prayed together that God would give her the strength, clarity, wisdom and guidance in her decision. She left with a smile on her face, clutching the little photo album with pictures of her baby. Please join us in prayer for this wonderful young woman, her baby and her family.

by Trish Kopeck, R.N.

We just saw the most amazing ultrasound! **The baby, who measured 18 weeks, was clapping her hands repeatedly!!** Unbelievable! Wish you could

have seen it. We were all so excited I didn't even get a good picture. This mom is a single parent of two children and works very hard to support her family. The father

of this baby left, but God has surrounded her with people who are supporting her and sharing the joy of this beautiful life.

by Trish Kopeck, R.N.

OUR ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY BASH NEEDS HELP

Volunteers are needed for a special program for moms. The program will be held on Tuesday, May 11th from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post on Liberty Street, just east of our Center. This program will encourage mothers and honor them in their very valuable role.

Help is needed in loading and unloading vehicles, caring for the children, decorating tables and setting up gift tables, baking and/or serving cookies and other refreshments. Also, clean up help is always needed. Please call Mary or Vivian at 847-622-1235 for more details.

BOTTLES ANYONE?

Want your church to help save lives and souls? Have some spare change lying around? The Life Center's Baby Bottle Campaign is a fun and easy way to help make a difference in the lives of those who come through our doors and also doesn't hinder any other fundraising work your church may be doing. Just have members of your churches' congregation, small group, Sunday school class, Vacation Bible School, or youth group fill the bottles that we provide. Loose change will do. Fill them up and turn them in. It's that simple! Also, with Mother's and Father's Day just around the corner, it's a great way to honor them and bless our ministry to moms.

Call Corrie Priola, Center Development, with any questions or to make arrangements. (847) 622-1235.

Memorials:

*A financial gift
has been given to
The Life Center/
Life Choices
in memory of
the following:*

*Ann & Frank Petta
Given by:
Linda Marquardt*

*Baby Emily Foulk
Given by:
Vivian Mattoon*

REACHING OUT ONE AT A TIME...

Just recently, a young couple came to visit requesting a pregnancy test. They were anxious and said that because of prior commitments the only time they had available to come was immediately. Since it was early in the morning on a Tuesday, and our nurse, Trish, would not be coming in until 3:00 p.m. I had to see them and have them self-test.

They were a sweet, married couple that had faced many challenges such as job losses, a bad housing situation and college classes to worry about. For them, this was not the right time to think of having a baby; nonetheless, their test showed positive. They were happy, but apprehensive. I encouraged them to take things "one day at a time". I told them about our support services and explained the

development of their baby, showing them the small, lifelike fetal models and pointing out the approximate size of their baby. Reminding them that at 7 weeks, their baby's heart is already beating 140 to 150 beats a minute, twice as fast as the mother's heart. They looked at each other, hugged tightly and smiled. I then gave them literature talking about the stages of the baby's development and a new fluffy baby blanket.

During their visit, I talked with them about God's love for them and for their baby as well, emphasizing that **this child was a gift from Him and that He had a wonderful plan for them and their child.** I encouraged them to invite the Lord into their family to guide, direct and teach them how to be the best parents possible. The young woman had

no idea about God and her husband had a weak faith background. I suggested that they turn everything over to the Lord and put Him in charge of their lives and trust totally in Him. After explaining all this to them, they held hands and prayed with me to receive Jesus as their Savior. I later gave them Bibles and Christian materials.

This unsure couple left full of joy, telling me that they were glad they came. As they were going out the door, the young man ran back to give me a hug. I hope to see them when they return for an ultrasound and I will be praying that their faith in God will grow as well as their love for each other and their child.

Vivian



**NEEDED:
PRAYER
WARRIORS**

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!!

If you have a heart for prayer and would like to be included on our email list of prayer warriors, please call and ask for Mary or Vivian at 847-622-1235. The Life Center/Life Choices Medical Services needs you to pray!

LIFE CENTER WISH LIST

Building and Office:

Water Cooler for Life Choices
Flat screen monitor for administrative Assistant
A new Dell computer and printer for fathers' ministry
A new laser printer for our office
Automatic letter folder
Locking, fireproof file cabinet
New microwave (for Kitchen)
All weather awnings to put over 3 doors
New sinks for our restrooms
New water efficient commodes

Baby Items:

Outfits, sleepers or onesies:
Girls and Boys 0-3 months &
3-6 months (winter items)
Baby towels
Baby socks
Baby wash and shampoo
Diapers size 1
Maternity clothing (Gently used is fine!)

