

THE Life Letter



Spring 2009 LIFE CENTER/LIFE CHOICES • 825 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 • 847-622-1235 • www.yourlifecenter.org

WALK FOR LIFE



Come join The Life Center in our 6th annual WALK FOR LIFE on **Saturday, May 9th** at **Lord's Park in Elgin!** Join us for a **morning of fun, food, music, face painting and prizes.**

The Walk for Life is a great way to make your stand for life while supporting the work of The Life Center. The more walkers that come out, the greater our results, so please invite your churches, organizations, friends, your youth groups and church care groups. **Your help in this fundraiser will be crucial with financially slow summer months ahead. We want to keep our doors open to the many women who have nowhere else to go but- 825 Dundee Ave. for help. We offer not only pregnancy testing, limited ultrasounds and pregnancy support services but spiritual support as well. Our Hope Services provides maternity clothing, diapers and baby items to needy moms who visit our center for pregnancy assistance.**

Pray and Also Come Prepared...

Please pray for God's blessing on our Walk, especially regarding the weather. Thus far, the weather has been fantastic; however, we recommend that all walkers **come prepared with warm clothing and an umbrella** if necessary.

Registration and the Walk will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon. You may register by calling 847-622-1235 or download a pledge sheet from our website at www.yourlifecenter.org.

Collecting pledges: Walkers are asked to collect pledges for the Center. We recommend that you set a goal to reach for the Walk, and then calculate how many sponsors you will need to reach your goal. When collecting pledges,

It's not the amount of steps walked but the heart of the giver that counts!

record names and complete mailing addresses. Also, ask for sponsor's check or cash "up front" instead of waiting, if possible. Top pledges will receive prizes. Walk as much as

you are able to (depending on your physical condition). **It's not the amount of steps walked but the heart of the giver that counts!**

Friends, family, fresh air, exercise and fun, plus the blessing of knowing that your efforts *support the life-changing, life saving ministry of The Life Center; we challenge you to think of a better way to spend a Saturday morning!* For more information about the Walk, contact Mary at 847-622-1235 or Patrice at 630-707-5621.

Directions: Take Rte. 19 or Chicago St. to Bode Road. Turn left on Bode (if you are heading east) or right on Bode (if you are heading west) to get to Lords Park in Elgin. "Check in" at the Pavilion.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 7

Annual Walk for Life
Fundraiser for the Life
Center

Saturday, May 9th
Lord's Park Pavilion, Elgin
9:00 am to noon

**NEEDED:
PRAYER
WARRIORS**

If you have a heart for prayer and would like to pray regarding specific needs for The Life Center/Life Choices- we need you!

Please call 847-622-1235 and ask for Mary or Vivian

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!!

THE PHONE BOOK STILL WORKS!

by Patricia Kopeck, R.N.

This past week we had two clients find Life Choices through the ad in the phone book.

The first client arrived with her mom. They were both in crisis. The 21 yr. old daughter had taken a pregnancy test in the morning, which showed positive. She immediately drove home from college to tell her mom. A few hours later they were sitting in our counseling room sharing, sobbing and in shock. We talked and prayed. I offered assurances that we would be here for them, walking through this process together one step at a time. We

scheduled an appointment for an ultrasound. A couple of days later I received a call from the daughter thanking us and asking for continued prayer. Both of her parents are very supportive. She had spoken to her boyfriend who has committed to stand by her. Having decided to carry and parent this baby, she sounded much more at peace.

The second client also found us in the phone book. During her second visit, she mentioned that she had opened the phone book to look under abortion and the first thing she saw was our

ad and decided not to look any further for help. Next to the abortion ads was our number under abortion alternatives! Like our earlier client, she was also a college student in crisis. She felt she had no alternative other than to have an abortion. We talked about her situation, her relationships, her options and her faith. I explained the abortion procedures as well as the physical risks and emotional and spiritual effects. Her response was, "I had no idea." We prayed together and she recommitted her life to the Lord, choosing life for herself and her baby.

The **total** monthly cost of phone book advertising is **\$493.00**. During these financially challenging days, this expense seems outrageous. However, when we hear stories like the ones above, we realize that this expense is not frivolous, but a "life saving" investment. If we didn't have the eye-catching ad in the phone book that caught -----'s eye,

she may have visited an abortion clinic and been sold an abortion. Your generous contributions are an investment in the lives of the

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women and men who visit. Your gift allows for us to advertise our services to those who are confused and hurting. Our advertising is a "life line" and when you give to our ministry, you help us toss out that lifeline to those who are in need of help. **Could you toss out the line with us by making a commitment to help with one month's advertising?**

Abstinence Training

An abstinence-training program was held at The Life Center on March 6th. Ruth Hernandez and Laetitia Benberry, experienced abstinence teachers from the Kane County area, were the guest trainers. They have been dedicated to informing youth about the value of saving sex for marriage for the last 12 years, delivering this critical message to students

across Kane County. They came prepared with many thought-provoking visuals that are regularly used in presentations to students to help make an impact regarding the dangers of pre-marital sex. As we know, these dangers include: sexually transmitted diseases, a devastating effect on future relationships and marriage, out-of-wedlock pregnancies and even abortion.

We are putting together a team of volunteers to go into the local schools to bring our youth the message of "Why Wait?" Your support will help us provide programs to help prevent destructive choices by teens and preteens who are being bombarded with the message of casual sex by the media, friends and the culture they live in.

REACHING OUT ONE AT A TIME...

A couple of weeks ago a young woman came in with her baby for a baby photo and a basket of gifts. She filled out the necessary form. When I saw her name and remembered her story, my heart leaped with joy within me. When she came to visit the first time last spring, she had contemplated abortion even though in the past she had encouraged two close relatives not to abort their babies. Nevertheless, she believed that her financial situation would not allow her to go through with the pregnancy (things were tight because she was already contributing financially to support these other

children she helped to save!)

When she returned this time, she mentioned that once I explained how developed her baby already was, and when she saw our

When she came to visit the first time last spring, she had contemplated abortion

fetal models and read the literature she was given, she knew that her baby was not just a blob of tissue, but a developing baby and her hard heart softened. She returned with her precious baby on my

birthday. What a wonderful gift God had given me that day!

When I took her baby's photo and snapped a couple of shots of her and her baby together, I noticed the love and tenderness she expressed as she posed along side her baby.

In these trying economic times, this was obviously another miracle and God's way of encouraging us to keep on doing what we have been doing for the last 13 years- reaching out to save one life at a time.



When we partner together, we are able to reach out to women such as the one mentioned in the above story. Hearts are changed and lives are saved through our efforts, God's grace and your sacrificial gifts. We promise not to give up if you promise to keep encouraging us with your gifts and prayers!

A married couple came with their baby for a photo and their basket of cute gifts for their new baby boy. I remembered them quite well from their pre-natal visits. I recalled sitting down with them, listening to their story and spending much time with them. They had come back a few times after that for counseling and then again for an ultrasound.

Now here they were with their child, and what a beautiful child he was! We asked them if we could email his photo to friends who had recently sent us a photo of their new adorable niece. They even joked about the possibility of

their son having a career as a professional baby model! They were so careful to wrap him and keep him warm as they were getting ready to leave; they were such

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doting parents, so proud and protective. Before they left, the mother thanked us for the tender, loving care they received here and admitted that when she first came to visit, she contemplated abortion because of their complicated

situation. I was so glad that we were here and that they didn't visit Planned Parenthood first. I was available the day they came, our nurses were available to continue reinforcing the life-affirming message they received, encouraging them as they came for their ultrasound. I remember how they delighted in the images of their baby that day. I am grateful for our caring, capable medical staff. However, most of all I am grateful to the Lord of Life and to you my friends for your support. You help keep us here and available.

Divian

Testimonial From A Grateful Mom

The Life Center was very helpful in giving us an alternative to abortion. They educated me on each option and gave me the support that I needed to continue my pregnancy. The Center will continue to give me support and supplies that I really need for my new baby.

- K.W

TEARS TURNED INTO JOY- *by Cyndi Davidsen, Nurse Manager*

Scripture reminds us that the Lord Jesus can turn our tears of sorrow into tears of joy. K and S's pregnancy journey is one such transformation. They arrived at Life Choices one rainy November Saturday after finding us online. Their story unfolded; a couple that experienced the urgency of passion which escalated at rapid-fire pace to co-habitation, and resulted in a pregnancy within a four month time frame. Phrases like, "we can't possibly have a baby now, and I'm a college student, not a mother", were spoken.

As I listened to all their reasons favoring abortion, I prayed silently to the Lord, "Please show them yourself, and give them your peace so they can gain understanding." I saw a young couple overwhelmed with the permanence of parenthood viewed from the lens of their temporary living arrangement. Reviewing their options, I felt prompted to ask them to describe their relationship. Each professed a tentative love for the other, and spoke of a spiritual connection. When asked if they could foresee a future with children, they nodded yes. Then I asked, "In the big picture, would it really matter if a child

came along, say two years earlier than expected?" Silence: Then she said, "I guess it really isn't all about me." As they left that rainy morning, I offered to pray for them. Their ultrasound was scheduled right before Christmas.

S came alone for her ultrasound. The next day she was scheduled to fly out of state to spend time with her family and she planned to tell them her news in person. During the ultrasound, she was intrigued by the tiny form. Although just the size of a Teddy Graham, she clearly saw the baby's beating heart. I gave her the images in a purse sized album and again promised to pray for her. It was those images that she held in her heart during the long plane ride and week that followed.

During the ultrasound, she was intrigued by the tiny form.

In February S called, requesting the ultrasound report. Upon learning that they had not yet begun prenatal care, I offered them another ultrasound. This time the baby would be 12 weeks and fully formed.

Their excitement was contagious. Their eyes were fixed on the screen

as they had come together, united in parenthood, planning a future that included marriage.

I had prayed all along for the opportunity to tell them about Jesus, and my prayers were heard. As they sat in the counseling room, I spoke about the one who alone can forgive all their sins, and who is knocking at the door of their hearts. They both accepted God's amazing salvation and received new life squared. As the sun shown brightly through the window, joy abounded!

Memorials:

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

Ann Petta

From: Linda & Al Marquardt

Lorray Elsner

From: Ruth Elsner & family

Jon Gruner

From: Charlotte and Charles Gruner

LIFECENTER WISH LIST

Building and Office:

- Automatic letter folder
- Locking, fireproof file cabinet
- All weather awnings to put over doors
- New water efficient commodes
- New sinks for our restrooms
- Volunteer help with heating, cooling problems
- New microwave (for kitchen)
- New commercial type vacuum (Oreck if possible!)
- New can opener (for kitchen)
- Flat screen monitor for administrative assistant
- Mass quantities of baby bottles for fundraising

Baby Items:

New Items please.

Outfits, sleepers or onesies:
0-3 mos. & 3-6 months

(We especially need girls' things).

- Baby towels
- Baby shampoo & wash
- Baby bottles for girls (Pink or Lilac)
- Bibs for girls
- Maternity clothing

