

# Women's *Choice* Center

of the Quad Cities

A Ministry of Life & Family Educational Trust

## *Better Choices For Life* **2019 Summer Newsletter**

Praise Be to God and congratulations to Women's Choice Center. July 1 marked the anniversary of our 17th year of service and we're praising Him while also asking for His continued blessings. My heart swells every time I talk to those of you who have supported LIFE in our community – some for many years even prior to the beginnings at our Center – and others for any amount of time in our history. There are *thousands* on this forever-growing list of supporters and we thank God for each and every one of you. Our story, "the Miracles on Happy Joe Drive", continues!

While this past anniversary was a "quiet one" as celebrations around here go, I can't say things have been that way while delivering services at the Bettendorf Center and on our Mobile Medical Unit, "Grace" (who travels regularly to Rock Island, Moline, Davenport, East Moline, Galesburg, and Kewanee.) Since the Women's Choice Center relocated on May 21, 2018, we have seen amazing growth in the number of clients served in person – either at our building or on the Mobile Medical Unit. Some women come to us seeking our building's former occupant, not knowing where else to turn with their unplanned pregnancy. Whatever draws them to Women's Choice Center, we are BLESSED that 24% more clients have found us this year!

The number of phone calls we receive has increased as well, with our staff taking as much time as each caller needs. We are committed to making sure every single client we see or talk with feels listened to, loved, and strengthened with supportive tools – including our prayers – for themselves, their baby, and their family or friend network. Clients who reach out to us, whether for medical services or resources, need diapers, clothing, and ongoing support programs. Each time you share "your voice" through various forms of support, we are able to continue offering our services at no cost to our growing numbers of clients.

*We can't wait to share our first-hand stories* at the upcoming Annual Banquet on September 24th. We hope you will bring your friends, family and neighbors to help us fill the Waterfront Convention Center. We chose this year's theme, "Your Voice Matters", to point out how important each person is and that each act of support you provide really does matter, especially amidst ever-growing societal changes! At the banquet, we'll be joined by Scott Klusendorf, national speaker for LIFE and author of *Case for Life: Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture*. I'm confident you will leave the banquet feeling encouraged in your own stand for LIFE and by what we do here at Women's Choice Center on a daily basis. Together we are making a difference, as babies are saved and clients receive HOPE and HELP. Your VOICE and Your SUPPORT are changing lives...and we THANK YOU!

Linda Rubey,  
Executive Director

*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,  
so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

– Colossians 4:6



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## Our Awesome God *By Katrina Corgan*

I am a growing Catholic woman of faith. I am a daughter, sister, wife, mother of three, prayer warrior, and follower of Jesus and His commandments. I am Pro-Life. My journey to being 110% Pro-Life has been exactly that, a journey. This journey is what led me to volunteer at Women's Choice Center in 2019. Long story short, the closer I got to Jesus and the more devoted I became to praying and learning the true discernment of God's will for my life, the more He proved to me how precious life is, from conception through death.

Two verses, ones that I have heard a thousand times, stand out to me: *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."* – Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV); and *"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 (NIV).

When I met Linda Rubey at St. John the Baptist's Breakfast for Babies in Rapids City, I was impressed with the services Women's Choice Center offers but wasn't sure I could be of help. When I talked with Linda, I felt the Holy Spirit tug at me to step out of my comfort zone. *Jesus, I TRUST IN YOU* is my motto. I trusted, going first to the volunteer information meeting and next to the training. Soon after that, I began volunteering. When God is behind a new journey, He brings a sense of calm, excitement and energy. I had that for WCC! I started as a volunteer receptionist, then became involved in the Center's Sexual Risk Avoidance program for high school students, and lastly began training as a Client Advocate. Wow! Our God is awesome, and when we trust Him, He blesses us more than we know.

At the Center, I have seen God's grace and mercy in action in the trenches of this war to fight for LIFE. Educating clients about their bodies and what parenting, adoption and abortion are really like is God's grace and mercy at work. We love our clients by giving them real education, with nothing hidden, so that they can make their own fully informed choices.

While training as a Client Advocate at WCC, I would come home and praise God for my blessings each day as he showed me that He created us at conception. Seeing a baby's heartbeat on an ultrasound monitor at five weeks, four days old is nothing but a miracle, and if technology were better I'm sure we could see it even sooner. As I prepare to move to the next stage of life with my family, I pray for the continued success of this ministry. WCC is fighting for LIFE and making a difference in our community! I will always be grateful for the opportunity to volunteer at the Center. Next to adoration and family time, it is the best free time I have ever spent. Remember, your voice matters, too, and God is counting on you. What you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me. May God bless you all.



*Katrina Corgan and family.*

## Always Hope *By Megan Powell, RN*

One day last fall during one of my shifts on our Mobile Medical Unit, a young woman in her early 20's walked on for services. The first thing she said was, "My boyfriend and I want to have an abortion because we can't afford a baby right now." We have many women who come to us seeking an abortion or questioning whether that is the choice they want to make.

After confirming this client's pregnancy, we counseled her about all options, but she was still very determined in believing that abortion was her only choice. Unfortunately it was too early in the pregnancy to provide an ultrasound for her on that day. We were able to schedule her to return for an ultrasound within the next few weeks.

During those weeks, we prayed daily that this mother would have a change of heart, come to her follow-up appointment, and see her baby on the ultrasound screen. We were thrilled when this young woman not only returned to us for her follow-up ultrasound appointment, but also brought her own mother and the baby's father along for support. LIFE was chosen for this baby! In July, a Client Advocate from Women's Choice Center followed up with this young woman. A beautiful baby boy was born in June and Mom, Dad and baby are all doing wonderfully!



*GRACE, our Mobile Medical Unit.*

It is so awesome when you can help parents feel EMPOWERED to carry a pregnancy to term and give the precious gift of life to their child. As a Women's Choice Center nurse, I know that there is ALWAYS HOPE.

# The Window of Courage

By Beth Millea

Five years ago, when I decided to volunteer as a Board member, I had no idea how that decision would personally impact my life in the future. During my first three years of service I helped make key decisions for this ministry and learned more and more about its mission. I continue to be amazed by the brave decisions that women make to choose LIFE in some very difficult situations.

In November 2017, my husband and I were thrilled to learn that our daughter Andrea, who had married just a few years prior, was pregnant with her first child. We were all so excited about this new little one who would join our family. Despite the fact that this would be our sixth grandchild, the news of a new baby to love never loses its thrill. We celebrated with great joy for the first few days. However, we would soon find out that this pregnancy had some severe complications. The baby had so many significant physical abnormalities that the pregnancy would most likely not result in a live birth, and if the baby was born alive, the child would not live long after birth. The doctors told the parents that the baby would probably die within days of the diagnosis due to the severity of the abnormalities. What devastating news!



Chris, Andrea and John Paul

To further complicate the situation, our daughter and son-in-law lived in London, England, so seeing them and hugging them during this difficult time was impossible. Andrea told us that for the first twenty-four hours after the baby's diagnosis, she was in a panic. Although all of us have always been pro-life, she wasn't sure that she could carry this baby, knowing how it would end. But with the strong support of her husband, Chris, they both committed to carrying the baby to term. I cannot begin to describe how proud I am of Andrea and Chris for making such a courageous and difficult decision! They were giving their baby LIFE for as long as God would have them be expectant parents.

Over the next several months, we all worked through our emotions, spending many hours on the phone discussing pregnancy updates, delivery options, and burial choices. We soon found out that this grandchild was a boy, and that the name his parents chose was John Paul. How very beautiful! It helped so much to know this baby personally by knowing that he was a boy and calling him by name. As days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into months, Andrea's pregnancy was going well, and John Paul's heart continued to beat strongly despite continued tests showing more details of the abnormalities. He began to kick and his mom and dad bonded with him by feeling these kicks.

In April 2018, at thirty-five weeks, our grandson was born. He lived just one hour, long enough for his parents to hold him, tell him how much they loved him, and say goodbye. Although we lost our dear John Paul, he continues to be deeply loved. He was cradled at birth and buried with grace and respect. Our daughter and her husband know they gave their first baby every moment of LIFE possible, and although they lost their son, this fact helps them heal emotionally.

Other Board members and the Women's Choice Center staff supported me and my family beyond measure. They asked about the pregnancy, they offered burial clothing, and they continue to support us in our grief. What a blessing! My husband and I have donated a stained-glass window to Women's Choice Center in memory of John Paul. It is mounted in the entryway of our new building, and the scene depicted is a magnificent waterfall, signifying the waters of LIFE. What a beautiful legacy to our grandson and to Chris and Andrea's brave decision. I smile every time I see it.



## Volunteering

Being a Volunteer at Women's Choice Center is a PERFECT way to Use Your Voice. Please Come Join Us! Looking back this year, our volunteers have truly blessed us, serving as the equivalent of three full-time employees! We know you lead a busy life so we're happy to look at your availability in combination with our needs to make volunteer hours convenient for your own schedule. As we continue to grow and see more clients, your help – your voice – will be an essential part of making a difference in our community. We look forward to talking about the strengths you can bring to serve alongside us in the future.

- Client Resources Assistance: Sort, fold and organize donated items for Chloe's Closet at WCC; greet Clients and spend time with them as they choose from our boutique-like array of baby, maternity, and children's items up to size 5.
- Help with special mailings – a few hours, up to 3 to 4 times per year, spent with new friends that LOVE life also!
- Cleaning or Handyperson work – our Center is such a huge BLESSING to our ministry and keeping it beautiful and God-pleasing is a gift you may be willing to offer.
- Volunteer roles that require additional Volunteer Training include: Receptionist, Client Advocate, Nurse, and Sonographer. You can keep your own special work skills current while impacting our Clients in LIFE-affirming ways!

Upcoming Dates:

October 1: "Mug 'n Muffin" Volunteer Information Session

October 22: Volunteer Training Session

Contact Denise at 563-332-0475 or [ddupage@womenschoicecenter.org](mailto:ddupage@womenschoicecenter.org) to learn more.

**Women's Choice Center**  
A Ministry of Life and Family  
Educational Trust

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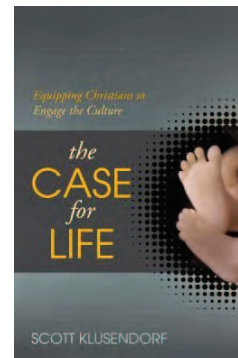
**Mission Statement**

Women's Choice Center is dedicated to offering free services for the God-given task of helping women and families make informed choices for life by respecting human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

**Compassionate • Confidential • Ready to Help**



**Please Join Us at our Annual Fundraising Banquet**  
**Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
Waterfront Convention Center, Bettendorf, IA  
Doors open at 6:00 pm, dinner/program at 6:30 pm  
**To request an invitation call 563-332-0475,**  
**email [life@womenschoicecenter.org](mailto:life@womenschoicecenter.org), or register online**  
**at [womenschoicecenter.org/2019banquet](http://womenschoicecenter.org/2019banquet)**



Our banquet keynote speaker, Scott Klusendorf of Life Training Institute, points out four differences between a preborn and a newborn, *none of which justify killing an unborn child*. They can be remembered through the acronym **SLED**. **S**ize: Does how big you are determine who you are? **L**evel of development: Are 20-year-olds more human than 10-year-olds? **E**nvironment: Does being located in the mother's body make a child less human? **D**egree of dependency: Does dependence upon another determine who you are? Is someone on kidney dialysis less of a person? The **SLED** tactic exposes the abortion advocate's argument for what it truly is: unjust discrimination, and a denial that all human beings are valuable and deserve protection. Who doesn't qualify for protection? People who are too small, not developed enough, in the wrong location, or too dependent on others.