



“And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ”  
~Philippians 4:19

**July 2017**

WHEN PREGNANCY WASN'T THE PLAN...

OFFERING HOPE FOR OVER 30 YEARS

# Exciting Things are Happening!

by Lisa Miller, CEO

Many exciting things are happening at First Choice for Women! First, our Annual Walk for Life event in Muncie this past May raised over \$23,000 in support for the ministry! A big **THANK YOU** to all of the sponsors, walkers, and donors who helped make our hallmark event a great success!



We are also in the midst of preparations for the First Choice for Women of Anderson & Madison County's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Walk for Life event! The fundraiser will be held Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at Anderson University's Reardon Auditorium. Details about the event are available on our website at [www.firstchoiceforwomen.org](http://www.firstchoiceforwomen.org) under the **Our Events** menu by selecting **Annual Walk for Life**. Registration is open, so sign up today and begin collecting pledges right away!

Next, we are on track to open the Anderson-Madison County clinic a few weeks earlier than initially anticipated, with a tentative opening date of August 15. The center is located at 1817 North Madison Avenue in Anderson.



We praise God for the progress made in this endeavor, and trust that He will provide the volunteers and funds still needed to sustain the center. (See *Anderson Update on Page 5*)

Last but not least, we have begun making arrangements for Muncie's Annual Fall Banquet. I can hardly believe that it will be here in just three short months! We have varied from our typical time period to **Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup>** in order to avoid conflicting with our local community schools fall break schedule.

Additional Information about the event will be mailed/mailed once all of the details are finalized. You may also find more information about all of our upcoming events on the First Choice for Women website.

## Hometown Heroes Grant Received



First Choice was honored to have been awarded the May 2017 Hometown Heroes grant from WLBC Wolf Boom Radio. This grant provided over \$10,000 in free radio and electronic media advertising for the entire month of May!

## Landscaping/Lawn Care Donated



We would like to extend our gratitude to Josh Perkins, owner of Plant Studio Landscape for not only the ongoing lawn care services he has provided over the past few years, but for the recent updates made to our Muncie center's landscaping as well. Thank you so much!

## Cleaning Services Discounted



We also want to recognize Carter Cleaning Systems owner Tom Jarvis for deeply discounting our cleaning services for the Muncie building. This important service will help keep our facility beautiful for years to come! Thank you!



# All About Abstinence

by Sharyll Martin, SRA Director

The spring semester is finished and we have wonderful news to report! The Creating Positive Relationships (CPR) curriculum was presented to 1,501 students this past spring semester, giving us a 2016-2017 school year grand total of 3,117 students!

We are also excited to announce that our course surveys indicate that 85% of the students taught the curriculum chose abstinence and/or secondary abstinence! Additionally, we are very encouraged by the 10% increase in sexual health knowledge gained by the students through the programs teachings.

## New & Exciting Things

Thirty-two Pope John Paul II Middle Schoolers participated in CPR for the first time this year. SRA Instructor, Shannon Ulrich, was also able to use CPR materials to develop a course for a religion class at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

It was a privilege to expand the CPR program to Madison County! We closed out the year with the 7th graders at Highland Middle School in Anderson. The students learned that respecting themselves and others is fundamental to making healthy choices about their sexual behavior. We are looking forward to the fall and hope to be in more of the health

classes at the second largest middle school in Indiana!

## More than Just Schools

For the third summer in a row we were asked to bring our abstinence program to the young men at George Jr. Republic Boys' Home in Gas City. GJR is a residential program for boys 13-19 years of age who are seeking to change the direction of their lives after making unwise choices. SRA Instructor Neil Habegger spent five days with six young men the first week of June. One young man said he was impacted by how important it is to set healthy boundaries for his relationships. What a blessing it is to be able to make a difference in the lives of these young men!

## Feedback

Here are just a few of comments we received from our high school students over the last year:

- *"I learned a lot about commitment."*
- *"I've learned it's ok not to do things others are doing."*
- *"Thank you so much for this week! I am deciding to choose abstinence! You have really helped me learn about positive relationships. I am finally realizing I am in an abusive relationship."*

## SRA Instructors

I am so grateful to have a team of instructors who are passionate about reaching the young people in our community with this positive message! Neil Habegger, Vicki Baur, Shannon Ulrich, and Beth Kresja – Thank you for your commitment and the fantastic job you do in the classroom!

We are also looking forward to Bob Winebarger joining our team! Bob will be attending training next month and plans to begin teaching CPR in the fall. Welcome Bob!

I am also thrilled to report that a Burris school teacher will be attending CPR training! If you are a teacher and are interested teaching the Creating Positive Relationship curriculum to your class personally, First Choice will cover the cost of your training as well as the expenses associated with bringing a substitute teacher into your classroom while you are gone.

Please contact me with questions, and please continue praying for us as we begin preparing for a new school year!

### WANT TO HELP GUIDE OUR YOUTH?

Volunteer to be a Sexual Risk Avoidance Instructor and teach our young people about abstinence through our Creating Positive Relationships curriculum. Contact us today!

SHARYLL MARTIN, SRA DIRECTOR  
[abdirector@firstchoiceforwomen.org](mailto:abdirector@firstchoiceforwomen.org)  
 (765)286-6085

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For more information please visit [http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi\\_ge\\_rcl\\_lm\\_raas](http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_rcl_lm_raas)



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

LISA STEWART



Lisa Stewart has volunteered as a Parent Care Mentor with First Choice for Women for 5 years. After 37 years, she is recently retired from teaching elementary school in the Delaware Community School system. "I strive to share with our clients some of the wisdom and knowledge that I've gained through all my years of teaching and parenting my own children" Lisa states. She and her husband, Doug, have three daughters and four grandchildren with two more on the way!

Lisa also embraces the spiritual aspect of volunteering. "Every week on my way to First Choice, I pray that God would use me in whatever way He chooses," she shares. "I especially love to pray with clients at the end of our Parent Care session. I see it as a privilege to pray with them, and for them." Thank you Lisa for your dedicated service to First Choice for Women and our clients. We appreciate you!

## FAST FACTS

75%

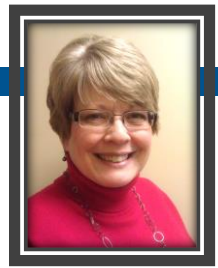
Some 75% of abortion patients in 2014 were poor or low-income.\*

31.2%

The Kids Count in Indiana Data Book shows that 31.2% of children up to age 17 are living in poverty in Central Indiana – Delaware Co. had the highest % in the state.\*\*

## The Client Connection

by Leslie Hatcher, Center Director



The mission and vision statement of First Choice for Women states in part, that we exist to serve those facing unplanned pregnancies and to help create a community in which every child is wanted, cared for and nurtured. This is our goal each day as we offer pregnancy tests, options counseling, ultrasounds, parent education classes and mentoring. We see young women at one of the most difficult periods of their lives. Decisions made at this crucial time will affect not only the life of their unborn child, but also their future and personal well-being.

Kayla, a senior at Ball State, was not planning on starting a family. She was looking forward to graduating with a Criminal Justice degree and starting her career. She came to us for a pregnancy test, and was shocked by the positive result. The father of the baby suggested that she consider an abortion - how could she put her life and career plans on hold for a baby? Kayla wept as we discussed her pregnancy options. She was overwhelmed and unsure of what to do. In the course of our conversation, I discovered that Kayla had placed her trust in the Lord and claimed the name of Christ. We prayed together asking God for wisdom and guidance. By the end of our time together, she had decided to parent this precious gift of life - with or without the support of the father. Praise God! After her ultrasound, we were so blessed when Kayla asked us to pray for the continued health of her baby!

But the story doesn't end there. Kayla AND the baby's father began attending parenting classes. They continued with the program until she moved back home after graduation. We were thrilled when she returned to Muncie a few months later to pick up the new crib and mattress set she had earned through our Parent Care program.



Kayla, reported that she had secured a great job (while still pregnant) that offered her maternity leave! What a wonderful success story! Most of all, what an amazing testimony to God's provision and grace! A woman *does not* have to choose between the life of her unborn baby and her education or career. First Choice is here to help women discover this awesome truth because of your generous support – thank you for making a difference!

WANT TO BE A BLESSING?  
BE A VOLUNTEER!

Are you, your small group, or anyone you know interested in learning more about our programs or how to become a volunteer? Please contact:

LESLIE HATCHER, CENTER DIRECTOR  
[leslie@firstchoiceforwomen.org](mailto:leslie@firstchoiceforwomen.org)  
 (765)286-6085

*"Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!" -Luke 12:24*

## It's A God Thing

In mid-June a young man who had attended a First Choice banquet several years ago, randomly stopped by the center and stated that as he was driving past First Choice for Women and felt impressed in his spirit to stop and give us \$100! He had just started a new job and said "God had blessed" him and that he wanted to give back as the Lord had provided for him.

What a wonderful testament of Gods provision and how He uses His people to supply the needs of others! We are thankful for the generosity of this young man, and for all who help us help women and families in our community!

\*<https://www.gutmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

\*\*<http://fox59.com/2017/03/20/delaware-county-has-highest-child-poverty-statewide/>



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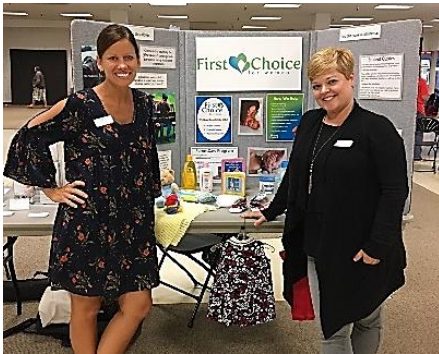
## The Anderson Update

by Chara Lavelle, Development Director

### Our Community Needs Us!

This past week God gave me an opportunity to witness first-hand the need for our services in Madison County. I was working at the First Choice for Women Muncie location, shadowing Center Director Leslie Hatcher, when a client came in for a pregnancy test. As I sat and listened to the client, I soon discovered that she had come all the way from Anderson for our services! This was further confirmation for me that the women in the Anderson and Madison County communities are in need of the compassion and care that our ministry provides.

It was very exciting to share with this young woman, that in just a few short weeks, she will be able to come to our new Anderson location - instead of driving the nearly 20 miles it takes to get to the Muncie Center!



Additionally, last month we participated in Madison County's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Safety Fair at Mounds Mall. We hosted a booth filled with information about our services and examples of the types of assistance young women and families could receive through our ministry. Dozens of women requested information about First Choice! It was such a blessing to share with them all of the wonderful services we will be able to offer to them and their families - and they received the news with hope and anticipation! They were able to walk away knowing that in a couple of months, they would be able to come to First Choice for parenting education classes, material assistance, and so much more!

I am certain that there are now many more people in our community who are ready for First Choice to open its doors in Anderson! The response we received is just another example of why it is so important to have this ministry in Madison County. We will not only be able to share the love of Jesus with women facing an unplanned pregnancy, but also with those who need support and guidance as they seek to be the best parents possible to their babies!

### And We Need You!

There is much to do in the next few weeks and we need volunteers to help us organize as we work toward opening the center.

We also need volunteers who are willing to dedicate a couple of hours each week to meet with clients who need pregnancy tests and/or options counseling. We need volunteers to mentor clients who will be participating in our parenting education program.

And we need volunteers to:

- work in one of our two reception areas
- help with data entry and other clerical duties.
- help with donation maintenance.
- help with events and mailings
- clean and maintain the facility

As we trust in the Lord's provision, taking a leap of faith to move forward with opening the center, we also need monthly supporters. First Choice is still several thousand dollars short of meeting its monthly budgetary expenses for the Anderson/Madison County center. We humbly ask you to please prayerfully consider partnering with us as we strive to be the hands and feet of God in the Anderson and Madison County communities.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about First Choice for Women of Anderson & Madison County, or how you can help, please visit our website at: [www.firstchoiceforwomen.org](http://www.firstchoiceforwomen.org)  
Email: [dd@firstchoiceforwomen.org](mailto:dd@firstchoiceforwomen.org)  
Call: (765)286-6085

### SPECIAL THANK YOU!

I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to the Bethany Christian Church and Northview Church volunteers who donated time and energy to help us as we began preparing the building for opening! Several amazing volunteers spent hours working at the center to help us create an environment that is warm and inviting for both the medical side of the facility (for women facing an unplanned pregnancy), and the parenting education side of the building. Your time and efforts were greatly appreciated!



We would also like to give a very special thank you to Bob, Julie and Rosemary Likens of Open Gate Design & Decor, who have graciously donated all of the lawn care and landscape maintenance at the Anderson center. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**



*"So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." ~ Genesis 50:21*

# Westminster Presbyterian Church



This quarter we begin a new feature in First Choice Quarterly, the *Church Spotlight*. The support of our local churches is key to our mission of sharing the love of Jesus and the truth of LIFE to the clients we see each week. In appreciation of our supporting churches, we will be highlighting a different church in each newsletter.

First up, is a church that has sacrificially supported First Choice for over 18 years, Westminster Presbyterian Church. It is located on the corner of Tillotson and Riverside Avenue, in Muncie, just one block from the Ball State University campus.

Westminster celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Their mission is to glorify God, enjoy Him, and make Him known. Approximately 350 members attend services on Sundays at 8:30 am, 11 am and at 6 pm.



Pastor, Kristofer Holroyd, pictured above, has been serving at the church for 10 years, with the past three years as Senior Pastor. *"We are committed to preaching God's word and discipling people in the gospel of Jesus Christ,"* notes Pastor Holroyd. *"We partner with many organizations to accomplish this goal, such as Urban Light Community Church, Muncie Mission, Blood-N-Fire, New Castle and Pendleton prisons, and of course First Choice for Women. Additionally, we support several*

*families serving in the mission field all over the world. We are also very passionate about reaching our college campus,"* Pastor Holroyd concluded.

Along with their financial support of First Choice, Westminster is also a long-time host of our Muncie location's Annual Walk for Life, one of our largest fundraising events of the year. They also provide beautiful handmade diaper bags for our new mothers.

This summer, we were honored to be the *Mission Spotlight* at their annual Vacation Bible School. We had the opportunity to visit with the children and volunteers each morning and share about the work of First Choice for Women. The group collected over 2,700 diapers that week for our ministry!



Westminster also has a number of First Choice volunteers, many who give of their time and talents on a weekly basis. One of those volunteers is Debbie Rose, pictured above, she has been with First Choice since 1988! *"I first heard about First Choice, then Heart to Heart, at Westminster,"* Stated Debbie. *"Raising my daughter as a single parent, I have been shown much kindness, friendship and generosity from my church family. Westminster has always been a church that honors life, yet also has shown compassion to post-abortive women. I have appreciated the Christ centered teaching and preaching I have received over the last 33 years, and have grown a lot in my Christian faith."*

Pastor Holroyd added, *"The Bible calls us to love life from the beginning, through the middle and at the end. When we care for the mothers in our community that is the best way to promote life and to oppose abortion. If we are not committed to these families, we are not committed to life."*

On behalf of the First Choice for Women staff, clients and volunteers, thank you Westminster Presbyterian Church for your unwavering support for this ministry!

## NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear friends of First Choice for Women,

I am blessed to be part of a small group at Westminster Presbyterian where I feel at liberty to share my fears, my anxieties, my struggles, my joys, and my victories. I believe everyone else in the group feels the same way. It is a picture of what I feel Christian fellowship is supposed to be. As I was reflecting on this blessing in my life, I couldn't help but think of the blessing that First Choice must be in the life of the men and women who need someone willing to listen to what they are going through, and to know that someone genuinely cares about them and their circumstances.

As plans advance as scheduled, we are getting closer to opening another clinic in the Anderson/Madison Co. community. Meanwhile we are continuing to develop our center in Muncie. I am excited to think about how many more individuals will feel that tangible love of the Savior as selfless volunteers and staff take the time to listen and help them understand that life is best.

We appreciate the support of all of you who have prayed for us, volunteered your time or given financially. We couldn't be there for those in need if you were not there for us. You are truly making a difference for life!

May God bless you and keep you!

Todd Lail, Chairman  
Board of Directors

# You Make a Difference ♥ Get Involved Today!

- I would like to learn about becoming a First Choice for Women volunteer or board member.
- I would like to be a Life Ambassador for First Choice with my church/group/organization.
- I would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer Abstinence Education Instructor.
- I am considering a gift or becoming a monthly donor, please contact me.
- Please add me to your email list in order to save postage expense.
- I will be a prayer partner and commit to pray for this ministry.
- I would like to be a team captain at the next Walk for Life.
- I would like to be a table host at the next banquet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



*"Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver, And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, and you may have an abundance for every good deed... Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness" ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7-8,10*

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**YES!** I want to become a monthly giver. Go to [www.firstchoiceforwomen.org](http://www.firstchoiceforwomen.org), click the **GIVE SOME HELP** button, and then click on the **DONATE** menu **OR** Complete this form and mail it to:

**First Choice**  
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