



First  Choice  
for women

When Pregnancy Wasn't the Plan...

# GT Kids



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*GT Kids Daycare & Preschool is an Unlicensed Registered Ministry affiliated with Glad Tidings Church.*



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## A Message from the Chairman

by Pastor Kevin Holt, Chairman  
Board of Directors

Dear Friends of First Choice for Women,

A few weeks ago as I was preaching my 2017 Advent series, I re-told the story of the visit of Mary to the home of her cousin, Elizabeth. Mary, of course, was already pregnant with Jesus and Elizabeth was also pregnant and completing her second trimester, carrying in her womb, John the Baptist. Luke tells us that when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary as she entered the house, the baby in her womb leaped and was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:36-41). As I rehearsed that story in my mind again today, I paused to reflect on the wonder of that narrative and the profound implications that it has for

the ministry of First Choice for Women.

The text is very clear about at least three things. **One**, the baby that Elizabeth carried was fully alive. It was no meaningless mass of tissue but a living being. **Two**, the living child, carried by Mary's cousin, was sensitive to and responsive to the presence of Jesus. **Three**, the baby that Elizabeth carried would become a great prophetic voice, preparing the way for the coming Christ, and would be, in the words of Jesus, the greatest of those who were "born of women" (Matthew 11:11). What amazing and valuable life was being housed within the womb of a country girl from Judah!

First Choice for Women exists because we value life. We value the life of that unborn child, already alive and responsive to the presence of God, and we value the life of the precious mother whose womb provides the home for that life for the first nine months. I am so honored to serve this year as the chairman of the First Choice for Women board, and I look forward to serving with Lisa, her team, the board, and the many wonderful volunteers who make this ministry so effective. Thank you for your prayers, willingness to volunteer, and your faithful and generous support to this ministry.

Great Blessings,

Kevin J. Holt  
Chairman, Board of Directors

## First Choice for Women, Inc. 2018 Board of Directors, Staff & Medical Personnel

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Sharyll Martin, SRA Director  
Neil Habegger, SRA Instructor  
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Rhea Graham, Office Manager



## MUNCIE SOUTHSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL, FALL 2017 SEMESTER

Another impactful semester of abstinence education has come to an end - and the numbers are growing every year!

### SRA Statistics

The 2017 Fall Semester presented a **17% increase** over the previous year - meaning that nearly 300 more students heard the abstinence message last fall!

The 2016/2017 school year ended with the Creating Positive Relationships (CPR) program being presented to 3,148 students, and we expect our CPR course to reach over 3,600 young people during the 2017/2018 school year!

Last fall we taught at 13 different Muncie and Delaware County junior and senior high schools to 1,741 students. This total included 2 new middle school classes! We also presented the program to 178 Anderson Highland Middle School students, as well as 8 teenagers at the Madison County Youth Center, giving us a grand total of 1,927 students for the 2017 Fall Semester! Additionally, we hope to add Anderson High School to the curriculum this spring, increasing the number of students who will hear the abstinence message!

### Comments from the Classroom

We are blessed to have a team of instructors who make learning about such an important subject fun and memorable. We have received glowing reports from the teachers, not to mention these awesome comments from the students:

*"You actually made learning about STD's and abstinence kind of fun."*

*"The instructor was funny, and kind of weird - which was a good thing!"*

*"He [the instructor] was nice and open-minded to our questions."*

*"The thing I liked about this program is it helped me talk to my Mom after four years."*

*"This week helped me know how to talk to my friends about sexual activity and why they should wait."*

*"The lesson was very helpful in learning how to establish a healthy relationship. It also taught me how to set proper guidelines and boundaries of a relationship. Finally, it taught me about the dangers of not remaining abstinent until marriage."*

# All About Abstinence



by Sharyll Martin, SRA Director

There are always a great many young people who appreciate hearing the abstinence message because it affirms their decision to wait until marriage. While students need to hear this important message for many reasons, one Central High School student stated - *"it impacted my future"*, and that's our goal!

We offer this program free to public and private schools as well as youth organizations for these exact reasons - it is the mission of First Choice and the SRA Program, to educate young people about making healthy choices that impact their futures and their lives.

### What's New & What's Needed

We are now offering CPR to the Anderson and Madison County School systems and youth organizations. As we begin to add (potentially 17) new schools to the curriculum, we will need volunteer instructors to teach these week long classes. Please pray that God will call those we need, and that they will hear His call to serve in this important role.

#### WANT TO HELP GUIDE OUR YOUTH?

Volunteer to be an SRA Instructor - Contact us today to learn how!

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

## CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

## Commonway

This quarter First Choice for Women recognizes another one of our great supporting churches, Commonway Church. Pastor Matt Carder has led the ministry since its inception 12 years ago to its launch as an independent church in July 2011. The 500 member congregation meets on Sundays at 10:30 am at the Horizon Convention Center in the heart of downtown Muncie.

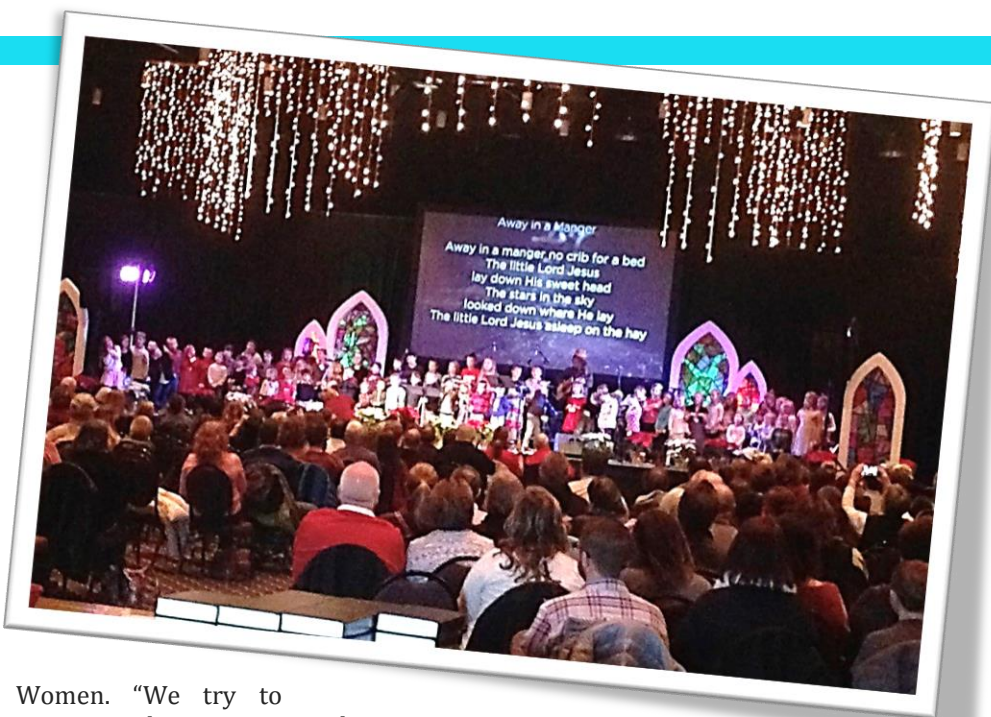
“Commonway is a community of individuals inviting people to find hope



in Jesus,” notes Pastor Carder, “and that includes all of us, Christians as well as seekers.” Commonway offers a relaxed welcoming environment where

people who are perhaps hesitant to get involved in church feel welcome. “We’re an eclectic group of students and professors, liberals and conservatives, both buttoned up and dressed down,” continues Pastor Carder. “Our commonality exists primarily in depending on God’s transforming grace and then learning to share it with others. That is our *common-way*.”

Their core values include Authentic Relationships, Generous Service, Shared Grace, Biblical Accountability and Intentional Discipleship. These values extend through supporting organizations like First Choice for



Women. “We try to partner with organizations doing great ministry,” notes Pastor Carder. “So many good non-profits service our community. We recognize our limitations as a church body in providing expertise in all areas of ministry. Instead of trying to ‘reinvent the wheel’, we can come along side of them and support what they are doing.” Commonway also partners with local organizations such as Christian Ministries, Safe Families and Inside Out Community Development Center.”

“We like how First Choice, in addition to providing needed services, is trying to build relationships”, concludes Pastor Carder. “It is powerful to communicate to women that they are not alone. They need to feel *heard* and have the opportunity to discuss options and assistance they might not be aware of.”

In addition to their financial support, Commonway small groups volunteer

with First Choice on a regular basis. Many of our clients benefit from “Help Portrait”, an annual worldwide initiative providing free professional photographs to people in need, locally hosted by Commonway Church. Commonway is also the home church of our Center Director, Leslie Hatcher. “I am thankful that my church is so supportive of this ministry,” Leslie stated. “I know the members of Commonway believe in loving and helping people at the point of their need, which is something we do every day at First Choice for Women.”

On behalf of the First Choice for Women staff, clients and volunteers, thank you Commonway Church for your generous support for this ministry.

To learn more about Commonway please visit [www.commonwaychurch.com](http://www.commonwaychurch.com).



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Phone: (765) 643-6635 • FAX: (765) 640-0719

THANK YOU, to **Mike Stapleton of Indiana Flooring**, who donated and installed the hard surface flooring that we needed at the Anderson & Madison County Clinic Ultrasound Room!

Thank You!



Alexandria  
First Baptist Church

A BIG THANK YOU to **Alexandria First Baptist Church** for purchasing a brand new washer and dryer set for our Anderson/Madison County location. We are now able to wash all of the donations on site!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## GEORGIA CARMICHAEL



A retired OB nurse, Georgia Carmichael, has been volunteering with First Choice for Women in Muncie since March 2017. *“I like helping people,”* says Georgia. *“After retiring, I was looking for someplace to serve. I am pro-life so First Choice for Women was a good fit.”*

Georgia volunteers as both a ParentCare Mentor and an Ultrasound Nursing Assistant. *“We need to be supportive of the young women who need our services and help prepare them for parenting,”* stated Georgia.

Georgia and her husband of 42 years, Amos, are the parents of two children and five grandchildren. Amos is the pastor of Zion Chapel Church of Christ in Christian Union, Elwood Indiana. In her free time, Georgia enjoys reading and spending time with her grandchildren.

*“This is an important ministry,”* Georgia concludes. *“I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience as a parent and a nurse with our clients.”* Thank you Georgia for your commitment to First Choice for Women.

## FAST FACTS

75%

75% of patients cited inability to afford raising a child as the reason for their abortion \*

50%

50% of patients said they did not want to be a single parent.\*

\*www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states

## The Client Connection

by Leslie Hatcher, Center Director

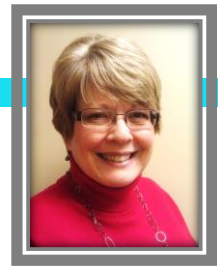
## The Power of Truth

The volunteers and staff of First Choice for Women meet with clients who are scared and confused, facing unplanned pregnancies. Many view abortion as their only option, seeing it as a simple solution to a complicated problem...until they hear the TRUTH.

Jackie called the 24 hour CareLine requesting information on abortion. As a single mom, Jackie was adamant about not parenting another child. Her decision was further complicated by the unborn baby's father - an abusive ex, whom she did not want to be connected to in any way. On her first visit to First Choice we were able to confirm a positive pregnancy test and offer her information about her options. Jackie's heart began to soften as we discussed her alternatives, including more life-affirming choices.

As Jackie proudly showed us pictures of her precious 3 year old daughter, we helped her to see the unlimited potential of the life growing within her. We discussed the reality that *this pregnancy* would result in a child just as precious - just as loved.

At the ultrasound the following week, Jackie was anxious to find out how far along she was in her pregnancy. She was now leaning toward parenting, but it was the sonographic images she beheld that sealed her decision. *“When I saw the heart beating, I knew it was a life,”* Jackie stated.



We rejoiced with her and pledged our continued support through parent education, mentoring and material assistance as she prepares for her baby!

If one of the caring staff of First Choice for Women had not been available to Jackie that very first day on the phone, this story would have most likely had a very different ending. Truth is powerful. To quote Benjamin Franklin, *“Half a truth is often a great lie.”* Although many abortion clinics offer ultrasounds to confirm pregnancy and gestational age, the mother rarely sees the images herself, thus denying her the complete truth about the LIFE growing inside.

Your support makes it possible for First Choice to share the entire truth about life - and the truth about the creator of life with our clients. Thank you!

Please pray for us as we serve on the ‘front lines’ of life in Delaware and Madison counties.

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 at our Muncie or Anderson location?

Please Contact:

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

A BIG THANK YOU to the Gabriel Project of Anderson,  
whose generosity has made stories like the one above possible!



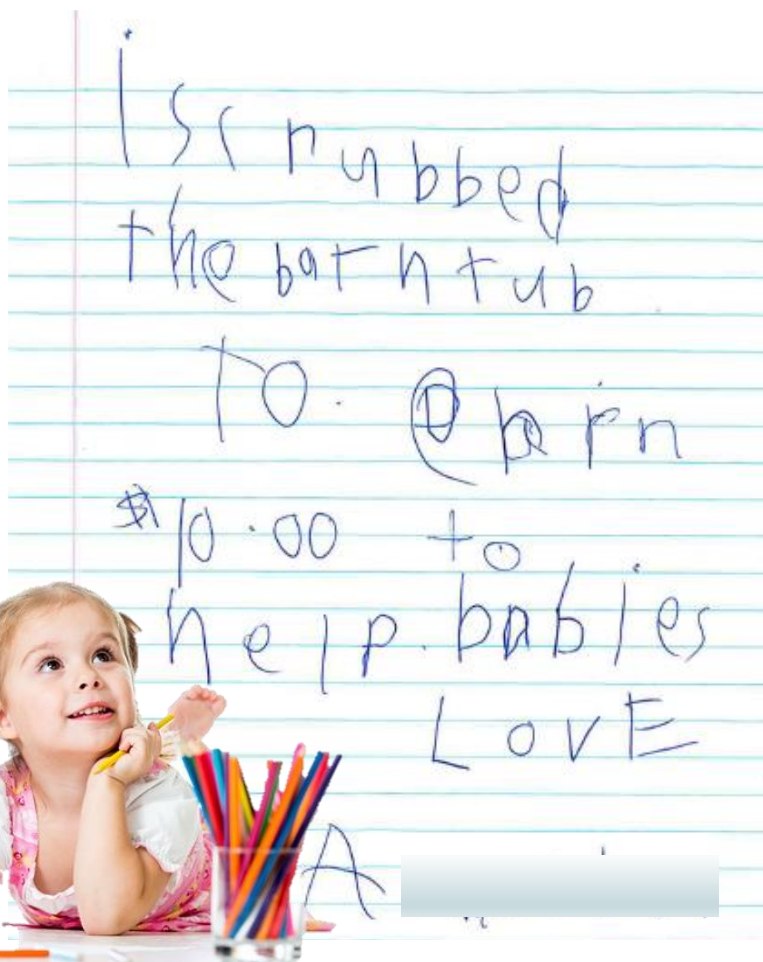
Connect  
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munciegt.org

Sundays at 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Kevin J. Holt, Pastor

3001 S. Burlington Drive  
Muncie, IN 47302  
765.288.7308



I scrubbed  
the bathtub  
to @earn  
\$10.00 to  
help babies  
LOVE

## A Note from Our Youngest Supporter

The entire staff was blessed when we received this note in the mail with a \$10 donation from our youngest supporter!

The note says:

***"I scrubbed the bathtub to earn \$10.00 to help babies. Love A....."***

How precious are the little children!

*"Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me."*

~Matthew 18:2-5

# First Choice for Women 2017 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

Each year I have the privilege of praying and asking the Lord for His direction and vision for the coming year. This year through a variety of circumstances He placed the word “BIG” in front of me. What does that mean and how will that impact our vision for 2018? Thinking about it along with the passage, *“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”* Ephesians 3:20-21, I believe He is entrusting us with even BIGGER things this coming year.

Looking back over the past few years we have already seen God do BIG things! This year we are simply asking Him to continue to be at work in BIG ways in our client’s lives so that they can trust Him in a BIGGER way! We are praying for BIG things to happen like adding the abstinence curriculum to all of the Madison County schools, seeing a BIGGER number of abortion determined clients, and providing the funding needed to add to our staff, which is a BIG need!

In order to do these BIG things, we need community partners who will connect with us in BIG ways - prayerfully, financially, and getting involved as volunteers. We cannot do it alone, and the good news is that we don’t have to do it alone; we serve a BIG God along with you.

If you are already partnering with us we want to thank you and hope that you are encouraged as you see a snapshot of the amazing things He has done in the past year.

If you are new to First Choice and are looking for a place to be involved where God is already at work in a BIG way, we ask that you consider partnering with us today. Together we’ll see lives saved, and women’s, men’s, and family’s lives truly transformed. To God be the glory!

Because every life matters,

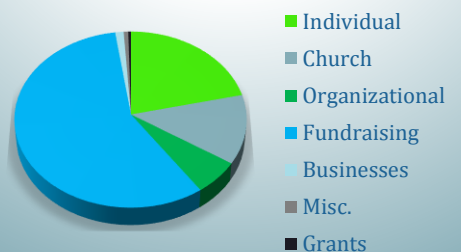
Chief Executive Officer

## FINANCES

At First Choice, we believe in making the most of every dollar that is donated and work diligently to be good stewards of your gifts.

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| INDIVIDUAL GIFTS     | \$ 80,873                |
| CHURCH DONATIONS     | \$ 47,935                |
| ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS | \$ 23,537                |
| FUNDRAISING EVENTS   | \$ 216,898               |
| BUSINESS DONATIONS   | \$ 4,721                 |
| MISC. DONATIONS      | \$ 2,514                 |
| GRANTS               | \$ 1,500                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b><u>\$ 377,978</u></b> |

TOTAL IN-KIND SERVICES AND DONATIONS \$ 34,587





# 2017 Annual Report

## SERVICES

### ALL FREE OF CHARGE:

- Pregnancy testing
- Ultrasound confirmation of pregnancy
- Options counseling
- Community referrals
- Sexual integrity and STD education
- Parenting lessons
- Material support
- Baby Bucks incentive program
- Post-abortion recovery program

## COMMUNITY SERVICES:

- Sexual integrity and pro-life educational programs
- Speakers for women’s groups and special events
- Surrendering the Secret post-abortion recovery program

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

- Prayer – the foundational need of a successful ministry
- Life Ambassador – be our contact person in your church family
- Financial – Become a monthly partner, give a one-time gift or give a gift in memory or honor of a loved one or friend
- Volunteer – Become a client advocate or help us out by answering the phone, or a million other jobs - we need everyone!
- Donate diapers, baby clothing, toys, or baby toiletries

## CHURCHES AND GROUPS

- Group services projects – Make baby blankets; offer assistance with our fundraisers, and help with donation maintenance.
- Have a diaper or clothing drive
- Host a baby shower, to help stock the shelves with baby items
- Invite a speaker to your women’s group or meeting



## CLIENT STATISTICS

Number of Clients: 568

Client Visits: 2,232

Pregnancy Tests: 279

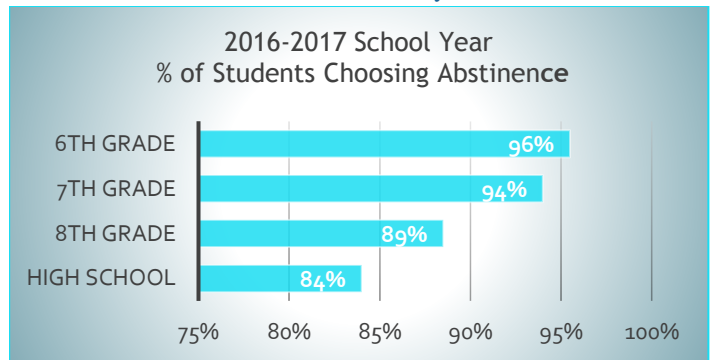
Positive Results: 144

26 Abortion-vulnerable clients **CHOSE LIFE** for their babies!

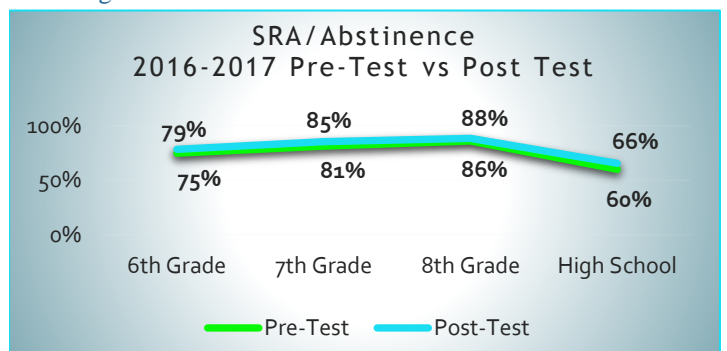
## SRA/ABSTINENCE STATISTICS

During the 2016-2017 School, our Creating Positive Relationship Program (CPR) was taught to 3,191 students in 22 schools and youth organizations throughout Muncie/Delaware and Anderson/Madison County.

After Completing the CPR, an average of 91% of students opted to choose abstinence over sexual activity.



After completing the CPR Program, knowledge levels increased by an average of 10%





by Todd Lail, Board Secretary

# BIG Things in Anderson & Madison County

## BIG Steps

Here at First Choice for Women, we are so proud of Lisa and her team for opening the Anderson and Madison County Clinic ahead of schedule. It has been exciting to see how we have been received by key parts of the community. This was truly a great accomplishment, but is only the first BIG step in having a successful pregnancy resource center in Anderson. A lot of hard work is still required to ensure the Clinic is there for years to come. We are also very pleased that all of this was completed while maintaining our ability to provide quality care to those in need throughout Delaware County.

As I thought of the role of First Choice for Women in showing the love of Christ to so many, I heard a message that challenged my thinking. I typically thought that as people come to know Christ, they will decidedly understand the importance of every human being, including the unborn. While this is generally true, history also shows us that a pro-life message is true at a heart-level, and has led many to be Christians. It was exciting to think that we are growing the kingdom both by sharing the gospel with those who come to us for help as well as simply proclaiming a pro-life message that will compel some to ask, "Who is this God that cares for the least of these?"

We appreciate the support of all of you reading this 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.

May God bless you and keep you!  
Todd Lail, Board Secretary

## BIG Walk



It was a beautiful fall day last September, when First Choice for Women of Anderson & Madison County held its first Annual Walk for Life. Many thanks to all who helped make the event such a BIG success! We are very grateful for all the volunteers who worked tirelessly in preparation for the event, and to those of you who took BIG steps to help raise the funds needed to serve the Anderson & Madison County Community. The \$17,435 raised in support of the Clinic was put to use right away helping those in need. Thank you so much!



## BIG Impact

I recently received an email from a former AU student that really touched my heart, and validated the life long impact our Center can have on the clients we serve. With her permission, I wanted to share it with all of you, who because of your prayers and support, enables this ministry to touch the lives of those in need – often impacting their lives more than we will ever know.

*Dear Lisa,*

*I wanted to share with you how excited I was to read that you all are opening a center in Anderson. When I was a freshman at Anderson University (28 years ago), I found out I was pregnant. I was very scared and unsure of what to do. Somehow I found out about a local pregnancy center, I don't recall how, or even where it was located in Anderson, but I do remember the test and counsel I received – a little glimmer of hope was all I needed.*

*While I never returned there, I never forgot the reassurance I received from the counselor. The volunteer who helped me never knew the outcome, but I decided to parent my daughter.*

*When my daughter was two, I married a wonderful man who adopted her, and together we had three more children. Later, I became a volunteer at the pregnancy center in Muncie (then Heart to Heart, now First Choice) and loved it there!*

*I now live in Wabash and have worked at our pregnancy center for almost 12 years. When I found out that First Choice was coming to Anderson I was so excited and happy and wanted to share my story with you.*

*Best wishes Jeni,  
Client Services Manager, LIFE Center*

### For Information

For more information about our upcoming event or how you can get make a difference in our community, contact us today at (765)393-3029 or Visit our website at:

[www.firstchoiceforwomen.org](http://www.firstchoiceforwomen.org)

# WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL!

All of the BIG news you have read in this issue of *First Choice Quarterly*, is only possible because your generosity – every day you are touching lives in a very special way.

We want to say thank you, and take a moment to recognize our business sponsors, who like you, are making a difference for LIFE here at First Choice for Women each week.

thank  
you.



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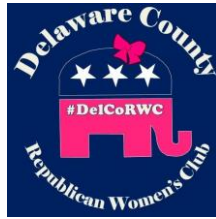
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Alexandria | ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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



## YES! I Want To Give the Gift of LIFE Today!

**Designation:**  Muncie  Anderson

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 \$1,000     \$2,500     \$5,000     \$10,000     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed  Charge my credit card (complete section below)

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Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Charge me \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of each month

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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



3020 N Oakwood Ave  
Muncie IN 47304

Or  
1817 N Madison Ave  
Anderson, IN 46011

*Get a Choose Life license plate today!*





8820 S. STATE RD 9  
PENDELTON IN

*BluFalls Arts & Events Center*

EST. 2009



## *Be Our Guests*

Hours: 10a - 5p, M-F, Saturday by Appointment  
Phone: 765.221.9226 • Email: [info@blufalls.com](mailto:info@blufalls.com)

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