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AND DAUGHTER

First  Choice  
for women



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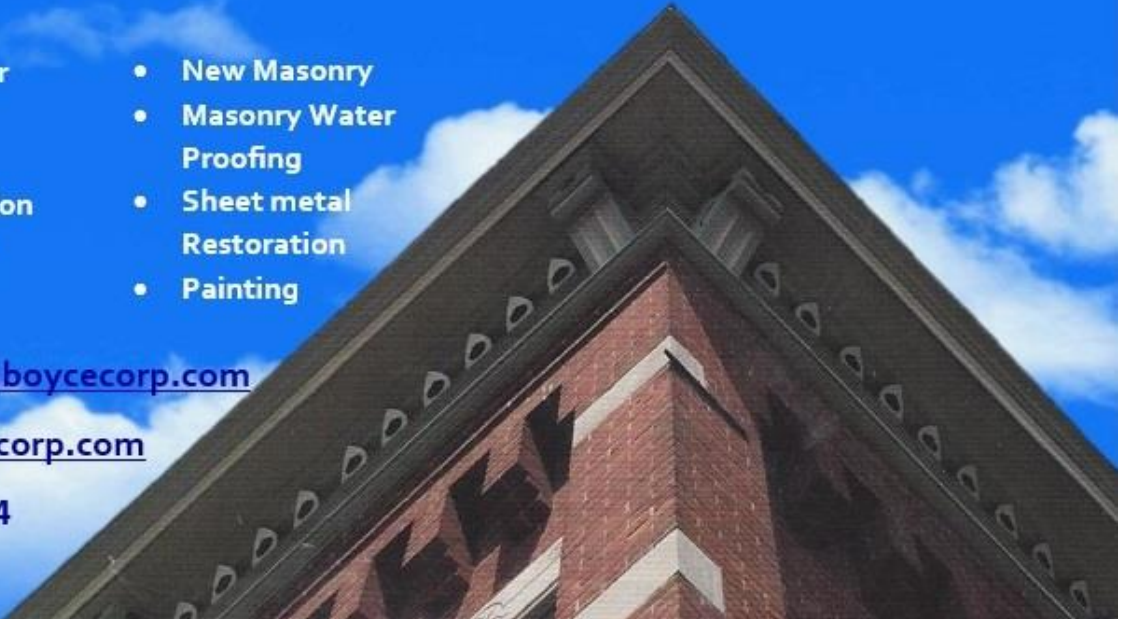
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## THANK YOU!

Members of the SALT Senior Citizens group at Redeemer Baptist Church made bags of jelly beans to be distributed to our Anderson/Madison County clients. Each jelly bean color represented a step on the *plan of salvation* card included in each bag. Thank you SALT for helping share the gospel message with our clients.





## A Message from the Chairman

by Pastor Kevin Holt, Chairman, Board of Directors

Dear Friends of First Choice,

Just a few weeks ago we celebrated the most marvelous of all Christian holidays – Easter Sunday, the grand announcement of death’s defeat and the triumph of life. The Apostle Peter declared to the Pentecost gathering that it was not possible for death to hold Jesus captive (Acts 2:24), such a notion would be foolish since He is the “author of life” (Acts 3:15). It is incumbent upon those who call themselves Christ-followers to be advocates and proclaimers of life.

Nothing speaks more profoundly to those engaged in the ministry of pregnancy care than the issue of life. All that we do is because of our conviction that human life is sacred and carries upon it the very image of our Creator! The resurrection of Christ speaks hope, new beginnings,

fresh starts, and victory over Satan, the one who comes to steal, kill, and to destroy (John 10:10).

While their passion for the unborn is clear, what Lisa, her staff, and volunteers do at **First Choice for Women** extends beyond that. They work tirelessly, both in Muncie and in Anderson, to help ensure abundant life for those already living, many whose lives, without the ministry of First Choice, would be less fulfilling. The abstinence education initiative (CPR) helps inform and empower many young people to wait for marriage before becoming sexually active and consequently avoid painful and difficult consequences. Material assistance and parenting classes help young parents become better prepared and provide adequately for their babies. Additionally, for

those women still struggling with the pain and remorse of their choice to abort, **First Choice for Women** offers the hope of forgiveness through the resurrection of Christ by providing a ***Surrendering the Secret*** book and Bible study. All of these ministries and services emerge from a passion for life and a commitment to the truth of Christ’s hope-giving resurrection.

Thank you for your prayers, willingness to volunteer, and your faithful and generous support of this ministry.

Great Blessings,

Kevin J. Holt  
Chairman, Board of Directors

First Choice  
for women



May 19, 2018

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2801 W Riverside Ave., Muncie, Indiana

Registration: 8:30 am • Walk Begins: 9:30 am

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

First Choice has been providing hope to women and families in Muncie and Delaware County for nearly 32 years, and we need your help to continue to offer our FREE services.

Please join us for our annual Walk for Life Fundraiser on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be fun for the whole family!

**Earn a free t-shirt by registering online on or before April 26<sup>th</sup> and collecting \$50 or more in online sponsorship donations!** It’s fun, it’s easy, and friends and family can donate to your personal fundraising page from anywhere in the country!

To learn more or sign up for the event, please visit [www.firstchoiceforwomen.org](http://www.firstchoiceforwomen.org), click on the **Give Some Help** button and select **Annual Walk for Life** from **Our Events** Menu, or call our office at 765.286.6085 today!

**Register today and begin collecting sponsorships right away!**

# Consider the Risks

by Sharyll Martin, SRA Director

Everywhere we look - magazines, movies, TV, video games, comic books, and even cartoons - intimacy and intercourse are portrayed without commitment, and without consequence. First Choice is here to proclaim that there are very good reasons for waiting until marriage to have any type of sexual activity - protecting your physical health being one of the big ones.

The *Creating Positive Relationships* program is helping young people in our community gain a better understanding of how abstinence impacts both the physical and emotional health of a relationship. Here are five reasons to wait that are specific to the physical health of our youth:

## 1. To avoid pregnancy until marriage

Nearly 750,000 teen pregnancies are reported each year in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

Nearly 200,000 of these teen pregnancies end in abortion annually.<sup>2</sup>

Over 80% of fathers do not marry the teen mother of their baby.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. To avoid sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)

In the 1970's two STDs were common, and both were curable. Today more than 25 STDs have been identified, and several are incurable.

Incurable STDs include genital herpes and human papilloma virus (HPV). There are strains of HPV that cause genital warts and cancer of the reproductive system in both males and females, as well as a specific throat cancer.

One of the more well known, and incurable, STD's is the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Almost 46,000 teens and young adults in the U.S. are currently living with HIV.<sup>4</sup>

Genital herpes, HPV, and syphilis can be transmitted through skin-to-skin contact, thus, prophylactics do not fully protect against the transmission of these diseases.<sup>4</sup>

A staggering estimate of **9.1 million teens and young adults** are infected annually with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) - that's about half of all new STI cases reported each year. HPV is the most common, followed by Trichomoniasis and Chlamydia.<sup>5</sup>

About 1 million women in the U.S. develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which can lead to infertility or an increased chance of an ectopic pregnancy - a dangerous life-threatening condition. PID is a possible long-term complication of an untreated STI.<sup>4</sup>

## 3. To avoid death by fatal STDs

AIDS causes more than 17,000 deaths annually in the U.S.<sup>4</sup>

HPV is the cause of nearly all cervical cancer. More than 11,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, and

approximately 4,000 women will die from it annually.<sup>6</sup>

## 4. Because you cannot tell who has an STD

Symptoms of an STD may not appear for months, or even years. Therefore many infected people do not realize they are transmitting it to their partner.<sup>4</sup>

It is estimated that 10% of all teenage girls have chlamydia. Sadly, most don't even know it because 75% of these young women do not exhibit any symptoms of the STI.<sup>4</sup>

## 5. Abstinence is the ONLY 100% reliable method of avoiding sexual risks.

No birth control method, not even condoms, will guarantee safety from pregnancy or disease. Every method has a failure rate. In lab tests, condoms fail 3% of the time. In actual use, studies show that first-year condom users experience a 15% failure rate.<sup>7</sup>



### WANT TO HELP GUIDE OUR YOUTH?

Volunteer to be an SRA Instructor and help educate our youth on these important issues. Contact us today to learn how.

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

(765)286-6085

# *A Mother's Love*

## *is like a lighthouse in a storm, it's always there to guide you home...*

**Honor your mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, or friend by giving a special Mother's Day honorarium or memorial gift in her name.**



Your gift will help young moms who have decided to give life to their baby despite pressure to end their pregnancy. It took great courage for them to follow their convictions and choose life...

...and many more are in the process of making additional life choices that will impact them and their children forever.

**Will you help us be there for these young women by honoring a special person in your life and give in this meaningful way?**

Your generous gift empowers First Choice for Women to support these young ladies at this important time in their life by providing ultrasounds, education, practical assistance, and most of all, hope and comfort...

... the hope and comfort that the Lord gives us; *"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you..."* ~ Isaiah 66:13  
**Of all the gifts you could provide, giving this special gift today will make a difference for a lifetime, and perhaps an eternity.**

We'll acknowledge your gift with a beautiful card of appreciation per your instructions on the certificate below. Simply return your certificate and gift **on or before May 4, 2018** (this will ensure that the recipient will receive the card by Mother's Day on May 13, 2018).

**What better way to honor a special mother than by helping another mom during her time of great need.**

## *...thank her with a gift for life!*

### *Yes! I'm giving a gift to honor a special mom...*

**Gift Designation:**  Muncie Center  Anderson Center

\$15     \$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500  
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**YES!** I want to become a monthly giver. Go to [www.firstchoiceforwomen.org](http://www.firstchoiceforwomen.org), click the DONATE menu button OR complete this form and mail it to:

**First Choice for Women**  
 3020 N Oakwood Ave  
 Muncie, IN 47304



**In Honor of**     **In Memory of**

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

**Notify:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Operations Overview

by Lisa Miller, CEO

There has been so much happening in Muncie and Anderson; it's been a whirlwind of excitement, joy and praise - praising God for the awesome opportunity to share the Gospel and save lives in Anderson, as well as our ability to continue this important work in Muncie!

## In Review

In February we held our 2018 First Choice for Women of Anderson and Madison County Annual Banquet at BluFalls Arts and Events Center in Pendleton. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, enjoyed great food, fabulous music by worship artist Austin Kreps, and the entertaining insights of speaker Peter Heck.

We are grateful to our presenting sponsors B-J Dicky Farms and BluFalls, and to all who came out to *Celebrate Life* with us!

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, those who made an offering that night, and those who committed to become monthly donors, we raised a nearly \$44,000 for First Choice for Women of Anderson & Madison County!



## Happening Now

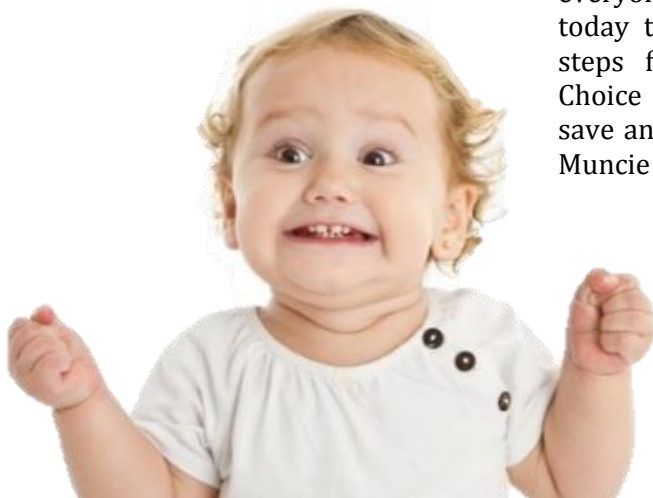
We are currently in the midst of our 2018 Walk for Life in Muncie. More information is available on Page 2, or you can visit our website at .



Registration is open, so tell everyone you know and sign up today to Walk BIG, and take BIG steps for LIFE by helping First Choice raise the funds needed to save and change lives right here in Muncie and Delaware County.

## Looking Ahead

Although it hasn't felt much like spring so far, it is here, and summer is right around the corner! In the coming months we will be preparing for our Anderson and Madison County Annual Walk. It is our hope to hold the event near the end of August - and we are already looking for volunteers to join the Walk Committee! If you are interested in being a part of this important fundraiser, please call our office or send an email to [info@firstchoiceforwomen.org](mailto:info@firstchoiceforwomen.org).



**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

**~Ephesians 2:10**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## AMY O'NEAL



Amy and her husband Jerry came to Muncie a year and half ago to pastor Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Almost immediately after moving here, Amy heard about First Choice for Women and decided to volunteer. "I loved the idea that First Choice is an organization that supports and embraces women."

In her volunteer position as receptionist, Amy has the opportunity to greet clients as they come to First Choice for services. She also assists staff with a variety of administrative duties.

"This ministry represents pure service," notes Amy. "This is a mission for Christ to help women who desperately need our care - without judgment - just Christ's love." She continued, "Our clients can see Christ as we serve them. I love volunteering here!"

When not helping at her church or at First Choice, Amy is the busy mother of two children, Mary Grace and Drew. Thank you Amy for your dedication to First Choice for Women!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

# The Client Connection

by Leslie Hatcher, Center Director



## Power in Prayer

Each day the staff and volunteers of First Choice for Women have the privilege of sharing the hope of the Gospel and the love of Jesus with our clients. We look for opportunities to share the Gospel in everything we say and do. The love of Jesus takes many forms - a warm smile, a listening ear, a Bible or gospel tract, or even a free package of diapers. But *prayer* is the key to opening the door to the Holy Spirit's work in our clients' hearts.

When Chris and Molly\* came to First Choice they were distressed and in despair. Their newborn had been removed from their home by the Department of Child Services. As young, inexperienced parents, Chris and Molly had not realized that some of their parenting decisions were actually harming the baby. They came to us for parenting education in hopes of being reunited with their child.

Carla, a First Choice client advocate, listened compassionately to their story. After the first parenting lesson was complete, she asked if she could pray with them. The father looked at her hesitantly and said "But I'm *Wiccan*." Undaunted, Carla said, "That's ok; I can still pray for you." Although Chris just looked at his cell phone during that first prayer, his heart has since been softened to the point that he and Molly now bring Carla specific prayer requests each week! Please pray with us that the Holy Spirit will use the seeds of these prayers to bring about the fruit of salvation.

## Sowing Seeds for Life

We are often "seed planters" with our clients, but occasionally we

have the honor of participating in the harvest!

When Susan\* came in for a pregnancy test, I asked her about her spiritual beliefs. "I used to be very close to Jesus," she stated. "But I feel like I've drifted away." When I asked her why she felt this way, Susan noted that she and her parents were Christians and used to go to church, but now do not. She started to weep, "I feel like a failure to God." We talked about a relationship with Jesus based on asking forgiveness and accepting the sacrifice He made for all of us at the cross. We talked about her life choices and that God's grace is available to her, right now. We prayed together and Susan rededicated her life to Jesus!

Hosea 10:12 speaks of *planting the seeds of righteousness and harvesting a crop of love*. Please pray for the staff and volunteers of First Choice for Women that we will be sensitive to every opportunity to share with our clients the love and hope found only in Jesus.

## FAST FACTS

# 31-41%

The most common reason that adolescents ages 15-19 gave for not having sex was that it was "against religion or morals" (41% of females and 31% of males). \*

# 44-49%

"...among unmarried 15-19-year-olds, 44% of females and 49% of males had had intercourse."\*\*



## Alexandria First Baptist Church

This quarter First Choice for Women would like to recognize one of our wonderful Madison County churches, Alexandria First Baptist Church.

Founded in the late 1800's First Baptist is currently located at 2107 South Park Avenue, in Alexandria, Indiana, and hosts approximately 250 members each week for its 10:30 am Sunday service. They offer Sunday school, children and youth programs, as well as Wednesday night Bible Study.

First Baptist is excited to announce that the IMPACT Youth Group is currently planning a summer mission trip to Appalachia.



For eleven years, Pastor Michael Deutsch has led First Baptist on its mission to be "a passionate and relevant church, seeking to make a difference in the world." "We take our faith seriously," notes Pastor Deutsch, "and we take the commitment to our community of believers seriously...all with an infusion of humor and joy. Life is meant to be lived with passion and joy even in the midst of our struggles."

First Baptist supports a number of local ministries including, *Beauty for Ashes*, a transitional housing program, *Church Street Commons*, a faith-based organization that

performs mission work within the community by providing clothing and coordinating a tutor-mentor program in the Alexandria school system and First Choice for Women of Anderson & Madison County.

Alexandria First Baptist also hosts a *Back to School Rally* each fall to provide local students with the supplies they need, and is a regional site for *Operation Christmas Child*. Their international reach extends to missions in Haiti, Mexico, South America and Africa.

"We have always been a mission-minded church," shared Pastor Deutsch. "When we heard about First Choice coming to Madison County we were excited. It is an important ministry needed in our community."

Alexandria First Baptist has been instrumental in the expansion of First Choice for Women to Anderson since its onset, and continues to be a sustaining partner with the ministry.

First Baptist Church purchased a brand new washer and dryer so that we could process the clothing donations received from the community, and volunteers from the church have



provided many hand-made baby items for our clients.

Additionally, First Baptist members provide prayer support, and volunteer in various capacities, including leadership positions within the ministry.

As a member of Alexandria First Baptist Church, the First Choice for Women Board of Directors, and the First Choice Finance Committee, Jennifer Dickey is excited about the partnership. "I am very passionate about First Choice for Women, and am thrilled with our church's key involvement in the ministry," shared Jennifer. "I am especially excited about bringing the Sexual Risk Avoidance curriculum to our local schools. The youth in our community so desperately need education on healthy relationships and First Choice can help meet this need."



Pastor Deutsch, Mrs. Duetsch and their sons

Thank you, Alexandria First Baptist Church, for your commitment to the ministry of First Choice for Women and the clients we serve in Anderson and Madison County. Together we are making a BIG difference for life in our community!



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

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One-Time Gift  Recurring Monthly Donation

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

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

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3020 N Oakwood Ave  
Muncie IN 47304  
Or  
1817 N Madison Ave  
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Get a Choose Life license plate today!



Visit: <http://www.in.gov/bmv/2794.htm>

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