



First  Choice
for women



A **BIG thank you** to Diane Allen and Carla Kunz, as well as Premier Designs Jewelry Accessory Stylist, Rachel Grile for a successful *Premier Designs Jewelry* fundraiser for First Choice for Women! The evening included a style show displaying some of Premier's latest designs and raised the funds to purchase two new crib and mattress sets for First Choice clients!



If you would like to host a *Premier Designs Jewelry* party please contact Rachel Grile at <http://glamitupwithrachel.com/>

THANK YOU SEW CLUB!

Pictured below is First Choice volunteer Linda Jones and members of the SEW Club holding a hand stitched blanket donated to First Choice for Women. The SEW Club formed at Middletown Public Library to incorporate sewing while reading classic literature aloud. "We prayed for the young mother and the baby who would receive this quilt," said Linda Jones. "This was *by far* the most meaningful project we have completed."



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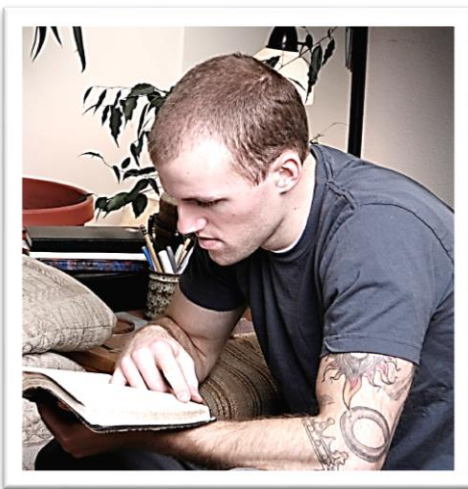
Fathers Matter

by Cindy Costerison, Vice-Chair Board of Directors

Two little words, "I'm pregnant." Those two little words can produce boundless joy and tremendous anxiety. Whether you were planning it, and *THIS* is the best news you've ever heard, or it hit you like a ton of bricks and you are just not ready for *THIS* at all, please know that *THIS* is not an accident!

That tiny life was meant to be, and you were meant to be his/her father. You may be asking, *"What is going to be expected of me? Will I ever sleep again? How many poopy diapers can there be in a day? What do diapers cost? What does college cost? Am I prepared to support this child financially? Can I be responsible for another human's life? Can I teach him to be a good man? Will I have to give her away when she gets married? Is there a How-To Book?"*

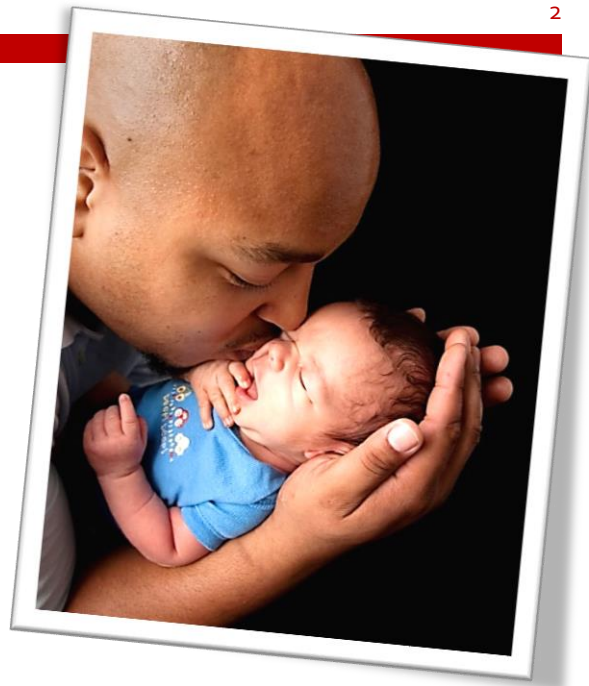
Well, the good news is, YES! There is a How-To Book! ***For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.*** ~ Proverbs 2:6



The important role of a father in his child's life is evident throughout scripture. Many of His commands come with a promise. *"For He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones."* - Proverbs 2:8

The important role of a father includes doing these things:

- Love your child's mother. Your child will learn to love or hate the way you do.
- Teach them when to stand up and when to turn away. Your child will learn respect for themselves and for others.
- Let your child know that family is worth fighting for. Family is whom you have when everyone else has walked away.
- Forgive your child. And tell them that you and God forgive them.
- Don't disappoint your child. Show them that you will be there through the good times and the bad.
- Admit your mistakes. That shows you are human too.
- Give your child affection. Let them feel your love in tangible ways.
- Set an example for your child. Children learn by watching - what you do will teach them much more than what you say.



These are lofty goals, no doubt. Thankfully it doesn't have to be perfect.

Children, who have bonded with their fathers and have a strong relationship with them, have fewer behavioral problems. They are also more emotionally secure, more social, and less likely to drop out of school early. Additionally, they are less likely to become involved in substance abuse. In short, the benefits of having a father involved in a child's life are profound.

"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children."

~Proverbs 17:6

FOR INFORMATION

For more information about our upcoming events or how you can get make a difference in our community, contact us today at (765)286-6085 or Visit our website at:

www.firstchoiceforwomen.org

Lead 222 Serves at First Choice

by Leslie Hatcher, Center Director

First Choice for Women was blessed with the assistance of a group of students from Wheaton, Illinois as part of Lead 222, a youth pastor coaching organization. Lead 222, in conjunction with Eastside Church of God in Anderson, sponsored the event where youth from all over the Midwest converged at Anderson University, to spend a week serving the Anderson community. They sorted baby clothes, cleaned our facility, helped with a mailing and provided prayer support. "It was very impactful," stated leader, Allison Crowley. "Especially when we prayed in each room for the clients of First Choice."

The experience was especially meaningful for student Sarah, whose great-grandmother had been faced with an unplanned pregnancy. "My great-grandmother was raped and in a very abusive relationship" shared Sarah. "Her husband said he would not raise someone else's baby and threatened to kill the baby if she continued with the pregnancy." Alone in the attic of her house, this brave woman delivered a little girl and placed her for adoption. "My grandmother was raised in a loving Christian home," Sarah continued. "If not for the courage of my great-grandmother, I would not be here. That's why I want to be involved in this type of ministry."

The Illinois group was joined by two Liberty Christian School students who served as local leaders of the group. "We have enjoyed building new relationships as we work together," said Jessica. She and fellow student Ally attend East Side Church of God and plan on continuing to volunteer with First Choice in the future.

Matt Swigart, point leader for the mission trip, shared his objective for the week. "As youth pastors and students spend time with us learning about servant leadership, it is our hope that they will go home and live it out more fully in their own communities."

Thank you Lead 222, Eastside Church of God, Anderson University, and all those who made this week of service possible.





A Message from the Chairman

by Pastor Kevin Holt, Chairman, Board of Directors

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”
Ephesians 4:16 NLT

These profound words of the Apostle Paul describe his insightful understanding of the Church and reveal how it is to effectively function. Three principles stand out. **One**, the Church, like our physical body, is made up of diverse, but equally important parts. **Two**, each member of the Church, like each part of the body, is called upon to do its part in order for the other parts to grow. **Three**, when the Church, like the physical body is healthy and well, it is able to reveal pure and unadulterated love to a world that is in need of that love.

As I reflected upon this text and God’s plan for His Church, my mind considered the way this

passage speaks to this important organization. **First Choice for Women** is certainly a crucial part and strategic extension of the Church in Delaware and Madison counties. As such, Paul’s words to the church in Ephesus are applicable to us as well.

First, there are many important components to this life-championing organization. The dedicated and hard-working staff, the scores of faithful volunteers, generous donors, and the Board of Directors are all needed to make **First Choice** a thriving ministry. No single group is more or less important or valuable.

Second, in order for this ministry to function most effectively, we all need to perform our roles with passion and excellence. When staff, volunteers, donors, and board members serve **First Choice** generously, faithfully, and with selfless humility, each area is strengthened and the whole ministry grows healthy as a result. This is what is happening now and

why **First Choice** continues to grow and experience God’s blessing.

Finally, as a healthy organization where everyone is doing their part, **First Choice** is able to share Christ’s love effectively. His **unconditional love** is shown to young mothers struggling with decisions, His **tangible love** is expressed to couples finding it difficult to make ends meet, **holy love** is revealed to students in schools hearing the importance of abstinence, and **forgiving love** is manifest to the women who struggle still with the pain of their past choices. God’s love is fully seen in a church (or ministry) that is functioning as a healthy body. Thank you for faithfully doing your “own special work” and in so doing, helping **First Choice** to minister in a healthy and powerful manner.

Great Blessings,

Kevin J. Holt
Chairman, Board of Directors





Operations Overview

by Lisa Miller, CEO

With the end of the second quarter upon us, we have been busy reviewing our mid-year progress as well as our three year strategic plan.

Developed in 2016, the strategic plan is quickly coming to close and we are pleased to announce that we have accomplished BIG things in the past 2 ½ years - nearly all of our 11 objectives!

2016-2018 Strategic Plan

1. Expand Board of Directors ✓
2. Expand Health Services (STI testing) – deferred 2019/2020
3. Expand Hours of Operation ✓
4. Create a Development Committee – in progress
5. Increase Community Awareness – ongoing ✓
6. Reorganize Organization & Update Policies ✓
7. Develop Comprehensive internal structure ✓
8. Succession Planning – in progress
9. Grow SRA Program ✓
10. Create Savings Account with 3 months operating capital ✓
11. Open Anderson location ✓

2018 Mid-Year Review

Income is down as compared to the same period last year, largely due to a significant one time donation received in 2017. Expenses were up as expected with the Anderson center operational for nearly a year now.

First Choice's mid-year ended in the black with a positive cash flow of \$8K.

Profit and Loss

\$8,714

NET INCOME FOR THIS YEAR

\$174,293

INCOME

\$165,579

EXPENSES

What's next?

In the next few months we will begin developing a strategic plan for 2019-2021. With your support, First Choice will be able to reach new heights and continue *taking BIG steps for LIFE* in East Central Indiana!

Cathy Grollimund, RN - Nurse Manager



First Choice is very excited to introduce our newest staff member, Cathy Grollimund, Nurse Manager.

Cathy is a licensed registered nurse, and has been a volunteer and supporter of First Choice for Women of Anderson & Madison County since we opened in August 2017. A graduate of Anderson University, Cathy has lived in the Anderson community for over 40 years. She and her husband, David, have 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and attend Northview Church Anderson Campus.

As Nurse Manager Cathy will oversee all First Choice medical services and act as Compliance Officer for both the Anderson and Muncie location.

Anderson Safety Fair

First Choice for Women hosted an information booth at the Community Safety Fair at Anderson High School. Hundreds of Anderson residents attended the fair which featured safety information and community resources throughout Madison County. Pictured are Nurse Manager Cathy Grollimund and volunteer Dottie Hamlin.





SRA Update

by Sharyll Martin, SRA Director

The 2017-2018 school year has ended and we are super excited! We were able to bring *Creating Positive Relationships* to over 3,900 students in Muncie/Delaware County school districts as well as the Anderson Community School District. That is almost 4,000 individuals in 6th - 12th grade who heard the fact-based curriculum about sexual abstinence until marriage.

What were the results?

Students were asked if they would choose an abstinent life-style after hearing the week-long presentations, 88% said they WOULD choose abstinence or secondary abstinence!

Are the students learning facts they didn't know?

Yes they are! Our data reveals an average 10% increase in knowledge about:

- What constitutes a healthy relationship?
- How to choose friends wisely
- Influence of social media
- Consequences of sexual activity
- Signs and symptoms of sexually transmitted infections
- How diseases spread
- Power of knowing oneself

Does SRA Make a Difference?

Yes it does! Students continue to be thankful for and excited about the abstinence education program. Over and over again, we hear guys and gals alike say they felt empowered to remain abstinent because what they learned reinforced their decision to wait.

One student noted, "Dear Mr. Winebarger...you helped me a lot this week. I've been in so many bad relationships and you showed me how to avoid them. Thanks!"

It is hard to describe the impact of an individual's spoken words about discovering that their current relationship isn't normal at all. And when they make the decision to get out of the unhealthy relationship and express gratefulness that the SRA Instructors were in their school it is truly touching.

It's been said before but worth repeating again: our abstinence instructors are God-gifted to do what they do with our youth. We have many more schools we'd like to add to the program and we will need many more hands to teach it. There is no doubt God has gifted others to join us. If you or someone you know loves to teach and loves to be with tweens and teens, please contact us - we need you to help make a difference in the lives of the young people in our communities.

WANT TO HELP GUIDE OUR YOUTH?

Volunteer to be an SRA Instructor and help educate our youth on the importance of abstinence. Contact us today to learn how you can make a difference!

SHARYLL MARTIN, SRA DIRECTOR
abdirector@firstchoiceforwomen.org

(765)286-6085

This past school year we added the Madison County Youth Center to our schedule. *Creating Positive Relationships* is currently being presented to 38 classrooms in 19 schools, including:

- Anderson High School
- Burris 6th Grade
- Central High School
- Cowan Jr/Sr High School
- Daleville Jr/Sr High School
- Delta Middle School
- Delta High School
- Highland Middle School
- Inspire Academy
- Northside Middle School
- Selma Middle School
- Wapahani High School
- St. Mary's/Pope John Paul School
- Southside Middle School
- Wes-Del Jr/Sr High School
- Yorktown Middle School
- Yorktown High School
- Madison County Youth Center
- George Jr. Republic Residential Boys' Home in Gas City



This quarter First Choice highlights one of our Delaware County supporting churches, **Destiny Christian Center International**.



Bishop Keith and Lady Reva O'Neal serve as pastors of the 400 member congregation located at 5000 E. Centennial Avenue. Their weekly services are Sundays at 9:30 and 11:15 am and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Additionally, a live streaming of Sunday morning services may be viewed at www.destinylive.us.

Destiny's mission, *'Love God. Love Others. Serve the World'*, begins by connecting members with God first then spreading God's love to others. "Our 'secret sauce' is bridge-building", notes Bishop O'Neal. "We are a multicultural ministry testifying to the grace and power of God."

The church began 12 years ago in the living room at Bishop O'Neal's home with the vision God gave him in 1 Samuel 22:1-2.

As they grew, services moved to the Muncie YWCA and later to a former fitness center. "We believe that we

we're claiming those locations for 'spiritual fitness,'" said Bishop Keith. "In 2009 we outgrew that space." He continued, "As I drove around Muncie searching for our new location, I drove into the parking lot and felt the Holy Spirit tell me 'This is it!'" The 22.3 acre property included a park, baseball diamond, basketball court and a 12,000 square foot building.

The years have brought continued growth and expansion including *Destiny Christian Academy*, a daycare ministry. "There is a purpose for every child God sends into the world", explained Bishop Keith. "We want to expose them to the God of the universe at an early age so that they can feel loved and nurtured. We want to help get them started on the right track."

Their support for First Choice for Women stems from that same perspective. "We are pro-life," stated Bishop O'Neal. "These babies are visions, dreams - all with a purpose. God commands us in James 1:27 to care for widows and orphans."

In 2016, Destiny members Cliff and Stephanie Johnson spear-headed a diaper drive which collected over 12,000 diapers for the clients of First Choice for Women.



Cliff Johnson

In addition to First Choice, Destiny partners with other local organizations, such as Second Harvest Food Bank, Christian Ministries, Youth for Christ and South View elementary, where church members provide resources and teacher encouragement. Globally, Destiny supports World Vision and missionaries in Belize and Venezuela.

"We are 'kingdom focused'", notes Bishop O'Neal. "We are all about impacting our cities, our culture and our people, right where they are."



Thank you Destiny Christian Center International for your ongoing support for First Choice for Women. We appreciate you!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JESSICA BAILEY



Jessica Bailey has volunteered at First Choice for Women Anderson/Madison County since early 2018. Her positions include Receptionist and Pregnancy Test Options advocate.

"In my life, I have received a lot of love and grace from others," says Jessica. "I see this as a way to give back." A native of Frankfort, Indiana, Jessica moved to Anderson after discharge from the Army to attend Anderson University. She will begin her sophomore year this fall majoring in English Literature.

Jessica attends Calvary Baptist Church and enjoys gardening, reading, writing and spending time with family and her pet cat "Ellie".

"I really love volunteering at First Choice," Jessica adds. "The volunteers and staff are like a family...a sisterhood. I enjoy working with these women to help our clients."

Thank you, Jessica, for your service to First Choice for Women Anderson/Madison County!

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
 (765)286-6085

The Client Connection

by Leslie Hatcher, Center Director



We see the Holy Spirit working *every day* at First Choice for Women. He promises in Hebrews 13:21 to "...equip (us) in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory..." Sometimes, however, we have to look through eyes of faith as we assist clients facing difficult life challenges or when a young woman *does not* choose life for their unborn baby. Those days are tough and we covet your prayers as we serve on the *front lines for LIFE* in Delaware and Madison counties.

Other days, we don't have to try to see how the Holy Spirit is working, we are overwhelmed by it!

Former client Kathy* had an appointment with an abortion clinic later in the afternoon, but said, "I drove an hour and a half to talk to you first." Kathy* and her husband are getting a divorce and the father of the baby had left her. Already a single mother of four, Kathy* said, "I just can't take on another baby." We were able to do an ultrasound immediately and discovered that Kathy* was 17 weeks pregnant! Shocked and crying, Kathy* exclaimed, "Well I guess that's why I felt I needed to see you first". If she had not come to First Choice, she may never have seen her baby moving inside of her and this story might have ended very differently.

Then we spoke to Julie* who had come in the previous week wanting an abortion. She and her husband

have two teenage children and did not want to have any more. As I discussed options with her, she was adamant that she could not have this baby. She stated that her husband was in complete agreement. During my follow up phone call, Julie* told me that she and her husband had changed their minds and decided to parent the baby! Praise God for this saved family.

The same day, two other clients came in separately for pregnancy tests, one right after the other. Both young women had attended church as children but were not following the Lord now. After sharing that God is always reaching out to us, ready for a renewed relationship, BOTH young women rededicated their lives to Christ!

What a day! Thanks to your prayer and financial support First Choice for Women is here to offer the truth about Life and the Author of Life with young women in Delaware and Madison counties.

FAST FACTS

25.7%

** 25.7% of all children under 18 in Delaware County live in poverty – that's 1 in 4 children

24.7%

*** 24.7% of all children under 18 in Madison County live in poverty – nearly 1 in 4 children

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy and identity of our clients.

**http://www.stats.indiana.edu/profiles/profiles.asp?scope_choice=a&county_changer=18035

***http://www.stats.indiana.edu/profiles/profiles.asp?scope_choice=a&county_changer=18095



First Choice
for women



walk **BIG**

August 18, 2018

Anderson University Reardon Auditorium
1100 E 5th Street, Anderson, Indiana
Registration: 8:30 am • Walk Begins: 9:30 am
www.firstchoiceforwomen.org

First Choice for Women of Anderson & Madison County 2018 Annual Walk for LIFE

Join us for this fun family friendly event and Walk BIG for LIFE!

The 1.2 mile walk through the beautiful Anderson University Campus will be held **Saturday August 18th** at Reardon Auditorium. Walkers can earn a **FREE t-shirt** by registering online before July 31st, 2018. For more information or to register online go to www.firstchoiceforwomen.org, click on the *Give Some Help* button and select *Annual Walk for Life* from the *Our Events* menu. Not fond of technology - we will help! We can walk you through the process or set it all up for you. Contact us today and start raising the funds needed to save and change lives in Anderson and Madison County right away!



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 _____



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

Designation: Muncie Anderson

One-Time Gift Recurring Monthly Donation

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500

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

Check Enclosed Charge my credit card (complete section below)

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Card# _____

Expiration: ____/____ Three digit CVC (on back of card): _____

Billing Address: _____

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

Name: _____

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

First Choice for women
 3020 N Oakwood Ave
 Muncie IN 47304
 Or
 1817 N Madison Ave
 Anderson, IN 46011

Get a Choose Life license plate today!



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