

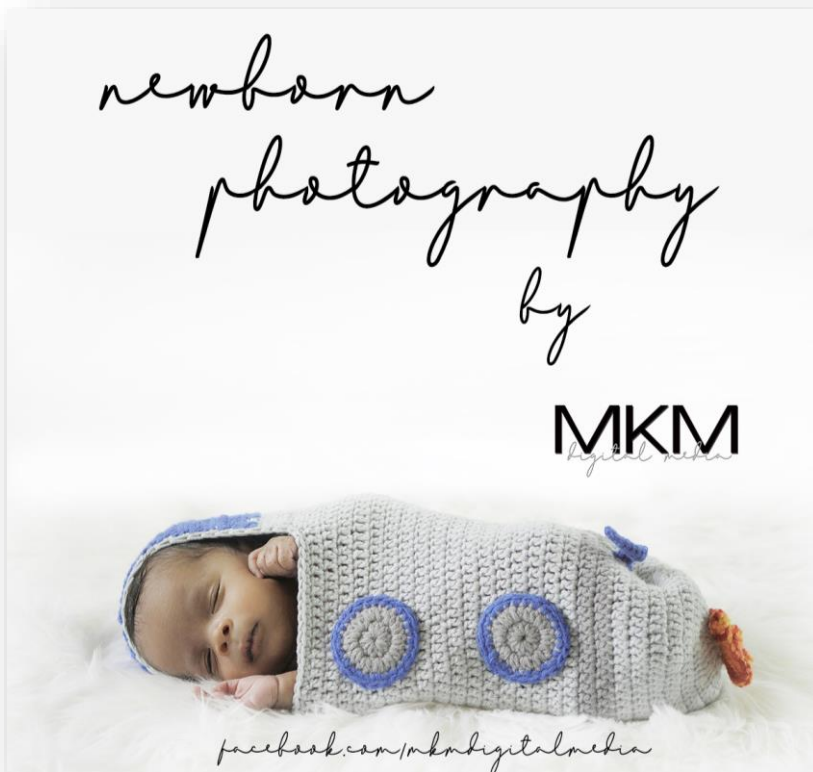


First Choice
Client and Baby

First Choice for women

May you have the power to understand, with all God's people,
how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

A BIG thank you to Mary Kate of MKM Digital Media!



Mary Kate uses her photographic talents to provide high quality professional photos to First Choice clients with their newborns - *free of charge!*

Her work is beautiful, and nearly all of the cover photos used in First Choice Quarterly are MKM photos of our clients!

A BIG thank you to Mary Kate and the clients who have shared their story - through photo or written word - we appreciate your testimony!

Thank you MKM Digital Media for allowing our partners to see the faces of the women, babies and families touched by their prayers and support!

Like what you see?

You can reach MKM Digital Media on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/mkmdigitalmedia/>

**THANK
YOU!**

First Choice Awarded WLBC's Hometown Heroes Grant!

First Choice for Women was honored to receive the WLBC Hometown Heroes Grant for the month of May. The Grant provided \$10,745 in free radio promotions and commercials to First Choice for the entire month!

We thank WLBC, WOOF BOOM radio and all those involved in the selection process.

THANK YOU! WLBC for all that you do in our community - you are making a *BIG* difference in East Central Indiana!





A Message from the Chairman

by Pastor Kevin Holt, Chairman, Board of Directors

These were the words of Jesus to His disciples after His encounter with the Samaritan woman. He reminded them that the harvest was ripe and many were ready to receive Him *if they only knew*.

This led Him to recount the principle of the harvest. **When we reap a harvest it is because someone has done the hard work before us.** No harvest has ever been gathered without someone first planting, watering, and cultivating that crop.

It seems to me that there are a couple of lessons for us to remember as we consider the ministry of *First Choice for Women*.

The fact of the matter is that the great opportunities, influence, and accomplishments that we enjoy today are a result of those

who went before us and made the way. There were times when First Choice (then *Heart to Heart*) did not have the opportunities and resources that we enjoy today. Many sacrificed, worked hard without commendation, and prepared the way for the harvest and blessing that we now know. To those we say "Thank you! We are here today, standing on your shoulders and gathering the harvest that you made possible." We must never let that reality escape us.

A second important lesson for us to remember is that we are today working hard so that others may one day gather an even greater harvest. Hundreds of thousands of babies are still murdered every year in the United States and many of their mothers feel there is no hope or alternative.

There is still much to be done—centers to be built, resources to provide, hope to be offered, and

lives to be saved. While those of us at *First Choice for Women* right now may not see the full reaping of benefits in our tenure, or even in our lifetime, we must work tirelessly and give sacrificially to ensure that the harvest will one day come. As one aptly noted:

I must never forget that the blessing I reap was first planted, watered, and cultivated before I enjoyed it. What I reap may be because others toiled thanklessly before me. What seems tedious and fruitless for me now may produce a great harvest for another later.

Great Blessings,

Kevin J. Holt

Chairman, Board of Directors





First Choice receives grant for Safe Sleep program from Community Champions Fund!

First Choice for Women was honored to receive a \$9,875 grant from the Community Champions Fund (funded through 100 Men Who Cook)!

The grant will be used in 2019 to purchase new crib and mattress sets, pack-n-plays, and safe sleep educational material for the safe sleep practices portion of our *Earn While You Learn* ParentCare program.

Thank you for supporting this program and helping First Choice provide babies with a safe place to sleep!



First Choice clients, Olivia and Cory receive a crib for their newborn son Roby

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

NANCY MCCARTHY



Nancy has volunteered with First Choice for Women since 2017

A nurse for over 25 years, Nancy serves as a ParentCare Mentor, Pregnancy Test Advocate and assists in the ParentCare Boutique. *"I really enjoy the volunteers I work with and the parent education clients I mentor,"* said Nancy. *"So many times pro-life people are unfairly criticized for only caring about the unborn baby and not the child after it's born; that cannot be said about First Choice - our services continue until the child is 3 ½ years old."*

Nancy and her husband Tom attend St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. They enjoy spending time with their 5 children and 14 grandchildren.

Thank you Nancy for your dedication to the clients of First Choice for Women!

WANT TO BE A BLESSING?
BE A VOLUNTEER!

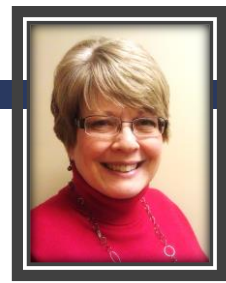
Are you, your small group, or anyone you know interested in learning more about our programs or how to become a volunteer at our Muncie or Anderson location?

Please Contact:

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

The Client Connection

by Leslie Hatcher, Center Director



I love the song "Great is Thy Faithfulness" by Thomas Chisholm and William M. Runyan. The lyrics are based on Lamentations 3:22-23 **"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."** What a privilege it is to share this truth with our clients - clients like Ashley*.

Ashley cried when her pregnancy test came back positive. "I've always been the responsible child," she sobbed. "How am I going to tell my Mom? I'm going to disappoint so many people."

We listened as Ashley anxiously poured out her heart. She had not told her boyfriend, and was uncertain how he would react to the news. She truly believed that the best way to avoid disappointing everyone would be to have an abortion.

As we talked, Ashley stated that she was a Christian and felt bad about being pregnant and not married. This provided us an opportunity to speak to Ashley about Christ's forgiveness and his unfailing compassion.

We told her about God's plan for her life, and her baby's life - regardless of the circumstances of conception. She did not need to have an abortion to "hide" her sin - God's grace could empower her to choose life for her baby,

and abundant life for herself.

We prayed with her and scheduled an ultrasound appointment.

When Ashley returned for the ultrasound, her boyfriend was with her and they had decided to parent!

Because of your support, the staff and volunteers of First Choice were there to share these life changing truths with Ashley. Statistics show that nearly 70% of women who have had abortions in the U.S. claim the name of Christ! We need your help to share God's grace and forgiveness with these young women before they make the immutable decision to terminate a pregnancy. We need volunteers who are willing to be trained to counsel abortion vulnerable women like Ashley for both the Muncie and Anderson locations.

Please pray for us as we continue to share the Good News of Jesus and the truth about LIFE with the women in East Central Indiana.

FAST FACTS

70%

**Of the women surveyed, 70% of women who had an abortion self-identify as Christians

40%

**Of the women surveyed, 40% stated that they were frequent churchgoers at the time they ended their pregnancy

*Names and places may have been changed in order to protect the identity of our clients.

**<https://www.christianpost.com/news/70-of-women-who-get-abortions-identify-as-christians-survey-finds-150937/>

Union Chapel Ministries

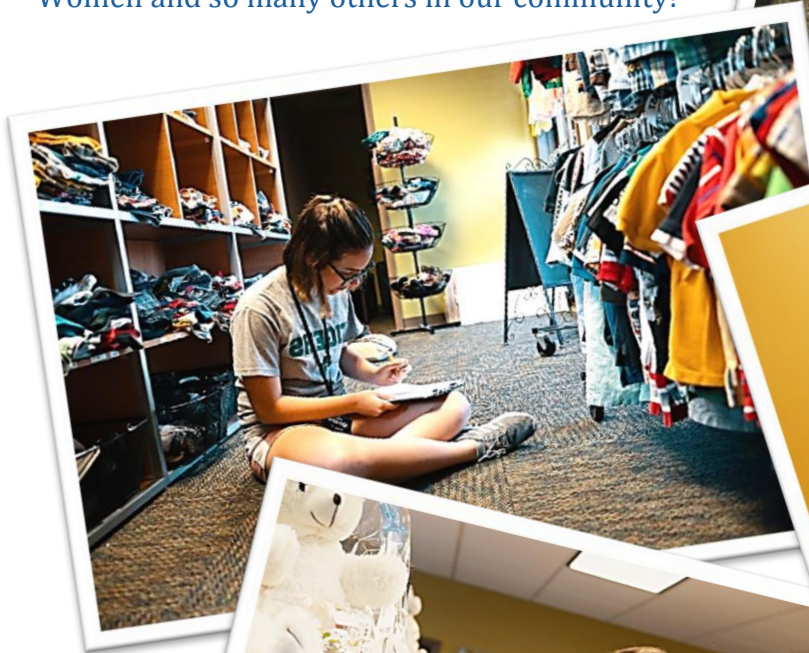
SERVE and Service to First Choice for Women

Union Chapel Ministries' SERVE week is such a tremendous blessing to First Choice for Women! The program provided 2,178 diapers, 54 packages of baby wipes, and 139 baby hygiene products!

AND we had a wonderful group of UC young people volunteer their time to perform a wide range of services including, cleaning toys, sorting baby clothes and organizing baby supplies.

We are very thankful for Union Chapel Ministries - you make a *BIG* difference to the women and families we serve each week!

Thank you UCM for all you do for First Choice for Women and so many others in our community!





SRA Update

by Sharyll Martin, SRA Director

Healthy Relationships Are Possible...

...but young people need **knowledge, ability and desire** to create and sustain healthy relationships. Uninformed and unhealthy attitudes about relationships and sex lead to unhealthy behaviors. When we go into the local schools with the Creating Positive Relationships curriculum, we are helping to provide students that **knowledge**. But instruction at school is only one part of the process. Young people, *and parents*, need to be educated about youth relationships and sex. Parents, *do your research*, get *accurate information* and **talk** to your child - not only about sex, but about what a “*healthy*” relationship should look like as well.

Our research indicates that:

- Over half of teens 12-17 years of age believe that parents should start talking with their kids about sex, love, and relationships when their kids are 13 or 14 years old.⁽¹⁾
- Almost one-third of teens aged 12-17 say the conversation should start even earlier — at age 12 or younger (Ibid).
- 29% of teens 15-17 years old reported feeling pressure to have sex. ⁽²⁾
- Most teens aged 12-19 (93% of girls and 88% of boys) say they would rather have a boyfriend/girlfriend and not have sex than have sex but not have a boyfriend/girlfriend.⁽³⁾
- 24% of sexually active teens 15-17 years of age had done something sexual **they didn't really want to do** (Ibid).

- 22% percent of sexually active students report **using alcohol or drugs** during their most recent sexual encounter.⁽⁴⁾ That's nearly 1 in 4 sexually active teenagers!
- Almost 25% of sexually active teens are **living with an STI** (sexually transmitted infection) **at this very moment**.⁽⁵⁾

The chart below reveals an alarming increase in STD's/STI's over the past 5 years. But, as long as we are able, First Choice will continue to be one of the intricate parts of the process.

Please lift up our youth, their parents and the other significant adults in their lives. Pray that, with the help of those around them, they will obtain the **knowledge, ability and desire** to make healthy choices and build healthy relationships as they grow and mature into responsible adults.

WANT TO HELP GUIDE OUR YOUTH?

Volunteer to be an SRA Instructor and help educate our youth about healthy relationships and 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

(1) The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (2007). *Kiss & Tell: What Teens Say about Love, Trust and Other Relationship Stuff*.

(2) Kaiser Family Foundation (2003). *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes and Experiences*.

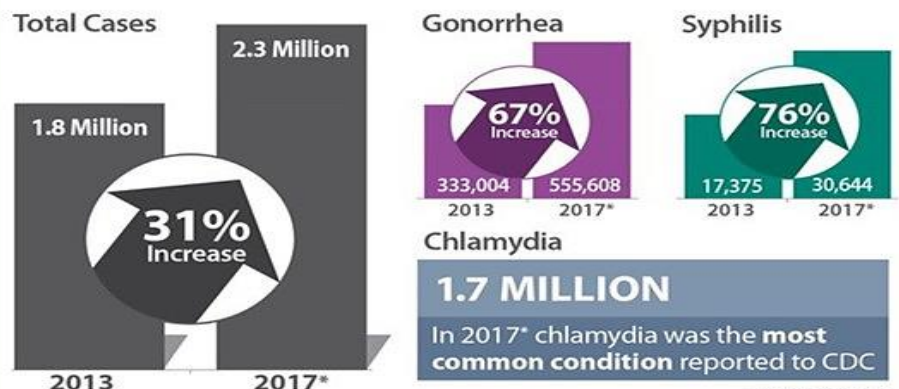
(3) The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (2010). *With One Voice*.

(4) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2011). *Youth Risk Behaviors Surveillance - United States, 2011*.

(5) Meeker, M.D. (2002). *Epidemic: How teen sex is killing our kids*. Washington D.C.: Regency Publishing.

THE U.S. IS EXPERIENCING STEEP, SUSTAINED INCREASES IN SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Combined diagnoses of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis **increased sharply over the past five years**



For more information, visit
cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom



U.S. Department of
 Health and Human Services
 Centers for Disease
 Control and Prevention



First Choice for Women hosted a booth at Muncie Christ Fest 2018 on August 11th in downtown Muncie. The event featured free food, music and community resources.

Pictured are volunteer Jennifer Struble and young clients Christina and Christopher.

Thank you Jenny!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE – VOLUNTEER!

First Choice needs volunteers at both our Anderson and Muncie locations – call today and see how you can help women and young mothers in your community!

Please Contact:

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

QCD Could Be the Right Choice for You!

Are you over age 70 ½, have a traditional retirement account, interested in potentially reducing your income taxes while contributing to a worthy cause? **Discuss a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) with your CPA, tax preparer or wealth management representative today!**

Upon reaching age 70 ½, account holders of Traditional Retirement Accounts (IRA, 403b, 401K, etc.) must take an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from the account. The IRS permits the account holder to send the RMD (up to \$100,000) directly from the Traditional IRA/401 (k) to a 501(c)(3) as a charitable contribution, excluding the mandated withdrawal from your taxable income.

With the 2018 tax law changes that increase the Standard Deduction, many people will no longer itemize and therefore get no tax benefit from making charitable contributions. Utilizing the QCD allows people to continue to contribute and eliminate those gifts from taxable income.

Please discuss this strategy with your CPA, tax preparer or wealth management representative and reduce your income taxes while helping to save and change lives through your support of the First Choice for Women ministry.



East Side
CHURCH of GOD
Discovering the Hope

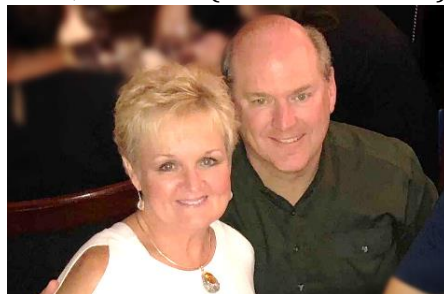


Anderson's East Side Church of God was founded in 1951 as a cooperative church plant of Park Place Church of God, South Meridian Street Church of God, and the former Jackson Park Church of God. The location was chosen to meet the needs of the many post WWII residents drawn to Anderson University through the GI Bill and the factory jobs available on the east side of Anderson. The Church has a strong history in the Anderson community, and they have been located in the same building at 2600 East 5th Street for 67 years. They currently serve the Anderson/Madison County community, the students and faculty at Anderson University and are a leading church in the Church of God Movement internationally.

East Side holds two services each Sunday, one at 9:15 am and again at 10:45 am with over 1,000 attendees.



Pastor Kerry Robinson has served as senior pastor for 22 years. He and his wife, Becky, have adult sons, Kyle and Kameron, and a "daughter-in-love", Hannah (Kameron's wife).



"The mission of East Side Church of God is to lift up Jesus Christ as Savior for the lost, Lord of the church and Reconciler for the world so that people may discover Hope for living. Our congregation includes people from all walks of life. I believe God has called us to be a connection place for those who know Jesus and for those who need to know Jesus", notes Pastor Robinson.

East Side also has events each week; including support groups, small groups, youth ministry, community basketball and volleyball leagues. *"East Side has been blessed,"* said Pastor Robinson, *"with the physical space to steward and use for our community."* Additionally, East Side Studios, a non-profit art studio sponsored by the church, exists to provide an artistic

resource to the community by providing workshops, collaborations and studio spaces to local artists.

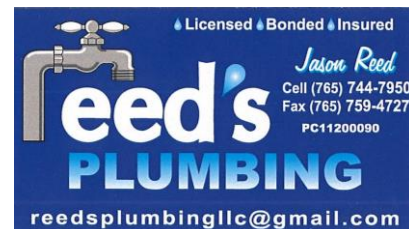
Dottie Hamlin, a volunteer at First Choice who attends East Side Church of God stated. *"Our church is a very caring and giving body of believers. I am thankful that we support local missions, such as First Choice, as well as missions around the world. Both First Choice and East Side Church of God offer the hope found in Jesus Christ to hurting people in our community."*

Pastor Robinson agrees, *"First Choice for Women ministers to the entire person through the provision of health care and education. They desire to serve women and children with a positive, healthy, life-affirming perspective that is redemptive rather than condemning."*

"We at East Side Church of God believe that relationships come first," concludes Pastor Robinson. *"We encourage people to connect with God, serve with others and grow as followers of Jesus."*

Thank you East Side Church of God for partnering with First Choice for Women!

Thank You Sponsors!



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 _____

First Choice for women

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)

Master Card

Visa

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!



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

First Choice is a 501 C 3 not-for-profit ministry; donations are tax deductible as permissible by law. TIN# 35-1695860

4thQTR NL2018

WE NEED YOU!

You Make A Difference - Volunteer Today!

Call (765)286-6085 or email info@firstchoiceforwomen.org



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