



OFFERING HOPE FOR OVER 30 YEARS...

APRIL 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Ready-Set-Go for LIFE!

by Lisa Miller, Chief Executive Officer

It's That Time of Year Again!

First Choice for Women of Muncie & Delaware County will hold our 31st Annual Walk for Life on Saturday May 20th at Westminster Presbyterian Church. This is one of our largest fundraisers of the year, and all funds raised are used to help women and families in our community.

We hope you will join us as we raise support and awareness for this ministry and all the great services provided to those in need. Your work to secure financial support through Walk sponsorship donations is just as important to our ministry's success as is the work of our volunteer counselors. This year, perhaps more than ever, we need a financially productive walk to help us minister the grace and truth of Christ, and to continue to save and change lives in our community.

The family friendly event will be held at **Westminster Presbyterian Church on Saturday May 20th 2017**. Check-in begins at 8:30am with a FREE pancake breakfast from IHOP. We will have lots of fun stuff for the kiddos too! There will be face painting, a bounce house, balloons, and photo opportunities - so be sure to bring your cell phone or camera!

We are excited to offer online registration again this year through *FundEasy*. This easy to use application allows you to customize your own personal webpage! There are many great features, including the ability to share a link to your fundraising webpage through a variety

of social media platforms; permitting family and friends to sponsor your walk from anywhere in the United States! In addition, every walker who uses their webpage to raise and track donations online can earn a FREE 2017 Walk for Life t-shirt by raising \$100 or more!

We Need You!

We are requesting that you begin promoting our Annual Walk for Life to all of your family, friends, co-workers and church family. I cannot emphasize enough how important you are to the success of our Walk, and thereby our ability to serve those who come to us with an unplanned pregnancy each year.

We need a great Walk to help us continue to grow our programs and services as we seek to expand our influence and reach more women and families in our community.

Additional information about the event, including online and manual registration processes, downloadable bulletin inserts, and Walk for Life posters are available at firstchoiceforwomen.org by selecting *Give Some Help* then going to *Our Events* tab and selecting *Annual Walk for Life*.

We hope you are able to participate in our Walk for Life fundraiser this year and look forward to seeing you there – but remember, even if you cannot attend the event on May 20th, you can still help spread awareness and raise support for First Choice for Women! Register today and make a difference for Life!



Sara Scharbrough

Anderson Update

With over 300 people in attendance, guests made a statement for the cause of Life on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at the Paramount Ballroom as we celebrated our efforts to open our new location in Anderson.

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The Client Connection

Whether in one of our two Bible studies, in the counseling room, in the Parent Care room, or 24 hours a day on the CareLine, we stand ready and willing to be used by the Holy Spirit.

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All About Abstinence

by Sharyll Martin, SRA Director

Did you know?

The Indiana Department of Education recommends that sexual education be taught as part of a comprehensive health education program. Although local school districts are not required to do so, the law does state that when Sex. Ed. is taught, abstinence from sexual activity until marriage must be stressed. Abstinence instruction must also include information about avoiding the risks associated with all types of sexual activity, including sexually transmitted infection (STI) information, as well as other related health problems that may occur from sexual activity. The *Creating Positive Relationships* curriculum presented by First Choice is compliant with all of the Indiana statutes for each grade level we teach, 6th through 12th grades.

Our instructors are excellent classroom facilitators. Every week both the health teacher and their students enjoy the time we spend talking about:

- Puberty
- What constitutes a healthy relationship
- How to communicate with peers and parents
- The risks associated with sexual activity
- And why waiting until marriage is a healthier choice

Parents can be awesome teachers too! It is our hope that sexual education is discussed at home first. Sharing this information with your child can prevent any misconceptions early on, and may help promote open communication about a topic that children often feel awkward discussing with parents.

Youth today have tons of questions! Most questions revolve around the physical consequences of sexual activity. However, this year we have been asked more and more frequently as to why these discussions are important as to why these discussions are important to *asexual* people. Or why don't we talk about *transgender*s or other types of gender identity. The answer is simply this, your health is your responsibility. Knowing

how to avoid risks now will be a benefit to you later...as the saying goes, *an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!*

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
 (765)286-6085



Awesome Act of Kindness!

These four sweet girls, (pictured left to right) Kenna, Miriam, Fiona and Lydia, wanted to make a special contribution to First Choice for Women of Andersons & Madison County. What they decided to do completely warms the heart. For Miriam's 13th birthday party they requested that the guests bring diapers for the clinic instead of presents for Miriam! What a thoughtful and generous gift! Words simply cannot express how touched we were by this awesome act of kindness! Thank you so very much!

"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."

~ Matthew 18:2-4

MARY ROWLETT



Mary, a retired RN, began volunteering at First Choice about a year ago. A member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Mary's faith influenced her to action. "I wanted to volunteer at First Choice because of my strong pro-life beliefs," Mary stated. As a medical volunteer, Mary assists with ultrasounds and performs pregnancy tests. She also serves as a Parent Care Mentor. "I have found that I really enjoy the parent education and mentoring. It's so important to help young parents prepare, not only for the birth of a new baby, but also for the parenting journey ahead."

Mary and her husband of 47 years, Allan, have one son and one daughter. Mary also volunteers weekly with the *Soup Kitchen of Muncie* and enjoys spending time with her 5 grandchildren. Thank you Mary for your commitment to First Choice for Women!

FAST FACTS

59%

59 percent of Millennials who grew up in the church have dropped out at some point.*

35%

35 percent of millennials have an anti-church stance, believing the church does more harm than good.*

*<http://www.barna.com/research/americans-divided-on-the-importance-of-church/#.V-hxhLVy6FD>

The Client Connection

by Leslie Hatcher, Center Director

Sharing the hope found in Jesus is at the very heart of what we do every day at First Choice for Women. Although we may never know the outcome of a spiritual conversation, we know that we are to be obedient and "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." ~ Mark 16:15. That includes those whom God brings to First Choice.

Sowing Seeds for a Future Harvest

We had been working with Sally for about a month. Pregnant and scared, Sally felt her only option was abortion. Already a single mother, she feared her family's reaction to yet another unplanned pregnancy. Although the crisis pregnancy was the main reason she contacted us, the conversation quickly progressed to the topic of forgiveness.

Does God listen to my prayers? I'm not entirely sure that I believe in God. Do you think there comes a time that God doesn't forgive you anymore? I don't think God forgives me anymore. So would God hate me if I have the abortion knowing it's the wrong thing to do? BIG QUESTIONS. As we talked I tried to help her see the truth about God's existence and His forgiveness. That He created the life growing inside of her, regardless of the circumstances of its conception.

Sally was very suspicious of "Christians". She felt judged by people in the church because of hurtful encounters in her past. After suggesting she read the book of John and get to know Jesus again, I encouraged her to find a loving church where she could learn and grow with a group of believers. Although her baby's life may still be in jeopardy, my hope is that the truths shared with her, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, her soul will be saved. Please pray for this young woman as she decides the fate of her unborn baby and her future in eternity.

Standing on the Promises of God

Then there's Ann, a sweet Christian BSU student who called the CareLine at 2 am needing to talk to *someone*. She could not sleep because of the conviction of sexual impurity. Crying, she explained the circumstances and described the guilt that was keeping her awake. She had repented and asked for forgiveness, but still had no peace. We prayed together asking God to confirm in her heart His forgiveness. Sharing



Bible verses on God's promise of forgiveness, we ended our conversation with her promising to search the scriptures for verses on God's faithfulness and claim them as her own.

The Power of Prayer

A young married couple who desperately wanted to be pregnant, were faced with yet another negative pregnancy test. We held hands and prayed together for God's will in their lives. They left encouraged and determined to trust God with their future child.

In Word and in Deed

At First Choice we believe it is important to weave the Gospel in all that we do. To show His love and grace in word and in deed. Recently, this approach led to a young Parent Care client wanting to know more about Jesus! Guided by her mentor, they began a Bible study on the Gospel of John. We rejoice in this young woman's desire to know the Lord, and are thankful that we can be used for His glory!

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through Him." ~ Colossians 3:17

Whether in one of our two Bible studies, in the counseling room, in the Parent Care room, or 24 hours a day on the CareLine, we stand ready and willing to be used by the Holy Spirit. Please pray for the staff and volunteers of First Choice as we daily look for opportunities to share the gospel with our clients.

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
(765)286-6085

A Mothers' Love

There's no power like it on this earth, No treasure equal to its worth...

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 pressures 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 a life choice 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, material 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, 2017** (this will ensure that the recipient will receive the card by Mother's Day by May 14, 2017).

...thank her with a gift for life!

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

Gift Designation: Muncie Anderson

\$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 each month

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

MD-2017

YES! I want to become a monthly giver. Go to 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: _____

City/State/ Zip: _____



Anderson Update

by Chara Lavelle, Development Director

First Choice Anderson Banquet



First Choice for Women of Anderson banquet attendees had a wonderful evening of fellowship while enjoying the music of Sara Scharbrough! With over 300 people in attendance, guests made a statement for the cause of Life on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at the Paramount Ballroom as we celebrated our efforts to open our new location in Anderson.



Jennifer Dickey – Hope Award Recipient

Tam Hodge, Speaker, Author, and Advocate for Save the Storks, shared her story of overcoming several years of poor choices, abortion, and the risky decisions that trapped her, holding her back in fear. Tam communicated the importance of pregnancy resource centers like First Choice for Women who empower women to choose life for their unborn children. It was truly inspiring to hear her story and to see how God has used her journey to help women facing similar circumstances.



It was also encouraging to hear from one of our early clients and follow the journey she and her family had taken. Upon meeting with center volunteers it was evident that the young girls' parents' hearts were impacted. As God worked in their lives, their determination for her to abort the unborn child changed to encouragement to carry the baby to term!

The crowd was touched when "baby Isaiah" – now 20 years old – stood up in the midst of the audience! This young man's life is a tremendous testament to the work of First Choice for Women.



The challenge to raise the support needed to open the Anderson Clinic was presented to everyone, and it was accepted wholeheartedly! We raised \$34,575 in sponsorships and offerings that night, and nearly \$1,400 in monthly donation commitments – giving us an annualized total for the event of nearly \$52,000! Praise God for His goodness and the generosity of His people!

We are so grateful for the outpouring of support from the community and would like to thank everyone who participated in this event – you are truly making a difference for life! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Clinic Update

As we consider the cultural landscape around us, we see an immediate need for First Choice for Women of Anderson & Madison County. It is not only a way to help girls understand that the baby they are carrying is a precious life, but it is also a way to provide emotional and material support as they travel down the path of motherhood. We are working diligently toward opening the clinic and hope to begin offering services to the community near the end of August. As you can imagine, there is much to be done before we will be able to open our doors and begin seeing clients. First, we need 12 trained volunteers willing to commit to a minimum of 2 hours per week.

Secondly, we need to raise at least half of the amount needed to cover our normal monthly expenses with consistent monthly donations. This means that we currently need 8 more volunteers and an additional \$2,800 per month in contributions. This is quite an undertaking, and we can only meet this challenge with the support of the community and faith that God will make a way for this ministry to flourish.

We want to thank each of you who have given of your time, talent and finances to make our vision for the Anderson ministry come to fruition. We are also asking that you help raise awareness of First Choice for Women and our efforts to share the love of Jesus Christ with those facing unplanned pregnancies. Tell your friends, family, co-workers and church family about First Choice and how they can make an eternal difference in the life of a young woman in crisis.

If you are not currently supporting the ministry on monthly basis, we humbly ask you to prayerfully consider a \$20 per month donation so that we can begin saving and change lives in Anderson and Madison County.

A Special Thank You!

The staff of MUGS Coffee and Tea in Anderson generously donated all of the tips they earned for an entire month to First Choice for Women of Anderson!

Skye Huff, owner of MUGS, said that her employees "like to give back" and each month they donated to a different organization in the community. A HUGE THANK YOU to Skye and all of the employees at MUGS, for this kind and generous gift!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR LIFE TODAY!

To learn more about First Choice for Women, or how you can help, please visit our website at: www.firstchoiceforwomen.org
Email: info@firstchoiceforwomen.org
Call: (765)286-6085



Shop on Amazon? Support First Choice by Shopping **amazon**smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchase to First Choice whenever you shop on AmazonSmile!

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- **How do I shop at AmazonSmile?**
To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.
- **Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?**
Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.
- **Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?**
YES! You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.
- **How do I select to support First Choice for Women when shopping on AmazonSmile?**
On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), **before you begin shopping**, you need to select **First Choice for Women, Inc.** as your charitable organization in order to allocate donations from eligible purchases. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

For more information please visit http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_rcl_lm_raas



Presidential Perspective

by Todd Lail, Chairman of the Board

Dear friends of First Choice for Women,

As always, there is a lot going on at First Choice for Women. We have updated our strategic plan to integrate the activities required to open the doors at the pregnancy resource center First Choice recently adopted in Anderson. This adoption is very exciting as it brings an opportunity to share the message of life - and more specifically, life in Christ - that we have been sharing with Delaware County for more than 30 years. While any new endeavor is full of challenges and obstacles, we believe that once God brings us through these hurdles, this expansion will allow us to leverage shared resources.

Thus putting the ministry in a better position for continued growth in both Delaware and Madison Counties.

Although we are one ministry and one legal entity, we understand that many individuals and organizations are interested in supporting the community in which they live, work and worship. To this end, we are trying to ensure that each facility raise their own financial support and record it accordingly. If anyone has any questions about the adoption and how it fits into the mission and vision of First Choice for Women ministry, please don't hesitate reach out to Lisa Miller or myself by calling the center at (765)286-6085 or email info@firstchoiceforwomen.org.

In this difficult time of growth we appreciate your prayers and support. If you desire to help in any way, volunteer at the center, volunteer on the board, or volunteer in some other capacity, please let us know. We want work together for the glory of God.

May God bless you and keep you!

Todd Lail, Chairman Board of Directors



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, and then click on the **DONATE** menu **OR** Complete this form and mail it to:



Get a Choose Life license plate today!



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

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR MUNCIE & ANDERSON SPONSORS!



Rick McAdams, DDS

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