

# First Choice for women

SUMMER 2019



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# Together for Life

## 2019 WALK FOR LIFE

Anderson University, Reardon Auditorium

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>

# ANDERSON & MADISON COUNTY WALKS TOGETHER FOR LIFE!



# All About Abstinence

by Sharyll Martin, SRA Director

Spring semester ended early in June and most students are out enjoying their summer break - but they will be back on the school bus before you know it! In fact, the fall semester will begin before our next newsletter is published. Time goes by so quickly it is essential that we utilize every opportunity to educate our youth about the importance of creating and maintaining healthy relationships with their family and friends - as well as boyfriends or girlfriends.

## Wrapping up 2018-2019

We presented the *Creating Positive Relationships* (CPR) curriculum to 1,850 students in the spring semester. Combined with the fall numbers, a total of 3,784 students were taught about the importance of abstinence in the 2018-2019 school year!

The program is presented in 10 school corporations, 15 individual schools, and 39 different classrooms each year. Our data reveals an average increase in student knowledge of 10% with approximately 86% of students choosing an abstinent lifestyle at the end of the program.

## Getting Ready for 2019-2020

While middle and high school students are swimming, camping, hiking and biking, we are making plans for a brand new school year!

We take instructing our youth on the importance of building healthy relationships very seriously, and we understand that this conversation needs to occur on a regular basis - during the various stages of youth development. This is why our program is offered to students from 12-18 years old AND why we are excited to be preparing for the 2019-2020 *Creating Positive Relationships* curriculum!



## Anderson & Madison County

We hope to offer the CPR curriculum to Madison County Schools this fall and are attempting to make connections with school leadership this summer. If you have a contact in any middle and/or high school in Madison County, and can share that information, it would be extremely helpful to our efforts.

## SRA Instructors

We are also pleased to announce that we have a new SRA Instructor! Jeremy McKnight will be attending

the training session in August. This addition will increase our Sexual Risk Avoidance team to 6 members - but we still need more! We will need at least two additional instructors to present CPR in the Madison County school systems. If you or someone you know enjoys talking to teens and tweens, and is looking for an opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of young people, we have an opportunity for you!

Training sessions occur in August and January - so please let me know if you are interested becoming and SRA Instructor!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for your prayers and support of First Choice for Women's Sexual Risk

Avoidance Program and the *Creating Positive Relationships* curriculum. We are here because you care!

WANT TO MAKE A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A TEEN?

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](mailto:abdirector@firstchoiceforwomen.org)

(765)286-6085

## SERVE and Service at First Choice for Women

Union Chapel Ministries' SERVE week is always a wonderful blessing to First Choice for Women! The program provided, 3,514 diapers, 173 baby wipes, 147 bottles of shampoo and 130 tubes of baby ointment!

We had a great group of UC young people who volunteered their time to perform a wide range of services, including helping with a very large mailing, putting together shelving units, and planting flowers!

These generous teens and tweens sacrificed three days of their summer vacation to give back to the community and we are so grateful to be the recipient of their generosity! Thank you!

## Union Chapel Ministries





# A Message from the Chair

by Cindy Costerison

I saw the movie, "Unplanned" with my husband shortly after it was released. I have since thought a lot about the workers in the abortion industry and the things they see on a daily basis.

The subject of this true story is Abby, who had worked for Planned Parenthood for years, but never really knew what was happening in the back room where the abortions were performed. As she was called in to help with an emergency, she witnessed an abortion, a horrific sight, which completely changed her heart.

Our response to these abortion workers may initially be judgement or anger, but I believe a better response would be, "*Father forgive them, for they know not what they do*". We know from experience that criticism and anger do nothing to change the narrative. But what we cannot change, God certainly can. Our prayers for the unborn and the women and men who face unplanned pregnancies are critically important, but we need to do more, we need to get involved.

Debating terminology about when life begins and the value of the unborn does not seem to be making a difference. Political figures, who consistently vote to allow abortion up to the time of birth, are not influenced or impacted by what the pro-life movement says or does. The



pro-abortion activists are generally closed-minded to the reality that abortion is the destruction of a life that has value and a purpose.

There have been many people throughout history who have desired to be like God; all the way back to Adam and Eve, who listened to the serpent who said, "*when you eat from the tree, you will be like God, knowing good from evil*". Knowing good from evil came with a heavy price when sin entered our world and people began to make decisions that only God should make. The decision Cain made to take the life of his brother was the first recorded homicide, and yet God protected Cain.

We need to take sides on this issue, because neutrality often gives way to the oppressor, not the victim. But in our side-taking, we have to

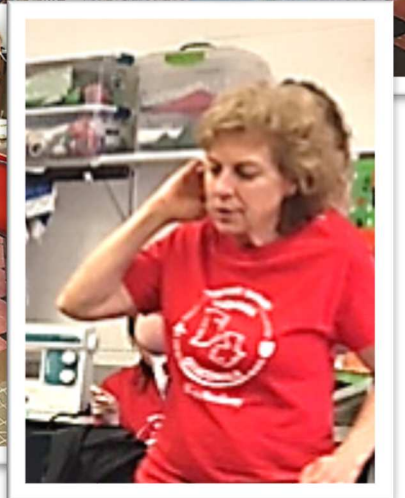
remember that God desires to see each of the individuals involved in the abortion industry come to Him. We must pray for these political figures, activists, and the clinic workers - these imperfect flesh and blood workers. Our prayers matter, and God hears.

First Choice for Women takes our responsibility seriously; helping women make life-affirming decisions about their unborn children and sharing the Gospel is in our very core. We believe that every life has value - the baby's life, the mother's life, the father's life - and we are here to nurture those lives.

We are grateful for the support of so many who advocate for life with us through prayer, volunteerism and financial resources. We could not do this critically important work without you!

# Kings Academy

Students from Mrs. White's Home Economics class at King's Academy Christian School took part in "Servant Safari" week. This project teaches students ways to serve the community. The junior and senior high students made baby quilts, washcloths and towels for the clients of First Choice for Women! They were assisted by First Choice Volunteer, April Wood. THANK YOU SO MUCH!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Barbara Kollath



Barbara Kollath volunteers several hours every week at our Anderson/Madison County Center. She wears many hats within the ministry and is always eager to step into any role required to serve the women and children in our community. Barb volunteers as a receptionist several days each week and assists with the 24-Hour Care Line each month.

In addition to these roles, Barb serves on our event committees, manages donation maintenance, inventory, and keeps the Baby Boutique in topnotch shape!

Barb and her husband, Jim attend First Baptist Church in Muncie and have a daughter who lives out of state.

Thank you Barb for your dedication to First Choice for Women. You are truly making a difference in the lives of the young women and children we serve each week. You are appreciated more than you know!

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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 location?

Please Contact:

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

## Client Connection

by Leslie Hatcher, Center Director Muncie

As Center Director, I have the privilege of training all new volunteers before they serve at First Choice for Women. During the training sessions I enjoy hearing the various reasons participants feel led to volunteer at a pregnancy resource center.

For some, it is to give back to their community, or to make the most of their retirement years. For many, it is the desire to impact the Pro Life Movement in a non-political way. Most attendees share about how God has been “tugging at their hearts” for some time to get involved until they ultimately said “YES, LORD”!

Finally there are the courageous volunteers like Janet Powers, who know all too well the life and death decisions our clients are facing. As someone who has experienced an abortion herself, Janet wanted to “make a difference” in the lives of women considering abortion - giving them the hope and support they need to make a life-affirming decision. Janet was given that opportunity when Amber\* walked through our door.

Amber\* is 19 years old and was considering abortion because of her plans to go to college in the fall. She was excited to start her studies and did not want an unplanned pregnancy to interfere with her schooling. After discussing all of her options information, including the procedures and risks of abortion, Janet shared her own abortion story. Amber was thoughtful as Janet explained the regret she feels every day and her journey toward post-abortion healing. Then Amber said “I had



never considered the emotional or relational effects of abortion. Thank you for your honesty.” Amber left the center undecided, but when she returned for an ultrasound, she had decided to carry and parent her baby!

We praise God for volunteers like Janet who embrace the redeeming grace of Jesus, encouraging other women to do the same.



## ISAIAH 61: 1-3

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; <sup>2</sup>To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup>To grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

## Madison County Diaper Bank Committee



## Madison County Baby Pantries

Last May the United Way, the Diaper Bank committee, and the Madison County community came together and collected thousands of diapers for distribution to the 7 *Madison County Baby Pantries*.

First Choice for Women was excited to be selected as the newest 'Baby Pantry'! It has been a tremendous blessing to the women and families we see each wee., On behalf of our clients, staff and volunteers – THANK YOU!

## Madison County Community Connect

Held at the Anderson Impact Center, the Madison County Community Connect was a fantastic community event!

Pulling human services organizations/community resources together in one place, allowed people to find much of the help they needed - all in one place!



## Prevent Child Abuse

First Choice for Women staff wear blue in support of child abuse prevention.







# All About Anderson & Madison County

by Alyssa Ritchie, Center Director Anderson

## Growing is Great!?

The rains have passed, the warmer weather has set in, and things are buzzing at the Anderson and Madison County First Choice for Women office!

As we approach our two year anniversary in Anderson, the growing clientele has us bustling like busy little bees and feeling the need to expand center hours!

We are planning to add 7 hours a week to our schedule in mid-July, and are actively seeking volunteers to help cover an additional 10 hours per week. Being open 30 hours/5 days a week will allow First Choice to help more women and families in our community.

There are variety of tasks to be completed at the center each day, and we need a variety of skill-sets to accomplish those tasks. You may be surprised to know that we have volunteers who create displays in the *Baby Boutique*, volunteers who monitor the First Choice 24-Hour CareLine, people who enter data, stuff envelopes, package diapers, and of course, meet with clients!

We encourage anyone who shares a passion for helping women, children, and families while serving God, to give us a call. And *PLEASE* tell all the nurses and medical professionals you know that First Choice of Anderson & Madison County needs medical volunteers! MD, OBGYN, PA, RN, LPN, CNA, Med. Tech. etc. – we have a place for you!

## Finding a Home

As you may know, First Choice has accelerated its search for a new home. We want to strengthen our investment in the community by establishing a permanent residence, and building partnerships with other organizations in order to better serve the needs of Anderson and Madison County.

Recently, we had the honor of participating in events such as Community Connect, Child Abuse Prevention, and the United Way Diaper Drive (*photos on Page 7*). We look forward to developing more relationships with other human services organizations, educational and medical groups, as well as the church and faith based organizations who surround us in this wonderful community.

We cannot express just how excited we are to be venturing into a new season! God will lead us to a place where He can use compassionate people like you to change the lives of women and families throughout Anderson and Madison County.

## Thank you!

First Choice is blessed daily by the body of Christ! We are so very grateful to those who give of their time, talents, and financial resources - what an amazing difference you are making! God truly provides through His people!

My hope is that the Madison County community will continue to embrace First Choice for Women and that their passion for our ministry will become contagious!

## TOGETHER FOR LIFE!

### JOIN US FOR OUR 2019 ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE!

Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup> at Anderson University's Reardon Auditorium. Check-in begins at 8:30am and the walk begins at 9:30am.

### REGISTERING IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

- Come rain or shine
- Receive a free T-shirt by registering online by July 25th and collecting \$25 or more in online donation sponsorships
- Receive a chance to win great door prizes
- Walk on your own if you can't join us

**STEP 1:** Register online, by mail, by phone, or with your group leader **TODAY.**

**STEP 2:** Ask EVERYONE you know to donate. You will be amazed how many people will say YES!

**STEP 3:** Bring completed pledge form(s) and collected pledges with you the day of the walk and/or utilize our online fundraising site – it's fun, easy, and friends and family can sponsor you from anywhere in the country!

Share a link via Facebook, Twitter and more!

To learn more or to register online go to [firstchoiceforwomen.org](http://firstchoiceforwomen.org), click on the [Give Some Help](#) button and select [Annual Walk for Life](#) from the [Our Events menu](#). We hope to see you there!

WANT TO HELP SAVE AND CHANGE LIVES IN ANDERSON/MADISON CO.?

Are you, your small group, or anyone you know interested in learning more about our programs or how you can make a life-saving, life-changing difference in Anderson and Madison County?

Please Contact:

ALYSSA RITCHIE, CENTER DIRECTOR  
[fcamcdir@firstchoiceforwomen.org](mailto:fcamcdir@firstchoiceforwomen.org)  
(317)922-7204

## Halteman Village Baptist Church



Our church spotlight this quarter highlights Halteman Village Baptist Church, located at 4100 N. Oakwood Avenue in Muncie. Founded in 1960, the church has been a staple in northwest Muncie for almost 60 years. Weekly services include Sunday school at 9:30 am and Worship Service at 10:45 am. Their mission is to “Glorify God, share Christ’s hope and equip believers in our community and in our world.”

Pastor Nathan Watson and his wife Pam joined the congregation in 2016.



“We want Halteman Village to know that we, as a church, care about the community.” The church serves as the unofficial hub of the neighborhood, hosting the neighborhood association meetings, a TOPS weight loss group, a homeschool group and

chapters of *American Heritage Girls* and *Trail Life* for boys. Pastor Watson shared that his vision is for the church to be a light to the community, reaching children and families with the gospel.

While Halteman may have a smaller congregation, they are endeavoring to leave a large footprint in the community. “Two of our annual outreach events are a ‘Halloween Tail Gate’ and an ‘Easter Egg Hunt,’” notes Pastor Watson. “We have hosted over 100 children and families with free food, entertainment and hospitality. We enjoy seeing our parking lot full of neighborhood families.”

Halteman Village Baptist Church is also home to two First Choice Volunteers, mother and son, Charmaine and Jon Nichols. Jon heads up our Information Technology team and Charmaine volunteers each week in our donation maintenance area. “Volunteering has been an eye-opener to me,” says Charmaine. “It’s an affirmation that God provides for children in His own way, through organizations like First Choice. I wouldn’t trade my volunteer days at First Choice for anything else.” Jon agrees, “I am

truly grateful that my congregation has chosen to support First Choice for Women. I can be confident that our financial contribution is being watched over with the utmost stewardship and the largest portion possible is going directly to care for women whether supporting them through the pregnancy, care afterward, or counseling those in need of Biblical sound advice during this tumultuous season of their lives. These attributes also cause me to want to contribute more than financially, so I give of another resource, my time. This is merely being obedient to the command we’ve been given to not look to our own interests but to the interests of others especially those in need.”

In regards to supporting First Choice, Pastor Watson concludes, “You can’t put a price tag on the value and potential of the life of the unborn. It’s the choice between life and death.”

Thank you Pastor Watson and the congregation of Halteman Village Baptist Church for your support of First Choice for Women! For more information, about Halteman Village Baptist please visit [www.hvbchurch.org](http://www.hvbchurch.org).

# You Make a Difference ♥ Get Involved Today!

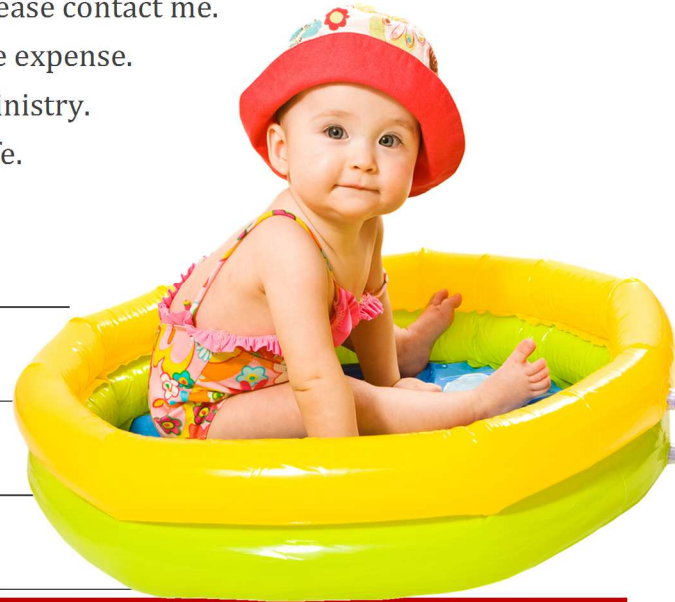
- I would like to learn about becoming a First Choice for Women volunteer or board member.
- I would like to be a Life Ambassador for First Choice with my church/group/organization.
- I would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer Abstinence Education Instructor.
- I am considering a gift or becoming 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.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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# First Choice

for women

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for women

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Muncie IN 47304

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