

# First Choice QUARTERLY



FALL 2021

ISSUE 28



First Choice  
FOR WOMEN



**BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE**  
Cindy Costerison

## The Value of LOVE

Dear Friends,

Every job description at First Choice for Women begins with “As an Ambassador of Jesus Christ...” There are many other qualifications for each position, but the most important is in that statement. An ambassador, or representative, is charged with acting in place of the higher authority; in our case, that is Jesus Christ! This is a big responsibility, but God has given each of us the power beyond our human ability to carry out this mission and the ability to LOVE beyond ourselves.

*I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of His power. **EPHESIANS 3:7***

*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. **EPHESIANS 3:20***

The ultimate goal of First Choice for Women is to bring glory to God our Father. In order to do that, we must put Jesus at the center of all we do. And at the heart is LOVE. LOVE is indispensable! In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul tells us he will show us the most excellent way to LOVE. He tells us how to have selfless concern for others.

LOVE is patient.

LOVE is kind. LOVE does not envy, LOVE does not boast, LOVE is not proud.

LOVE does not dishonor others, LOVE is not self-seeking.

LOVE is not easily angered. LOVE keeps no record of wrongs.

LOVE does not delight in evil. LOVE rejoices in truth.

LOVE always protects. LOVE always trusts. LOVE always hopes.

LOVE always perseveres.

LOVE never fails.

Please pray for the workers of First Choice for Women. The work is hard, and some days are thankless. Emotions can run high. But we rejoice in knowing that we are fulfilling the call to be ambassadors of Christ.

*Dear Abba Father,*

*We ask You to fill us with your supernatural ability to LOVE in all circumstances. As we minister to families, remind us that You alone are sovereign, and that, with Your help, we can’t do this wrong. Give us boldness to proclaim the gospel message to those who don’t know You, and prepare their hearts to receive it. Thank you for First Choice for Women and all who support this holy calling. Amen*

# A Cup Overflowing

What a mighty God we serve! As I read through articles from the past year and the notes from all we have accomplished so far, I may sound like a broken record. But I'm in awe and cannot help but repeat, What a MIGHTY GOD we serve!

We have been working hard on gaining ground with our strategic plan this year. We have officially begun the soft open phase of our Fatherhood Initiative with the help of a grant through our affiliate, CareNet. We now have five men in a volunteer role through First Choice, and we are seeking to increase that number. We have also updated all of our Earn While You Learn lessons, creating a more technologically friendly environment. We are reaching our largest clientele, while giving our clients more than 300 educational lesson options to choose from during their ParentCare classes.

Thanks to your ongoing prayers and support, this year began with incredible promise and has continued to overflow in abundance.

Our work is far from over. As we have been out in the community this year, more than ever before, we see needs that we can meet each and every week. Your consistent and faithful help today, and always, allows us to continue to meet those immediate needs in our communities.

We hope you stay safe and healthy as we move into the holiday seasons, and may God pour out a special, overflowing blessing on you as you have blessed us.

Thank you for being part of our story.

*"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."*

LUKE 6:38



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**  
Kailee McKnight



FIRSTCHOICEFORWOMEN.ORG

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## Annual Banquet

The Nelons performed an amazing concert. Dan Daugherty blessed us with his inspiring story. It was one of the largest events we have had both financially and in person attendance. Thank you! Our goal was \$75,000 net income to directly impact the continued work of First Choice. I'm proud to say including our monthly giving and pledge commitments that our goal has been met! That is what I call a team effort with a "God margin"! THANK YOU!

Ann Santoni and Jessi Lickey both received our Bill Schuman volunteer award this year. They have put so much hard work into meeting our clients' needs and making a difference in so many lives every week.

Deb Rolli received the Tony Rolli award this year for using her time, talent, and treasure in our centers over the past nine years and especially this year during the remodeling of the new Anderson location.





# Empowering Confident Fathers

BY LESLIE HATCHER

Happy Fall! I know that not everyone is happy about cooler temperatures and pumpkin spice, but I LOVE fall. It's my favorite season. Maybe it's because it signals that the holidays are close or because the changing colors are such a wonderful display of God's creation.

Just as the trees change color in the fall, change happens in all our lives. The writer of Ecclesiastes states, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." Here at First Choice, we are in a season of change...exciting change. Our Fatherhood Initiative has been launched, and we are seeing more young fathers come in with their girlfriends for a pregnancy test.

While First Choice has always welcomed fathers, this program allows us to better meet the specific needs of these young men. The father of the baby is THE most influential voice to the abortion-vulnerable client. These dads are normally relegated to the sidelines of a pregnancy decision, but they can now meet with male volunteers who empower them to have a voice in the fate of their unborn baby.

The Fatherhood Initiative will also allow us to better educate these dads to be the best father they can be. And most importantly, it allows more one-on-one opportunities to share the gospel.

Recently, a young man came with his girlfriend for a pregnancy test. They are planning to parent, but he was scared. After meeting with one of our male volunteers, he said, "I already feel so much better." Confident, involved fathers will lead to more stable families and better outcomes for their children.

Men, during this season of change, could God be speaking to you about becoming involved in our Fatherhood Initiative? Is this *your* season to make a difference for LIFE in Delaware and Madison counties? We cannot meet the needs of these young men without YOU! Please pray about volunteering with this exciting new initiative. Our young men are facing the biggest season of change in their lives, and they need godly men to shepherd them through it.



# Voice for the Voiceless

BY MELISSA SMITH

In the pro-life movement, we often speak of being a “voice for the voiceless” in reference to advocating for the unborn. Yet sometimes, it’s our clients who have lost their voice. Between childhood trauma and unfortunate situations they have placed themselves in, they lose the confidence to speak up for themselves.

Don’t you love helping young women get their voices back? I know I do. I see myself in so many of the young ladies that come into our office.

Eighteen-year-old “Callie” nervously twirled her hair and glanced up at me. Her voice was soft and hesitant, as though she were afraid of coming up with the wrong answer to what we were talking about.

“I don’t know what to do,” she said. “My parents told me if I ever got pregnant, they would cut off my college money. When I told my boyfriend that I might be pregnant, he told me I’d better have an abortion, or else we are done.”

Callie’s best friend had come with her to the pregnancy test appointment. When Callie’s test result showed positive, her girlfriend cried out, “You’d better not get an abortion!” I watched as Callie’s face displayed complete sadness, hopelessness, and despair. I asked permission to touch her hand and she said I could. I just told her that I was once her and I wanted to share my story with her. She allowed me to do so as tears ran down her cheeks.

It was evident to me that Callie lacked confidence and was stuck in a pattern of allowing others to do her decision-making for her. Now she faced a dilemma.

She had a major decision to make, and the significant voices in her life were conflicting with each other. Can you imagine being torn between mom, dad, grandma, best friends, and the father of the baby? That is too much for any woman to face. This is why they become numb and voiceless.

She was standing at the crossroads – without a voice.

The good news is, Callie was in a safe place. We shared accurate information with her without telling her what to do. We offered her emotional support without judgment. We let her use her own voice to process what she was thinking and feeling. This is what First Choice for Women is all about - a safe place for families to come to seek help, hope, and compassion.

With our support, Callie was able to make the courageous decision to keep her baby.

Callie had been terrified of her mother’s disapproval, yet her mom quickly became a doting grandmother. And though Callie and her boyfriend broke up, he stepped up to get involved in his little one’s life and help in any way he could.

“You guys didn’t push me,” Callie shared with me later. “Everybody else was pushing me and telling me what I should do. You let me make up my own mind.”



## CONTINUED FROM LEFT

When a woman makes one courageous choice, she is empowered to make more.

We saw Callie for Parent Care lessons every week after her ultrasound appointment. She soon became a strong, confident woman and mom to a beautiful little baby. She also continued her college education – the funds did not get cut off – and she came by to interview me for an essay she was writing.

The young woman I saw before me was not the same girl I had spoken with months prior. She smiled and spoke with such grace. She shone with a confidence she had lacked before.

Callie had made a good choice. In the process, she'd found her voice.

As we speak up for the tiny, vulnerable unborn, how wonderful that we also get to come alongside their parents as well. When we help parents speak out of the deepest place of their nurturing hearts, we have the privilege of participating in a double blessing.

By refusing to push an agenda, we help both mother and child find their voice.

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## Peggy Anderson

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Peggy Anderson has served as a receptionist at First Choice Delaware County since 2019.

"I was looking for somewhere to serve, and my granddaughter, Brooke, told me about First Choice. She thought I would enjoy volunteering there," said Peggy. "God just opened the door for me."

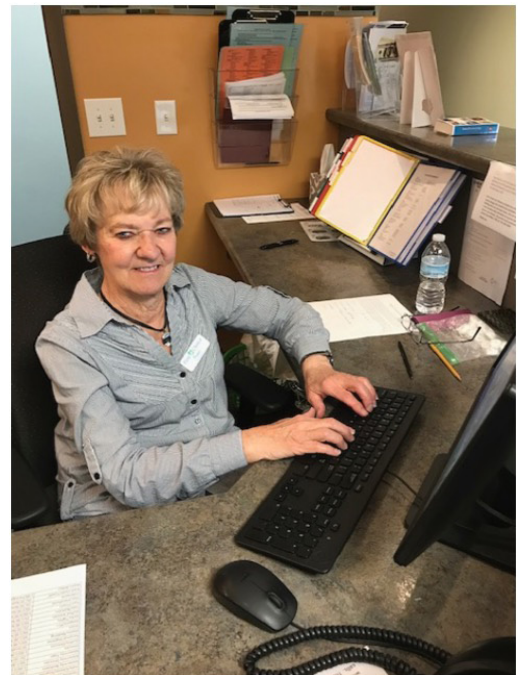
Peggy serves seven hours per week, on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, so she is often the first face clients see when walking through our doors.

"I enjoy meeting the clients," notes Peggy. "I enjoy greeting them and letting them know that we care."

Peggy attends Destiny Christian Center International. She was married for 47 years before her husband passed in 2011. Peggy has nine children, thirty grandchildren, and five great grandchildren! She enjoys spending time with her family and gardening.

"I have the sense each week that it is God is working through me at First Choice to show people His love."

Thank you, Peggy, for your dedication and service to First Choice for Women!



## CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

# Grace Baptist

Grace Baptist Church, Anderson, IN, was founded in May of 1958. Pastor Paul Vincent, along with thirteen other charter members, organized the church and wrote the doctrinal statement. At the time the Articles of Incorporation were filed, the church was meeting in a storefront property on Brown Street. The church later bought the property located at 432 W 300 N. Pastor Don Camp led in the ground-breaking ceremony. Daniel Stevens has been the senior pastor for nearly five years. These have been years of great spiritual growth, along with a major remodel in the property to improve the appearance and function of our facilities. First Choice for Women has a strong advocate at Grace in Will DuBois. He has been a church member for almost twenty years, and a deacon much of that time. He became part of the church staff in 2019 and heads up the outreach program at Grace.



The church's largest ministry is Indiana Christian Academy, with approximately 275 students in K3-12th grade. They also run the Madison County Fire Rescue House, serving displaced individuals with housing needs. They have Life Group Bible Studies for all ages, and Precept Bible Studies. They have children's ministries, including nurseries, Kidstown, and AWANA. Their teen ministry is called Ignite Youth, and their young adults ministry is called Generation 4:12. Keenagers is their seniors ministry that meets weekly for faith, fellowship and food. They have a ministry called Sew & Share which donates homemade receiving blankets, lap quilts, and similar projects to several organizations in the community, including First Choice for Women. They have a Hispanic ministry with services in Spanish and provide an English as a Second Language (ESL) class. Their main preaching and teaching services are on Sunday at 10:30 am and 6:00 pm and Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Annually, they host Food Trucks and Friends Day and Harvest Family Night in the fall, as well as other special days for outreach to the community. They have a BRICK Ministry to help with the remodel and repair area of property. They also sponsor Love Works activities in support of other area ministries and service organizations. They regularly support over forty missionaries and ministries at home and around the world.

"At Grace, Jesus is the reason we are here. We want to show you how much He means to us by the way we love each other, worship together and proclaim Him in our preaching. Grace is a family-friendly church that believes the Bible is God's Word and embraces the call to make disciples. We aren't a perfect church, but we do possess a genuine passion for God's Word and for people," states the staff at Grace Baptist.

"We are thankful to be able to support a ministry that not only supports lives of children who don't yet have the ability to defend themselves, but actually supports the women and families through their situations - helping find solutions for the struggles they are facing and pointing them to the gospel of Christ to find the ultimate solution in all of life!"

"We fully support FCW's mission of meeting both the physical and spiritual needs of moms in our community. We support life, and we also want to help moms in the community. In addition to being regular sponsors and supporters of the Walk for Life and the Annual Banquet, we have started regular monthly support of First Choice for Women this year to provide needed resources for regular operations. Our fervent hope and prayer is that every church who believes in life would do the same."

Grace Baptist is a loving, caring church that desires to contribute to the community. It is a welcoming place, accepting of people who are struggling with life issues. It is a place where the broken can come to be healed, that preaches the gospel of Christ. and stands by the Word of God unashamedly.

Pastor Stevens is very careful to preach God's Word and not his own opinion. The preaching from the pulpit at GBC is the preaching of God's Word! The focus is on the Word and will of God. The congregation loves Him, and they love people. Pastor Stevens faithfully preaches and teaches the Bible and welcomes all people, as they are, to come and hear - and be transformed by - God's Word. "We are all sinners, and as we have been saved and changed by God's grace, we want to share Him with those sinners who have yet to come to know, love and trust Him as their personal Savior."

Thank you to the congregation of Grace Baptist for your support of First Choice for Women. A detailed schedule of ministries and activities, and times of services, is available on the church website at [www.gracetoanderson.com](http://www.gracetoanderson.com)



# How Your Donation Helps First Choice



**\$9**

Average cost of pregnancy test

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**\$50**

Average cost of a car seat

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**\$100**

Average cost of a bassinet or pack and play

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**\$150**

Average cost of a crib and mattress

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**\$250**

Average cost of an ultrasound

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**\$1,200**

Average cost to save a life  
*(From initial engagement to on-site counseling & education)*

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**\$1,400**

Average cost to serve one client for a year  
*(From pregnancy test to ongoing parent care)*

# Yes, I want to change the world— one life at a time!

If you would like to become a monthly giver, go to [FirstChoiceForWomen.org](https://www.FirstChoiceForWomen.org) and click the “Donate” menu OR complete this form and mail it to [3020 N Oakwood Ave, Muncie, IN 47304](https://www.FirstChoiceForWomen.org).

One-Time Gift       Recurring Monthly Donation

\$25       \$50       \$100       \$500       \$1,000       Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed       Charge my Credit Card (complete section below)

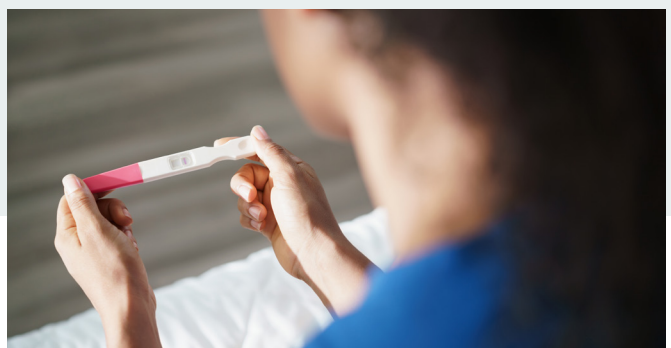
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Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_      CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

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



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#### OUR VISION

First Choice for Women seeks to achieve a community in which every individual is respected and every child is wanted, cared for, and nurtured.



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