

March 2017

Dear Sustaining Partner,

“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” (Proverbs 16:24)

I wonder if you'd agree we could all use more constructive conversations. Everywhere I turn I hear people grumbling about leadership, laws, restrictions---pretty much anything which does not give across the board license for folks to do or say as they please. I don't know how we got to a place nothing pleases, nothing satisfies, nothing is sacred. Such talk wears me down until I am exhausted in spirit, soul and body. I need to hear words which uplift and refresh.

I become aware it's time to avoid negative speaking people. Reading posts on social media can be debilitating if we believe everyone else's life is beautiful with well-behaved children, loving spouses, friends who never let us down and continual gourmet meals. We must seek out truth and rehearse it to ourselves. If we don't distance ourselves from lies and fantasy, we will begin to believe there is nothing at all worthwhile in life. It is then we lose hope and begin to think of ourselves as worthless.

I'm blessed to have friends and family who love and encourage me and probably you do too. Unfortunately unrealistic expectations and feeling less than and worthless is the life story of almost every client who comes to us for services. Most of them will tell you they can't remember the last time they felt good about themselves, their lives or their futures. Few of them hear, "I love you," or "You're important."

We do know we can't expect perfection even when we know and walk with The Lord, but it is certainly His intention we understand we are precious to Him. We will celebrate Easter in a few weeks and as we do we're reminded God considers each of us worthy of the price paid for our redemption which is mind-boggling and sobering. God knows hurting broken people need to hear the truth about who we are rather than what we or others think.

Every part of our ministry is designed to communicate the truth of God's love to our clients, so they hear it said in many different ways from different directions. While especially in the beginning our clients may not believe themselves worthy, the fact we are here to serve without reservation and judgment in Jesus' name speaks comforting truth regarding the value of each person to God. We know it takes a while for the transformation of the unloved and forgotten to loved and significant to begin. That's okay...we've got plenty of time. Healing comes gradually and is best begun on the firm foundation of truth. In the long run with time and patience, the blessing of being a part of God's miraculous work changes us too.

Thank you for the part you choose to play in this beautiful process as we reach out to minister to women and families in our community. Healthy moms and dads build healthy families which in turn contribute to the health of our community. It begins with one choice...yours, to get involved. We don't take your commitment to partner with us for granted.

I hope you will plan now to be a part of our Annual Walk for Life on Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 8 AM to Noon. This year we're adding fun and color—A Memorial Color Walk. Each participant will choose a person to honor through participation in this event and ask your sponsors to join you through a contribution (Check or cash). Your sponsor sheet has a space to add the name of the person you honor in addition to sponsor information. We'll have a Memorial Banner on which you can write the name and a bit about the reason why you chose your honoree. Each walker will have a personalized "bib" also with the name of the person you honor through your participation.

Every fundraising event is important for the underlying financial health of this ministry. It is our hope our partners will participate and in doing so will help us raise funds and increase awareness for our ministry in the community. This year will feature color stations throughout the easy to moderate route, balloons, food, drinks, prizes and a FREE white-T-shirt to all participants while supplies last. Register soon to secure your shirt and to give us lead time to print your "Bib."

In addition to the Memorial Color Walk, we'll open our newly renovated facility for tours. Come down and see what together we have done with what God has supplied.

Providing a beautiful, safe place for our clients to come to have their needs met is another way we say "You are loved" to them.

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken
Executive Director