

March 2015

Dear Sustaining Partner,

“I’ve gone to look for myself. If I should return before I get back. Keep me here!” Barbara Johnson!

It’s funny because it’s true!

I’m always on the move. I have to be. Something is always happening. Thank God my energy level is usually very high. Since the beginning of the year our days here at Pregnancy & Family Resource Center have been challenging and getting more so every day. Client visits and needs are high, the hours in the day are limited and the number of volunteers who are available on a regular basis has become extremely limited.

This time last year we were seeing about the same number of clients every day, but we had an average of three (3) advocates on each shift at all times. Client wait time was about 15 minutes. As I said, things have changed.

Client wait time now is usually 30-45 minutes---often longer. On a good day we have maybe two advocates plus Wendy, our Volunteer Coordinator. These days I often need to answer the phone and watch the window while Barbara meets with a client who just can’t wait or is in crisis. It gets worse when mom has to bring the kiddos who can wait only so long before they erupt in to tears or even worse, screams of frustration. We get it---crying at that point seems like a therapeutic idea to everyone. One day not long ago in the middle of all the above, a client’s car alarm would not turn off. Add, non-stop HONKING to the mix. Can you say, “MAJOR headache” while I’m waiting for me to get back from wherever I’ve gone---probably to the warehouse to grab some formula and diapers to hold for a client who’s coming in.

Challenging? Yes! Daunting? Yes! A problem? Yes...and No! It’s a problem because all this noise and testing of patience is difficult. No--- because it’s a GREAT problem. Not long ago I reviewed a number of documents from the year I began my service as Executive Director. That year (2006) our total client visits was 730. Last year (2014) we counted 3,390 client visits. A BIG difference. The funny thing is that I remember we thought we were busy then HA! The saving grace is that we, like the frog in the pot, the explosion of client visits happened so gradually we had no idea what we would be confronting up ahead.

I’m sharing all this with you to ask you a couple of things.

Would you seriously consider serving as a volunteer with us? We need men and women to work with our clients, to help with projects, clean, repair or modify things around here and help with events. There are a lot of needs and to

effectively accomplish all we need to do will require we increase our numbers of volunteers. If you're interested in exploring your opportunities to serve, Wendy will be happy to talk with you. Call her at 909-382-4550. She will explain the needs and the application process.

Imagine you are 19 and in need of a mentor who can help you to learn and grow in your life skills and your faith. What would you need from such a person? Well, there you go. That's exactly what we need. The next advocate training to be a significant encourager in someone's life will begin Friday, May 1, 2015 from 10 AM to noon. It's time to call Wendy and get your volunteer application.

The second thing I'd like is that you will help us to communicate our needs to others whom you know, but who may not realize we exist. Many people believe life is sacred and would gladly partner with us and volunteer. They want to do something, but don't know what's available. You can help by spreading the word. We have brochures available to explain our purpose and our needs. Our website is a good resource too. Visit and direct your friends to www.pregnancyfamily.org.

The quarterly newsletter will be in the mail soon. When you're done with it pass it along or leave it at a Starbuck's when you've finished with it. Use it as a guide to pray for us, and plan now to participate in the coming event.

Thank you again and again for your sustaining partnership which enables us to be here with "no strings attached." With only private funding we don't have to worry about anyone coming in to tell us what we can or cannot do. We can meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of our clients in a godly, loving unrestricted environment.

In like a lion; out like a lamb. It will be interesting to see how Spring plays out in our little corner of the world. Spring is such a wonderful reminder of new life and HOPE...and, He does not disappoint.

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken
Executive Director