

August 2013

Dear Sustaining Partner,

*“PROFESSING TO BE WISE, THEY BECAME FOOLS.”* (Romans 1:22)

I recently became aware of a 2008 investigative report from The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) regarding pro-life pregnancy help centers. The sanctity of life issue is serious business, but when I read about this report, I had to laugh. This is just plain foolishness. Get this:

In Maryland, NARAL assigned two of its “investigators” to give us the “truth” about pregnancy help centers in their state. Thankfully, the investigators were committed to being “totally objective.” (Oh really? How is that possible since they represent those who profit from abortion?) One investigator was Melissa Kleder, who served as interim director of NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland. The Other: Malia Richmond-Crum, who was “Partner of Choice” at the NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland’s 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening of Chocolate Gala, held just months after her objective report came out. Impartial? Objective?

In this piece of investigative excellence, Ms Kleder and Ms Richmond-Crum discovered the following incriminating information:

*“Every pregnancy help center investigators visited used some type of emotionally manipulative tactic, such as offering congratulations for a positive pregnancy test, referring to the pregnancy as a baby and giving the mom-to-be hand-knitted booties.”*

I suppose that if I were selling abortion, I might call “offering congratulations” for the result of a positive pregnancy test, manipulative. But it does make sense to me that an objective person, just reporting the facts, might consider those well wishes a way to encourage a person to deal with her challenge in a positive way.

And, the baby booties? It appears what one person identifies as manipulative; another would call a beautiful gift to help turn a negative situation into one of hope. One of our advocates shared with me a quote by her pastor that fits here. “I can’t stop the storm, but I can shelter some one with an umbrella.” Affirmation and a promise of help and support is a HUGE umbrella.

But, I’m not going to quibble with the investigators’ opinions. They are not objective and neither am I. I can be honest about that. When it comes to a positive pregnancy test, I think three things; We’ve got a baby on the way, we want to do all we can to keep the mom from making a destructive decision and we want to see that baby

born to become all that God intends. I admit here at Pregnancy & Family Resource Center we have an agenda—**PRESERVING AND PROTECTING LIFE.**

We can continue to provide services only with the partnership of our community in which you are included. Together this year we've provided services to 2,150 clients and distributed through the points program over 2,000 DOZEN diapers. THANK YOU !!!! for the behind-the-scenes role you play so that we have the opportunity to watch lives change in our community. We simply and in all honesty could not continue without you.

If you get this letter before August 24<sup>th</sup> there may still be seats available for the women's tea, "***One Hundred Years of Fashion.***" The event committee has made every effort to plan a lovely lunch, a great program (A fashion show of vintage fashions modeled by some of our own.) with a little music and drama thrown in the mix. It's an event you won't want to miss. Call to make sure we still have tickets, which you can get with cash, check or charge for a \$25 per person donation. Each ticket is a chance to win a door prize, and we'll have other gift baskets available for raffle as well. Act now before the limited number of tickets is gone.

We WILL have plenty of seats available for our **Annual Fall Fundraiser** where we will present: "***An Evening With Cal Thomas; We ARE the Church.***" Seating for the semi-formal, plated dinner will begin at 6:30 PM on Friday, October 25, 2013. We'll invite those who serve as tables hosts (Fill one or more table(s) with eight persons) and/or underwriters for the event to a private reception with Mr. Thomas who is celebrating 50 years in broadcast and print journalism. For nearly all those years Mr. Thomas has been America's most syndicated columnist. **SAVE THE DATE!** Plan now to join us for a very rare opportunity to see and hear Cal Thomas. We could not be more excited about this special fundraising event.

Coming in the spring: **Golf Pro Marathon.** This is not your usual boring four-player scramble. It's like having your own golf course, PGA golf pro, friends, food and fun for the day. Watch for more information or call our office now if you're too excited to wait.

While we know school is starting in some local districts, there is still more fun in the sun to enjoy before we begin to haul out our fall decorations. Don't let the displays of Christmas merchandise (Oh brother!!) rush you. Make the most of the great beach weather ahead.

**Don't be a fool; Choose life!**

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken  
Executive Director