

August 2015

Dear Sustaining Partner,

“For we are God’s fellow workers...” (1 Corinthians 3:9)

I’m a great advocate of teamwork. Each member of the team brings something unique to the table. It makes life more interesting, results in a better quality finished product and everyone wins. Around here our primary objective is that our clients win, and they do when every single person associated with Pregnancy & Family Resource Center knows we are here to serve in Jesus’ name.

There is GREAT power in partnership. The power doesn’t develop from the numbers of people who serve with us, or from the numbers of women and families we serve. As we work together a bond forms and we find we are all connected because of our common desire to love and support those whose steps falter due to hard circumstances. When egos are left at the beginning of the day in the hot car to be vaporized, the Spirit of God is free to work in our lives and the lives of our clients at the same time. As we work together we learn that “my way isn’t necessarily the only way.” We count on individual giftedness to get this huge job done. Left to me alone the checks would get cut, the bills paid, letters written and receipts sent, but we’d have people lined up down the street waiting for a pregnancy test. I’m grateful we each offer our own unique ways of thinking, organizing, listening, praying and speaking to a distraught client...or her family. It’s a beautiful thing to see God bring in just the right person for the job.

Over the past few months I’ve shared about our need for more advocates---both men and women---to meet the ever growing client load. Just today I received a report of our search outcome for July 2015. Our ministry appeared in the pregnancy related search results nearly 1700. Of those 148 clicked through the ad to our phone number, website or directions to get to us. Our need for additional volunteers is real and critical. We can only schedule more client visits when we know we will have advocates to see them...we do NOT want that line snaking down the street. As more people find out about us and choose to donate gently used material goods, we need a full component of staffing in the warehouse. In our Fall Newsletter you will read about Angie Woods who has for a number of years, assumed responsibility to reconfigure and organize the warehouse. She always needs help sorting, cleaning and organizing. We have a small army of men and women who help, but I’ll be honest---there is always room for two more. If you’re interested in serving as a general volunteer or as an advocate contact Wendy DeView in our office.

In the future I will talk about additional needs and openings, but for now I want to mention two very critical volunteer needs. The first is for an experienced person very familiar with standard accounting practices and Quickbooks (We use on line version) to serve on our board of directors as treasurer. This person will advise me

regarding how best to enter other than routine transactions (I am NOT an accountant!), enter our annual budget in to QBs, review the books on a monthly basis to ensure all transactions are entered correctly and run bi-monthly financial reports for the board to review. This is not a paid position---like other board of directors, this person serves Pregnancy & Family Resource Center as a volunteer. Hours required are no where near full time, and generally will take only a few hours a month. There are deadlines like tax time we have to meet, but there isn't a lot of pressure...just know-how to get the job done the right way in a simple and straightforward manner. This person must remember this: I am NOT an accountant. I am a word person who desperately needs a numbers loving person.

One of the responsibilities of my position I love a lot is planning and overseeing the events. It's lots of fun to basically throw a big party for a good cause for several hundred friends. The problem is that a team of one person or even a team of several persons without a leader who can concentrate on only that one event is not sufficient to get the event planned and executed without gallons of antacid. We need someone with event experience and good organizational skills who works well with a team of volunteers who are willing, but want leadership and direction. This person will work directly with me as we together plan the details of each event and then recruit and lead the team of volunteers to accomplish the plan. I am people oriented and I love a good party, but I am NOT a craft person who can repurpose household items in to stunning centerpieces. I rely on others with creative genes to serve our ministry in their own unique and spectacular way.

Are you interested in learning how you could meet one of these very important needs? GREAT! Call me right away and let's talk because the need is critical.

Coming up next in only two months is the Annual Fall Gala on Friday, October 23. PLEASE add this very important event to your calendar and make it your priority. We use the results of our fund raising efforts on that evening to plan our budget for the next year. Can we count on you to attend and to fill a table of eight? Begin to think now about who you can ask to attend with you. As you know we never charge for this event, but the cost of this fundraising event is significant. In light of the recent Planned Parenthood press, you may find people more interested in knowing what they can do to take a personal stand for life. John Ensor, President/Founder of Passion Life will Keynote this event. We plan to have some very, very special families with us to share their stories. I guarantee you an enjoyable, entertaining evening with a yummy meal. It will truly be an evening you and your guests will long remember.

Enjoy what's left of your summer, and then join me as we gear up to end the year well, and then to begin another. Hard to think it's time to head in that direction.

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken
Executive Director