

December 2017

Dear Sustaining Partner,

Well friend-this is it! My last letter to you in 2017. I've much I'd like to say about this past year and what we look forward to as we go into 2018. I know it's coming, but to be honest just writing "2018" is just plain unreal to me.

What I'd really love to do is sit down over a Venti skinny eggnog latte (with an extra shot!) and visit with you for a while. Unfortunately my ability to communicate with you is limited. I can't begin to cover in a short thank you letter the full spectrum of how God is using Pregnancy & Family Resource Center to save babies, heal broken lives and prove that because of Jesus, there is hope.

Your gift(s) by check, cash, EFT transfer, material goods, notes of encouragement and visits help us to keep our door open and YOU make it possible for us to continue to provide FREE pregnancy related services. One of the primary erroneous arguments in the "pro-choice" (death) camp is that "you tell people not to abort, but don't care what happens to them afterwards." You know that couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, we care about the family---the whole family. We care what happens to people whatever choice they make, but the really good news is that when a client becomes aware that we are here to help, she will most often choose life! This is how we can say we are "Saving Families One Child at a Time!"

This past week one of our advocates visited with me about her clients---a couple who originally came for a pregnancy test, chose together to become parents and now participate in our program to earn points to redeem for what they need for their baby. Their advocate has been having on going conversations with this couple about how to move forward. To do so they came to a goal setting session. As the advocate reviewed the changes they'd talked about making she asked "What is the first action you'd like to take to make life better for your family?" The dad of the baby looked at his girlfriend and said, "I think the first thing we need to do is get married." WOW! Do you know how powerful that is and how wonderful for his woman to hear those words in front of someone else? How thrilling for the advocate to be there to witness his sweet proposal. One of our over 1600 active clients!! Each one has a story just as compelling.

This year has offered us many opportunities just as surreal and exciting. We are ending the year with new personnel, more volunteers (But never enough), and a complete remodel and security update of our facility. We need client services more than I would have ever thought when I began as executive director in early 2006. Through the years we've had to expand our facility twice to our present 4,100 square feet and adjust and readjust our hours of operation to reach out to as many young women and families as possible. What a blessing to welcome clients and visitors in to relax and enjoy God's gifts with us! Our facility is the only "homey" environment many of our clients experience. Many live portable lives continually on the move. We are one constant.

Over the last few years, we've formed partnerships with agencies that work with us to more fully meet the needs in our community. What we get but cannot use, Victoria Ministries picks up to distribute. We refer our clients to the wonderful medical professionals at Redlands Perinatal for the medical services we do not provide. As the needs of our clients become greater, we have increased our efforts to be resourceful, but frugal. We give points to clients who keep their WIC appointments because we know it's a valuable resource.

I've recently learned more about a new process to reverse the effects of the abortion pill (RU486). My first project for the New Year to get local medical professionals trained so we can call upon them for this much-needed emergency procedure. It's quite simple and requires minimal protocol training. It will be wonderful to have this available to women in our community and then see how God uses it to save more lives.

Think about the local Target and picture the diaper department, the prenatal vitamin shelf and the OTC pregnancy tests. None of the inventory would last us a month. To date this year, we've distributed 5,000 dozen diapers to our clients. No one family gets enough of anything to sustain them, but what we are able to give provides some relief. One dad this year cried when we gave the family toilet tissue. Imagine, if you can crying over that! Most of us do not understand the challenge which leads people to take desperate action.

We very much appreciate your on-going sustaining partnership, and ask that you will pray with us about our growing financial need. Each year I cut what I can from our budget, but to tell you the truth there is nothing left for me to trim down. You could help increase our funding if you introduce others to the ministry of this local mission. I have introductory packets you can give to folks, which will supply basic information as well as some background and history. Feel free to bring people down to our facility so they can see what we do...in fact-have you been down? If not isn't it time to see how your gifts are being put to good use? I'd love to come speak at your church, Bible study group, service organization to tell them about what we do and why. How about hosting a coffee in your home for a few couples who believe life is sacred, but who haven't yet found a place of action?

You can also find our Wish List on Amazon.com-Search for: Pregnancy & Resource Center, add your gifts to your shopping cart and have the goods shipped directly to us!

As usual, I will receipt for this year any end-of-the-year gifts postmarked by December 31. We count on your support this year and in to the next, so I pray that saving lives, both physical and spiritual-will continue to be a priority for you.

We go into the New Year knowing the defense of life will probably become more difficult in our political and immoral culture. We can prepare for strong opposition, but at the same time, we know that with God we are more than conquerors. We are called to "resist...and having done everything, to stand firm (Eph. 6:13) I pray you will continue to stand with us!!

As I close, it's a cool, winter afternoon, and that eggnog latte would sure hit the spot right about now. But, let's say we did have our chat and it was time to say goodbye. I'd love the opportunity to pray God's blessing over you and for your family. I ask God to make it clear to you how much I appreciate you. I pray you'll experience all the blessings God has for you, and pray that every good thing will be yours. As I write, I pray for you while sipping a hot cup of strong, black coffee. You can't have everything!!

On behalf of the staff, board and clients I wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a blessed NEW YEAR!

Yours For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken
Executive Director