

January 2016

Dear Sustaining Partner,

TWO THOUGHTS REGARDING SERVICE:

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” ~Anne Frank~

“We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” ~Mother Theresa~

I'm excited to begin a new year--however this is not just any year. This begins my 11th year serving as executive director of YOUR ministry. Things have changed around here since I moved in to a little office down in what was then our 1,600 square foot facility. At the time I had no idea what God had in mind. Only that He called me here to use my education, experience and energy to pull the ministry out of a slump and move in a more positive, community-oriented direction. Life was pretty exciting at the time and I didn't mind working 10 to 12 hour days and being pretty much a one-woman show.

There has been much growth many directions. In 2010, our property owner paved the way to expand our facility to 4,100 square feet which gave us more room for client services and tripled our warehouse space. My office is big enough to accommodate meetings and study groups. I could throw a party if I had time. The one factor that has stayed constant is the continual traffic in and out of the center and the phone which rings almost continually during the day. Actually, it's the same when I'm here at night, the weekend or early morning. The activity never stops. We all see that as a good thing. It is evidence that we've been successful to get the word out in the community that we're here to help women and families who are in tough circumstances. Because of strong partnerships with individuals, churches and organizations in the community, we are able to provide much more than a pregnancy test and a few minutes of our time. We can fully engage with the family to make a significant difference in the quality of their lives as we provide material goods, relationship consultation, referrals to resources, spiritual guidance, factual information, after abortion healing, ultrasound, prayer, friendship and more. We frequently develop new ways to help or for a better delivery system for the free services we offer our over 1,600 active clients.

Thanks to faithful partners we are finally enjoying some financial stability. The past couple of years we have not had to delay running payroll or juggle bill payments. When I've been away for business or pleasure I haven't had to worry about making sure I stay continually apprised of the funds in our bank account. That pleasure was a long time coming. Thank you for the confidence you demonstrate for our ministry by your generous support.

You have helped us to resolve some obvious needs with which we struggled many years. **But**---and you knew there was going to be a “but,” didn’t you? As is always the case, the more we grow the bigger the need and the more there is to do. We’ve had a few critical volunteer needs for some time. If I continue to try to do it all, my doctor is going to have to devote her medical practice to my care. I’d prefer to schedule some free time doing some fun stuff. Can you relate? Not included in the opening quotes is Solomon’s take on service: **Ecclesiastes 9:10:** *“Whatever you are capable of doing, do with all your might because there’s no work, thought, knowledge, or wisdom in the grave, which is where you are headed.”* Loosely paraphrased; *“There are no hearses with tool boxes.”*

The question is this: What are you capable of doing when you consider your interest and available time. What will you do to improve the world? Notice I didn’t say “can?” It’s a choice. Nothing big required---just whatever God puts in front of you as you respond in love.

The beauty of this ministry is God gives us the opportunity to demonstrate who Jesus is as we serve those who may have been convinced He is harsh, judgmental and dictatorial and doesn’t cut anyone any slack. As Jesus said when he read Isaiah 61 in the synagogue, “Today you have seen this fulfilled.” I’m not saying we ARE Jesus, but if we are allowing Jesus to live His life out through us (Which is scriptural.) then we can say this statement is true for us too. That’s the gift to us; the blessing. He serves through us and we get to see people’s faces light up and shoulders straightened as a weight of need (many) is lifted. Come on...don’t you want to experience something totally radical? I guarantee you what’s going on at Pregnancy & Family Resource Center on a daily basis is not your ordinary ministry. We’re fully hands on, with the clients and with one another. Love abounds down here in many forms.

Now for the finale’. **NEEDS:** Women AND men willing to invest the time to serve our clients directly by being a advocate. Twelve weeks of thorough training provided. You will be fully prepared and encouraged in a way that will spur you in on your personal walk with Jesus. We need people, also men and women to volunteer to help with special projects around the center. When one church gathers enough donations to fill our warehouse, we need people to come in and sort and organize. There is always a special project waiting for someone to pick it up and do it. Always cleaning---with over 400 people a month in and out, you can imagine. A special niche I would like to fill is to have a couple of people thoroughly trained by Barbara (Our office manager) to work the front desk when she is out of the office. It takes a special kind of person to greet and answer the phone in a warm, friendly, not off-putting manner, and able to engage the caller in a conversation that may save a life. It’s sometimes gets crazy busy, so we need reliable, people-people who won’t go screaming through the street when things wind up.

In addition, we are seeking another person or two to round out our board of directors. As of now we have four. The goal is five to seven diverse people to supply the ministry with wisdom, wealth and work. I’m not going to tell you, “All you have to do is attend a few meetings here and there.” But, serving is NOT labor intensive and really, we are allowed to have fun. Remember, “Many hands make light work.” (It’s NOT in the Bible---although the principle is certainly biblical.)

So...the first step you can take in the next moment is to call me...at a reasonable hour, and let’s talk. Come down for a visit. See what we do. At least find out where your money is going. I guarantee your short visit will begin to feel like a place where you belong. There is a place for YOU. We’ve been waiting.

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken
Executive Director