

July 2017

Dear Sustaining Partner,

**“Summertime...and the living is easy...”**

“Summertime” a great song---one of my favorites because it reminds me of the warm, humid days of my childhood on the farm when life was slow. To tell the truth it was too hot to move fast. Easy? No way! I personally have come to the conclusion life is seldom a cake walk. My childhood summer days pulling weeds in the garden, feeding the livestock and cooking with no cooling at all was not easy. However, looking back I realize how uncomplicated my life was compared to the women and families I observe when they come to us in desperate need of FREE services. My life was predictable, straightforward and safe. Our clients’ lives are anything but...

Imagine taking three buses to get to our facility---that’s average for those who use public transportation. Add at least one cranky child who cannot take a nap, doesn’t want to walk or sit still and a large bag full of snacks and water. If that’s not enough stress, throw in an unplanned pregnancy and shifting temporary housing with no personal space. Include hopelessness, depression and anxiety... because it’s pretty clear life is going to continue to be tediously repetitive and tough. Summer is anything but easy because with all the above, the heat is merciless and exhausting especially if you’re already struggling just to get through one day at a time. There is nothing to look forward to on the horizon although I am certain many pray, “Please God help me” throughout each day.

We see the truth of Proverbs 13: 12 on faces every day: “Unrelenting disappointment leaves the heart sick, but a sudden good break can turn life around.” What we desire to do is turn it around for our clients...not just abortion-intended clients changing their minds against abortion, but doing all we can to ease the load and be a delivery system for answers to whispered desperate prayers. It’s good we are here to serve as we offer hope, information, resources, FREE services, a little respite in the middle of a bone weary day and yes, a literal bottle of cold water in Jesus’ name.

Summer is not generally easy for ministries such as ours. Privately-funded, faith-based non-profits take a huge hit in the summer because people use discretionary income for recreation and/or get busy or travel and forget we are open all year round. And not only open---our expenses increase as funding tapers off while client visits continue to increase. Not just because we offer free services; Kathleen, the newest member of our team relates she has been surprised at the numbers of people who come in saying, “I’m having a very hard time right now, and I just need to talk and pray with someone.” We often have longer days to insure, as much as is possible, to see everyone who keeps an appointment or walks in knowing there will be a significant wait. More clients lead to longer days which translate into increased expenses.

You can help make our summer a bit easier in a number of ways. You can opt to spend some time in your week with us to complete projects or clean to keep our hours more regular since we stay late to clean if needed. Obvious of course is our need to increase funding at a time when fewer people give. Could you increase the amount you send monthly by just \$10.00, or if you don't contribute now on a monthly basis would you begin now with just a small donation each month? It's those regular gifts of any size we know we can count on to make the difference. Perhaps you don't want to bother with a monthly gift. If so, Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is available...set it and forget it. Finally, a larger, one-time gift of support will go a long way to stretching our budget.

Do you have another idea for partnering with us? I'd love to speak with you about needs and possibilities. Every dollar and every hour of volunteer time makes a difference for us. \$10.00 may not seem like a lot, and I suppose isolated it is not, but what if everyone who reads this letter makes a decision to increase or begin to give \$10.00? I can tell you the increase in our funding will be significant. This is what will help to make our summertime easier.

LADIES: Don't forget our annual tea, "Collateral Beauty" on Saturday, August 12 from 11 AM to 2 PM. Tickets on sale now for 16 years and older please since seating is limited at this adult function. \$25 donation guarantees you food, fun, inspiration, silent auction and a chance to win a door prize. Get your tickets today! Call our office or see [www.pregnancyfamily.org](http://www.pregnancyfamily.org) for details

Have a great Independence Day celebration and enjoy the time off from work or school or ironing. Yes, especially ironing. ☺

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken  
Executive Director