

March 2018

Dear Sustaining Partner,

March! In like a lion; Out like a lamb.

Well...we'll see how that goes because here in Southern California the weather is always a surprise. Sunny weather is not "the luck of the Irish" due to our celebration of St Patrick's Day. March is simply a series of whimsical weather patterns with which we're all acquainted.

The concept of "Luck" always eludes me. When I hear folks say, "Wow! That was lucky" I will generally explain why I don't believe in luck. I believe in God who orchestrates everything---what I view as good, bad or neutral. ***"Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge."*** (Psalm 16:1) I cannot say how I believe God keeps some people safe and others appear to have been unprotected. I only know God's has been the hand that stayed disaster in my life or others.

It wasn't until I was almost home last night I realized I'd driven from Riverside to Highland without headlights. I seldom think to check because I keep the setting on auto, but every now and then the knob gets bumped. When I realized what had happened I immediately thought of the entire drive, the crazy traffic and the threat of rain and wondered, WOW! If not for God I would have been in mortal danger. But God...My life has been a string of "But Gods." Therefor I am very clear how it is I've lived this long: By the grace of God. He has protected me when I have been unwilling or unable to take care of myself. I totally get it when I hear a client's bizarre story. Others may think, "What could she/he have been thinking?" I've been "there," so I know there is often no rational thinking in the mix. Thank God who doesn't leave us to rely on luck or even blind faith. He is quick to tell us over and over and then remind us He is good whether we deserve any blessing or not.

That's one HUGE reason I see this ministry as critical for the lives of people in our community who live on the edge. Many of the men and women who come to us have never lived in a safe place and most of those have had parents who were not capable of providing protection.

It would be normal and natural for anyone to feel uneasy at a first visit, yet it's gratifying to see a client relax and laugh by the end of that first encounter. We have gone to extremes to ensure our center not only feels safe---it is safe and safe people are here to help. Safety, security, friendly faces, laughter, material goods and a reminder of the truth---God is behind it all. He has situated us here in the community as a protector of the unborn, their parents and families. If the unborn doesn't live through a "surprise visit," chances are the rest of the family will not fare well.

We often say, “We’re saving families one child at a time.” It’s true, and I know you know the handful of us here cannot provide enough of anything on our own. Together we can provide more than enough to a client to make a difference in the way she lives and views the world. Hope does NOT disappoint. Ever! So, we encourage our clients to hope in Him.

Each time I reach out to the community I hope (and pray) people like you will respond and step up to partner with us. There are many, many ways to do so which will prove to be personally meaningful, fun and most of all capable of saving and changing lives.

Coming up are many opportunities for folks in our community to get involved through events like the annual spring Walk for Life on Saturday April 21 beginning at 10 AM and ending at Noon—please let us serve you lunch before you head out for the rest of your day. Sponsor sheets available through the office or download through our website: www.pregnancyfamily.org. Call our office if you have questions or need more information. 909-382-4550. Be a Superhero and Walk for Life! Everyone who comes in superhero costume gets a superhero coloring book. While you’re at it look at our newly secured and remodeled facility.

I’ll remind you again we are always desperate for volunteers. Especially needed are men with time and the willingness to help lift, carry and complete maintenance as needed and small repair projects. The trim (doors, base board, etc) in our office needs painting. This is an ideal project for a group of adults or mature, responsible teens (with supervision). This is the final task to complete the last year and a half remodel as we’ve increased use of space and security. We want and need for our clients not just to feel safe. We want them to be safe.

It’s also time for a thorough cleaning and organization of the warehouse. Men especially needed to help with heavy lifting.

I’m on the lookout for creative and/or willing people to serve on our event committee. These occasions are important because it’s how we increase awareness and funds. We appreciate the input of those creative people who ask, “What if?” as well as those who cook, bake, help with set up, organizing the silent auction and much, much more. The more the merrier. Call me today at 909-382-4550 for information.

Our annual ladies’ tea is Saturday, August 18, 2018. Plan now to invite ladies 16 and older to come with you. Better yet, serve on the committee. It’s lots of work and fun too. I hope to welcome even more women this year. It’s bound to be a fun, feminine friends’ day for a GREAT cause, and we’ll stay cool from the August heat in an air-conditioned venue.

Don’t miss the Annual Fall Gala, “It’s Child’s Play” featuring Nazareth on Friday, October 19, 2018

I hope at least one of these events will give us the opportunity to spend some face time, so I can thank you in person for your partnership.

I’ve got some fun stuff planned this spring in addition to the Annual Heartbeat International conference in Anaheim this year. I’m looking forward to connecting with friends and learning even more ways to imprint our community with a culture of life.

Happy Spring! Stop and smell the roses.

Yours For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken

Executive Director