



LIFE LETTER

Summer 2023 TLC Pregnancy Services • 825 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 • 847-622-1235 • www.tlcpregnancyservices.com

2023 GALA RECAP

by Millie & Mary

Our 2023 Gala was a wonderful event held last April at the Stonegate Banquet and Conference Centre in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. **We welcomed David Bereit as Emcee and we were able to enjoy his energy up close and in-person!** So many guests spoke with David before and after the event to inquire about the work he does as an ambassador for the pro-life movement. **David interviewed our guest speaker, “Pro-Life Spiderman,” Maison Des Champs.**

Maison opened his presentation with a video of his recent climbing adventure so that Gala attendees could gain a better understanding of how climbing skyscrapers helps bring awareness to the pro-life movement. The video displayed the risks he takes in his climbing and the subsequent question from local and national news organizations who are compelled to ask the question “Why?” He uses this question as his lead-in to speak about the thousands of babies whose lives are at risk every day from the threat of abortion! **For a young man, his passion and commitment to the cause are both inspiring and refreshing.** His love for the Lord is evident in his mission.

In addition, those who attended heard testimonies first-hand from two mothers who came to our Life Choices Medical Clinics. One of them had actually been **a former abortion clinic employee.** This brave woman **spoke of the shocking realities of the industry as well as the abuse she witnessed!**

We closed the evening in a prayer of thanksgiving for the generous outpouring of donations received that enable TLC to continue the work of sharing the good news of precious life and the Gospel.



A great turnout for the Spring Gala.



Emcee David Bereit interviewing Speaker Maison Des Champs

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Surrendering The Secret **Class – Abortion Recovery**

Coming this Fall!

Call Vivian for details.

630-715-5875

Baby Bottle Campaign

For your church or organization

For more information or to

schedule a date, call Julie

at (847) 622-1235.

Shiphrah Prenatal Clinic **Open House and Blessing**

Date: Sunday, October 15, 2023

Location: 825 Dundee Ave.

Elgin, IL 60120

Calling all Marksmen:

TLC's 1st Clay Shooting
Fundraiser

Date: TBA

(Check our website or call our
office for information.)



Thoughts from the Director

by Vivian Maly, Executive Director

I receive so much pro-life news each day that it can be overwhelming. Sometimes, though, certain things catch my eye. Today, I read in a reliable pro-life source* that **our governor announced that Illinois would no longer provide crucial abortion-related data to the public.**

The article reported that Illinois will no longer specify which states women travel from to receive abortions in Illinois, nor will the state release the number of abortions occurring in each Illinois county. **Why are these numbers being shielded from the public?** It's been said the lucrative abortion industry is the least regulated in the country. Abortion providers are protected at the expense of women's safety and health. Ironically, **this article also stated that a new study found that women who choose to keep their children have better mental health outcomes than those who choose to abort.**

We have just begun another *Surrendering the Secret* program at TLC in Elgin. The program begins the first of eight sessions with the women privately sharing the hurt and pain they experienced because of their abortion. **I've listened to these gut-wrenching stories from women devastated by their abortion experience for years.** And they are never easy to listen to. At our last Gala, a client who worked in the abortion industry shared her testimony. We couldn't fit her whole story into our program, but in her testimony, she shared about screams she heard and, in one case, a woman falling off the exam table, only to be rushed out of the room before the next woman was ushered in!

I've seen photos of women on stretchers leaving the Crossroads Clinic, which was once (1995) located next door to our Elgin location. A laundry list of health violations at the Northern Illinois Women's Center in Rockford forced them to close in January 2012. (You may remember that we used to park across from the Rockford abortion facility with our mobile unit back in 2011.)

These are just a few examples of the undeniable pain and suffering caused by abortion in Illinois and the industry's disinterest in what's physically, emotionally, and spiritually best for women and their babies. Our public officials should promote the best health programs and practices for the women in Illinois rather than conceal records and information from the public about the operations of the abortion industry in Illinois. **Thank God He has made us available to treat each woman who comes for pregnancy support with TLC (Tender, Loving, Care).** Our pregnancy services are under such scrutiny by the state of Illinois regarding our advertising and the medical services we provide. It's sad that the abortion clinics are not held accountable by the "powers that be" in the same way!

*Illinois Right to Life, July 13, 2023

Medical Corner

SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE *by Ruth F., R.D.M.S.*



A high percentage of our clients that consider abortion cite a lack of emotional support or finances as their reason. This was recently reinforced when a client told me she left her home halfway around the world to come to Illinois to be with her brother, who was her only support. Back home, her family was not supportive of her marriage or pregnancy, so she traveled across the globe to be close to her brother.

This woman went to extreme lengths to find support. **Part of our ministry is to help clients like her find the emotional and physical support system they need. We can't solve all their problems, but we can introduce them to our great God, who can!**

THE GOD WHO SEES *by Kelly, R.N.*

I was recently reminded through Hagar's story in Genesis 21 that we serve the God who sees. God was near to Hagar—a single mother who was completely alone in the desert with her small son, abandoned by the family she belonged to. **While despairing in the midst of her greatest pain, God told Hagar, "I Am the God who sees," and He lifted her up again.**

Every day as clients come through our doors, we see women who come to us from all different walks of life. Many come sharing stories of brokenness, depression, confusion, and desperation. **Some are feeling alone, fearful, and abandoned.** The mere thought of being pregnant quickly becomes a burden so enormous they can sometimes feel like they are drowning. Others may be excited about their pregnancy and are overjoyed because they have longed for that moment to conceive and see their baby on an ultrasound. Whatever the story, one thing remains the same—**our God is the God who sees them, the God who loves them, and the God that wants to walk alongside them.**

As staff, we are thankful for all your support and faithful prayers. We have the amazing privilege of serving every woman with gentleness and loving kindness through His Holy Spirit. We help to let them know that **Jesus is the one who sees them, who can meet them amid their deepest heartache, suffering, and joy, and provide for their every need.** He is the lifter of their heads. What a blessing it is to share the love of Jesus and the Gospel's transforming power with them!

A GREAT QUESTION *by Jan, R.D.M.S.*

A couple came to our Schaumburg Clinic wanting a pregnancy test and an ultrasound. They came here recently from Mexico. I gave her a pregnancy test and the positive result was explained to her. She was abortion minded and was referred here by a medical clinic. We went over her options and discussed the risks and consequences of abortion. We also informed her of the many services that are available to her to aid in parenting her child or considering adoption. We told her there is WIC, the medical card and our Hope Services for baby supplies.

When we performed the ultrasound, we saw an 8 week old baby with a strong heartbeat. **The father of the baby told us he wanted her to keep the baby; however, she was leaning toward terminating the pregnancy.** After the ultrasound, we talked about what was keeping her from carrying and parenting this child. She stated that she was afraid. She had never been pregnant and she wouldn't be able to work. We offered her encouragement and reminded her of the resources we'd mentioned.

Then the father of the baby asked a great question. He asked our client, **"If you saw a baby trying to cross a busy street, what would you do?"** Our client answered, **"Well I would pick the baby up and save it from harm."** He then said, **"Why wouldn't you do the same for our baby and give our child a chance to live!"**

In a follow up call, the client said they are planning on keeping the baby!

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Latoya, our Licensed Social Worker, was present at a baby event at Gail Borden Library representing TLC.



Thanks to the Knights of Columbus at Holy Family Council, Libertyville Council, and the National Knights of Columbus Organization, who raised funds for a new ultrasound machine for our mobile unit. The Bishop of the Rockford Diocese was at a recent blessing of the machine.

Photo by: Dan Szpekowski



Volunteers enjoy a TLC "thank you" lunch together at Rosie O'Hare's.



Jim Robinson receives an award for leading the Shiprah renovation.

Awards presented at Spring Gala



Kim Lee receives an award for her faithful service as a Life Choices volunteer.



Pursuing Faith

by Jennifer, Client Advocate

When I sense there's a potential for discipleship with a client after she's had her baby, I invite them to return and talk further about faith. But that offer has never been accepted until recently. This particular client who accepted my invitation was previously abortion-minded, but praise God, she gave birth and is happy that she chose life!

About two months after giving birth, **she asked if she could come in and talk to me. She was having serious relationship trouble with her husband.** This client is an atheist, but she is open to spiritual conversations and allows me to pray for her. I told her I knew she didn't believe, but I wanted to share what the Bible says about relational trouble. **I talked with her about sin and how things go awry when God is not the center of our life.** She told me I had a lot of wisdom, which was amazing since my wisdom comes from the Bible!

She returned two weeks later and asked me how I could know that God is real. I told her that Jesus is a historical figure and that there's evidence outside the Bible that he did miracles. I also explained to her that the disciples spent the rest of their lives proclaiming the message that Jesus rose from the dead. Many of the disciples were homeless, poor, and even died as martyrs because they shared this message. Why would they die for a lie? I also encouraged her to watch the movie, "The Case for Christ."

As I continue to follow up with her, **please pray that this young woman will place her faith in Jesus.**

"I'm Still Here!"

by Liz, R.N.

Quite often, we feel we are in the driver's seat of our lives; however, in reality, we are not in control but are merely sitting on the lap of our heavenly Father as He navigates our path.

A client came in for her initial ultrasound, uncertain of her plans for her pregnancy. Even after seeing her 8-week-old live child on the ultrasound screen, she was still unsure of what choice to make. She reached out to Life Choices a month later requesting another ultrasound because she was concerned the abortion pills she'd taken after her first visit did not work, and she still felt pregnant. **The anticipation of what we would see on the ultrasound was immense!**

The ultrasound screen revealed a very active 13-week-old baby. Both of us were shocked, frozen, staring at this jumping baby as if they were showing off, saying, "I'm still here!"

She was still pregnant. The pills had not worked.

I won't forget the discussion that came afterward. When asked, "Well, now what?" **the client said, "Well, I guess I'm meant to be pregnant."** We talked about God and how His perfect plan trumps our plans, and Isaiah 55:8-9: *My plans aren't your plans, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans.*

Please pray for this woman as she proceeds with her pregnancy.

HERE FOR THE BELIEVER, TOO

by Angela, R.N.

Our intake form includes a question about faith that commonly goes unanswered. There are many reasons why a client may choose to leave this out. It could be they have no faith, or they don't see it as important regarding pregnancy. Others may have been wounded by the hypocrisy of other believers. But I'd never considered one particular reason before it occurred last month when two separate clients on the same day left the faith question blank for exactly the same reason. Both women told me they were Christians but feared we would judge them. This struck me. It pierced my soul.

These women were afraid to tell me about their faith because they had been persecuted by other Christians at some point. They also stated being cautious given the political climate here. **When both women learned we are a Christian organization and that we are "family in Christ," they shed tears of joy and relief.**

This story is powerful. How many of us hide from our true identity in Christ? How many of us are not showing fruit in our works? I was extremely convicted that day to be bold in my faith and identity and that Life Choices can do more than spread the Gospel. **We can welcome our sisters in Christ into a safe place for medical and spiritual care.** What a gift!

SURRENDERING THE SECRET ABORTION RECOVERY PROGRAM

We are currently almost halfway through the summer *Surrendering the Secret* Program. We have a sweet group of ladies who support each other and contribute so much to encourage healing. The other day a lady asked one of our staff about the *Surrendering* program. Even though it is too late for her to join this session, I suggested she join us for the fall program.



Many women who have experienced abortion hide the secret deep in their hearts and suffer in silence, in many cases for years. This 8 week Bible study enables women to release this burden and find freedom through the honest, interactive study of God's word regarding forgiveness, healing and restoration through Jesus Christ. This program also includes compassionate group support and unique journaling exercises. **This redemptive program helps each hurting woman find her personal path to healing.**

Sessions are safely held at 825 Dundee Ave. in a quiet and private area. For more information about the fall *Surrendering the Secret* Program program, please call Vivian at 630-715-5875.

Client Testimonies

When I found out I was 8 weeks pregnant, my life turned upside down. I had no one to turn to for help. Then I found TLC Pregnancy Services. They helped during my entire pregnancy with maternity clothes, breastfeeding supplies, and informational parenting classes that were wonderful!

They have helped with many baby items I needed but couldn't afford. Since my daughter's birth, they have helped me every month with diapers, wipes, and clothes as well. I can say that with the help of TLC, my daughter has everything she needs to be a very happy, well-taken-care-of baby.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank everyone behind the scenes at TLC Pregnancy Services. You help so many moms and babies be the best they can be with everything you do.

K.S.

"I had great service at Life Choices. They made me feel safe and sure that I wasn't alone in this. I'm glad my high school referred me to Life Choices, so I could come back for their support."

"Thank you! I am so glad I have my baby! I wasn't sure at first, but you guys helped me through the way."

C.V.

SHOWING THE LOVE OF GOD

by Jan, R.D.M.S.

Not too long ago, when our mobile unit was parked in Carpentersville, two young girls came for a pregnancy test and an ultrasound. The client has only been in the U.S. for a short time and lives with her two brothers. The young woman only spoke Spanish, so Carmen, TLC's client advocate and translator, came to assist. **The client shared that she was no longer with her boyfriend and wanted an abortion.** She was too early in her pregnancy for an ultrasound, so we scheduled her to come back in two weeks.

In the meantime, Carmen stayed in touch with her, and she returned for her next appointment with two friends. We did the ultrasound and found a small baby about six weeks along. Since it was early in her pregnancy, we could see the baby's heartbeat but couldn't record it. We made an appointment for her to return for another ultrasound. But even with the reminder, **she didn't show up for her repeat ultrasound appointment.**

Carmen attempted to stay in contact with her, but the young woman didn't take any of the calls. Several attempts were made without any response, and we were concerned that she may have gone through with the abortion. We decided to try again, and this time she answered and told us that she had moved and had been busy. **Thankfully, she is still pregnant and plans to continue her pregnancy. In addition, her boyfriend and his mom are both in support of her now, and she is very excited about her little one!** We will continue to keep in touch and show her the love of God in action.

*"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7*

Memorials

A gift has been given to TLC Pregnancy Services in honor of the following individuals:

In Memory of Doris Brown

Given by:
Philip and Marsha Gruenbaum

In Memory of Scharlet Belokon

Given by:
Larry Belokon

In Memory of Judy Frigolett

Given by:
Donald Frigolett

In Memory of Nancy Wuilleumier

Given by:
Janice Withey

In Memory of Ginny Mae Kintz

Given by:
Ralph and Donna Andrini
Barrington Transportation
Company
Keith and Jean Eakins
Margaret and Bernard Foster
James Kintz
Marcia Konen
Edward and Joan Kramer
Penny and Gary Mallo

Dennis and Sally Murphy
Larry and Nancy Norgaard
Michael and Elizabeth Penny
Deborah Stob
Charles and Kathryn Strack
Marylee Sun
Eleanor Teresinski
Norman and Shirley Turner





Volunteer Corner

TLC HAS A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN OFFERING THEIR TIME & TALENTS TO HELP OUR MINISTRY:

- * **BACKUP DRIVERS** for our mobile unit (*no special license required; just a good driving record*).
- * **VOLUNTEERS** to assist our medical and office staff in all locations.
- * **EXPERIENCED FEMALE PART-TIME DRIVER** who could also stay on board the mobile unit to assist the medical person. **(Paid position)**
- * **VOLUNTEERS** are always needed to help with mailings and special events.

HERE ARE SOME OPTIONS FOR GIVING AND SERVING AT OUR ELGIN FACILITY:

- * Help **renovate the kitchen**. Half the counters are leftovers from the old pharmacy that occupied that part of the building and are extremely dated (*circa 1950*). People are needed to remove the old cabinets and install new ones.
- * **Shelving** needs to be installed in our Hope Services area.
- * **Experienced roofer**
- * **Outdoor faucets need repair**



TLC PREGNANCY SERVICES GIFTS FOR GREATEST IMPACT:

- Gift cards for gas for the mobile ultrasound unit
- Meijer, Sam's, Walmart and Jewel gift cards for supplies for the center and for needy moms.
- Large packages of paper towels, bath tissue, and Kleenex
- New metal shelving to hold clothing bins
- Diapers – sizes 4, 5 and 6
- Baby wash, shampoo and baby wipes
- New Baby clothes - sizes 0-3 months, 3-6 months, 12-24 months, 3T, and 4T (boys & girls)
- NEUTRAL colored baby blankets (yellow, green, etc.)

We are grateful for your material support over the years.

WISH LIST

