



LIFE LETTER

Summer 2017 TLC Pregnancy Services • 825 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 • 847-622-1235 • www.tlcpregnancyservices.com

WALK FOR MOMS & BABIES

Go the extra mile for Moms & Babies! TLC Pregnancy Services will be holding our **14th annual "Walk for Moms & Babies" fundraiser from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 23rd at Lords Park Pavilion, with check-in at 8:30 am.** Join us for the fun which will include food, music from K-LOVE Radio Station, silent auction, raffle prizes and games for kids! Individuals who raise \$50 will get a raffle ticket for a special prize and those who raise \$200 will get a raffle ticket and t-shirt. **There will also be prizes for top individual pledge collectors.** New this year, for those who want to participate, will be **"Road Runner Awards"** for those with the fastest times, and **a Baby Crawl** (12 months or under) and **Toddler Waddle** (1 year old – 3 year old).

Why not get a team together? Give yourselves a team name and have your members start collecting pledges. Teams will be recognized in the following categories: **Newbie Award** - (Team with the Most New Pledge Collectors who have never walked before), **Best Team Spirit Award** - (i.e. Create team t-shirts/or wear matching colors, make team signs/banners, and create a cheer to rally your team.) **Youth Lifesavers Award** - (Team with the Most Youth Pledge Collectors). **Registration is required.** Interested participants should register online at www.tlcpregnancyservices.com/events or call 847-622-1235 to register and get a pledge sheet. *Those unable to walk on the 23rd can still participate and raise funds! Choose another date/location and do your own personal "Walk of Faith" to benefit TLC.*

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

for silent auction in the pavilion at the walk

Do you have any new or unused:

- Fine Art
- Decor Items
- Jewelry
- Other Gift Items



**to donate for our silent auction at the Walk?
If so, please call us! 847-622-1235**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Walk for Moms and Babies & Silent Auction

Saturday, September 23
9:00 am to Noon

Location:

Lord's Park Pavilion
in Elgin, IL
(See article for more details)

Surrendering The Secret Class – Abortion Recovery

Coming this Fall!
Call Vivian for details.
630-715-5875

Northern Kane County Life Chain

Sunday, October 1
1 pm – 2 pm
If you are interested in
joining the Life Chain call
847-426-9011

Spring Fundraising Banquet

Thursday, April 26
(New Location):
The Stonegate Conference
and Banquet Centre
2401 West Higgins Road
Hoffman Estates, Illinois
60169
Seating 6:30 pm, Banquet
7:00



Thoughts from the Director

by Vivian Maly, Executive Director

In a world where power and notoriety is revered and respected and where celebrities, political and business leaders make the daily headlines, **the stories involving the smallest and least important human beings can be forgotten about and lost.** However, two little people were recently recognized and remembered, 11-month old Charlie Gard and newborn Baby Chloe.

In case you haven't heard either of their stories, Charlie was a beautiful, strong willed, tiny warrior who hung on to life and was loved by his parents and obviously by folks all over the world. Nevertheless, **the medical authorities of the Great Osmond Street Hospital in England and the courts in that country had decided that this baby had "no quality of life and no prospect of quality of life" and so his life was allowed to be ended.** Charlie had a severe life-threatening medical condition. **Rallying to his support was the international community including Pope Francis and President Donald Trump.** In addition, the Columbia University Medical Center was convinced to admit Charlie and the U.S. Congress offered his parents permanent resident status so that they could bring him here for treatment. **His story tugged on the heartstrings of millions around the world who contributed more than two million dollars for his care.** Regardless of all of this, Charlie died and was mourned for by not only his parents, but also by people all over the globe.

Then, there was Baby Chloe who was found abandoned and left in a dumpster in an apartment complex outside of Houston. After she was discovered, Chloe was taken to the Texas Children's Hospital, where doctors concluded that she was just a few days old. Her beautiful face was shown on the television screen where she melted the hearts of the people of Texas. Groups of strangers began emailing and calling to find out more about the process of adopting her. MyFoxHouston wrote, "Individuals interested in adopting her should 'get in line.'" Chloe's story is said to be a baby "who went from a dumpster to being the most sought-after girl in Texas." **Doesn't this story shatter the myth that abortion is the best choice for a so-called "unwanted child?"**

The point of these stories is that there are still many of us who follow Jesus' teaching on "Whatever you've done for the least of these...you've done it for Me." And according to these stories, there are not just a few of these followers who believe this, but millions who love life and respect the lives of these tiny, so called forgotten ones. **The interest and overwhelming support for these two babies (one sickly and the other discarded) gives me hope for our society and could mean a turnaround for this supposed "culture of death."** These stories encourage me to keep doing what I'm doing and remind me that this is why, "we do what we do!"



Medical Corner

The Rest of the Story

by Ruth Feldmann, R.D.M.S.

As I write, I think of two women who came recently, but on separate days, to our Mobile Unit for pregnancy tests and ultrasounds. Both were beautiful women in their late 30's, both had done home pregnancy tests which were positive and both were contemplating abortion.



In our client sessions we hear many reasons to justify an abortion. "It's not the right time." "I want to be married before I have kids." "I have too many kids already!" "I'm not financially ready for a child." "I'm too young." "I'm not sure who the father is." "I don't want another girl (or boy). I'll get an abortion if the gender is 'wrong'." "My parents are very religious. They will kick me out if I'm pregnant!"

Often the reasons for abortion revolve around the need for emotional support or financial resources. As we gather information about community resources, we are gathering support for our clients. Every time we can tell a woman about a food pantry or free service for new moms, we are providing support and helping her see that she can keep this baby. Our church and volunteer community help us in amazing ways to support our clients. Many bring gently used baby items. Some bring food pantry donations. Others bring handmade baby quilts and afghans. A gift card, baby blanket, or hug express love and support to a woman or young girl who may be very scared, and who may need this token to move her to accept life for her baby. **Our actions say, "You CAN parent and we will help!"** Every time we introduce our client to Jesus, give her a Bible, and share the plan of salvation, we encourage her to consider and embrace eternal life.

Now back to my two clients considering abortion. When it came time to make a decision, one chose life for her baby, and the other chose abortion. Both heard the same message. Both received our free services, information, and care. Both made decisions that will have a life-long impact.

Even when circumstances look similar, there are no guarantees that outside influences might be sending a louder message than the one we promote for life. Please keep praying for our work and for the women who come to us believing the lie that abortion is their "only" option.



A Total Change of Heart and Lifestyle

by Lilli Cozzi

A 20-year old female client came to our Life Choices clinic for STI testing. She was experiencing a difficult relationship. I spoke to the client about God's plan for marriage and sex. Nevertheless, she would not commit to abstinence with this relationship. **As we discussed her spiritual journey she admitted that she was uncertain of where she would go if she were to die that day.** With her permission, the Gospel was shared and she accepted Christ that very day!

Upon returning to the clinic for her test results, she said that she thought about the conversation we had during the last visit about abstinence. She even discussed it with her mother, who agreed that her daughter should wait until marriage to have sex. So, thank God, **this client not only made the decision to commit her life to Christ but also committed to the abstinence lifestyle!**

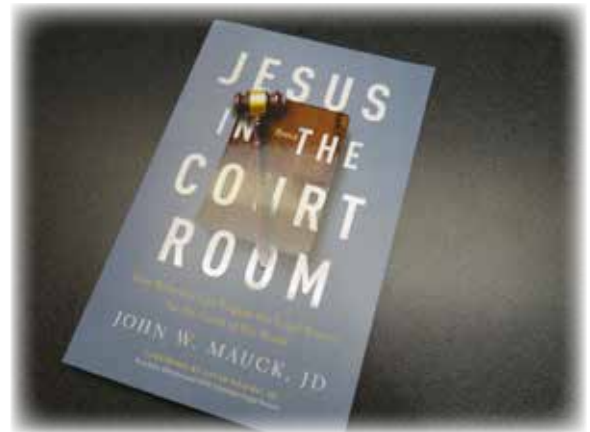
Sponsor-a-Sign! During our annual “Walk for Moms and Babies!”
Nine yard signs will be displayed along the walk path. The signs “Watch me grow!” feature the baby’s growth and development in all nine months and are available for sponsorship at a cost of \$250.00 each. Call TLC at 847-622-1235 to advertise and promote your business while helping us cover event costs.

A Pro-Life “Must Read”

As an advocate for life, you’ll want to put the book, *“Jesus in the Court Room”* on the top of your “must read” list. This book was written by John Mauck of the Chicago law firm of Mauck & Baker. John is an *Allied Attorney* with the Alliance Defending Freedom, a national Christian legal organization. Besides being a brilliant attorney, Mr. Mauck is also a Bible Scholar.

You may remember the name of the law firm, as they defended TLC Pregnancy Services in 2013 from an unjust Elgin City Ordinance which would have severely restricted our mobile unit services. John Mauck & Noel Sterett came to our rescue and filed a federal lawsuit. God brought the victory! This true story and other inspiring stories are told in this book written by John, which gives hope to Christians who feel legally oppressed and gives glory to God!

The book is published by Moody Press and is available at MoodyPublishers.com, Christianbook.com, through Amazon.com, or your favorite book store. Retail price is \$13.99.



MEN’S MENTORING UPDATE *by Dan Reed*

A group of seven men continue to meet monthly in order develop and strengthen an outreach to the clients’ spouses and boyfriends who come in to the center. We have been seeking ways that we can make contact with them, find out their needs and how we can best help them. Materials have been ordered that we will be able to hand out to the men. Our desire is that the men learn how to become good dads and be able to strengthen their families.

In order to help us reach the men more consistently, we have purchased an app to a software program that will help us text them and keep in contact with them on a regular basis. We appreciate your prayers as we continue to seek God’s direction in the coming months.

Surrendering the Secret, You Are Not Alone



If you have had an abortion, you are not alone. Statistics reveal that as many as **1 out of 3 women in our church families are hiding the pain of a past abortion**. Some women feel the pain of their choice for abortion every day. Others have completely disconnected from it. If you or someone you know has endured the shame and heartbreak of a past abortion, we are here to tell you, there is hope and healing to be found!

Surrendering the Secret is an 8 week abortion recovery Bible Study which has been used nationwide to bring restoration and healing to those experiencing the heartbreak of an abortion. **Women who join the class, find a safe place to share their experience with other women who care and understand. God has done amazing things in the lives of those who have completed the class.** If you would like information about the fall Surrendering class, please call Vivian at 630-715-5875. Suggested donation for the program is \$10.00 to cover the cost of the study guide.



Kudos to Vivian *by Mary Viz*

If you see our TLC Director, Vivian Maly, or happen to talk to her, be sure to congratulate her. Every year the YWCA hosts a Leadership Luncheon where selected women are recognized for the accomplishments, achievements, and /or contributions they have made to the community. Nominations are submitted in 8 different categories with one winner in each area chosen by an independent panel of judges. **We were so thrilled this past spring, when Vivian was the recipient (out of 5 nominees) for the Marie Grolich Award for Social Service.**

It is wonderful just to be nominated but truly an honor to join the ranks of past recipients in being recognized and appreciated for going above and beyond in making significant contributions to the community. Anyone who has met Vivian immediately sees her heart for women, babies, and their families. As most of you probably know, she first opened TLC Pregnancy Services 21 years ago offering pregnancy tests, material items, and spiritual resources. **Through her perseverance and vision she has managed to grow the ministry to include a medical clinic, a satellite office in Schaumburg, and a mobile unit all offering ultrasound among other services and programs.** Thousands of women have been helped and encouraged and babies saved over the years. **Her dedication and continual efforts have touched countless lives and inspired many others.** Vivian's caring, passion for outreach, and trust in the Lord keep her always looking ahead at what TLC can do next. (As you will see in this newsletter, TLC's assistance has recently even extended to helping a pregnancy center in Haiti!)

It was a privilege to be at the Leadership Luncheon and see Vivian called up to receive the Award for Social Service. On behalf of all the TLC staff, volunteers, and clients, we thank Vivian for all she has done and all that she continues to do as she leads this ministry. We celebrate with her in being the 2017 recipient of this special award.



Moving On With Our Mobile Unit

By Jan DeFily, R.D.M.S.

She was a beautiful young woman who was very conflicted. Her boyfriend came with her and he was equally undecided. Her pregnancy test was positive so we performed an ultrasound. While doing the ultrasound, the young woman commented on how she could see the heart beating so clearly. Her boyfriend was equally surprised.



We discussed their options. **I told them to really think about the consequences of an abortion; that once you abort that baby you can't go back.** I gave her images and information on a healthy pregnancy along with information about the risks and complications of abortion. I contacted her a few days later and she said, "We are having a SWEET BABY!" What a joy and privilege to have such a great medical tool to show young would-be-parents the life that is growing in the womb - God's handiwork!

Dr. "G" - He Will Be Missed!

Dr. G., as we would call him, was a volunteer physician who read our ultrasound scans faithfully until his death on April 19, 2017. Dr. Harold Gianopulos was a Radiologist who retired from his position at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights (1970-2002). He was Board certified in Radiology Nuclear Medicine and Nuclear Radiology. After retiring, he generously volunteered his time at 3 not-for-profit clinics in the Chicagoland area, including TLC/Life Choices. Dr. G. also served as a Board Member for TLC Pregnancy Services.

This man of faith was always kind, gracious, a very generous supporter and was a blessing to all of us at TLC/Life Choices Medical. I remember Ruth Feldman, our R.D.M.S. and our Medical Coordinator, who had known Dr. G. as a volunteer professional long before we did, remark, "I rate Dr. G. as being a '10' on the scale of 'sweetness'!"

Yes, this special volunteer doctor is truly missed by all of us here. Let's not forget to continue in prayer for his wife Mary and for their family as they deal with their loss. I'm sure Dr. G was welcomed into heaven that April day by our Lord with a, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord." (Matthew 25:21)

Memorials

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

In memory of Frieda Afrens

Given by:
Lawrence Opie
and

by Robert & Rosalie Collins

*In memory of
Jerome Sikorski*

Given by:
Karen & Chris Bach

*In memory of
Dr. Harold Gianopulos*

Given by:
Vivian Maly

WHAT'S HAPPENING

I recently went on a mission trip to Haiti. What an experience! Life changing! While I was there I was able to do ultrasounds with an ultrasound machine that was donated by TLC. (It was outdated and we needed a more modern system.) TLC gave the machine to IFFO (International Foundation for Orphans) to send to Haiti. How excited I was when I started the machine for the first time and found it was running perfectly.

The women receiving the ultrasounds came down from the mountains. They traveled in a pickup truck in the rain for 45 minutes just to get there! They had never had an ultrasound before. This was the first time they got to see their babies. This is a little different from what we experience here in the states, where a mother may travel in the comfort of her own car, or perhaps using public transportation, to her appointment where she may have an ultrasound once, or even several times, over the course of her pregnancy. Here in this part of Haiti, this was a novelty!

I also showed Dr. Markenly how to work the ultrasound machine. He is planning on running a free clinic there in Haiti. There is very little in the way of healthcare there. I personally know a gentleman who lost his wife during childbirth. Had she had proper healthcare, she probably would still be alive. The machine not only can help pregnant women, it can also scan all other organs except for the heart. What a great tool this will be to Dr. Markenly and the people of Haiti!

Dr. Markenly has seen his first client; she was abortion minded. After she tested positive for pregnancy, he was able to show her the fetal models TLC gave him. He then explained the fetal growth and development and offered her an ultrasound. She changed her mind and is keeping the baby! Dr. Markenly was so excited! Contributing to this happy story, he even got to present the Gospel!

Jan DeFily, RDMS



Dr. Markenly visiting from Haiti volunteered at TLC's Life Choices while he was here. Shown (left) Vivian Maly, Director, (middle) Dr. Markenly, (right) Ruth Feldman, R.D.M.S.



We gave Dr. Markenly an extra set of fetal models. He saved his first baby at his new medical program in Haiti using them.



Jan, our ultrasound technician, kissing our old ultrasound machine as it safely arrived in Haiti

HANDYMAN'S SPECIAL

Do you like using your remodeling and repair skills for God's kingdom purposes?

If the answer is, "Yes," we have opportunities for you to serve at our pregnancy resource center which will brighten our services and make us smile (and others feel uplifted as well!) Below you will find a list:

- 2 new windows to replace broken windows in Life Choices
- Remodeling a storage area into a closet for our medical staff at our Elgin location
- Renovating the front portion of our mobile unit and replacing the worn flooring
- Renovating our kitchen at our Elgin location as half of the counters (circa 1950?) are leftovers from the old pharmacy that occupied that part of the building
- Repairs for the soffit on the north side of the building

Mobile unit interior is worn



Old pharmacy counters

LIFE CHOICES CLIENT ADVOCATES

(Training is available)

Mobile Unit	Thursdays	8:30am to 12:30pm
	Fridays	1:00pm to 5:00pm

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

A SUBSTITUTE FOR OUR MOBILE UNIT DRIVER.

You don't need a special license for this volunteer job; you only need to have a good driving record!

TLC PREGNANCY SERVICES WISH LIST

GIFTS FOR GREATEST IMPACT:

- Sam's gift cards for gas for the mobile ultrasound unit
- Meijer & Jewel gift cards for supplies for the center
- Large packages of paper towels or toilet paper

NEEDED:

- A new microwave for Schaumburg

OTHER NEEDED ITEMS:

- Neutral colored baby blankets – (yellow, mint green, white, etc.)
- New outfits, sleepers, or onesies, 0-3 months, boys or girls – NEUTRAL ONLY PLEASE (white, mint green, yellow)
- Diaper Bags
- Used 8 oz. Baby Bottles for our "Baby Bottle Campaign"



OPPORTUNITIES TO OFFER GIFTS & TALENTS:

- Volunteers for Mailings
- See "Handyman's Special" article