



PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER
Of Addison County

PREVENTION . INTERVENTION . RECOVERY

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joanie Praamsma



I have recently been reminded that **what others may intend for evil, God can use for good** (Genesis 50:20) and I would like to share about a recent situation here at the Pregnancy Center, where what was meant to harm us has turned into good. Back in November the Middlebury College *Campus*, a student-led magazine, came out with an article, "Pregnant in Middlebury, VT: Fake Abortion Clinics and the Right to Accurate Information." In a desire to fight for reproductive rights, the writer of this article felt the need to attack Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPC's), which they felt were places that were "inundated with false information skewed by religious biases" and "designed to dissuade women from obtaining abortions." My first reaction was of shock as I couldn't understand why they would attack what we believed was only non-judgmental and non-coercive information and support. But then I started to ask myself: Could what we offered be viewed that way, and were we misleading in any way? Did we claim to be something that we were not?

I went back to our vision, our commitment and our mission statement. We are a faith-based organization, so we do not hide the fact that we do see the image of God in every human, born and unborn. Each is to be valued, respected and supported because of that. God's design for life, family and sexuality is what we believe is best for everyone. But how do we teach that? Do we make judgements on the choices our clients make? I went back over our intake process, our options counseling and our range of classes that we offer. I was reminded that what we offer is in fact accurate information, as we use only what comes from reliable sources such as the CDC, the American Medical Association, and the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Perhaps one who is biased to believe that abortion rights need to be protected may see providing information on the potential risks of abortion as manipulative. Withholding those risks is a greater offense to someone making such a life-changing and final decision. Don't we want to respect them enough to let them decide? Our services are offered to anyone regardless of race, religion and sexual orientation. We provide only the services and information that the client would like to receive, and our goal is to provide them with the information on ALL their options so that they can make the most well-informed and well-educated decision. We love them where they are at, and respect them enough to be able take the information that we give them and make the best decision they can.

I also believe we offer so much more than that. Once we have presented the pros and cons of ALL their options, they are equipped and make their own decision. If they choose parenting, we are there to offer resources. Our resources of parenting classes, material assistance, and referrals to outside organizations for resources that we cannot provide, allows any woman or couple to feel empowered to choose an alternative to an abortion, if they desire that. If they choose adoption, we will connect them with a reputable adoption agency. If they chose to terminate their pregnancy, we direct them to a medical doctor who can provide the medical information about their option. We then let them know that we will be here if they ever want to come back and talk about their abortion. We see each client as a holistic person who has spiritual, physical and emotional needs. We offer one-on-one peer counseling and material resources that are always free of charge.

Thankfully I have been able to correspond a bit with the Middlebury College student who had sought to find fault with us. She has been open to hearing our perspective and I hope to meet with the professor who teaches the "Politics of Reproduction" class where Crisis Pregnancy Centers were introduced. I have been able to understand a bit more the concern of those who want to protect women's reproductive rights and certainly have gained insight into how we need to be vigilant that our message and services are honest, respectful and compassionate. In addition, this situation has connected us to two amazing Christian students at the college who are ready and willing to promote the services we offer!

FROM THE CLIENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

Fawnda Buttolph



"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever!" Eph. 3:20

This verse has always been a source of comfort, assurance, and praise for me, but recently God has demonstrated this scripture to me in a new and inspiring way. As you can read in Joanie's letter, the pregnancy center faced some opposition and trials right before Christmas. Knowing that there are those who disagree (some, vehemently) with our center's mission, I was not at all surprised by the attack. Immediately after processing the information we had received, we went to God in prayer. My feeling was, "We must be doing something right!" We thanked God for our ministry, and asked specifically for wisdom and encouragement. Then we got back to work.

A few days later I shared with Joanie that we were in desperate need of new clothing for our *Earn While You Learn* Program. Since our last Fill-A-Bag event I had picked up several new clients, and while I'm typically not a worrier, I was concerned that I wouldn't have the necessary items to offer my clients in the program. So again, we prayed. Later that week I saw a message on our Facebook page. It was from a woman saying she had read our story and wanted to help us in some way. (Read the article she read here: <https://pregnancyhelpnews.com/middlebury-vt/>) I responded to her message and asked her to call me at the center...then she told me she was from California! Long story short, after many messages back and forth, this wonderful woman felt led to help us by donating LOTS of new baby clothes and items to the center! She also donated a new printer/copier, and even hot chocolate pods for our Keurig! All the way from California! What an unexpected blessing and encouragement to us...just what we had asked for!

On top of that, we have had new people coming into the center to find out what we do, to support us, and to receive services. A few weeks ago a local church donated the money for us to purchase the Toddler Curriculum Pack for the EWYL program. We have been asked to provide parenting classes to some local churches. Blessings upon blessings have come to us directly following the attack on the center, and in direct answer to our prayers. God didn't waste any time showing us that He is in control, and He is pleased with our ministry. He is showing us that we don't have to worry about ANYTHING, because He will give us immeasurably more than we can ask for or imagine. TO HIM BE THE GLORY!!

So, as I sit here in my office typing this letter, I feel so thankful to be in this ministry serving such a powerful, omniscient, merciful, loving God, and ministering to whomever He leads through our door. I know I can't do it on my own power, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. And I have very clearly been assured that if we do what He calls us to do, if we love who He calls us to love, we will be taken care of and provided for. That is His promise. Amen.

Save the Dates

Ministry Orientation
at Ilsley Library
Saturday, March 3 1-4 pm
Please call to reserve your spot!

Walk for Life Fundraiser
Saturday, May 12 (rain date May 19).



OFFICE HOURS: MON 12 - 5 • TUES 11 - 3 • THUR 11 - 6

Pregnancy Resource Center offers **ABORTION AFTER-CARE** for Healing and Restoration

Every woman's situation may be different. Abortion can be a traumatic event in any woman's life because they feel pressured or trapped into an abortion decision.

ABORTION AFTER-CARE addresses: denial, guilt, anger, forgiveness of others and self, and reconciliation with God.

"Forgiven and Set Free" is a confidential 12-week Bible study led by trained lay counselors. This group meets weekly for two hours and includes homework before each group session.

One participant said:

"Although it had been over ten years since my abortion, I never had closure. I never grieved. I had chosen not to think about it and my life was so full of immediate needs that I was able to do just that. This class was amazing because Jesus is amazing. I finally grieved and found closure and was again reassured of His promises. I am forever grateful!"

One-on-One Support is also available for both women and men who are unable to attend the Bible study. One-on-One Support is scheduled on an individual basis.

Abortion Recovery & Healing for Women



The **PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER**
of Addison County

is here to reach out to women that might be hurting emotionally or spiritually due to having had an abortion.

We acknowledge that this pain may not be recognized by other family members, friends or by society.

We acknowledge that the emotions exist.

We will help you find peace for your heart, mind, soul and spirit following the loss of a pregnancy by choice.

Featured Volunteer

When you meet Maryann Tricou, you will find an amazing woman who has many gifts and talents. Our featured volunteer this quarter is a spunky, heart-felt woman who manages our clothing boutique and is here whenever we need her. Maryann lives in New Haven with her husband Harold, (another very talented person), their daughter Georgia, a Senior at Mt. Abe High School, and their son, Harry who is in 4th grade at Beeman Elementary School. Their oldest daughter Cassie is engaged to be married later this year. Maryann and her family attend the New Haven United Reformed Church where Harold is a deacon. Despite her many responsibilities, twice a week Maryann also teaches knitting to elementary children, so we know she has a LOT of patience! "I have always had a passion for the pregnancy center and love volunteering there," says Maryann. Her heart of compassion comes both from her own struggles that she has overcome and her love for Jesus who she looks to for strength. She is also a woman of prayer and is always seeking to encourage others with her words and her smile. We appreciate the organizing of the clothing boutique and center work that she does faithfully every week. The boutique looks amazing and we proudly show it off to any visitors. It is certainly getting used with new clients as well, and Maryann is always ready to put up and organize any new donations that are dropped off. Please stop by some time to see her work! Thank you, Maryann, for your servant's heart and the joy you bring to the Center!



A huge thank you to ALL our amazing volunteers!

Client Activity Stats for the Past Quarter: (Nov 2017 to Jan 2018)

8 New Clients, 9 Total Clients, 33 Total Visits

OUR VISION

A community wherein every life, born or unborn, is viewed as created in God's image and is therefore valued, respected, and supported.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Pregnancy Resource Center of Addison County is a non-profit organization that offers compassion, hope, and practical help to those struggling with pregnancy, pregnancy loss, relationship challenges and parenting concerns by providing support and services free of charge.

OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to protect the life of the unborn and to bring hope, healing, and encouragement to women and families of Addison County.

Current Board Members:

April Capparuccini, Brett Cody, Bill Kipp, Barb Kohler, Hank Nop, Ed Wheeler

*As our ministry grows,
our financial needs grow!*

Please consider:

1. Becoming a monthly supporter
2. Blessing the Center with your tax refund
3. Supporting specific projects such as building improvements and an updated furnace

If you'd like to help, please call us 388 7272 or email: joanie@addisonpregnancycenter.org

Other smaller items we wish for:

- * Diapers - sizes 4 and above
- * Baby thermometers, nail clippers, combs/brushes
- * New breast pumps
- * New infant car seats
- * Gift cards to local grocery stores, salons, service stations

