

# Our Baby Boutique Needs:

Diapers  
(larger sizes, particularly size 3)

Baby wipes.. a constant need!

Gently used winter coats  
up to size 2

Gently used winter clothing  
up to size 2

Baby shampoo and powder

Powdered formula

We appreciate everything that is donated to us. Our clients are blessed by your generosity!

## United Way Campaign

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT A UNITED WAY AGENCY, YOU CAN STILL DESIGNATE YOUR UNITED WAY PLEDGE TO US. SIMPLY FILL IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE CRISIS PREGNANCY SUPPORT CENTER AS YOUR DESIGNATED AGENCY. IN DAVIDSON COUNTY, YOU MUST ADD OUR AGENCY NUMBER, 7237.



PREGNANCY  
SUPPORT  
CENTER

745 S. CHURCH STREET, SUITE 801  
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130  
615.893.0228  
615-893.0442

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Winter 2011

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE PREGNANCY SUPPORT CENTER  
IN MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

# Life Times



## Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time in the city!



As we enter this joyful season of celebration we look back one more time with gratitude and thanksgiving to God for allowing us to serve our community for 25 years. For 25 years we have brought a message of hope, we have proclaimed the sanctity of life, and we have offered compassion and real help to thousands of women.

As we look to the future, I'm reminded of the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 3: 13-14, "Forgetting what lies behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal...." In borrowing from this great passage, I don't mean that we literally 'forget' our past. We do, however, need to be careful that we don't dwell on past accomplishments, or that we don't become complacent about the awful reality that is abortion in our nation and throw up our hands in despair. **We press on toward the goal.** Our ultimate goal as Christians is of course, the prize that Paul speaks of in the remainder of the passage, our citizenship in heaven. But we know that as God's people, we also press on toward the high calling He has placed on all of us; to make disciples of all people, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to offer a cup of water in His name. That is our goal, and we will continue to press on in the years to come.

Even as this year comes to a close, we are thinking ahead to January 22, 2012, which is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHLS). This observation was begun by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, for the purpose of recognizing the intrinsic value of human life, and the fundamental right to life as recognized by the founding fathers. Even though it has been 39 years this January 22 since this law took effect, and even though over 53 million children have been aborted, and even though somewhere around 3,500 to 4,000 children **a day** lose their lives in this country, we will strain toward what is ahead, and press on toward the goal of ending abortion in this country. We will press on toward the goal of impacting the lives of men and women through the programs here at the center. We ask you to press on with us...to involve your churches, to speak out as you have opportunities ... to support us in whatever way that you are able. We will have special SOHLS bulletin inserts available for your church, and we would love to come and make a special presentation at your church or group on January 22 or another date near that time.



Our staff wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas!  
L to R: Sally Geib, Asitia Director; Dawn Key, Office Manager; Ronda Hawkins, Asitia Administrative Assistant; Laura Brown, Client Services Director and our own little Santa, Micah Lanier Brown; Candi Harrelson, Nurse Manager; Laura Messick, Executive Director.

## choose life license plates



Please consider purchasing one of these beautiful license plates for your car. In the process, you are publicly showing your support for life, and the proceeds from the sale of these plates helps support our center!



Our goal is  
\$60,000

So far this  
year, we  
are at  
\$51,154.93

## Baby Bottle Update!

Our total for the year through November is \$51,154.93. We will continue to collect baby bottles through the month of December, so if your group or church still has bottles out, please collect those and call Dawn Key at 893-0228, ext. 16 to let her know when they will be returned.

Finally, I want to express my deep gratitude for your continued prayers and gifts to this ministry. You've blessed us and our clients, and I want you to know how very much we appreciate you, and thank God for you. I've enclosed a special envelope for you if you would like to make a year end gift to help get our budget off to a strong start in 2012.

Merry Christmas from all of us here at the Pregnancy Support Center.  
May the gift of God's grace, Jesus Christ, envelop you, fill you, and give you peace.



PREGNANCY  
SUPPORT  
CENTER

# Volunteer Spotlight



WENDI IS AN RN WHO WORKS FOR A LOCAL PHYSICIAN. SHE IS MARRIED TO ALLEN ROPER AND THEY HAVE 2 CHILDREN, A DAUGHTER AND A SON. WENDI HAS BEEN VOLUNTEERING AT THE CENTER FOR 5 YEARS.

One morning, a 35 yr. old woman named Sarah came in for a pregnancy test. She had already taken one at home. She is with the father of the baby, Marcus. They have been in a relationship for 4 years. One of the first things she tells me is that she wants to leave him because their relationship is dysfunctional and he treats her badly. She recently caught him cheating on her. She says she is planning on leaving him today. She says her friends, her 12 year old son and her mom all want her to leave him. She is very emotional, and immediately starts crying. She has indicated on her form that she will parent the baby but when I asked her she says she will probably abort; it turns out she only wrote that she would parent because Marcus was sitting next to her. We talked and I asked her what reasons she had to keep the baby and what reasons she had to abort. She says she doesn't want to be tied to Marcus in any way and implies that she does not want his baby. I gently reminded her that while he may be the father, she is the mother, it is HER baby. She also says she doesn't think it would be fair to her son to bring a baby into their lives and divide the attention he deserves. I reminded her that although she is able to focus all her attention on her son and they may have a wonderful relationship, she was also depriving him of the chance of having a brother or sister. She says she is a Christian and attends church regularly. I asked her how her belief in God and the bible reconcile with the act of having an abortion. She says she doesn't really know but she does know God will forgive her. She also said that she knew one day she would answer for the things she has done but implied that was between her and God. When asked, she told me God is helping her through this time and that He has finally given her the strength and motivation to leave Marcus, which she believes is best for her and her son. She said she talks to Him everyday. I suggested to her that this was an opportunity

Our volunteers are trained to work at the center through a program called Equipped to Serve. There are 7 fundamentals to our training, and the first two lay the foundation for everything that is spoken and done here. Fundamental number one is:

## THE PURPOSE OF THE CENTER- TO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.

Our volunteers are taught to gently and lovingly speak truth to our clients, never forgetting that love must be the basis of every conversation and confrontation. The second fundamental is:

## THE GOAL OF THE TRAINING IS TO MINISTER, NOT MANIPULATE

Our volunteers are taught that their job is to speak God's truth and pray for His work in the lives of each client, not to attempt to manipulate an outcome.

The following account by Wendi Roper illustrates these two principles beautifully, I think, and is a good reflection of the heart our volunteers have for the hurting women they encounter.

**MY NAME IS WENDI. I'M MARRIED WITH A SON AND DAUGHTER. I'M AN RN AND WORK IN A DOCTOR'S OFFICE. I HAVE VOLUNTEERED WEEKLY AT THE PSC FOR OVER 5 YRS. I BEGAN TO VOLUNTEER BECAUSE I FELT LED BY GOD TO SACRIFICE MORE OF MY TIME FOR OTHERS. IN MY PAST, I EXPERIENCED AN UNPLANNED, UNMARRIED PREGNANCY THAT PREPARED ME TO HELP WOMEN IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.**

to act in obedience and trust God with the outcome, as He has been faithful to her until now. While she was very open and emotional in the beginning, I saw her defenses go up very quickly as I questioned and confronted her with these ideas. She appeared to be even a little resentful and gave me the "I know what you're trying to do but I've made up my mind" look. So, at this point, I decided to do the pregnancy test, and of course it is positive. I went back in and talked with her. I felt at peace that I had said all I needed to but felt led to offer her an ultrasound. She quickly accepted, mainly because she wanted to prove to Marcus that he was the father, as he had hurtfully suggested otherwise. She wanted to know exactly how far along she was. Fortunately, Candi Harrelson, our nurse manager, was available to do the ultrasound immediately. We chatted about our children during the technical part of the ultrasound, and then it came time for her to see. She wanted Marcus to come in also. So we began to look and quickly zoomed in on a very strong, visible heartbeat. She immediately began to cry. Candi finished the ultrasound and printed her pictures. After the ultrasound, I knew she must be feeling conflicted. So I went back in to speak with her and simply told her I knew she was a great mom and wonderful person and knew she would make the right decision. And I advised her to consult with the wisest, most supportive people around her. We finished talking and stood up to leave and tears were running down her face and she held our her arms to hug me and meaningfully said, "thank you so much" and asked me to pray for her. She left and I looked down at the exit interview she completed. When asked what her intentions were following the ultrasound, she wrote "I want to be a mommy again." It really brings tears to my eyes and touches my heart to think that God used me to minister to this sweet woman.

## ABSTINENCE EDUCATION....Countering the Culture *By Sally Geib, ASITIA Director*

I have had the privilege of being the director of Asitia, the Rutherford Abstinence Program, for 4 ½ years now. It has been an interesting and in many ways challenging 4 ½ years. I have had to accept that I do not have a "normal" job. I remember one day while I was putting together a book full of STD pictures to take to a High School Health Fair, my sister called me. She asked me what I was doing, and I said, "Oh nothing, just putting together an STD scrapbook." Yep, just another day at the office. Herpes blisters, Syphilis chancres, all in a good day's work.



I still get nervous when people ask me what I do for a living. "Well, I direct an abstinence education program that talks to young people about sex and the benefits of abstinence until marriage." To which I get one of 3 responses. Number one: "Oh, that's great. I'm so glad you do that. I could never do that." Number two: ...laughter. Number three: "I can't believe they let you do that. That's just so completely unrealistic. We should be focusing on preventing pregnancy and disease..." That conversation (well...one-sided rant) usually lasts a while.

I wish I could say that these comments just slide right off my back. That I am so strong and steadfast that it doesn't get to me. But I'd be lying. I still get butterflies every time I meet someone new and they ask the dreaded question. But despite the butterflies, I have gotten better at my responses to the above mentioned reactions. The Number 3 reaction is usually emotionally charged, so it has to be handled delicately. Usually they give me the typical political rhetoric about legislating morality and what not, but it always comes down to the "unrealistic" argument. I am generally good at seeing the other side to an argument, but this honestly doesn't make sense to me. We expect and applaud students who use self-control when it comes to drugs, smoking, drinking, or eating healthy and exercising. Why is sex different? Why do we expect these other things, but when it comes to sex that's the one thing they can't control.

Even Christians use this same argument. Well, it was different back then. People got married so much younger, now they have to wait so much longer. I will concede that perhaps that makes the temptation greater and the act of abstinence harder, but you know what else makes it harder for students to abstain? Parents and adults who hand them condoms saying "just in case." It is a lack of faith in young people and what they are actually capable of that is the real issue here. I don't care what society deems normal. God's will is God's will. "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in

lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you." (1 Thes 4:3-8)

The number 2 reaction: Laughter. I never know quite what this means. I sometimes tell people who laugh, "You know, that's the exact same reaction I get from 6th graders." It's like you say the word sex and people are still giggling. I feel like people whose response is simply laughter means they usually belong to one of the other two camps. They like what I do or they don't, but they don't know how to respond, so they laugh. That's fine. I laugh a lot about it too. When I was a little girl dreaming of what I'd be when I grew up, this is hardly what I had in mind. But here I am. God definitely has a sense of humor. So laugh

But reaction number 1 perhaps makes me saddest. They are glad I do what I do but they end it with "I could never do that." To which I respond, "Why?" Why could you never do this? Why can't you tell students that it is best for their lives physically, emotionally, and spiritually to wait to have sex? What's stopping you? I'm not just talking about being an Asitia volunteer. Not everyone is called to that, but we are called to speak the truth in love, whether it is to our children, students, friends, family, politicians, etc. And not just speak the truth in love to others, but to be able to speak the truth in love to ourselves. Often people don't want to talk about this issue because of their own personal past. So, we let our past mistakes keep us from telling others the truth because we are afraid of what they will think of us. We leave others to make the same mistakes because of our shame. "Do not call to mind the former things, or ponders things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth." (Is. 43:18)

**"The goal of our instruction is Love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."(1 Tim 1:5)** I love this verse because I think it describes how I and my volunteers feel about this ministry. We do this for the students. In my years here, I have heard from countless students who were looking for someone to tell them it's ok to say no. It's ok to be a virgin. It's ok to stop having sex. You don't have to continue just because you've already done it. They want someone to believe in them and tell them that they are worth more. They want...they need hope. We have a unique opportunity to show them that.

"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever." (Heb 13:20-21). Amen.

## Our Christmas wish list

Many times our generous supporters and friends ask us if there is anything in particular that we need. Currently we are in need of a major overhaul of our Earn While You Learn curriculum. In addition to the regular program, we need to add curriculum for our Fatherhood Initiative program, and more material for our Spanish clients, including a Spanish Bible study. The cost of all the materials is \$1,898.89.

Also, we are in the process of training 3 new ultrasound nurses. We have completed part of their training, and the next step is for them to complete 55 scans on pregnant ladies who would like to volunteer to be training models. So, this wish is two fold: beginning sometime after the first of the year, we will need models from 7-20 weeks to

come in and receive a free ultrasound. If you or someone you know would be willing to be one of our models, please call 893-0228 and ask for Laura Brown. Secondly, the cost of the training is \$5000.

We have the opportunity to purchase cases of the Bibles that we give to our clients at a 55% discount on cases of 32 Bibles. That would be \$86.40 per case. In January these Bibles may also be purchased at local Christian bookstores and left there to be donated to our center.

If you would like to donate toward any of these "wishes", please use the enclosed envelope. We hope all of your Christmas wishes come true too!