

Alternatives

Care Net Overcomes a Client's Negative Perceptions

Cindy* had an abortion while living in another state. Before her abortion, she didn't really have a strong opinion about the abortion debate - she tried to respect each side.

After her abortion, this changed. While in the abortion clinic, someone put a flyer on her windshield entitled, "Do You Know You Just Killed Your Baby?"

Cindy was hurt and angry. She knew the people who put the flyer on her windshield had the right to express their opinion. But, they didn't know her. They didn't know her situation. If she gave birth, they had no idea how difficult the child's father would be. They didn't know she already had a child and had no friends or family that would help her. But, it seemed they were very quick to judge.

The bottom line: Cindy rejected pro-life messages after this event because of her perception that those who hold this view didn't really care about her personally.

Cindy moved to Madison, Wisconsin, and soon feared that she was pregnant again. Was there any hope? Did anyone truly care? Was there really an alternative to abortion?

The mission statement of Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County answers these three questions with an unequivocal, "Yes!" The mission statement reads in part, "We are a caring network of resources dedicated to equip, empower and support women and men to choose life for their unborn children . . ." (see page 8 for the complete mission statement)

This mission is what sets Care Net apart. The guiding principles that Care Net teaches every counselor includes never using inflammatory language or phrases such as, "You will be killing your innocent baby," or "Abortion is murder." In addition, Care Net never uses pictures or videos that contain gruesome pictures of mutilated aborted fetuses.

Care Net is part of the pro-life movement that provides the support and hope for women like Cindy. Their actions will not be judged nor will they be turned away.

At Cindy's place of work, she met a woman who had experienced Care Net's support and hope first-hand. She convinced Cindy to set up an appointment for a pregnancy test.

As she feared, the test came back positive. The feelings of being alone and helpless overwhelmed Cindy again. But this time, there was a Care Net counselor willing to listen and talk.

Cindy soon found out about insurance programs, follow-up support and other financial help that is available to her. In addition, she also found out that she was not alone. Care Net and others would be there for her throughout the pregnancy and beyond.

There was hope. People did care. Abortion was not the answer. Cindy's demeanor was much different as she left. She didn't feel alone. She believed she could do this. She had confidence. And she made an appointment for an ultrasound where she saw her child for the first time.

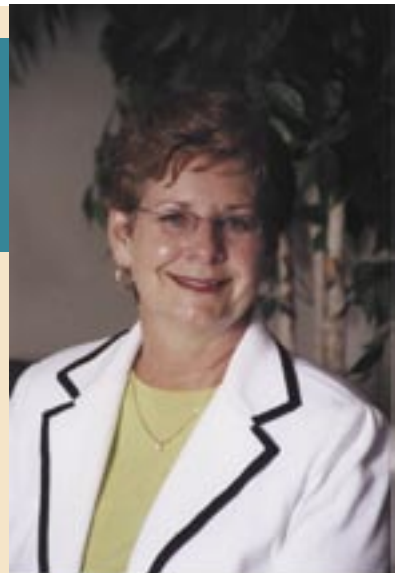
Women like Cindy help Care Net fulfill its mission statement. But more importantly, women like Cindy give supporters of Care Net the opportunity to provide the support and hope such women desperately need.

*Fictitious name to protect privacy

CARE  NET®

Pregnancy Center Of Dane County

From My Heart



Liz Osborn
Executive Director

Beyond Roe: Pregnancy Centers Impact Culture

Similar to TIME magazine's "Person of the Year" but with a much different focus, WORLD magazine names a "Daniel of the Year." The winner is a person (or a group of people) who stand up to those spiritual forces of darkness and circumstances in our culture - those that attempt to put themselves in God's place.

This year the award went to Pregnancy Centers. In response, Care Net national President, Melinda Delahoyde, applauded the work of more than 2,300 pregnancy centers across North America. Delahoyde said, "Because of the support of pregnancy centers, women in crisis have been transformed, new life has been embraced, and families across this nation have been forever changed."

She went on to give wholehearted thanks to all who have worked, volunteered and donated. And, on the

home front . . . I couldn't agree more. Thank you to all of you who support this ministry with your prayers, your time and your financial gifts and resources. We think of you as family, and because of all you do, we're growing and getting stronger right here in this community.

Yes, the enemy had a plan for destruction when he ushered in abortion-on-demand 35 years ago this January. The devastating impact of the 1973 Roe decision has resulted in more than one million pre-born baby lives lost to abortion each year in the United States, not to mention the wound it has left in the hearts of mothers, fathers, siblings and family members.

Yet, God in His infinite wisdom had a

powerful, compassionate strategy in His heart, an opportunity where good could triumph and overcome evil. The Christian church rose up in the late 70's to confront the tragedy of abortion, often breaking down walls that once had separated. It joined forces to strengthen and expand its response to unplanned pregnancies. Through the compassionate work of pregnancy center services, ministering to one woman at a time, countless hearts and minds have changed.

Care Net centers comprise 1,100 of the 2,300 life-affirming centers. Of the 655 Care Net centers who carefully track and report client statistics, those centers alone saw 342,156 new client cases in 2006. In one year, locally, we ministered the love of Christ to 594 clients and responded to 1,044 Careline calls for help. And statistics show that about 38 percent or 403 Care Net centers offer free, medically-indicated ultrasounds, positively impacting critical decision-making processes. Longer care ministry also exists. Locally, The Elizabeth House, a residential maternity home program of Care Net, has been "home" to 28 women and their newborn babies.

There was a time when many reasoned that the overturning of Roe would end the "need" for pregnancy care ministries. Undoubtedly, that will not be the case. As we've grown and learned from our clients, we better understand the need for long term ministry.

Transcending political solutions, important as they are and as such God desires men to rule with just laws that protect the innocent, pregnancy care ministry addresses the needs of the individual. It is rooted in the compassion and love of Jesus Christ. It is ultimately even more than saving babies . . . when hurting women and men encounter Jesus Christ in the midst of their crisis, lives are forever changed and people are empowered to make positive, life-affirming choices.

We look forward to seeing this ministry - and others like it - continue to expand in 2008 and beyond.

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Facing Dilemma

Sharon* came to Care Net with a friend who had visited last year and found the help she needed to continue her pregnancy. Afraid of disappointing her parents and having to interrupt her education, Sharon hoped her positive home pregnancy test was wrong. To her dismay, our clinic test confirmed her pregnancy.

Now Sharon faced a dilemma and a decision. The friend who had brought her to Care Net encouraged her to continue the pregnancy. But the baby's father, who initially had pledged support if she chose to carry to term, now changed his mind and urged her to abort.

Care Net's counselor, understanding the pressure Sharon was under, told her to take her time to decide and scheduled appointments for an ultrasound and sexually transmitted infection testing. These appointments will provide an opportunity for Sharon to explore her options, including residency at The Elizabeth House. Please pray for her decision.

Not Just Technology

Technology like Care Net's state-of-the-art ultrasound machine is a wonderful gift from God that provides a window to the womb and allows a pregnant woman a peek at her little one. As powerful as that experience is, a recent client demonstrated that it is God who changes hearts.

Informed of her positive pregnancy test, Joy* expressed anger at herself for letting this happen because she didn't feel ready to parent. Her baby's father was supportive and happy

about the pregnancy, but Joy was still set on abortion when she came in again for an ultrasound.

Care Net staff prayed in another room that Joy's heart would be changed. Later she related that while she viewed the scan, something she had once read about life and death came to her mind and touched her heart. By the time she left, her previously hard countenance had softened and she had decided to continue her pregnancy.

New Ultrasound

With the help of Focus on the Family and others, Care Net now uses an updated ultrasound with much clearer images. Such images will help women like Tracy* see their child for the first time in a much more meaningful way.

Tracy's sister had come to Care Net before and now happily parents a one-year-old. When Tracy became pregnant, her sister highly recommended that she schedule an appointment at Care Net.

Tracy had actually arrived at an abortion clinic for her scheduled abortion, but decided she could not go through with it. That was when she decided to take her sister's advice and make an appointment with Care Net. While there, she was able to have an ultrasound where she thought she saw her unborn child smile at her. Afterwards, she could not get that image out of her head. Tracy decided against having an abortion.

*Fictitious names to protect privacy

Created to Worship Banquet 2008

"I have a Maker; He formed my heart." As banquet guests heard these beautiful lyrics they witnessed via a live ultrasound image, the wonderfully created body, including the four chambers of the heart, of a 16 week old baby in his mother's womb. More than 450 people, representing 62 churches, gathered at the Monona Terrace on November 1 to witness this amazing imagery and to hear testimonies to God's goodness and faithfulness from former Care Net clients.

Guests at Care Net's "Created to Worship" fundraising banquet also heard from guest speaker Coach Bill McCartney, founder of Promise Keepers, who shared his family's personal story of an unplanned pregnancy and God's redemption.

The ultrasound and the testimonies shared by former clients were the highlights of the evening for many attending and brought many to tears as these personal stories exemplify what Care Net does and why we are here. A recent Care Net client, Lisa*, with her infant son, John*, shared her feelings upon finding out she was unexpectedly pregnant. "Of course, abortion was wrong. I knew it with all my heart. But I felt that it was my only choice and it would solve everything."

After visiting an abortion clinic and scheduling an appointment for the abortion procedure, Lisa came to Care Net with a supportive friend. At Care Net she was given practical information and a spiritual perspective from a loving counselor who was willing to spend time with her. Rather than feeling judged or embarrassed, Lisa felt encouraged and embraced.

She left Care Net with a "complete weight lifted, now amazed at how precious life is" and cancelled her appointment at the abortion clinic. Lisa went on to share these thoughts about her decision for life and her experience at Care Net. "Of course, it's not easy; but I'm so glad I chose life. I will never ever regret it...Care Net was one place God put in my path and for that I am thankful."

God also placed someone else in Lisa's path at this critical time in her life, Bonnie*, a woman from her church who had also been a Care Net client. Bonnie made her decision to carry her child to term over 20 years ago. She shared regarding her experience as a single mother, "It was emotional. It was humiliating and it was definitely the right choice...I am truly, truly thankful that I was given the opportunity to pursue life, to pursue my Lord and to guide my children, with a Godly husband, on this journey." Bonnie has walked along Lisa's side to support her as a mother and as a follower of Jesus. To powerfully con-



Ultrasound viewed by banquet guests

clude these intertwined stories, Bonnie's daughter, Melissa*, a college student committed to her Christian faith and to the value of all human life, shared her touching perspective on her mother's decision to choose life years ago.

Through this banquet, God provided more than \$77,500 to equip, empower and support people like Lisa and Bonnie. All of the costs for the evening were underwritten by charitable individuals and businesses so every dollar raised through this event goes directly to bring help, hope and healing to women, men and families affected by an unplanned pregnancy or sexual health concern. Thank you to all who gave or pledged through this evening to enable Care Net to continue to share life affirming options with women and men in our community.

Care Net would like to thank these individuals and businesses who generously sponsored this event:

Brent & JoAnn Johnson	Gates Auto Body
John & Nancy Rolfsmeyer	Knights of Columbus
Braun Corporation	Thysse Printing Service
Coyle Carpet One	Care Net Board of Directors
Engelhart Center	

Thanks also to these businesses who donated their goods or services to Care Net's 2007 fundraising banquet: Elegant Foods, Felly's Floral, Hilton Madison and Two Men and a Truck.

Please consider patronizing these businesses as you have opportunity to do so.

* Fictitious names to maintain confidentiality

Walk For Life 2007

More than 175 people gathered from 24 different churches to Walk for Life on October 6 and more than \$15,000 was raised for The Elizabeth House program. These donations will help to provide food, housing, one-on-one parenting assistance, counseling, childbirth education, financial literacy, nutrition courses, life skills classes and much more.

The day of the walk was a gorgeous sunny day with mascots, including Bucky Badger, running around. Mascots appearing at Walk for Life 2007 were Bucky Badger, Wolfie, Maynard G. Mallard, Scoopie, Crash Helmet, Red Robin, OCBee, Happy Heart,



Bucky and Friends

Buckle Bear and the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile. Children bounced around in Maynard Mallard, Oremus provided music and there was food, fun and prizes. Participants heard from a current resident and also a resident who completed the program two years ago.

Special thanks go to Pellitteri Waste Systems who sponsored Walk for Life 2007 by underwriting all of the costs of the Walk so that every pledge

could support women, children and families at The Elizabeth House.



Walkers enjoying the day

Thank you to these businesses and organizations who also donated to Walk for Life 2007:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Kim & Jason, | Badger Popcorn |
| JBIRD iNK, Ltd. | FatCat Embroidery |
| Words of Hope Bookstore | Old Country Buffet |
| The Princeton Club | Ballweg Chevrolet |
| Monona Optimists Club | Chula Vista Resort |
| Life 102.5/Faith 1190 | WI Dairy Council |
| Boulders Climbing Gym | Scott's Bakery |
| Karate America - | The Madison Mallards |
| Cottage Grove | PDQ |
| The Wilderness Resort | Culvers |
| Matt Kenseth Fan Club | BJ Electric |
| Fitchburg Parks & Recreation | Oscar Meyer |
| Knights of Columbus, | Copps Food |
| Father Nellens Council 6371 | Décor Corner |
| Relevant Radio | Quench Gum |
| Mad City Church | Channel 3000 |

Upcoming 2008 Care Net Events

- SOHLS - January 20 (see page 8 for more details)
- Volunteer Training - February 8,9,15, and 16
- Baby Bottle Campaign - Mother's Day to Father's Day (May 11 through June 15)
- Banquet - Thursday, November 6

Special Thanks:

To Quintus Burks, owner of A Clean Carpet & Upholstery for cleaning the carpet in The Elizabeth House's resident rooms free of charge. Thanks again, Quintus.

Maternity Home Resident Shares Her Story

How her stay has caused her to want to make a difference with her life

For most women who don't think they can conceive, finding out they are pregnant is one of the greatest thrills in life. Mesha Jones* was no different. She helped raise other family members' children. And now she would have the chance to raise her own. Her due date is in the beginning of February.

But life was far from easy. Her boyfriend had lost his job and they were in the beginning stages of being evicted from their apartment. Although Mesha has family in the Madison area, she knew she would be an added burden to already stretched resources if she moved in with them.

That is when she talked to a former foster mother who knew about The Elizabeth House. Soon she filled out the application, had her interview and moved into the maternity home at the end of August.

Blessings and Life Impact

Mesha was very grateful to be accepted at The Elizabeth House. She was concerned she may have to live at an overcrowded shelter. Instead, she found a home where she had her own room and bathroom. And, instead of pressuring her to leave as soon as possible, they wanted her to stay for at least 6 months.

In addition, her new home was right on the bus line, which greatly helped her before she got her own car. Mesha was also pleasantly surprised when her new home helped her obtain essential baby materials that she didn't have and wasn't sure how she was going to get.

At first, all the new rules were a little overwhelming, but Mesha soon felt at home. With a laugh she admitted that some of the rules have been a blessing. She feels that The Elizabeth House has helped her to be more organized. She smilingly said that in the future her apartment will be much cleaner and more organized than was true in the past.

The first blessing Mesha said she received was a stable place to live. And though it seems like a small thing, she jokingly admitted that she enjoyed not having to cook dinner for herself every night - only when it was her turn.

Mesha was raised a Christian and she still attends a local church. One of the biggest blessings she received while living at The Elizabeth House was staff that relates to her faith. She felt more secure because she could freely talk about God.

But the greatest impact on her faith has been the example of the volunteers. Throughout her stay, she has received rides



Mesha and Director Paula Reif

to interviews and an extra hand when she needed it. This example has left a mark on Mesha. She has made a commitment to volunteer her time in some way in the future. She has already checked into becoming a volunteer for a rape crisis hotline. And she has not ruled out volunteering at The Elizabeth House. Through the examples of the staff and volunteers, she now knows the importance of staying positive with her life.

More Volunteers

When asked how Care Net supporters could help women like her at The Elizabeth House, Mesha was very specific. There is always a need for more relief workers. And she said that male volunteer counselors who would work with the fathers of the children at The Elizabeth House would likely make a big difference in some of these men's lives.

The Future

In the beginning of 2008, Mesha will move out of The Elizabeth House. She is very grateful for the care and support, but believes that she has already received the help she needed. She feels strongly that she does not want to take up space when someone else truly needs the help.

This attitude of caring about others has grown in Mesha's heart while living at The Elizabeth House. Please remember to pray for Mesha as she experiences motherhood for the first time and ask that God would bless her as she desires to serve others.

*Fictitious name to protect privacy

Stars Shine at Care Net Appreciation Night

Staff don sunglasses as each "Star" entered the room

Because of a gracious donation covering costs, Care Net had the opportunity to honor our dedicated volunteers at the Heidel House Resort in Green Lake. An evening among the stars was the theme based on Scripture found in Philippians 2:16 "...you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."

Although there was a distance to travel, 40 team members enjoyed an evening filled with fun, fellowship and food. As each star entered the room there was plenty of applause, pictures and introduction by a Joan Rivers impersonator questioning the stars about their personal designer. Pastor Dick Sisson encouraged all with a message on grace and Laurie Mani, 2007 Teal Heart recipient, led in singing "This little light of mine" at the end of the night.

No matter at what level a volunteer serves, they are valued, appreciated and needed. One guest shared amazement at the many ways volunteers are involved. Although he'd been an active volunteer for years, attending this event broadened his understanding of Care Net volunteer life.

Lives have been changed because someone answered the Careline, helped prepare a mailing, befriended a resident or client, organized a fundraiser, or used their medical training to assist a client...(there are too many ways for all of them to be listed). Many have been blessed, and will be blessed



"Joan Rivers" addresses another Star

because of their dedication, love and sacrifice.

To learn more about the various volunteer opportunities, contact Cassie Mott at 259-1606 ext. 204 or check out Care Net's friend's website (www.carenetdane.org/friends). The next volunteer training is scheduled for February 8th, 9th, 15th and 16th.



Silent No More Awareness Campaign

What: Event to break the silence of abortion and let women share their experience with abortion

Contact: Jane Frantz, Event Coordinator, 920-740-3573

When: Wednesday, January 16, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. Gather in the Rotunda for prayer at 9:30 a.m.

Website: www.silentnomoreawareness.org

Where: Wisconsin State Capitol, Room 417N

September - November Care Net Statistics

Total Clients:	90
Ultrasound Clients:	20
Whole Heart Calls:	10
Client Calls:	279
STI tests:	5
Men:	13

Help
Hope
Healing



Pregnancy Center of Dane County

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Saving and Changing Lives

Is your church observing Sanctity of Human Life Sunday?

Since 1983, Americans have observed national Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHLS) as a day to celebrate the immeasurable value of all human life. In 2008, SOHLS will take place on January 20.

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County helps area churches participate in this important event by providing free bulletin inserts and arranging for guest speakers to share testimonies from Care Net's ministries.

Participating in SOHLS in this way highlights the positive work of Care Net Pregnancy Center to bring help, hope and healing and offers faith communities the encouraging message of lives being changed and babies being born because of the love and truth of Christ offered them at Care Net.

For more information about involving your church in SOHLS 2008 or to order free bulletin inserts please contact Rhonda at 259-1606 or rhondat@carenetdane.org.

Care Net Pregnancy Center Mission Statement

We are a caring network of resources dedicated to equip, empower and support women and men to CHOOSE LIFE for their unborn children and to make wise life choices for themselves and their families.

With loving compassion, we minister to those affected by abortion and share with all the hope, forgiveness and peace found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.