

Alternatives

Blessings and Growth

How God turned one family's lowpoint into indescribable blessings

Fred* and Carol* were looking forward to recent changes in their lives. Their youngest daughter, Julia*, left home to attend college. And Fred had just started a new job in a distant city. All that was left was for their house to sell and Carol would join him.

Their excitement was soon replaced with their lowest point in their lives. Half way through her freshman year, Julia came home and told her parents that she was pregnant. They were beyond shocked. Fred and Carol had many discussions about sex with Julia in the past and she had wholeheartedly agreed to wait until marriage to have sex. They had always been close with each other and with the Lord. Now it seemed they were all in a nightmare.

But God was still working. The very next Monday, Fred's old employer offered him a job in the Madison area. Fred and Carol took their house off the market and started to remodel their basement for a living quarters for Julia and their soon-to-be grandson. They felt God's presence as He orchestrated these events.

However, the pain was still there. Fred and Carol attended a small, conservative church and they were afraid of how this news would affect the church. And they were deeply concerned that their daughter had drifted from the Lord.

Within a couple of weeks, their pastor agreed to announce their news to the church. And they were blessed by the Lord a second time. The church's response was overwhelming. Every-



Steven* getting ready to roll!

one was praying for them. So many of the people reached out to them and they never felt any judgement or a sense of separation from anyone in the church.

"I went from the lowest point in my life to a place of great comfort," said Carol. "I felt an incredible amount of love from our church. I knew God was moving in our lives."

And God quickly moved to meet their other concern. Julia recommitted to the Lord. She admitted that she had drifted from God. She could see how God was using the consequences in her life to draw her back to Himself.

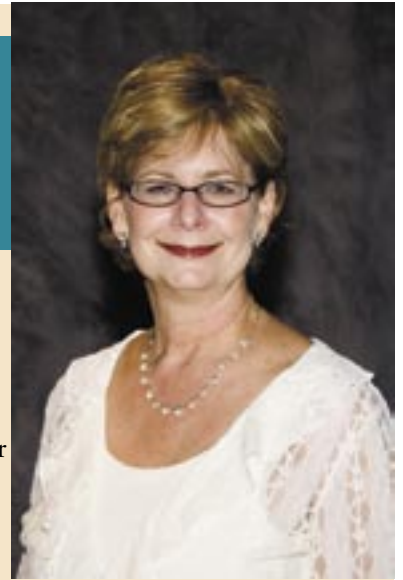
Julia and her boyfriend were soon taking premarital counseling at the church. After a few sessions, they agreed not to pursue marriage at that time and agreed to no longer have sex. Her boyfriend committed to being a father.

Then another blessing came their way. Carol was well aware of Care Net because their church was a strong (continued on page 5)

CARE  NET[®]

Pregnancy Center Of Dane County

From My Heart



Liz Osborn
Executive Director

Care Net Values Area Churches

Church support for Care Net is essential in order for us to be successful. While it may seem like the churches do the majority of the “giving” – we consider it a privilege to co-labor and partner with them in advancing kingdom purposes right here on the home front. And that is why we consider those who become involved with Care Net as local “missionaries.”

In this issue of Alternatives, you will see one key way churches support Care Net - the Baby Bottle Campaign. We are anticipating more than 50 area churches involved in this year’s campaign. Numerous churches support Care Net through mission boards and other giving. And many gave financially to help us build our new building.

But area churches help Care Net in more ways than just financial. I will always remember when the Door

Creek Church staff closed their church offices for a day and came to help us move to our new facility.

Or when the Pastor leads the way and joins with a group of members from his church to help with service projects such as spring cleaning (Christ the King Church, Stoughton and Blackhawk Church to name just two). Or, as in the lead story of this issue of Alternatives, a Pastor challenges his congregation to become involved at Care Net.

Frequently church members refer women to our center and are an invaluable resource in helping to provide community awareness. You can’t put a price on this type of “free” publicity and word of mouth .

We are very grateful for all the help local churches give Care Net. As Executive Director, I get to see these incredible blessings on a daily basis and I can’t express in words how privileged we feel to receive such blessings.

As the Lord pours these blessings into Care Net, we hope we can pour them right back into the church. One way we do this is by providing guest speakers for churches and youth groups and by participating in home-missions fairs. In particular, in November 2006 we enjoyed co-hosting a youth event with Door Creek Church bringing a message of purity to Madison with the band, “By the Tree”.

Another way we hope to pour back the blessings is by offering tours for youth groups. Recently, a group of twenty middle school kids and 5 youth leaders from a local church showed up at Care Net for a pizza party and a tour of our counseling and medical clinic. As they gathered around in the living room upstairs at The Elizabeth House, the group grew quiet as they listen to a first time mom tell “her story”, and explain how she discovered her own value as a human being. “You’re worth waiting for,” she explained. One of the kids broke the silence with this comment, “Wow. This is way better than health class.”

We can help lighten the counseling load for a Pastor (who already wears too many hats...) when he can refer a family in crisis to our center when they learn their daughter or son is caught in the throes of an unplanned pregnancy. Or when a woman needs help dealing with a past abortion. While he may meet with the family or woman initially – they can continue on with Care Net.

Area churches remain one of the main ways the Lord meets the needs of Care Net. We appreciate it and hope to never take it for granted. And in addition, our heart is to pour those blessings back into the church.

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One Night Stand

Like many young people, Jeri* partied hard this past holiday season, culminating with a one-night stand. But for Jeri, that partying ended with a positive pregnancy test. And to make matters worse, the father-to-be gave Jeri a bogus name and phone number. To top it all off, her steady boyfriend was not in contact with her at the time she got pregnant.

After seeing Care Net's ad in the yellow pages, Jeri made an appointment. At first she was considering abortion. When the Care Net counselor asked Jeri her beliefs about abortion, she said that in most cases she was opposed to abortion. When asked if her case was one of the exceptions, Jeri knew it was not.

Please continue to pray for Jeri. She is still not done soul-searching. Hopefully, she will make another appointment soon for a follow-up ultrasound.

God Healing Anger

Care Net's Whole Heart program ministers to women who have had past abortions. Under this ministry, both Bethany* and Suzy* had recently started an independent Bible Study with Care Net facilitators. Before Christmas, both told their facilitators that their anger towards God and themselves was causing them to want to drop out of the Bible study. The facilitators shared this with Care Net staff who prayed for both women.

After the holidays, both facilitators shared with the staff that God answered their prayers. Bethany and Suzy were at

a much better place. God started the process of helping them deal with their anger. Both said they wanted to continue the Bible study.

Please continue to pray for the Whole Heart group Bible study. Many women like Bethany and Suzy need God to help them heal from their anger.

Valuable Information

Sharon* and her boyfriend were facing an unplanned pregnancy. After having her pregnancy verified by a Care Net nurse, Sharon had many questions that were very common for women facing such a pregnancy. She was concerned about nutrition, exercise, medications she was currently taking, and finances. A Care Net nurse was able to answer the technical questions and also help Sharon connect with the community resources available to her.

But Sharon had a bigger concern. She had a very unique medical condition that she was concerned might become worse during a pregnancy. (In order to protect privacy, the condition will not be disclosed). The nurse was able to provide the technical information that was needed and help calm Sharon's fears.

Sharon and the nurse talked about their faith and they prayed together. Sharon then scheduled her next appointment for an ultrasound.

*Fictitious names to protect privacy

More Than a Volunteer

How God Called and Grew a Woman to Ministry

Monique Simmons was once a teenaged-single mother. She married but soon found herself divorced. And through it all, she was able to get a degree from UW-Madison in Food Science. She knows the stresses of making ends meet and pursuing goals.

But God had a reason for those difficult times. Today, Monique is married to Kerry and has four children. And she often uses the experiences of those difficult times when she ministers to women who come to Care Net.

“God has gifted me to help women in all kinds of circumstances - including those who are ethnic or facing tough economic circumstances,” said Monique. “I have been there and I can relate.”

Monique first heard about Care Net while working as a church secretary in 2002. At around that time God had started to put in her heart a desire to work at a free pregnancy clinic. When she heard about Care Net, she decided it would be a great place to determine if God was truly calling her to such a ministry.

“At first I was nervous and not sure if I could dedicate the amount of time required to be trained as a counselor,” said Monique. “But I had committed to God that I would not just tithe my finances, but also my time. Even though I was a wife, a mother of four and attending nursing school, I never found myself overwhelmed. I truly believe that was because God honored my tithe of time to Care Net.”

After starting as a volunteer counselor at Care Net in 2004, Monique soon became a Certified Nursing Assistant. Next, she graduated from nursing school in 2006 and continued as a volunteer at Care Net as a registered nurse. Then, in the spring of 2007, she became a Limited Obstretical Nurse Sonographer, enabling her to conduct ultrasounds for Care Net clients. Finally, in January of this year, she joined the staff of Care Net as Assistant Nurse Manager. This last position has enabled Care Net to reach a long time goal of being able to provide full-time ultrasound coverage.

Monique clearly sees the work of God in her life as she followed His calling into the field of women’s health. “My faith has grown stronger and I can better recognize what God wants since I started this journey,” said Monique. “He has opened the doors and made it so clear to me. I now work with wonderful people who have the same calling and who love what they do. God has truly blessed me.”

Many times, Care Net counselors don’t get to see the end results of their work with a client.



Monique using new ultrasound

Monique’s favorite experience at Care Net involved a young woman she counseled who had no place to stay and was abortion vulnerable. After counseling with her, the young woman was accepted at The Elizabeth House. The next time Monique saw her was at a Care Net banquet. Monique was able to see her child and hear how grateful she was that Monique took the time to relate to her and provide help.

And God is not through with Monique yet. She plans to continue her education and become a Nurse Practitioner. She looks forward to using those skills at Care Net as well.

Monique has some advice to those who are considering volunteering at Care Net: “If God is putting such a calling in your heart, don’t ignore it. I am living proof that if He is calling you to such a ministry, He will also provide the time and resources for you to follow His calling.”

Upcoming 2008 Care Net Events

- Care Net Tour - April 27 at 2 pm or April 29 at 7 pm
- Baby Bottle Campaign - Mother’s Day to Father’s Day (May 11 through June 15)
- Golf Fundraiser: Monday, May 19, 2008 at House of the Rock Resort
- Banquet - Thursday, November 6 at Monona Terrace Convention Center

Baby Bottle Campaign

Mother's Day, May 11 through Father's Day, June 15

Shari* came to Care Net with a friend after visiting an abortion clinic for her first appointment. Feeling overwhelmed and confused upon her arrival, she felt comforted and encouraged after meeting with a counselor at Care Net. She made a decision to cancel her next appointment at the abortion clinic and carry her son to term. Shari had first heard about Care Net through the Baby Bottle Campaign at her church a few years earlier. While Care Net's Baby Bottle Campaign provides a needed source of funds in the summer months, its impact extends to women, men and family members who may be in need of Care Net's ministries.

The Baby Bottle Campaign begins in local churches and organizations on Mother's Day. Individuals are invited to take home empty baby bottles and fill them with currency, coins, or a check and then return these filled bottles to their church or participating organization on or before Father's Day. When families and individuals fill these bottles, they are helping Care Net to provide help, hope and healing to women and men affected by an unplanned pregnancy or sexual health concern.

95% of all donations will go towards funding the ministries of Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County.

These free and confidential services include:

- ♥ Medical and Counseling Clinic - pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, STI testing and treatment for women, childbirth and parenting classes
- ♥ LifeWise - abstinence education, Sexual Integrity counseling program
- ♥ Whole Heart - post abortion support
- ♥ The Elizabeth House - residential maternity program

5% of the donations will go to the Mother and Child Resource Center, a local ministry which provides baby clothing and baby items to pregnant mothers and families in need.



Last year over 50 churches participated in this campaign. To find out about your church or organization participating in this year's Baby Bottle Campaign, or for more information, please contact Rhonda at 259-1606 or rhondat@carenetdane.org. Another Shari could be in a pew near you.

Care Net is a non-profit 501(c)(3) ministry. All donations are tax deductible.

* Fictitious name to protect privacy.



(continued from page 1)

supporter of the ministry. Carol found out that Care Net offered free birthing classes and Julia was soon signed up. Julia strongly wanted to have a natural birth. Through the classes at Care Net, Julia found the knowledge and encouragement she needed and was able to experience a natural birth when Steven* was born.

And the blessings still did not stop. Carol quit her job to take care of Steven so Julia could continue her education. She was not sure how the Lord was going to meet their financial needs, but she turned this concern over to Him. Soon, Carol was offered a job with flexible hours. God rewarded Carol's faith in His provision in such a way that Fred and Carol's financial situation is now better than ever.

"I am a huge planner," said Carol. "But God has taught me through all of this that at times I need to just let go and trust Him. He has grown my faith in wonderful ways."

And God did not end the story here. Carol was so moved by her experiences and the help that Care Net had provided her daughter that she downloaded a volunteer

form in hopes of becoming a Care Net counselor. That very next Sunday, her pastor preached a sermon which included a comment that someone from their church should become a volunteer at Care Net. He did not know that God was already speaking to Carol's heart. After the service, Carol was able to share with her pastor that his comment was a confirmation from the Lord to become a Care Net counselor.

"I know that God has a reason for me going through all these experiences and blessings," said Carol. "I believe God has given me an insight to help women like my daughter and their parents as they go through similar situations."

Fred, Carol and Julia had found themselves at a place where they could see no hope. But all three trusted God anyway and they were not disappointed.

"God turned our mistakes into wonderful blessings," said Carol. "It seemed hopeless for a little while, but with God you can get through it. Great blessings, which Steven is one, are on the other side."

*Fictitious names to protect privacy

A Tale of Two Moms

From different situations, two moms find help and friendship at The Elizabeth House

Brenda* was adopted into a two-parent family with 2 boys and 2 girls. Everything was pretty normal until high school when Brenda started to hang out with an older crowd. She began to sneak out at night to attend raves and became entangled with the drug culture that seemed to go hand-in-hand with the parties. Soon she was doing unknown drugs and experienced her life getting out of control. When her parents found out, they went ballistic.

Kayla* was raised in a single-parent household, but had to grow up quick. Her mom was not a steady influence and Kayla ended up being raised more by her grandparents than by her mom. She was successful in high school and began studying at college.

Around the same time, Brenda and Kayla discovered they were pregnant. Brenda was going through treatment for drug addiction. Kayla dropped out of college and began to experience severe depression. Due to trust issues, dependency issues and more, Brenda was unable to stay with her family. Kayla was living with her grandparents; but space, money and health issues were problems.

Within a month of each other, Brenda and Kayla moved into The Elizabeth House. In addition to living in community with each other and sharing the sometimes frightening experience of being first time moms, Brenda and Kayla have become friends. Within three weeks of each other, Brenda and Kayla gave birth to gorgeous babies.

Brenda says that it has been great to have Kayla here because “they can relate to each other and what each other is going through.” Kayla says, “I have had fun with her. It has made it a lot easier to go through the pregnancy with someone else going through the same thing.”



Brenda & Kayla's precious babies

The Elizabeth House has been important to Kayla because “it has given me a chance to think and have some stability. It also has given me hope that I can do this and succeed.” Brenda says “it has helped me to have a better relationship with God.” The other main way it has helped is “financially it is helping me to get started again.”

After she finishes The Elizabeth House program, Brenda plans to go back to school for cosmetology. She continues to grow as a mom and is working on reconciling her relationship with her parents and siblings. Kayla wants to continue to pursue a degree in criminal justice and is growing as a dynamic mother while remaining close to her grandparents.

*Fictitious name to protect privacy

December - February Care Net Client Statistics

Total Clients:	94
First Time Visits:	43
Ultrasound Clients:	19
Whole Heart Calls:	5
Client Calls:	209
Men:	10
STI tests:	2

September - February Care Net Financial Statistics

Month	Income	Expense
September:	\$27,947.12	\$33,162.58
October:	\$35,989.59	\$54,146.16
November:	\$57,152.50	\$47,503.02
December:	\$186,274.74	\$50,236.49
January:	\$45,363.03	\$33,082.37
February:	\$17,838.14	\$38,940.99
Totals:	\$370,565.12	\$257,071.61
Net:		\$113,493.51

A Sign of Spring

Care Net's 14th Annual Golf Fundraiser is on its way!

May 19, 2008

House on the Rock Resort

1 pm Shotgun Start

18 hole best ball tournament

All right all of you golfers, after enduring a long and extraordinarily snowy winter, we bet you can hardly wait to see grassy rolling hills and nature's vivid greenery. Have we got the place for you!

Please join us in celebrating life and the return of spring in Care Net's 14th Annual Golf Fundraiser on Monday, May 19th at the beautiful House on the Rock Resort, rated 4 1/2 Stars by Golf Digest. While designing 27 holes of championship golf, three prestigious golf course architects took advantage of the amazing natural surroundings. We will have an 18-hole best-ball scramble with a shotgun start at 1:00 pm. After your round, enjoy fellowship, a bountiful dinner and awards ceremony.

Each golfer is asked to raise pledges to fund Care Net's free



and confidential services. Generous prizes will be awarded to those who raise the highest amounts. Last year our top fundraiser raised over \$4,300! These pledges make all of the difference to Care Net's viability in providing our free services.

Register early as the "Early Bird Registration Fee" is \$150 until April 21st. Afterwards, the registration fee will be \$175. Pastors can register for \$75 – so consider sponsoring your Pastor as a gift of thanksgiving for their witness. Tee & Green sponsorships are available for businesses as well. This is a great way to show your support for the critical services Care Net provides the women and men in our community.

To Register and begin raising pledges:

- Online registration and pledging: Register your team and have your family and friends support your efforts by pledging on your behalf online. Visit www.carenetdane.org/friends then go to the "Upcoming Events" link to find the Annual Golf Fundraiser registration and pledge opportunities.
- e-mail rhondat@carenetdane.org to register and receive registration confirmation and a pledge form via e-mail.
- Call Rhonda at 608-259-1606 to receive a registration form by mail. We will mail you registration materials and pledging information.

Questions? Contact Rhonda Thompson at rhondat@carenetdane.org or 608-259-1606.

We'll see you soon with clubs in hand!



Help
Hope
Healing

CARE NET

Pregnancy Center of Dane County

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Birthday Party for The Elizabeth House

Elizabeth Jordan (in the red sweater) and Elizabeth Walther (in the white t-shirt) are close friends and have birthdays close together. But instead of having separate parties where they received the presents, they decided to do something different.



They shared a party where instead of having their guests bring presents for them, they had their guests bring presents for The Elizabeth House. (At right, the two Elizabeths and the presents from the party). The girls were celebrating their 9th birthday. May God bless their giving spirits!

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.