

Alternatives

Ultrasound Grant Pays Off

Casandra shares her story which will be used by Focus on the Family as they celebrate the 5th Anniversary of Option Ultrasound

Note: Through a Option Ultrasound grant offered by Focus on the Family, Care Net was able to upgrade its ultrasound machine. Focus on the Family will be using the following story from Care Net to celebrate Option Ultrasound's 5th Anniversary.

When I suspected I was pregnant, I called one of my best friends because I was afraid to tell my mom. My friend started looking up abortion clinics on her computer. Her mom monitors the computer and found that she had been looking. She also noticed that the times of days that she was on these sites correlated with my phone calls and emails. My friend's mom put two and two together and called my mom to tell her she suspected that I was pregnant.

My mom left work early and picked me up early from school. She drove to a church parking lot and parked the car. She asked me several times if there was anything I needed to tell her and I kept saying, "no." Then she asked if my boyfriend and I had had sex. I denied it. She then said, "Good. Then it won't be a problem to go to Care Net and have a pregnancy test done." She drove to Care Net Pregnancy Center and I basically kept denying everything until we were there. Then I admitted that I thought I might be pregnant.

The pregnancy test came back positive. The counselor there was great. She listened to me, and took the time to answer all my questions. Then she scheduled the ultrasound.

After the pregnancy test my mom and I met with my

boyfriend first alone, and then drove over to his home and sat down all together with his parents to tell them. It was horrible. Right away my boyfriend's mom went for the abortion route. She was pretty hysterical. My

mom was firm and strong despite just finding out herself that I was pregnant. But she told my boyfriend's mom that she would absolutely not allow her daughter to get an abortion. My boyfriend's dad broke his silence to say only one thing, "Son, I bought you condoms. Why didn't you use them?"

Then we went home and told my dad. He was very upset with me for my stupidity. "I thought you would at least use birth control," he said. But he supported me keeping the baby; he would not allow an abortion either. He was furious with my boyfriend for a long time. My boyfriend wasn't allowed to come over until my dad could make his peace with him.

In short, it was a mess. I was fifteen, a Christian in high school and pregnant. The hardest part was the constant pressure from my boyfriend's parents to get an abortion.

"Don't you understand what this means?" they kept telling him. "This will ruin your life. You're sixteen. Being a



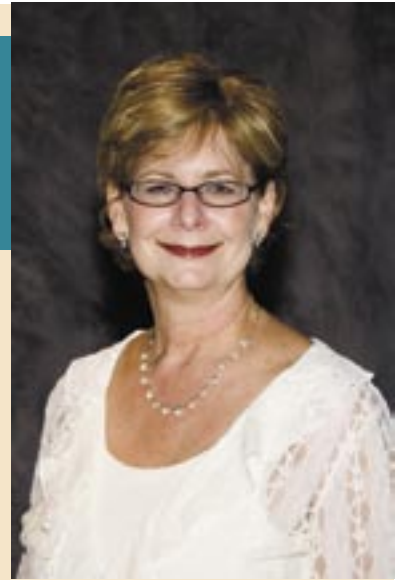
Casandra with her baby at Care Net

CARE  NET®

Pregnancy Center Of Dane County

(Continued on page 5)

From My Heart



Liz Osborn
Executive Director

Compassionate Response

In January 1973, the United States Supreme Court legalized abortions in its infamous Roe v. Wade decision. Since that ruling, more than 40 million abortions have been performed in the U.S.

And since 1973, the Christian community has developed different ways to confront legalized abortions. Some have organized politically. Some have protested. Some have had prayer vigils. And the list goes on.

All of these ways are legal and have their place in a democracy such as ours. And, we, as Christians, may be called in different ways to use our diverse gifts in confronting this attack on the sanctity of human life.

But Care Net's calling to this cultural issue is different. We are called to have a compassionate response to the

women, men, unborn children, and, hopefully, born children that get caught up in the abortion culture.

In our society, most of us would agree that our primary problems in this fallen world are not economic or political . . . although our current economy is certainly on our radar screens. The biggest problems are primarily problems of a moral and spiritual nature. It is to these emotionally hurt and despaired people that we are called to serve.

For Care Net, our example is Jesus Christ. His public ministry was focused upon the needs of hurting and despaired people. He had compassion.

The word of God affirms that it is by mercy and truth that iniquity is purged. Scripture that I quote often is James 1:27: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:

to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." We realize that James was not speaking of abortion, but he points to a way that we do not have to choose between a mother and her child. He speaks of loving them both, and, in our culture today, who better qualifies to receive a loving ministry?

Another area we copy Christ's example: Jesus never exerted political influence to usher in the Kingdom of God. Instead, He consistently ministered on a one-to-one basis to the needs of broken people - that's what Care Net of Dane County response has been for nearly 24 years.

This does not mean that political solutions are inappropriate in confronting this tragedy - Christians must continue to pray and to act to change the morally bankrupt laws that leave our unborn children without protection.

We don't want to try to stop those who feel called by God to work in that arena. But Care Net's calling is different. This calling transcends these political solutions - it is rooted in the compassion and love of Jesus Christ. Even if political solutions some day ends abortion in America, our call will still remain to provide hope, help and healing.

Therefore, we have reason to celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday - first proclaimed as a national day by the late President Ronald Reagan. It is a Sunday set aside to humbly remind and return us to the Author of Life - for the sake and cause of the Gospel. And it also is a day for Care Net to remember our role and calling in this cultural debate - a compassionate response for this new year and beyond.

For Life,

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More Than A Clinic

Jenni* came to Care Net at the recommendation of friends who had used its services. She already had her mind made up that she would choose adoption for her unborn child. Care Net was able to provide the pregnancy test to confirm her pregnancy and a ultrasound that helped confirm the age of the child which helped determine the father. Both were needed for her to continue to work with the adoption agency she had chosen.

Everything went according to plan and the child is now legally with the adoptive parents. But that is not the end of the story for Jenni. Care Net is not just about saving the life of an unborn child, but providing hope and healing to all those involved. Jenni is currently participating in Care Net's post-adoptive Bible study. Already, the Care Net counselor working with Jenni sees a new sense of respect, optimism and spiritual growth.

Confirming Values

After talking with her sister, Anna* was afraid she may be pregnant. Her sister told her "that's what happened to me. You better have a test done." Another family member had used Care Net's services in the past and recommended to Anna that she make a visit.

Anna was very relieved with the negative test results. After such a scare, she was more than willing to go through a sexual integrity brochure with the Care Net counselor. She was open to the idea of renewing her personal commitment to save sex until marriage. And she listened intently when

the counselor talked about establishing friendships with people who will support her and not put her in compromising situations. Anna admitted that her pregnancy scare occurred after a night of partying and drinking. Care Net was able to reinforce the values she knew in her heart to be true.

Not Just A Number

Terri* had already had one appointment with an abortion clinic and had a second appointment scheduled for the abortion. But she didn't feel right about it. She recounted feeling like just a number as she was rushed through the counseling. And the abortion clinic did not give Terri the opportunity to view the ultrasound screen when it was performed.

Terri decided to call Care Net. She wanted to talk to someone who wasn't as close to the situation as her family and friends. During her phone call, the Care Net Careline counselor assured her that not only would she be able to see the screen during the ultrasound, her boyfriend, who at the time wasn't ready for a child, could view the ultrasound as well.

Since that phone call, Terri and her boyfriend have decided to carry to term. They have cancelled the second appointment with the abortion clinic and both plan to come to the Care Net counseling and ultrasound.

*Fictitious names to protect privacy



Watch For Care Net Throughout Dane County in 2009

Each day 3-4 women wake up in Dane County believing abortion is their only solution to an unplanned pregnancy. About 1,200 women every year don't know that kind, compassionate and nonjudgmental care and support is available to empower them to make life affirming choices.

Recently, we asked Care Net supporters to reach these women. Thanks to your support, Care Net will be able to place four billboards in rotating locations throughout Dane County in 2009. As pictured above, these billboards will provide a toll free number that will ring directly into our center and be answered 24/7.

Research shows that each billboard yields between 10-15 new

calls per month, empowering us to save more lives than ever before.

In addition, we will place life-saving signs inside 100 buses in Madison (half the fleet!).

Research shows that every dollar you invest in this manner reaches more than 500 people, a much, much better return than we can get with any other form of mass media advertising. These 500 people include the women we seek to reach as well as their families and friends.

Care Net has had a great start on its fundraising goal for this project, but it hasn't been reached yet. If you would like to contribute to this campaign, please visit our website at: www.carenetdane.org/friends.



*What do you want to do?
It may make a big difference!*

What makes Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County so successful is that God uses each of us in our areas of gifting to bring about His purposes. We're not all client advocates, or receptionists, or administrators. Instead, we put our gifts together and the result is a ministry of joy and hope.

So the question is, "What is your gift?" Think about something you do well, and call us. For instance, the person who might call and say, "I know this sounds silly, but I'm best at decorating" could be perfect for our fundraising dinner or for public relations displays.

The person who says, "I love to organize at my house" would be the right person to assist at our maternity home.

Consider your area of gifting, and email us at cassiem@carenetdane.org or give us a call at 608-259-1606. Let's watch your gift soar at Care Net.

Community Connections



Care Net provides speakers for church, school and community groups upon request. Speakers address a variety of topics including general information about Care Net’s ministry and services, LifeWise STI and abstinence presentations for teens, Whole Heart post abortion support information for women and men, the Biblical basis for Sanctity of Life, “When God Rewrites Your Love Story” and more. Care Net has recently presented at or been a part of these events/groups:

- ♥ UW Madison Student Organization Fair
- ♥ Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel - WELS
- ♥ Rachel’s Vineyard Weekend Retreat
- ♥ 40 Days for Life Celebration Event
- ♥ Silent No More planning meeting
- ♥ MATC Human Sexuality Class
- ♥ Indian Mounds Middle School health classes
- ♥ Mad City Church Women’s Retreat
- ♥ Knights of Columbus Christmas luncheon

These groups have recently helped to further Care Net’s mission through their volunteer work:

- ♥ Crown Financial Presenters
- ♥ Dane County Health nurses

To arrange for a Care Net speaker at your church or organization or to volunteer, please email rhondat@carenetdane.org.



(Ultrasound, continued from page 1)

father for you means no sports, no college, no future. You’ll need to work full time just to survive. Tell her to get an abortion!”

And so he told me. Over and over again.

I would be lying if I said that my mind never went there. Sure, I thought about abortion. But I grew up believing that life was sacred, so abortion was not a choice I wanted to make.

But all this pressure was making it really difficult for me to stay strong, difficult to keep myself together and not break down.

When the time came to go in for the ultrasound, I invited my boyfriend to join me.

I don’t know exactly what we were expecting, but I was awestruck when I saw that ultrasound screen. I could see my baby’s hands and feet, and I could hear and see his little heart beating. I glanced over to see my boyfriend’s reaction.

He looked at the screen and his face turned white. He sat down, wide-eyed, unable to speak. The ultrasound was the turning point for him. I think he finally understood what this was all about. It made it real. He was a father. That baby was real.

After that, my boyfriend stood behind my decision to carry our baby to term. He politely but firmly asked his parents to back off, to stop demanding that we get an abortion.

Although his parents continued to lobby for abortion, my boyfriend stood firm, and that gave me the strength to stand firm alongside him. As the weeks unfolded, we knew we were doing the right thing.

Brian – our baby – entered this world on March 16th, 2008 at 7 pounds 3 ounces, 20 inches long.

I love being a mom. Brian is a pure delight. He’s a really happy baby. He rarely cries. He likes to snuggle, play and laugh. My family has been really helpful. My mom cares for him while I’m in school. My boyfriend spends lots of time caring for him. And, best of all, his family has made a 180 degree turnaround. They love Brian, and tell everybody how cute he is and what a sweet disposition he has.

To other teens in my situation, I would like to say, “Don’t get an abortion. Having a baby isn’t easy, but I wouldn’t trade Brian for anything. He has brought a whole new dimension of blessing into my life.”

I’m still a typical teenager in many ways. I love life. I’m excited about finishing high school and going on to college. But I’m profoundly grateful to God, to Care Net, to Option Ultrasound for being there when I needed help. The ultrasound was the turning point for us. Because it helped my boyfriend choose life, it made this journey one that we’re able to take together.

Care Net's Banquet A Moving Experience

A Care Net ministry friend exclaimed immediately following this year's banquet, "I wonder how God will top this banquet next year."

Fortunately, for every banquet, God brings us something new, beautiful and just right for the time so we do not need to "top" the amazing thing God has done the previous years.

In the midst of economic uncertainties, God did immeasurably more than we could imagine by providing nearly \$75,000 through this year's banquet. For the second consecutive year, our banquet was underwritten by generous sponsors so that every dollar raised through the banquet goes directly to bring help, hope and healing to women, men and families facing an unplanned pregnancy or sexual health concern.

Nearly 350 people, representing about 50 area churches, gathered at the Monona Terrace on Thursday, November 6, for this event. Banquet guests witnessed the debut of our new award-winning "Heartbeats of Hope" DVD and heard and saw firsthand how God has worked through Care Net in the lives of former clients and their families.



Babies from The Elizabeth House attending the banquet

Monica,* a woman whose daughter, Elise,* came to Care Net and then placed her baby for adoption, expressed her feelings of gratefulness for Care Net's role in their family in this way:



Past client with her child at banquet

"Elise came to Care Net and her life changed. She called me shortly after leaving Care Net and asked me to make her an appointment with an OB/GYN. She was keeping her baby. I am incredibly grateful for Care Net. Not only has one life been saved but two lives were saved."

The evening concluded with Rev. John Ensor's compelling message, "Answering the Call." Rev. Ensor told how over history, God has called individuals and the Church to defend innocent human life and how some have given their own lives in answering this call. Nearing the end, Rev. Ensor said "We're not asking you to give your life. All we want is your money," which brought a chuckle and an amazing perspective.

Care Net is very grateful for all who answered and continue to answer the call to defend life and who help make it possible for Care Net to compassionately defend life in a practical way every day.

*Fictitious names to protect privacy

Thanks to These individuals and businesses who underwrote the banquet:

Major sponsors:

Mike and Cathy Coyle Brent and JoAnn Johnson
Pellitteri Waste Systems Anonymous donors

Contributing sponsors:

Gates Auto Body Larry and Vada DeWerd
Nelson and Ann Flynn Michael and Gail Rogowski
Thysse Printing Carol Vander Sluis

Thanks also to Yellow Dog Productions for donating the videotaping of the banquet and Salt and Light Photography for donating photography for the evening.

September Thru November Care Net Statistics

Total Clients:	151
Client Calls:	321
Ultrasound Clients:	21
STI Clients:	3
Men:	16
Whole Heart:	3
Expenses:	\$124,887.76
Income:	\$118,258.09
Net Income:	-\$6,629.67

Silent No More by Cassie Mott

During this time when we recognize the sanctity of human life, we must not forget the silent struggle of women and men who have experienced abortion.

For those who have experienced God's gracious and merciful forgiveness, it is time to be Silent No More. Over the past five years I've shared my own story yet have listened to many Whole Heart participants courageously share their regret with the hope and prayer that it will bring hope to another person silently struggling. As they hear those testimonies of freedom, the lies such as "there's no help," "there nothing wrong," "abortion is safe and legal," they lose their hold.

Silent No More is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, starting at 12pm on the first floor rotunda of the state capitol.

This is a powerful event happening across our nation that has the potential to bring many to peace and reconciliation with God, themselves and their child.

This is what the people behind the event say about it: "The Silent No More Awareness Campaign is an effort to make the public aware of the devastation abortion brings to women, men, and their families. The emotional and physical pain of abortion will no longer be shrouded in secrecy and silence, but rather exposed and healed. This effort is a key to make abortion unthinkable and persuade society that women deserve better than abortion."

To learn more about Silent No More visit www.silentno-moreawareness.org

Upcoming Care Net Events

January 18, 2009 - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Thursday, February 5, 2009 - Tour of Care Net's medical and counseling clinic and The Elizabeth House residential program. All are welcome. Tours are from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Monday, March 16, 2009 - Whole Heart Spring Bible Study. Register by March 9th

March 13, 14, 20, 21, 2009 - Care Net Volunteer training

Mother's Day, May 10, 2009 thru Father's Day, June 21, 2009 - Baby Bottle Campaign

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 - Golf Fundraiser

Thursday, November 5, 2009 - Annual Fundraising Banquet

Care Net Newsletter Survey

To better serve you ... we are making improvements in Alternatives, Care Net's quarterly newsletter, and we would like your input. Your thoughts matter and we'd love to get your feedback on the enclosed survey.

Quicker and easier: You may complete the same survey online at <http://carenetdane.org/survey/>

Help
Hope
Healing

CARE NET

Pregnancy Center of Dane County

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Toll Free: 800-395-HELP
Website: www.carenetdane.org/friends
Email: carenet@carenetdane.org

Staff

Liz Osborn, 258-9473, lizo@carenetdane.org
Executive Director

Cassie Mott, cassiem@carenetdane.org
Center Director

Tanis Jean-Louis, RN, tanisj@carenetdane.org
Nurse Manager

Paula Reif, paular@carenetdane.org
Director of The Elizabeth House

Monique Simmons, RN, moniques@carenetdane.org
Assistant Nurse Manager

Jim Govier
Financial Assistant

Rhonda Thompson, rhondat@carenetdane.org
Director of Community Relations

Tim & Tracy Markle
House Parents for The Elizabeth House

John Howe
Facilities Manager

Dr. Mike Wilson
Volunteer Medical Director

Dr. Karla Dickmeyer
Volunteer OB/GYN Consultant

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Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

January 18, 2009

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 2009, SOHLS will take place on January 18.

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County will help area churches participate in this important event by providing guest speakers, our new award-winning 7 minute DVD, "Heartbeats of Hope" and free bulletin inserts.

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 2009, 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.