

Alternatives

A Message in a Bottle

An “accidental” discovery saves a life

Single with a young daughter, Kerri* faced a terrible dilemma. She was pregnant again; her boyfriend had moved out leaving her to pay the bills on her own. Where could she turn? Her only means of supporting herself was cleaning houses, and how would she continue her work as her pregnancy advanced?

Kerri previously had an abortion. Though she wasn't excited about that option, she didn't want to raise another child without a father. And her ex-boyfriend's mother was pressuring her to get an abortion. But Kerri didn't have money to pay for an abortion. She barely had enough money to survive.

These thoughts were swirling around in Kerri's mind as she was cleaning a customer's home one day. As she cleaned, something caught her attention. She looked up and saw a baby bottle from Care Net's 2008 Baby Bottle Campaign.

Odd, she thought. But as she looked more closely she saw that there was a printed message inside. Curious, she picked up the bottle and read a message about life. There was a place, she discovered, where she might be able to find help.

There was a phone number. Having nothing with her to write on, she wrote the number on her hand, and after she left work, she called the Care Net Careline. That call led to an appointment, and that appointment led to an ultrasound where Kerri got to see, for the first time, the 12-week old life that was growing inside of her.

Wow! After watching her baby's beating heart and seeing her move around, Kerri told her counselor, “It would be much

harder to have an abortion now. I think this is what I needed to see.”

But that didn't mean that choosing life was easy. Kerri agonized over what route to take. But now she wasn't alone. Her Care Net counselor was becoming a trusted friend, someone who was really there for her. Her counselor helped her find resources she needed to move forward. As that bond of trust grew stronger, so did Kerri's resolve. She would carry her child to term. She would give her second daughter the gift of life.

Emma* was born at 6 lbs 15 oz, 20 inches long soon after New Year's Day 2009. Kerri brought her newborn into Care Net to celebrate, and to express her gratitude for the care and support she received.

The road ahead for Kerri will not be easy, but she wouldn't trade her decision for anything. She loves her new daughter and can't imagine life without her. And Emma's older sister is delighted with her new baby sister.

As Kerri looks back on her journey she now realizes how it all started. “It was God,” she explains, “that made me look up and see that baby bottle.”

*Names changed to protect privacy

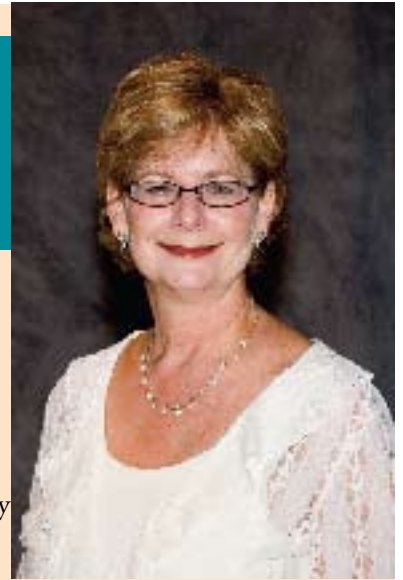


CARE  NET®

Pregnancy Center Of Dane County

2009 Baby Bottle Campaign is here ... see page 5

From My Heart



Liz Osborn
Executive Director

This is a test!

Sooner or later, everything good is tested. In fact, without a test, the good and the great cannot be recognized. Without Goliath, there would be no David. Without oppression, the Red Sea would not have parted. Without the lion's den, who would know about Daniel? Every great undertaking is tested and validated in the furnace of adversity. It would be foolish to think that our ministry is exempt from times of testing.

Here's what we face: A coordinated, strategic effort has been launched to close down or restrict pregnancy resource centers across the United States. In the past two years, five states have introduced legislation specifically targeting pregnancy centers. In addition, pregnancy center opponents have authored a guidebook instructing women to pose as fake clients in order to start lawsuits against centers. This campaign is well funded and well connected. More than one major national or international organization has joined forces to move this campaign forward, and deprive women of ministries such as Care Net.

Since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, many states, including Wisconsin, have passed legislation to help women make informed and deliberate choices. While these laws don't end abortion, they help slow down the process

long enough to help a woman think through her decision. In the months ahead, it is likely that nearly all of these life-affirming state laws will be challenged at the federal level. There is even an effort to require health care workers to violate their conscience to participate in abortions.

Despite strenuous community objection, a surgery center located in Madison is set to begin offering second trimester abortions. As a former abortion nurse, intimately acquainted with the deception and horror of the abortion trade, I greet this news with profound sorrow.

Yet I am not discouraged. Good works are tested in the forge of opposition. Let's be clear: This is a test. But we will not shrink back from this challenge. We are not daunted. We link arms with you and march forward with our eyes wide open.

Standing with you!

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Courtesy of Dennis Bjugstad www.saltandlightphotography.com



A busy 24 hours at Care Net

Care Net is a 24/7 ministry. Night and day, people come to us to find help, hope and healing. We asked our Center Director to give us a snapshot of one recent day at Care Net. Here's her report.

Amanda* and her friend Maggie* started our day with an STI follow-up appointment. They learned about Care Net from a friend who recently saw an old bus placard from our last billboard/bus campaign. Maggie sighed with relief when her pregnancy test came back negative. Meanwhile, our nurse was able to share a loving message with Amanda that "she is worth waiting for."

A little later, Jessica* walked in for a pregnancy test. She found out about Care Net when she received an Optionline flier from someone outside an abortion clinic. The Optionline toll free number (1-800-395-HELP) and website www.optionline.org help people find a pregnancy resource center anywhere in the US.

One of our Whole Heart facilitators met with Megan* who is considering joining our post abortion support Bible study group. God has brought four women together for this Forgiven and Set Free Bible study. While all members expressed apprehension, they were assured of God's leading to begin this healing journey. Please pray for this group as they work through the grief of a past abortion decision. One goal many women state when entering this study is to move the knowledge of God's forgiveness from their head to their hearts. We do see that happen through the course of the study.

Paula, The Elizabeth House Director, took a call from Brittany* who wanted more information about the program

and her potential eligibility for it.

Our last appointment for the day involved a young couple, Michael* and Samantha* exploring adoption. This was a follow-up appointment using materials from Loving and Caring titled "Is Parenting for Me Now?" and "What about Adoption?" It was exciting to see them courageously considering their options, and it was gratifying to see one of our male counselors join in the sessions. They left feeling empowered, with all their questions answered.

After the center closed for the day, our Careline counselor received a call from Chris* who wanted to register for April Care Classes. Chris* and his girlfriend found our classes listed on our website, www.carenetdane.org, and called to secure their place in the class.

The next morning, Melissa*, an abortion vulnerable woman telephoned. She found our ad in the phone book yellow pages. Our ultrasound service caught her eye. Undecided about her pregnancy, she made the choice to set up an appointment to discuss her options and have an ultrasound.

What do Melissa, Chris, Michael, Samantha, Brittany, Megan, Jessica, Amanda and Maggie* all have in common? They are being touched by your prayers, inspired by your faith, encouraged by your love expressed in many different ways. Care Net has never been simply a collection of staff and volunteers. It is instead a whole community of faith responding to a crisis with empathy and understanding.

*Fictitious names to protect privacy

Care Net's 15th Annual Golf Event

Golf Fore Life! Care Net's 15th Annual Golf Fund Raiser will be held Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at Wild Rock Golf Club at The Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The event starts at 1:00 pm. Early Bird Registration deadline is April 20. Cost is \$150, \$175 after April 20. Pastors play for the discounted rate of \$75. Registration deadline is May 8th.

Golfers are asked to raise pledges. But, this part is actually quite easy. If every golfer raised just 20 pledges of \$20, then we would hit our goal of \$40,000.

To Register:

Online: www.carenetdane.org/friends/upcomingevents.html

E-mail: sarahm@carenetdane.org

Phone: 608-259-1606 ext. 218

Once registered, you will receive registration confirmation and pledging information.

Questions? Contact Sarah at sarahm@carenetdane.org or 608-259-1606



*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

“The Care Net speakers did a wonderful job! We had lots of good comments. I’m grateful you were able to put that team together to come to our church.”

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:

- ♥ Madison Memorial High School
- ♥ Kromrey Middle School
- ♥ Catholic Medical Students Association – UW Medical School
- ♥ Asbury Church
- ♥ Bethesda Church
- ♥ Christ the King Community Church
- ♥ Fitchburg Christian Fellowship
- ♥ Fulton Church
- ♥ High Point Church
- ♥ Madison SahLang Church
- ♥ Our Lady of Hope Clinic
- ♥ Pro-Life Summit
- ♥ Springs of Hope Church
- ♥ Touched Twice Clinic



2009 Baby Bottle Campaign

This spring churches throughout Dane County will be participating in Care Net’s 2009 Baby Bottle Campaign.

When parishioners fill a baby bottle with currency, coins or a check, they help Care Net Pregnancy Center provide help, hope and healing to women and men affected by an unplanned pregnancy or sexual health concern. *Every penny stays local.* 95% of all donations go toward funding the ministries of Care Net Pregnancy Center. 5% of the gifts will go to the Mother and Child Resource Center, a ministry which provides baby clothing and baby items to pregnant mothers and families in need.

Last year was our most successful Baby Bottle Campaign ever. Over 50 churches from many denominations participated and raised over \$56,000 for Care Net.

Baby bottles should be returned to the church on or before Father’s Day. For more information or to obtain Baby Bottle Campaign resources for your church, contact Sarah at 608-259-1606 or sarahm@carenetdane.org.



While we can adapt to the needs of the individual church or group, it is helpful when we can show the Care Net DVD. One church, understandably having a full Sunday morning service, was reluctant to devote a full ten minutes to a Care Net presentation, including showing Care Net’s seven minute DVD, Heartbeats of Hope. Two pastors from the church requested a meeting with a Care Net staff member to preview the DVD and discuss possibilities for highlighting Care Net’s ministries. At the conclusion of the DVD, both said “That is great! We will make it work. Tell the Care Net presenter that he may have 3 minutes following the DVD. We will show the entire DVD.”

Volunteering at Care Net

We are grateful for these groups who recently helped to further Care Net’s mission through their volunteer work:

- ♥ Blackhawk Church Titus women’s group
- ♥ Door Creek Church youth group

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

Join us for the April Tour

You are invited to a Ministry Tour of Care Net Pregnancy Center on Tuesday, April 21 from 7:00-8:15pm at 1350 MacArthur Rd., Madison (near the corner of Stoughton Road and East Washington Avenue). Find out what God is doing in 2009! We are excited about what God is doing in our midst. Join us to learn more about the compassionate care offered by Care Net to women, men and families facing unplanned pregnancies or sexual health concerns. The tour highlights Care Net’s Medical and Counseling Clinic, LifeWise abstinence education program, Whole Heart post abortion support and The Elizabeth House residential program. You will not be asked to give a donation, but we will ask for your feedback. Children are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by April 16th to 608-259-1606 ext. 218 or sarahm@carenetdane.org.



Magnify your donation through the Wisconsin Iron Man charity

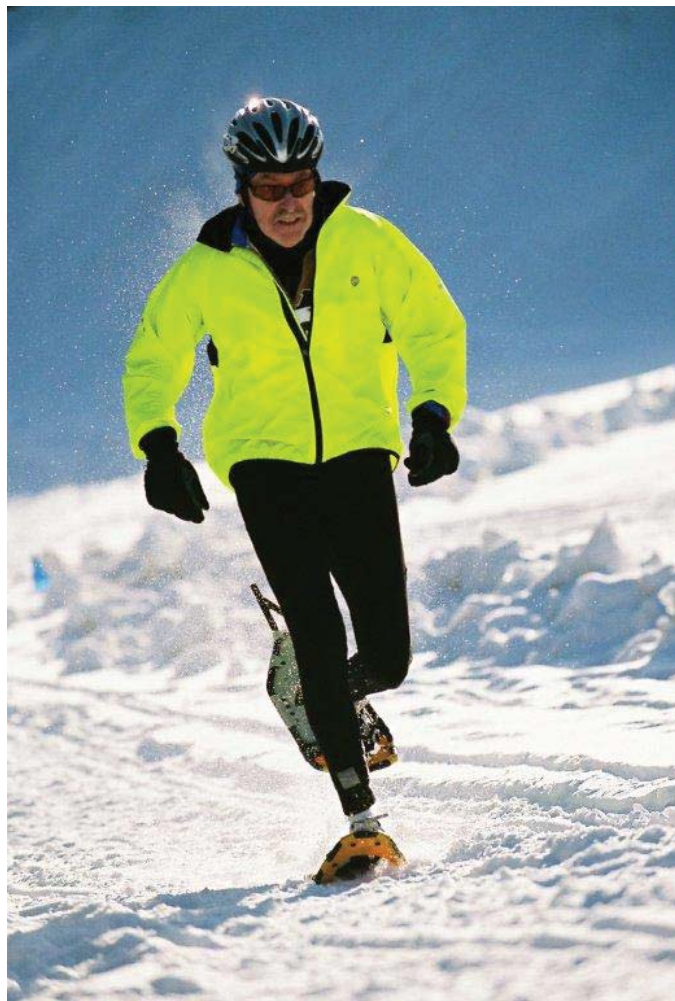
Long time Care Net friend Jim Stevens has created an opportunity for you to magnify the impact of your donations to Care Net. Jim has again entered the Wisconsin Iron Man competition, this time as a fund-raiser for Care Net. Here's the catch: If he places among the top five fund raisers for the event, the Janus Corporation will give Care Net an additional gift of up to \$10,000.

All the money Jim raises will go directly to Care Net. None of the money goes to the Janus Corporation, to Iron Man or to Jim Stevens. Your gift is still tax deductible and you will receive a receipt for your donation. Although hundreds of people will participate in the September 2009 event, only 30 to 40 will participate as fund raisers in the Janus Charity Challenge.

To donate offline make your check payable to Care Net of Dane County. Be sure to write "IM Janus Charity Challenge" in the memo line. Mail your check to Care Net at 1350 MacArthur Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53714 as you normally would.

For more information or to donate online, go to CareNetDane.org/friends/ironman.html

Thanks, Jim, for making it possible for Care Net donors to magnify those gifts!



Jim Stevens

December Thru February Care Net Statistics

Total Client Visits:	143
Careline Calls:	370
Ultrasound Clients:	28
STI Clients:	11
Men:	14
Whole Heart:	8
Expenses:	\$158,386.68
Income:	\$129,117.61
Net	-\$29,269.07*

*Excludes capital income and expense.

Volunteering pays for "Dollars for Doers"

Current and retired CUNA Mutual employees who volunteer with Care Net are eligible to obtain for Care Net a \$500 individual grant or a \$1,000 team grant through the "Dollars for Doers" program. More information is available from the CUNA Mutual Group Foundation, PO Box 391, Madison, WI 53701-0391 (608) 231-8754.

Have you checked? Does your company provide matching donations or special incentives for volunteering?

The Elizabeth House: New Houseparents

On Monday, February 9, 2009, The Elizabeth House welcomed Barb and Kevin Peterson, long time friends of Care Net, as the ministry's new houseparents. Barb is also Care Net's part time grant manager and Kevin serves on the marketing team.

How do a grant manager and a marketing team member become houseparents?

"We spent a month and a half thinking and praying about this. We asked Liz and Tim hundreds of questions." And they involved their whole family in the decision. As they were pondering what choice to make, a statement by former house father Tim Markle arrested Kevin's attention: "What better place can you minister with your family on a daily basis, and have them involved, instead of going away to minister and coming home to tell your children about it?"

As the Petersons made their decision, all four of their children shared their excitement.

What is life like at The Elizabeth House?

Hectic, but rewarding, explains Kevin. "We recently added two new residents, and we're still learning the inner workings of how everything gets done." The most important and rewarding part of the job for the Petersons is building relationships with each of the residents. Building trust takes time and integrity, but trust is the foundation of this ministry.

"Being houseparents has also helped us see the inner workings of the Care Net ministry," Kevin adds. "While we always had great respect for the staff and volunteers, our respect for them has grown enormously."

Care Net, Google & Facebook

Care Net is now on Facebook. As a member of the Facebook Group with instant access to updates, you'll be the first to hear about developments in our ministry. You'll also identify yourself as an advocate for life and have the opportunity to network with other like-minded people. To find us search for Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County.

[Thinking about Abortion?](#)
Info on **abortion** procedures & risks
Get caring & confidential help 24/7
www.carenetdane.org

Women considering abortion may now have a Care Net ad come up while searching in Google for abor-

tion information. Care Net is increasing its presence on the web to be able to reach more abortion vulnerable women. In just one day last month, Care Net had 16 new clicks to our



Kevin & Barb Peterson

The bottom line? Being houseparents is an "opportunity to impact lives" in a positive way and to "walk out our faith in a real tangible way," Barb says.

Care Net's mission has always been to empower women and men to make the right choice. That's what The Elizabeth House is all about.

Kevin and Barb Peterson are making the choice for life much easier for the residents of The Elizabeth House.

website responding to our new ads.

To be relevant to the generation of our Internet savvy clients, increasing Care Net's Internet presence as part of an overall marketing plan is crucial. Over 90% of teens, regardless of socioeconomic status or other demographic factors, utilize the web on a daily basis.

Help
Hope
Healing



Pregnancy Center of Dane County
1350 MacArthur Rd
Madison WI 53714

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

You are invited!

Ministry Tour of Care Net Pregnancy Center -
Tuesday, April 21 from 7:00-8:15pm at
1350 MacArthur Rd., Madison.
Find out what God is doing in 2009!

Thanks for your input!

About 70 readers responded to the survey we included in the last issue of Alternatives. Your responses were wonderful! We're working on keeping the things you like and making the improvements you requested. We expect to start incorporating those changes in the next issue.

Coming up! We plan to have a report on exciting developments with our men's ministry in the next issue of Alternatives.

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Toll Free: 800-395-HELP

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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.

Alternatives

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