

# Alternatives

YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARE NET

## Out of the Fire

### *A Mom's Story*

**K**im's story began at 3:00 am on February 18th when she awoke to find her dog barking hysterically. When she opened her eyes, she realized that she couldn't see and could barely breathe. Running across the hall, she woke up her sister and her sister's six month old daughter. Together they broke out their first floor window and leaped from the building while fire from a pinched extension cord consumed their pets and everything they owned.

Later that day, Kim learned about The Elizabeth House from a helpful caseworker. A couple phone calls and faxes later, she was a resident. Arriving with absolutely nothing, it was time to rebuild. But Care Net was there for Kim.

By the time her baby, Zahmall, was born, she was immersed in The Elizabeth House program – reading parenting books, helping with chores, looking for work, meeting with Care Net workers, taking time out for church. And through The Elizabeth House's Care Cash program, she was earning redemption coupons to obtain donated bedding, shoes, toys, a stroller and recently, a crib.

Zahmall was born on April 16. The Elizabeth House staff was completely supportive throughout the time surrounding his birth. "It was so nice knowing I had a place to go after he was born," she says. "I had my own room and my own bathroom. It was like coming back to my own apartment."

In addition to caring for her baby, a typical day for Kim involves job hunting, a shared meal with the entire "family" from The Elizabeth House, helping with chores, and relaxing with a movie or a game in the evening. Kim is seeking employment as an in home nursing care worker.

The Elizabeth House is, in Kim's words, "one of the best places I've been to ... if it weren't for this place, I don't know where my son and I would be."



**Kim and Zahmall**

We currently have five women at The Elizabeth House and their three baby boys. Two residents recently graduated with their GED's. Secret to this program's success? The prayers, donations and volunteer participation of many good people.

**CARE**  **NET**®

Pregnancy Center Of Dane County

# From My Heart

## Volunteers Rock!

The pictures tell the story. We are overwhelmed with gratitude. Thank you, volunteers!

*Liz Kasher*



Facilities manger, John Howe, said of the group, "This is great!! They've done in a few hours what it would have taken me months to do!"



## Clinic Vignettes

### Hanging in the Balance

**Not ready?** Nicole\* came to us with the support of her boyfriend to continue the pregnancy. But others close to her have suggested and encouraged abortion. Family members are saying, “They are just not ready for this.” Nicole and her boyfriend are determined to hold to her convictions, but these teens need your prayers. Both are looking for work, and are meeting with a clinic nurse and male peer counselor for continued support.

**How could I handle another baby?** Christina,\* married and in her late twenties, loves spending time with her young and energetic child. Pregnant again, she is torn. On one hand, she loves being a mom. On the other, she wants to complete her education. She also has aborted a previous pregnancy, and came to Care Net with a plan to also meet with an abortion provider for counsel. Cultural traditions add to her questioning: “How could I handle another baby?” She received counsel and an ultrasound. We pray she makes a life-affirming decision.

**Lots to think about...** Crystal,\* a single mom of an older child, was clear. She did not want to parent again. Like Christina,\* she had had a previous abortion. Now torn between adoption and abortion, she gathered information about fetal development. Tears flowed as she thought about placing her baby with someone who could not have a child. She left with “lots to think about.”

Both of these mothers shed tears of sadness as they reflected on their previous decision to abort. On one level, they felt it was okay. On another, they felt now that they had children that “that choice just doesn’t line up.” Making the choice for life is never easy. It’s messy and it takes time, love, and your prayers to bring a redemptive solution into a difficult challenge.

**Trade offs ...** Megan\* courageously made an adoption plan. In her heart she’s confident of her decision, yet walks through the grief associated with the loss of parenting. During our time we reflected on God’s sending His only Son to make it possible for us to be adopted into His family. That was a painful decision and plan. But He didn’t just give his Son away. It was a plan, and when we plan something there can be trade offs that are painful but have joyful long term outcomes.

**It won’t be easy.** Lauren’s\* tenacity is incredible. Pregnant with her fourth child, she was facing opposition from the father of the child and challenges with work and education. But, having recently reconnected with Christ, she desired to follow His plan for herself, her family and this baby. It won’t be easy. As a single mom, working and going to school, she needed a safe place to process and be affirmed. Her very busy life makes our contacts with her brief, but we know she would value your prayers.

\*Fictitious names to protect privacy

## Man to Man: Meeting a New Set of Needs

Nothing happens in a vacuum; least of all an unplanned pregnancy. There are always multiple stakeholders, and the father of the child is one of the most important of those stakeholders. Here at Care Net we have always recognized the strategic importance of reaching out to the men who come with their wives, daughters and girlfriends to Care Net. Making a choice for life involves challenges for any woman, and having the support of the birth father can make her load lighter.

Many times husbands and boyfriends want to be supportive,

but don't know how. In an unplanned pregnancy, they too are caught in a whirlwind of emotion. They too need someone to talk to – someone who will understand.

This is the reason Care Net has focused on carefully selecting and training male volunteer counselors who can meet separately with male clients. This approach resonates with the couples that come in together. "It's so rewarding to see the look on our clients' faces," says Cassie Mott, Center Director, "The woman is excited that there's a man there to help her partner, and the guy is glad there's someone there to meet with him."



If you want to apply for a volunteer counseling position, contact Cassie Mott at [cassiem@carenetdane.org](mailto:cassiem@carenetdane.org).

### Practitioner needed!

We are excited about the 150% increase in STI clients. To meet this increased demand we need, a nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or medical doctor who would be willing to volunteer two hours one day per week. Contact Tanis Jean-Louis at [tanisj@carenetdane.org](mailto:tanisj@carenetdane.org).

## Make a difference!

### Volunteering at Care Net

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.

*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](mailto:cassiem@carenetdane.org) or give us a call at 608-259-1606. Let's watch your gift soar at Care Net.



# Community Connections

## Awesome volunteers

*"I've known about Care Net but always wanted to find out more. It's great to see it and understand more of what you do." - An 18 year old woman who was part of a group of teens from Memorial Baptist Church.*

In addition to seeing many clients the last few months, Care Net has also seen many volunteer groups in and out of its doors. The building and grounds look great! The pantry shelves at The Elizabeth House are filled to overflowing, layettes are ready for pregnant clients and the libraries for clients and for staff and volunteers are ready for patrons.

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

- ♥ Blackhawk Church "Love Madison"
- ♥ Door Creek Church
- ♥ Blackhawk Church's Madison Mission middle school groups
- ♥ Memorial Baptist Church teen missions group
- ♥ New Hope Church women's group

Over forty volunteers from **Blackhawk Church** served at Care Net as part of their "Love Madison" outreach. This group of wholehearted and energetic volunteers gave Care Net's building and grounds a spring makeover. One enthusiastic man said "I'm having a great time! I haven't dusted this much in my life!" Thank you Blackhawk Church!

Volunteers from **Door Creek Church** served at Care Net and for Care Net in the community. Several brave souls spread out in pairs in Madison's downtown and east side requesting permission to place posters regarding Care Net's services in local

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## Empowering a Choice for Life

A young mom of a 2 year old set an appointment. She had a positive home test in December. Feeling pressure from the baby's father to abort she called to find out how far along she was. During the counseling when questioned if she liked being a mom, her eyes lit up and a beautiful smile emerged. When the abortion option was spoken tears welled up in her eyes. But she would consider abortion if she wasn't "too far along." An ultrasound was needed. Going into the ultrasound the client was undecided. Yet after viewing her little one, complete with a heart shaped chin, she determined to carry to term.

## More on the Battle

Thanks to your prayers, the disinformation campaign that was being waged against pregnancy centers fizzled here in Dane County as far as Care Net was concerned. No protesters showed. Much is happening nationally. Meanwhile, we continue to save lives one heart at a time. More in future issues.



businesses. Thanks to their efforts, Care Net will be known to more individuals who may be facing an unplanned pregnancy. A group of teens from **Memorial Baptist Church** spent an afternoon cleaning and weeding at Care Net. We are so grateful for the volunteers who sacrificially give their time and talents to empower us to make a difference in many lives.

## Reaching Out

Care Net has recently presented at or been a part of these events/groups:

- ♥ Kromrey Middle School
- ♥ Indian Mounds Middle School
- ♥ Memorial High School
- ♥ UW Healthy Classrooms Symposium
- ♥ Madison Sahlang College Group
- ♥ Crossroads Church
- ♥ Mad City Church

To arrange for a Care Net speaker at your church or organization or to volunteer, please contact [rhondat@carenetdane.org](mailto:rhondat@carenetdane.org).

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## Join us for the August Tour

You are invited to a Ministry Tour of Care Net Pregnancy Center on Wednesday, August 19th from 7:00-8:15pm at 1350 MacArthur Rd., Madison (near the corner of Stoughton Road and East Washington Avenue). Join us to learn more about the compassionate care offered by Care Net. 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 August 13th to 608-259-1606 ext. 218 or [sarahm@carenetdane.org](mailto:sarahm@carenetdane.org).



## There's Still Time to Magnify Your Donation

As we reported last 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.

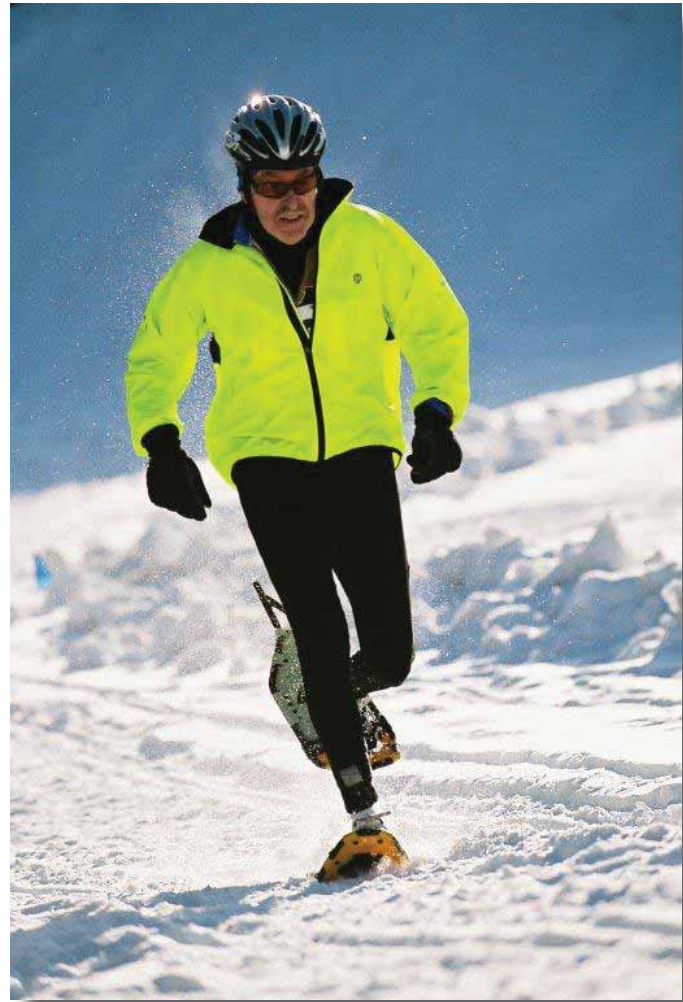
Jim has already raised about \$3,000 for Care Net. At the moment, he is in 6th place in a very tight race. Even a slight increase could place Care Net in position to receive an additional \$2,000, \$4,000, \$6,000, or \$8,000 from the Janus Corporation. Even the \$10,000 first place award is within reach.

You can help. **Any gift you give to Care Net can qualify as long as you write "IM Janus Charity Challenge" in the memo line.** Make your check payable to Care Net of Dane County. Remember, all the money goes to Care Net. None of it goes to Jim Stevens or to the Janus Corporation. 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](http://CareNetDane.org/friends/ironman.html)

**But please note: Timing is critical.** Your gift must reach Care Net before September 12, 2009 to qualify.

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



Jim Stevens

### March - May Care Net Statistics

Total Client Visits:	239
Careline Calls:	429
Ultrasound Clients:	18
STI Clients:	19
Men:	35

	Income	Expense
March	\$31,126.55	\$31,810.38
April	\$31,245.61	\$41,061.14
May	\$32,326.49	\$37,252.10

### Creative Sacrifice

*A note from a Care Net friend*

*When some parish members handed out the "baby bottles" for your fund drive we were inspired to put a plan into action. We are retired and receive Social Security. When we each received \$250.00 from the "Stimulus" package money, we felt it appropriate to give our share to an organization such as yours that supports right to life. Thank you for all your good work.*

### LifeWise Quotes

"I learned that abstinence is the only way to be completely safe."  
 "I learned that I should save sex until I am married." "I was having sex on a regular basis, now I'm going to wait until I am in a lasting relationship."  
 "I learned how having a lot of sexual partners increases your risk of getting an STI."  
 "I learned that using a condom doesn't always protect you."  
 "The presentation was well done. I learned a lot."

# Changing Lives in a Day: Golf 2009

“One day. One golf game. Affecting generations to come.”

This mantra was more than just a slogan for Care Net’s 2009 Golf Fundraiser. The \$34,500+ that was raised at this year’s golf outing means that Care Net will continue to provide help, hope and healing to people like Mary\*, an abortion vulnerable woman. She found Care Net’s ad in the yellow pages, and 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. That day, after seeing her baby move and hearing her baby’s heartbeat, she decided to choose life for her child.

The funds brought in by this golf fundraiser give more women like Mary\* (fictitious name) the chance, the opportunity to extend life to their unborn children. So, thank you to the men and women who golfed and raised pledges! Thank you to the businesses and individuals who graciously donated to this event! Many lives are and will be impacted by your generosity.

**Special thanks to our top fundraisers** Brian Montrey and Jeff Crooks, who each received a free overnight stay at a Wisconsin Dells resort and water park. Thank you also to the golfers who raised over \$1000 and received two rounds of golf at Trappers Turn in thanks for their efforts: Larry Brady, Larry DeWerd, Marc Maillefer, George Oehlein and Bill Paulson.

**Thanks to our sponsors** who donated tee and green sponsorships and prizes for this event:  
David Back  
Benvenutos  
Bridgeworks, LLC  
Christ Memorial Lutheran Church  
Clack Corporation

## Reaching Clients Online

Care Net is increasing its presence on the web to be able to reach more abortion vulnerable women. Since launching Internet advertising, we have seen a 150% increase in the number of clients coming in for STI testing and a 30% increase in our overall number of clients. Over 90% of teens, regardless of socioeconomic status or other demographic factors, utilize the web on a daily basis. We are delighted to have an opportunity to be a part of their daily Internet lives.

With our increased presence on the web, on billboards around Dane County, in buses and elsewhere, Care Net is reaching

### Thinking about Abortion?

Info on **abortion** procedures & risks  
Get caring & confidential help 24/7  
[www.carenetdane.org](http://www.carenetdane.org)

more and more abortion vulnerable women and others. We are grateful to serve more women and men in our community. Wednesday, June 3, was one such day at Care Net. We met with 13 face-to-face clients including men.

- Cool Beans
- Coyle Carpet One Floor & Home
- DMB Community Bank
- First Business Bank
- Food Fight Restaurant Group
- Green Bay Packers
- Grobe & Associates
- Kalahari Resort
- KSJ Electric
- Lathrop & Clark Attorneys
- Madison Mallards
- Milwaukee Brewers
- Milwaukee Bucks
- Octopus Car Wash
- Pat and Joan O’Connor
- Bill and Sue Paulson
- Pellitteri’s Waste Systems
- Pleasant View Golf Course
- Princeton Clubs
- Rademacher Farms
- Smokey’s Club
- Standard Imaging
- T.C.D. Builders
- The Wilderness Resort
- Thysse Printing
- Trapper’s Turn
- Wegner LLP CPAs and Consultants



See you again next year!

A 17-year-old client whose pregnancy test turned out negative, had an opportunity to learn about sexual integrity and went in for STI testing. She plans to make changes in her life after commenting on how relaxing the atmosphere was, how concerned she found the staff. Would she recommend Care Net to her friends? Absolutely. “They explain everything – that’s what I like best.”

### You can find Care Net online too!

Care Net is now on Facebook. As a member of the Facebook Group, 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.

Or, to find out more about Care Net’s free and confidential services or how you can get involved visit us online. We’ve added lots of exciting content to our website. Check it out and bookmark [www.CareNetDane.org/friends](http://www.CareNetDane.org/friends) so it’s easy to find us anytime.

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## CARENET<sup>®</sup>

Pregnancy Center of Dane County

1350 MacArthur Rd  
Madison WI 53714

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Voice: 608-259-1605  
Fax: 608-258-9507  
Toll Free: 800-395-HELP  
Website: [www.carenetdane.org/friends](http://www.carenetdane.org/friends)  
Email: [carenet@carenetdane.org](mailto:carenet@carenetdane.org)

### **Staff**

Liz Osborn, 258-9473, [lizo@carenetdane.org](mailto:lizo@carenetdane.org)  
Executive Director

Cassie Mott, [cassiem@carenetdane.org](mailto:cassiem@carenetdane.org)  
Center Director

Tanis Jean-Louis, RN, [tanisj@carenetdane.org](mailto:tanisj@carenetdane.org)  
Nurse Manager

Paula Reif, [paular@carenetdane.org](mailto:paular@carenetdane.org)  
The Elizabeth House Director

Rhonda Thompson, [rhondat@carenetdane.org](mailto:rhondat@carenetdane.org)  
Community Relations Director

Sarah Malhotra, [sarahm@carenetdane.org](mailto:sarahm@carenetdane.org)  
Community Relations Assistant

Barb Peterson, [barbp@carenetdane.org](mailto:barbp@carenetdane.org)  
House Mother /The Elizabeth House

Kevin Peterson, [kevinp@carenetdane.org](mailto:kevinp@carenetdane.org)  
House Father for The Elizabeth House

Evonne and Alissa Walsh, [evonnew@carenetdane.org](mailto:evonnew@carenetdane.org)  
Relief Houseparents, The Elizabeth House

Jim Govier, [jimg@carenetdane.org](mailto:jimg@carenetdane.org)  
Financial Assistant

John Howe  
Facilities Manager

Dr. Mike Wilson  
Volunteer Medical Director

Dr. Karla Dickmeyer  
Volunteer OB/GYN Consultant

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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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