

Alternatives

YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARE NET

“You only have one chance to be a good parent”

Nurturing a New Life Parent Education Project

Care Net will expand its parent education program beginning in January 2010. For many young women, choosing life presents challenges because they have no idea how to care for their child after he or she is born. Furthermore, many of these moms are trapped in cycles of unhealthy relationships and / or chronic homelessness, creating an unsafe environment for their children. Our new initiative will allow Care Net to follow moms through the critical first three years of their child's life.

“You only have one chance to be a good parent,” Melissa*, a resident of The Elizabeth House explained, as we chatted about her experience. She went on to say that many of the young women that our ministry works with have no experience with child care and no mentoring outside the Care Net ministry.

Care Net has chosen to engage these issues by launching the Nurturing a New Life Parent Education Project. A local foundation has awarded some of the start up funding to allow this expansion.

This initiative will be directed by Paula Reif, who will be stepping away from her current role as Director of The Elizabeth House. With a Masters of Arts in Human Services-Family Life Education and a passion to help parents, “this is the perfect job for me.” With Paula in this role and a new director (to be hired this fall), The Elizabeth House program will be expanded to accommodate eight moms at a time, up from the current limit of six.

“Mom - a child's first and best teacher.”

The research based program will empower single moms with parenting skills and with healthy relationships, increasing self sufficiency and self esteem.

“Apart from intervention and education, we all parent from how we were parented,” Paula explains. “We can't change unless we see alternatives.”

One mom's experience

Melissa (name changed to protect privacy) came to live at The Elizabeth House in June. Her son was born in July. “Having a child really makes you grow up fast,” she said. “You can't do it twice; you only have one chance to be a good parent.” Meeting with Paula and Care Net staff has helped. “I've been in toxic relationships in the past,” she explained, but now “I know what I'm looking for in a relationship, and God is going to bring it to me when I'm ready.”

“The people who really take advantage of this program are going to change their lives – their own lives and their baby's life. It's really a beautiful, beautiful thing.”



Paula Reif

CARE  NET[®]

Pregnancy Center Of Dane County

From My Heart

Your power to make a difference

Never underestimate the value of your partnership nor your power to make a difference. We are celebrating the fund raising accomplishment of Jim Stevens. (See page 7.) Jim's achievement deserves to be celebrated, but his contribution illustrates principles of making a difference that we all have in common. I want to suggest seven principles that will help any of us make a difference.

#1 Decide what you care about. Years ago I decided that I cared about saving lives. How about you? What do you care about? What has God put in your heart? That passion is there for a purpose.

#2 Watch for opportunities. Opportunities abound, but we need to be tuned in. Jim was inspired by others who participated in an earlier fund raising event. As an athlete and a competitor, he found his niche. Your opportunity may well be different, but it is no less valuable.

#3 Set a challenging goal. After prayer, Jim set the goal of raising \$50,000 for Care Net. That's no small goal! And, yes, he admits he had doubts. But the goal challenged him and spurred him into action. Your goal becomes activated as soon as you set a deadline on it. In Jim's case he needed to raise these funds by early September.

#4 Link arms with others. We move forward as a team. Without your participation, we simply couldn't do what we do here at Care Net. This is true of any worthwhile endeavor. We need each other. You bring something to the table that we don't have. And vice versa.

#5 Invite the Lord into your plans. Scriptures tell us, "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." (Proverbs 16:3 NIV) Without persistent prayer, Care Net would not be where it is today. We look to the Lord for the wisdom and the wherewithall to make a difference.

#6 Don't let setbacks hold you down. All of us experience setbacks. Six weeks before the Ironman, Jim injured his foot. The injury was bad enough to keep him from running for six weeks. On the day of the race he ran 26.2 miles, in addition to swimming and bicycling.

#7 Celebrate victory. Jim was able to meet and exceed his goal. In the end, he raised \$88,621.96 for Care Net, not including the additional \$8,000 awarded to Care Net by

the Janus Charity Challenge. As we put God first and follow these principles, we will have victories, and they are worth celebrating.

While we live in challenging times, difficult times may present the best opportunities for each of us to make a difference in our own sphere of influence. I pray that the Lord will inspire you to see the kind of difference he can make through you.



Liz Osborn
Executive Director

Liz Osborn





Clinic Vignettes

Adoption or abortion?

Lisa* came to Care Net seeking information about abortion procedures and risks, abortion recovery and adoption information. With the father of the baby no longer in the picture, this mother of two felt the pressure to abort. She had scheduled and then canceled an abortion counseling appointment. During our conversation, we discussed the challenges and risks of abortion for her stage of pregnancy, and gave her additional information to review at home.

Though Lisa was “in a rush,” it seemed like God slowed the clock as she looked through information on adoption. She had many questions, and we took the time she needed to answer them and thoroughly explore adoption as an option for her. We provided adoption agency booklets and referrals as well as Love Stories, a booklet with many adoption testimonies shared by moms and dads. After reading one of their stories she closed the book, looked up and said, “I’ve decided on adoption.”

When Lisa left, her face radiated a much calmer more peaceful demeanor than when she arrived.

Opportunities for prayer

Among the clients we have worked with this summer, three couples came in to the clinic seeking pregnancy testing and information. In each case a male peer counselor was able to talk with the partners. In all cases the male peer counselors were able to discuss the challenges faced by these fathers: fear of having to tell parents, concern about how parenting would affect their education, health concerns related to the pregnancy.

At the time of the appointment, all three couples made the commitment to carry to term to parent or make an adoption plan.

However, one client battles mood swings and the thought of abortion enters her mind.

Another client is not considering abortion, however, she feels pressure to make her decision to parent or to place for adoption sooner than she had hoped because of school. They have discussed both options and are willing to make the sacrifices needed for either option.

The final couple needs the courage to tell their parents. Please keep these couples in your prayers.

The clients we serve

Clients are coming to us through a variety of means. One was referred by another center within the state. One found us in the phone book. Another used an Internet search. All of these clients were in our target age group.

Exit comments help us learn what is working well in our ministry and where we need to improve. When asked what she liked best about the services she received, Nicole’s* response was not unusual: “The ultrasound, and having a male employee to talk to my boyfriend.”

*Fictitious names to protect privacy



The battle lines are drawn

We are at a critical time in history regarding our nation's health care. As you know, Care Net does not generally get involved in political or legislative issues, because we exist to reach out to and serve women, men and families facing unplanned pregnancies and sexual health concerns. However, since the current health care reform proposal would have far reaching consequences to pregnancy centers and to the women, men and families we serve, this is the time to take action.

Under the current health care reform proposal in Congress, everyone's tax dollars would be used to pay for abortions even though a 2008 Zogby poll showed that 71 percent of Americans are opposed to government-funded abortions.

We are extremely concerned about the implications of what this would mean for Care Net right here in Dane County and the surrounding area. If abortions are covered by public funding, they will increase significantly among Medicaid recipients according to Planned Parenthood's Guttmacher Institute.

What is more, since abortion will be considered part of our federal health care system, states will no longer be able to regulate it. If laws like 24-hour waiting periods are superseded by an abortion mandate, that precious window of time that pregnancy centers have to reach women with resources, informa-

tion, and support will be lost. Privately supported, volunteer led pregnancy centers, such as Care Net are one of the most effective ways to help reduce abortion and this bill would put Care Net centers and those facing unplanned pregnancies at risk.

Finally, this bill makes no provision for the rights of conscience of pro-life healthcare professionals. If these rights are trumped, individuals who favor life affirming options may leave or simply not enter the field of medicine. Requiring doctors and nurses to make abortion referrals carries significant consequences for medical professionals and may also detrimentally impact pregnancy centers like Care Net.

If enacted, this health care reform proposal will result in the biggest expansion of abortion since Roe V. Wade. That's why we're imploring you to PRAY. In addition, please call or email your Representative and Senators as soon as possible. Congress may act on this bill at any time, so time is of the essence. As in all things, we place our trust in our Heavenly Father who is our refuge and strength.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
Psalm 46:1

Join us for the October Tour

Monday, October 19th, 7:00pm

You are invited to a Ministry Tour of Care Net Pregnancy Center at 7:00pm on Monday, October 19th 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 October 13th to 608-259-1606 ext. 218 or sarahm@carenetdane.org

Care Net welcomes ...

Christine Manton our new Assistant Nurse Manager, and Nancy Comello volunteer nurse practitioner for the STI clinic.



Community Connections

This fall, if you were a UW sorority or fraternity student or someone who frequents State Street businesses, you may read about Care Net's services in a restroom or on a bulletin board. Thanks to an enthusiastic group of young adults from Bethesda Church's Master's Commission, Care Net's posters regarding unplanned pregnancy and sexual health are dotting the landscape of Langdon Street's fraternities and sororities and State Street's businesses.

They are one of several groups of young people who have volunteered with Care Net recently to forward our ministry's mission.

Groups of middle school students from Blackhawk's Madison Mission emptied baby bottles, weeded the grounds and cleaned Care Net's facility. Mad City's TNT (Twenties and Thirties) group dedicated one evening to thoroughly clean The Elizabeth House and prepare vacant rooms to be ready for new residents. They even talked about coming back to help out again.

Thank you to Bethesda Church's Master's Commission, Blackhawk Church's Madison Mission groups and Mad City Church's TNT group for furthering Care Net's mission through your volunteer work.

Reaching Out

Through clinical experience, touring or presentation, many have learned of Care Net's services:

- ♥ Barlow Girl/Superchick Concert at High Point Church
- ♥ Dane County After Five Christian Women's Club
- ♥ Edgewood College Nursing Students
- ♥ Hope House
- ♥ Ironman Awards Banquet



A few of the teen volunteers from Blackhawk's Madison Mission

- ♥ Metro Believer's Fellowship
- ♥ New Glarus Good Neighbor Free Fest
- ♥ Physician's Assistant Student
- ♥ Touched Twice Clinic
- ♥ UW Medical School Student
- ♥ Viterbo University Nursing Student

Coming Soon

Care Net will soon host or present for these groups:

- ♥ Damascus Road Church's Empower Good class
- ♥ Evangel Life Center All Nations Banquet
- ♥ Good Shepherd by the Lake Lutheran Church
- ♥ St. Dennis Catholic Church Mom's Group
- ♥ St. Thomas Aquinas Respect Life service group
- ♥ Lutheran Women's Missionary League

To bring Care Net to your church or organization or to volunteer, please contact sarahm@carenetdane.org.

Volunteering...a great part of my week!

"Volunteering at Care Net is a great part of my week" says Cindi, Care Net's Friday afternoon volunteer receptionist. "As a receptionist at the Center, I feel like I serve as the first voice that a client hears on the phone or face that is seen as they come through the door ... I know our clients are often scared and even panicked and if I can be a small part of helping them to know that there is help, my time is well spent."

Other volunteers, such as Shannon an RN, use their expertise to provide free medical services such as pregnancy testing, childbirth and parenting education and education on sexually transmitted infections. Some volunteer by helping with administrative tasks, cleaning and maintenance, event planning or marketing and still others by holding babies or assisting young moms at The Elizabeth House.

Care Net is seeking women and men with a heart to serve in this ministry. Please contact Cassie at cassiem@carenetdane.org, visit www.carenetdane.org/friends or call 259-1606 to find out more.



David and Joshua clean up

A ton of change ... literally!

This year's record-setting Baby Bottle Campaign has brought in over a ton of change, literally! (We thought it would be fun to see how much all of that change weighed – it was a little over 3,200 lbs.) As of September 30, 2009, over \$60,000 has been donated to Care Net Pregnancy Center through the Baby Bottle Campaign, making this our most successful year yet!

Sixty churches of many denominations highlighted Care Net's ministries with this campaign by participating in this important fundraiser that benefits women, men and families facing unplanned pregnancies or sexual health concerns. Thanks to:

Bethany E Free Church
Bethesda Christian Fellowship
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Blackhawk Church
Calvary Lutheran Chapel
Chapel Valley Community Church
Christ Memorial Lutheran Church
Christ the King Catholic Church
Christ the King Community Church
Community of Life
Crosspoint Church of the Nazarene
Crossroads Church
Curtiss Street Bible Fellowship
DeForest E Free Church
Door Creek Church
Evangel Life Center
Fitchburg Christian Fellowship
Fountain of Life
Fulton Church
Gateway Community Church
Good Shepherd by the Lake
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
Grace Church, New Glarus
Grace Evangelical Church

High Point Church
Hillcrest Bible Church
Holy Mother of Consolation Catholic Church
Lake City Church
Lake Trails Presbyterian
Living Hope Church
Living Hope Fellowship
Living Waters Church
Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
Mad City Church
Madison Sah Lang Church
Messiah Lutheran Church
Metro Believers Church
Monona Oaks Community Church
New Beginnings Alliance Church
New Hope E Free Church
Northside Christian Assembly
Oak Grove Church
Open Door Church
Point of Grace Community Church
Prairie Creek Community Church
Sauk Prairie E Free Church
Springs of Hope Church
St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Ann's Catholic Church
St. Barnabas Catholic Church
St. Cecilia's Catholic Church
St. Dennis Catholic Church
St. John's Catholic Church
St. Mary's Catholic Church of Pine Bluff
St. Paul's Catholic Church
St. Pius X Catholic Church
Sweet Orchard Outreach
UW Medical Students for Life
Walnut Hill Bible Church
Westwood Christian Church



June July August Care Net Statistics

Total Client Visits:	230
Careline Calls:	413
Ultrasound Clients:	18
STI Clients:	14
Men:	33
Whole Heart:	14
Expenses:	\$113,548
Regular Operating Income:	\$117,574
Baby Bottle Income:	\$48,849

United Way

Yes, you can donate to Care Net through United Way! While we are not a listed organization per se, you can write "Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County" on your contribution form. For those who participate in the United Way Campaign, this is an excellent opportunity to show your support for Care Net.



Don't miss it!

Care Net's Annual Fund Raising Banquet

November 5, 2009

Monona Terrace Convention Center

Registration begins at 6:15 pm

Dinner and program at 7:00 pm

"I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations."
Psalm 89:1

Join us for a dynamic evening experiencing how God is moving through Care Net's ministries. Hear former clients tell their stories of finding help, hope and healing through CareNet's services, compassionate volunteers and the faithfulness of God to generations.

Our featured speakers are a daughter and father team, Candy Gibbs and Jerry Little. Candy, the daughter of a youth pastor, became pregnant at age 17. She and her father, Jerry, tell their family's story of God's redemption, faithfulness and unfailing love in their lives.



Candy is now the Executive Director of the Care Net Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Amarillo, Texas. Jerry coordinates the men's post abortion ministry for the Amarillo Pregnancy Centers and serves as a volunteer chaplain for a youth center.

Register online at www.carenetdane.org/friends or by contacting Rhonda at 259-1606 or rhondat@carenetdane.org.

Care Net receives Janus Charity award

Congratulations to Jim Stevens who raised \$88,621.96 for Care Net by participating in the Wisconsin Ironman's Janus Charity Challenge. Thank you, Jim for your dedication and for promoting Care Net in the community through your efforts! And thanks to the many of you who partnered with Jim to make this possible. As a result of your efforts, Janus will present Care Net with a check for \$8,000.00 this fall.*

"... great charity ..."

One well wisher commented: "And this is a great charity. My first daughter might not have been here if it wasn't for the Christian pregnancy counseling center that I went to in Madison. In fact, I still correspond with the counselor who saved my unborn daughter's life now 24 years ago!"



Jim Stevens

Care Net in numbers

- ♥ Care Net offered pregnancy and abstinence programs serving over 2,200 young people in 2008.
- ♥ Care Net provided phone support to over 1,000 callers on our 24/7 Careline in 2008.
- ♥ Since launching Internet advertising in the spring, we have seen a 150% increase in our STI clients and a 70% increase in our overall number of clients.
- ♥ The number of boyfriends, husbands and fathers coming to Care Net has tripled in 2009.
- ♥ Our goal is to be the first choice for every woman and man in Dane County who feels they have no option but abortion and to share the love of Christ and life-affirming options with each one.
- ♥ In 2010 we plan to further develop campus initiatives to reach more college students.
- ♥ We plan to increase STI and abstinence presentations to touch the lives of 4,000 middle and high school students.
- ♥ We expect to expand Care Net's speaking engagements in churches and in the community by 25% to promote a strong, healthy community.

* See <http://www.allgodspeople.com/madison/ironman-raises-88-000-for-care-net-of-dane-county.html> for Gordon Govier's excellent article on Jim.

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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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