

Alternatives

YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARE NET
SPECIAL 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



Fifteen and Pregnant

What do you do when you're fifteen and pregnant? Who do you talk to? How do you process that whirlwind of emotions? Are there any safe places for a pregnant teen? That was Courtney's* situation. Feeling trapped and not knowing how her mom would react, she did the only thing she could think to do. She kept her pregnancy a secret. Unable to share her fears with her mother, she hid under baggy clothes and an old sweatshirt. Meanwhile, her mom had no idea, until one day they were at the store trying on bridesmaid dresses.

"Come on, Courtney," her mom coaxed from outside the dressing room. "Let me see what it looks like." Very reluctantly, Courtney opened the door. It was the moment of truth. Courtney stood there, thirty-five weeks pregnant.

The people at the doctor's office came across to Courtney as unsympathetic and pushy. After a perfunctory first obstetrics visit, she was handed a brochure telling her to place her child for adoption. "You're in school; this is your only option," she was told.

Meanwhile, Courtney's mother was wrestling with questions of her own. A single mom, she was facing some grim realities. *How can we take care of a baby? Where will we find space? How will we get health insurance for this child? How can we afford this child when we're just making it on our own? What about Courtney? What will happen to her schooling and her career dreams?* Courtney was a bright student who took advanced classes and earned top grades. She had her sights set on a University of Wisconsin degree and a promising career. *What would happen to all those plans?*

In the process of wrestling with those issues, Courtney's mom remembered Care Net. Having driven past our building several times, she decided to call and make an appointment.

At Care Net, Courtney and her mother found empowering sup-

port, information and encouragement. "We were so grateful to talk to someone who was nonjudgmental, who cared about us, instead of focusing on how we got into the situation we were in. It was so nice to be able to sit down and discuss options," Courtney's mother said.

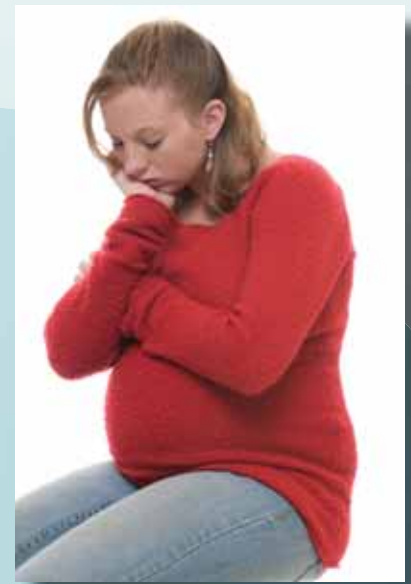
Courtney was afraid that she couldn't go back to school if she made a parenting plan. But she discovered a way to continue her education through online classes.

Courtney's mother found a way to include the new baby under their health insurance plan. After considering her options, and with support from Care Net, Courtney made her decision. She would give parenting a try.

In March 2009, Courtney gave birth to a ten pound baby boy. Again, Care Net was there for her. As a gifted student, Courtney absorbed the parenting classes that Care Net provided, and made use of the "Earn While You Learn" program.

Eighteen months later, Michael* is a healthy, happy toddler who loves to play ball and play music. Courtney loves being a mom. But she is also a 4.0 student, with a promising future. Courtney's mother says, "Courtney has taken her role as a mother very seriously ... she has made sacrifices and has given up things because of her baby. But, she did this willingly because her priorities have changed." Courtney adds, "I thought my life was over. But it wasn't."

*Fictitious names to protect privacy



What do you do?

CARE  **NET**®

Pregnancy Center Of Dane County

From My Heart

Sharpening Iron

When most of us think of Florida, images of beautiful beaches, immaculate golf courses and luxury condominiums fill our minds. But 50 miles northeast of the affluent city of Naples, Florida is the small town of Immokalee, population 19,763. Immokalee (Seminole for “my home”) was devastated by Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

Today its residents struggle to earn a living in the nearby tomato, citrus, cucumber and potato fields. With long-time ministry friends Roger and Cynthia Huchthausen, my husband, Dan, and I drove through these streets. As we looked around, it was clear: No upscale shopping, only signs of economic hardship.

But we weren't there to shop. We were there to meet the director of the local pregnancy center. As we pulled our car to a stop, I shook my head. Where would this director find the resources she needed to carry on her ministry? If there were churches or businesses to support her efforts, I didn't see them. As I walked toward the door, I rehearsed words of encouragement. I figured she would need a dose of good cheer.

Wow, was I wrong! We were greeted by a courageous woman of faith leading this ministry forward with vision to begin ultrasound services. Her faith was contagious. Despite her circumstances, she was choosing to believe the God of the impossible. As she did, good things were happening. I listened to her story and felt humbled. We shared our experiences, cried together, prayed together, believing God for the future. I walked away a changed person.

Here at Care Net, we also get visitors from other pregnancy centers. Recently, we had the privilege of hosting leaders from two other like-minded ministries who traveled from Champaign, Illinois and Waukesha, Wisconsin to spend an afternoon with us, touring our facility and learning more about our model of ministry. Like other groups who have visited, we always learn as much from them as they do from us. Scripture describes this process like this: “*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*” Proverbs 27:17 NIRV

The last twenty-five years have been a beautiful journey, watching many lives transformed. But none of this would have been possible without good people like yourself. You sharpen me, and together we accomplish far more than any of us could on our own.

Liz Osborn

Executive Director



Liz Osborn with Care Net baby



Visitors from other pregnancy centers and Care Net staff



At Our Clinic

Prayer is Key

Prayer is foundational to Care Net's ministry. We believe that each person who calls or visits is a Divine appointment. We need your prayers. Through your prayers, God grants us the compassion, discernment and loving kindness that enables us to empower our guests to make life-affirming decisions for themselves and their children.

Would you like to join our official prayer team? Our "E-mail Rapid Response Urgent Prayer Team" or ERRUPT receives up to the minute confidential prayer requests and information. If you would like to learn more, please contact Cassie at cassiem@carenetdane.org or 608-259-1606 ext 204.

Ministering to Older Clients

While our typical client is in her late teens or early twenties, we also care for women in their late twenties, thirties or even forties.

"I never wanted to have children," one older client said as she wrestled with the implications of an unexpected pregnancy. Another older client, having already raised children, faced her unplanned pregnancy with bewilderment. "I thought I was done with this part of my life. I was ready to move on." Of course, situations are seldom this simple. Relationship challenges with the father of the baby, career pressures, an estranged spouse, or other complications make an unplanned pregnancy a crisis for older clients as well. Some are adamant in their desire to terminate the pregnancy. Others are vacillating, unsure and bewildered. In each case, we offer the same nonjudgmental support, love and care.

Regardless of her age, all of these expectant moms need our prayers. We do our best to follow up with every client. Sometimes that's impossible because clients move, change their phone numbers or email addresses. But your prayers are the best follow up. Through our great God and your prayers, lives will be changed.



Older clients face different challenges

The Elizabeth House Welcomes New Director, Annetta Wright

Annetta Wright joined us in early August as our new Director for The Elizabeth House. Annetta has been in the field of social services for sixteen years, and has worked extensively with underserved young women, and children. She comes to us with a Bachelor's in Computer Information Systems, and a Master's in Counseling. Before coming to The Elizabeth House, she worked as a coordinator for a residential program for homeless mothers and their children. Formerly Annetta was on staff with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Dane County. In all of these roles, she demonstrated her gift for establishing rapport with a wide range of people on a personal and professional level. Annetta and her husband have three children and are members of Bethesda Church.



The family of Derrick and Annetta Wright

Rhonda Thompson Is Now Development Director

Rhonda Thompson is transitioning into a newly created, half-time position as Care Net's Development Director. Rhonda has extensive experience with our development efforts. Rhonda recently completed the College for Relational Development online course, a development intensive through the Christian Leadership Alliance conference and other development workshops. She also brings to the table extensive event planning and execution experience. Rhonda has a heart and a heart of gratitude for our ministry partners, and has developed relationships with many of our most enthusiastic donors over the last four years. Meet Robin Starkenburg, our new Community Relations Director in the next issue.



Rhonda Thompson

Paula Reif's New Role as Parenting and Education Specialist



Paula Reif

At Care Net, we believe that all young children and their families deserve the opportunity to succeed. That's why we have introduced the Parents As Teachers curriculum to equip parents to be their child's first and most influential teacher. Paula Reif has transitioned into a new role as Parenting and Education Specialist, supporting mothers even after they graduate from The Elizabeth House. This places The Elizabeth House in the community to connect our mothers with support networks and community services to expand their resource base, while continuing to support them in developing their skills in life management, parenting, and creating healthy relationships.

This curriculum provides information, support and encouragement to parents so their children can experience optimal opportunity for development in early childhood. Parents as Teachers includes personal visits and group meetings. Personal visits offer the opportunity for parent educators to meet one on one with families in their home setting presenting age appropriate parent child activities and sharing developmental information with parents. Development screenings are also a part of these visits. The activities presented in Parents As Teachers allow moms to use common household items as teaching tools as they spend time with their babies.

Community Connections

Care Net treasures the relationships we have with those in area churches and in the community. We appreciate each group or individual who partners with Care Net in their volunteer work or in coming to learn about what it is we do to help women, men and families. This fall, we have been pleased to host nursing students from Edgewood College and Herzing University who have come to Care Net for Medical Assisting Externship Experience.

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

- Bethesda Christian Fellowship women
- Blackhawk Church Madison Mission middle school youth
- Crosspoint Church of the Nazarene District Assembly Youth
- Heartland Community Church



Volunteers from Madison Mission

Those who recently heard or will soon hear a message from Care Net include:

- Evangel Life Center congregation
- Indian Mounds Middle School students

Pastoral staff/leadership from:

- Faith Community Christian Church
- Good Shepherd by the Lake
- Mad City Church
- Metro Believers Church
- St. Bernard Catholic Church
- St. Cecilia Catholic Church
- The Vine Church

Find us on Facebook!

Join us on Facebook to get our latest updates. Search for Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County. Did you know that if Facebook were a country it would be the third largest nation on the planet with over 400 million active subscribers?



Crosspoint Church Volunteers

LifeWise Kicks Off 2010-2011 School Year

Youth pastors and leaders gathered at Care Net one evening in August to hear about our increased efforts to promote abstinence education in Madison area churches and schools through our expanded LifeWise program. This revitalized LifeWise program offers an eight-week curriculum based on emerging research showing the effectiveness of repeated exposure to the abstinence message. LifeWise empowers teens with the knowledge that they are valuable and worthwhile people, equips them with tools to develop healthy relationships and encourages them to set goals for their future, inspiring teens to make the safest, healthiest lifestyle choice – abstinence – and to help each one prepare for a healthy, future marriage.

Celebrating Generations of Life Over 25 Years Care Net's 25th Anniversary Fundraising Banquet

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
His greatness no one can fathom.
One generation will commend Your works to another;
they will tell of Your mighty acts.
They will celebrate Your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of Your righteousness.
Psalm 145: 3-4, 7

Join us for a dynamic evening celebrating Generations of Life and beautiful choices made through Care Net's ministries. The evening will feature heart-warming testimonies from former clients, our brand new 25th anniversary DVD and guest speaker, Steve Arterburn.

Steve Arterburn is the founder and chairman of New Life Ministries, and host of the # 1 nationally syndicated Christian counseling talk show "New Life Live!" and a best-selling author. Steve is also the founder of the Women of Faith conferences attended by over 4,000,000 people. He is a nationally known public speaker and has been featured in national media venues such as Oprah, Inside Edition, Good Morning America, CNN Live, USA Today, & ABC World News Tonight.

Steve gives a very humorous presentation and also tells his personal story as a man who has experienced a fatherhood loss due to a past abortion. A few of his best-selling books include *Every Man's Battle*, *Toxic Faith*, and his latest, *Regret Free Living: Hope for Past Mistakes and Freedom from Unhealthy Patterns*.

Thursday, November 4, 2010

Registration begins at 6:15 pm

Seating begins at 6:30 pm

Dinner & Program 7 pm

To register, visit carenetdane.org/friends or contact Rhonda Thompson 608-259-1606 rhondat@carenetdane.org



This year's guest speaker: Steve Arterburn

June - August Care Net Statistics

Total Client Visits:	165
Careline Calls:	295
Ultrasound Clients:	18
STI Clients:	16
Men:	20
STI	18
Whole Heart Calls:	10
Expenses:	\$112,233
Income:	\$103,464

Did you know ... ?

Care Net is a 24/7 ministry.

You can sponsor one hour for \$64

Visit www.carenetdane.org/friends/donations.html

If Pocket Change Could Talk!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's 25th Anniversary Baby Bottle Campaign. Through the gifts of individuals at 59 churches and organizations, we raised over \$55,500! This is the most we have ever raised through our annual Baby Bottle Campaign. Filling these bottles directly helps women, men, and families facing unplanned pregnancies or sexual health concerns with free medical and consultation services.

Our heart is to offer positive solutions to our clients, helping them find hope in a time of uncertainty. Crystal*, one of Care Net's clients said, "I walked in to Care Net feeling ashamed and bewildered and walked out feeling very positive and empowered. Though the road would be hard, I knew I was making the right choice to keep my baby."

Thanks to all who participated, Care Net is able to continue helping clients like Crystal make the beautiful choice of life. We are truly grateful! To view the list of this year's participating churches and organizations visit www.carenetdane.org/friends/bottle.html

*fictitious name to protect privacy



Celebrating life with stories



Coach Bill McCartney



Cal Thomas

25 Years of Celebrating Life



Barb Wise



Ultrasound



Mom and baby from The Elizabeth House at 2006 banquet



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More photos inside!

What do you do when you're fifteen and pregnant? Do you keep it a secret? Read Courtney's* story on page one.

Don't miss the fall banquet - November 4! See page six.