

Alternatives

YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARE NET

A House of Love

The pregnancy was a total surprise. "I won't say I was in denial, but I couldn't believe I was pregnant. I was scared. I didn't know what to do," said Heather as she reflected on her experience. When she found out she was pregnant, she figured there was very little chance of a future relationship between her and the father of the baby.

Options. Her mind could barely process the idea of options. She went to work at her delivery job with her head spinning. As she drove from delivery to delivery, questions and fear got tangled up inside. Then she stopped at Care Net. She delivered the packages, obtained the signatures, and headed back out to her truck. Midway across the parking lot, she stopped, turned around, and walked back inside.

"What exactly is Care Net?" she asked. "What kind of clinic are you?"

Lacking health insurance, it was a relief to discover that all Care Net services are free. She came back that same day after her shift was over. Her pregnancy was confirmed, and later an ultrasound showed her beautifully forming baby.

"You can tell them anything," Heather said, as she reflected on her first couple visits with the staff and volunteers at Care Net. "They don't judge you at all. They're there to listen and support you. They answered every question I had. They were very educated. I never felt any pressure from them; they let you make your own decision."

While Heather was considering abortion only if her baby was not healthy or if there was some reason why her continued pregnancy might compromise her own health, she was really torn between adoption and parenting the baby.

"But when I saw the ultrasound and heard the heart beat, that



"God's Special Delivery"

motherly instinct kicked in, and I knew for me there was no other decision but to keep the baby."

Heather was able to get health insurance and prenatal care. Months later, Kinlee was born. "You don't know love until you love your child. I would do anything to protect and love her."

Meanwhile, it had been many months since Heather had been to Care Net. After returning to work, her delivery truck once again took her to our offices. "When I stepped inside, it was like walking into a House of Love. Here were the women who supported me during a time when I was really scared. It wasn't a clinic any more. As we stood there crying together, looking at pictures of my beautiful three-month-old daughter, I knew these women had become family, and Care Net felt like home."

CARE  NET®

Pregnancy Center Of Dane County


From My Heart

New Opportunities

Like any growing ministry, we take time to prayerfully plan how to best carry out the mission we believe God has given us. Part of that process invites us to focus on how to best reach multicultural and under served populations. In Dane County, 23% of all abortions are to Hispanic or African American women, yet the combined populations of these two groups is only 9%.* With abortion rates much higher among the Hispanic and African American populations, Care Net staff and board are being intentional in efforts to reach out to the Latino and African American communities.

Last fall Care Net began running public service announcements on La Movida radio 1480, and this fall plans are in motion to roll out a Spanish version of Care Net's redesigned web site. Also for the first time in Care Net history, there will now be a full-time fluent Spanish speaking staff member (see New Faces), making it possible to better serve Spanish speaking clients five days per week.

Care Net is actively reaching out to clergy and community leaders serving all cultures in Dane County. We hope to soon announce collaboration on several important initiatives. Building community is a key value here at Care Net. Building bridges, reconciliation and relationship—these things are foundational to success in our ministry.



* Sources: US Census 2009 Data Dane Cnty WI; WI Dept of Health Svcs Reported Induced Terminations of Pregnancy in WI 2009



"When God created me He was showing off!"

New Faces and Heartfelt Goodbyes

We are delighted to welcome **Julie Bennett**, Care Net's new Center Director. Julie comes to us with a BBA in Marketing and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and expects to graduate in May 2012 with an MA in Servant Leadership from Viterbo University. She also has experience as a coordinator of religious education.

Our deepest gratitude, prayers and best wishes go out to Care Net's former Center Director, **Cassie Mott**, who announced her resignation earlier this summer. Cassie helped define Care Net as a nonjudgmental, safe place for clients to sort out the many issues surrounding unplanned pregnancies and other sexual health matters. Cassie will be missed, but her beautiful legacy remains.

David Gibson, Technical Services Manager at Epic, will serve as Care Net's newest board member. David and his wife, Lorian, attend City Church where they serve as small group leaders. Earlier, he served as President of Baptist Student Ministries where he worked with other council members to achieve their goals as well as growing and leading the organization forward. When asked what gifts, talents, experience or personality traits he brings to the ministry David shared that he feels his two main spiritual gifts are giving and serving.



From left to right: Cassie Mott, Julie Bennett, David Gibson



A Bumper Crop of Baby Bottles

Thank you for your continued support of Care Net's Baby Bottle Campaign. With more than 60 churches and organizations participating, \$61,360 has been raised to-date to save and change lives! It takes many helping hands to make this project

work and we are extremely grateful to all the groups who helped prepare, deliver, collect and count baby bottles this year.

Visit www.carenetdane.org/friends/bottles to see more pictures from this year's campaign.



New Billboards

Watch for Care Net's new billboards going up in and around Dane County. There will be also be new bus posters and updated yellow page ads. Care Net can also be found in Google and Facebook ads!

The Elizabeth House is Growing

Care Net's residential program, The Elizabeth House, has two position openings.

One opportunity is for a part-time **Social Work Case Manager** to enhance the quality and productivity of The Elizabeth House residents. This person will assess residents' needs, identify service gaps, implement strategies, and evaluate the effectiveness of services to aid residents as they move toward self-sufficiency and independence.

For more information, please see the Complete Position Description at www.carenetdane.org/friends.

Relief Staff for The Elizabeth House

Care Net Pregnancy Center is also seeking a married couple to serve as Relief Staff for The Elizabeth House. The ideal candidates will be mercy-filled, caring and non-judgmental and have a heart to serve young mothers as they focus on making positive changes in their lives. Couples without children preferred. Retired couples welcomed.

Complete Position Description at www.carenetdane.org/friends

Summer Numbers, June- August 2011: Total Clients: 161, Careline Calls: 593, Men: 36

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

What gift(s) has God given you? Visit Care Net on the second Wednesday of the month and learn how you can use your God given talents to help Care Net honor life by providing services that meet the needs of individuals facing pregnancy and sexual health issues. Each evening begins with a tour at 6:00 p.m. and is followed by a short presentation about our programs and services and how volunteers make a huge difference.

Community Connections



A resident and her daughter representing The Elizabeth House at a presentation for the Middleton Senior Center; the women there made all the baby gifts in the photo.



Bethesda-(Blues Brothers) and YWAM-(Hack saw) teams having fun with their service projects!

More photos at CareNetDane.org/friends



New Arrivals to The Elizabeth House

Care Net welcomed Nicole* and James* to The Elizabeth House this quarter! Looking for an opportunity to volunteer? Contact Robin at 259-1606 to learn how you can help. *Fictitious names for privacy.

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www.carenetdane.org/friends



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Care Net 2011 Annual Fundraising Banquet Defend. Rescue. Deliver.

*"Defend the cause of the fatherless;
Maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.
Rescue the weak and needy;
Deliver them from the hand of the wicked."
Psalm 82:3-4*

Join us for a dynamic evening featuring heart-warming testimonies from former clients whose lives have been transformed and guest speaker, Star Parker.

Star Parker is the founder and president of CURE, the Center for Urban Renewal. Earlier in life, Star was a single welfare mother in Los Angeles, California. After receiving Christ, Star returned to college, received a BS degree in marketing and launched an urban Christian magazine. As a social policy consultant, Star Parker gives regular testimony before the United States Congress, and is a national expert on major television and radio shows across the country. Star is an inspirational speaker who will share from her heart her own experience with unplanned pregnancy.

Thursday, November 3, 2011, Seating begins at 6:30 p.m., Dinner and Program 7-9 p.m.

Through the banquet, we seek to extend Care Net's ministry to new monthly ministry partners and raise \$130,000, approximately 20% of our 2012 budget. An opportunity to make a financial gift or pledge will be extended. Dinner is complimentary. (Semi-formal attire). Adults only please, as seating is limited.

To Register or for more information go to www.carenetdane.org/friends or contact Robin Starkenburg at 608-259-1606 ext.218 or robins@carenetdane.org.

