

Alternatives

YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARE NET

The Surprising Reality

Success in ministry requires God's intervention (first and foremost), a great team and a research-based strategic plan. At Care Net, this requires having an accurate picture of who is obtaining abortions and why they are seeking them.

Who exactly is obtaining abortions?

Often abortion is perceived as a teen problem. However, according to a recent study published by the Guttmacher Institute, fifty-seven percent of all abortions in the United States are performed on women in their twenties. In contrast, women 17 and under account for only 6% of all abortions.

Surprisingly, 61% of those seeking an abortion already have one or more children. This same study indicates 69% of women obtaining abortions are living near or below the poverty level. Our clients mirror these statistics. **The majority of Care Net clients are women in their twenties with financial difficulties and, as the study suggests, many are already parenting and feel they are not able to care for another baby.**

Why do women choose abortion?

According to the same study, three-fourths of the women who obtain an abortion say they cannot afford a child, about 50% cite concerns about being a single parent or indicate problems in their relationship with the father of the child. Three-fourths say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or the ability to care for dependents.

At Care Net, individuals facing pregnancy and sexual health issues are met with unconditional love and support. We meet each person where they are at the moment they call or walk through our door. It is our goal to listen, provide medically accurate information and professional care, gently removing the real and perceived barriers to making a life-affirming decision.

Our education programs, residential program and community referrals broaden options for our clients. The Earn While You Learn program offers free baby supplies along with nurse guided pre-natal and parenting education. Care Net's residential program,



May be contemplating an abortion in the pew next to you.

The Elizabeth House, provides women the opportunity to participate in an intense intervention to break the cycle of poverty. We provide financial management classes, assistance with education and job searches and help identifying applicable housing and community support programs, all in a safe, secure living environment. The Elizabeth House brings stability into a life that might otherwise be in chaos and poverty.

A phrase often heard in the counseling room is, "I'm still in college and am not ready to be a parent." Care Net staff and trained volunteers provide compassionate options counseling that includes parenting education opportunities and referrals to professional adoption agencies.

When a client says, "My boyfriend says he will leave if I have this baby" Care Net is able to respond with with trained male peer consultants who support and encourage men to "step up and step out" into fatherhood.

According to this study, nearly two out of three women who have an abortion self-identify as either protestant or Catholic. **These women often experience a real fear about what friends or the people at their church will think.** All of Care Net's services, including medical services and abortion recovery support, are always confidential and free.

In 2012, Care Net's goal is to engage and train 40 new medical and peer advocate volunteers in order to meet our goal of serving an additional 425 new clients. Becoming the first choice for every woman and man in Dane County who feels they have no option but abortion and sharing the love of Christ and life affirming options with each one won't happen by accident. Each morning as the doors are opened, staff and volunteers begin by asking for God's direction and discernment. Care Net's board spends countless hours on their knees. It is only with Divine intervention and intentional actions that Care Net is able to meet each woman or man with the love and compassion they need.

CARE  **NET**
Pregnancy Center Of Dane County

From My Heart

Providing a place ... a safe place ... is what Care Net has been doing every day for nearly 27 years. Our passion to serve mothers and their unborn children continues. We are determined to provide help, hope and healing with integrity and excellence in every dimension—spiritual, medical, ethical and legal—all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Create the future

Where are we headed? We develop strategic plans not to predict the future, but to help create the future. An example of an initiative that reaches through time to transform generations is our residential program. In 2011, The Elizabeth House brought shelter and healing to 26 mothers and their babies. The outcome is hope for this and future generations.

Ultrasound hope

Another hopeful note is this: According to Focus on the Family's Option Ultrasound Program, women who see their babies on ultrasound are far less likely to seek abortions than those without access to such an option. "It is becoming increasingly clear that ultrasound services and support through pregnancy medical clinics carry the potential to save a significant number of lives." What would happen to the abortion rate in Dane County if every woman facing an unplanned pregnancy could actually see her child while a diagnostic ultrasound is being performed?

That's why Care Net's Marketing Team is exploring the best way to make those ultrasounds available to more moms. Do we open a satellite center? Do we deploy a mobile ultrasound unit? We need to meet people where they are, and we're determined to reach those who aren't being reached.

The spiritual battle

We cannot forget that we are in a spiritual battle. Some are bent on discrediting or maligning our life-affirming work. Legislation—LRB 3039/1—was recently introduced in Wisconsin designed to hamper our abilities to reach out to women in need. But we will not give in to fear. When we do the will of God, we are on the winning side.

Despite these distractions, great things are happening. For the first time ever, October 2011 was declared Wisconsin Pregnancy Care Center Month! Pregnancy centers are being recognized for the life-affirming, life-saving compassionate and free work that we do, saving the state millions in tax-payer dollars.

We're winning ... one woman, one baby, one family at a time.

Thank you for standing with us right in the center of God's will in 2012. Thank you for being a voice for life so that women and men have a safe place to make a real choice: A choice for Life!




"When God created me He was showing off!"

New Faces

Dan Olsen Joins Care Net Board

Dan Olsen is Care Net's newest board member. He is the owner/operator of Kids Junction, with experience in marketing and managing. He studied at Christ for the Nations and YWAM.

A man of vision and new ideas, Dan's motto is to "follow after love." He attends Metro Believer's Church. Dan and his wife, Vicky, have seven children.



Dan Olsen Joins Care Net Board



Andre* – New resident of The Elizabeth House

*Fictitious name for privacy.



"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



Pausing to give thanks for all God has done for Care Net and its clients

2011 Care Net Banquet

On November 3 Care Net Pregnancy Center held our "Defend. Rescue. Deliver." Fundraising Banquet. We recently surpassed our banquet fundraising goal of \$130,000. Thanks to all who were a part of this. Through the banquet, God is providing help, hope and healing to individuals facing unplanned pregnancies or sexual health concerns in 2012.



Peace of mind: help and a stable place to stay. "It felt good to have somewhere to put my clothes and not having to carry everything around with me ..."



Pregnant + unsure?
Text option to 95495
carenetdane.org CARE NET

New Bus Posters

Watch for Care Net's new bus posters going up in and around Dane County. There will be updated Yellow Pages ads, too!

Mark Your Calendar for 2012

- Sanctity of Human Life Sunday **January 22**
- Care Net Golf Tournament **May 22**
Watch your email for registration and course information!
- Annual Baby Bottle Campaign **May 13 – June 17**
- Client Interaction Training **September 8 and 15 tentative**
- Annual Fund Raising Banquet **November 8**
- Care Net 101-Second Wednesday of each month starting at 6:00 p.m. includes a facility tour. Join us on February 9th.

Community Connections



University of Wisconsin Madison Asian Business Economics Club spent a recent Saturday cleaning and sorting for Care Net's residential program, The Elizabeth House."



Arranged by High Point Church as part of their Service Day: A&J Specialty Carpet Cleaning scrubbed all of Care Net's main floor carpets. What a gift!



High Point Church sent three hard working crews to help Care Net this fall; call 608-259-1606 to schedule your service group.



Crossroads Church Coffee Break participants have adopted Care Net as one of their service projects for this year!

2011 YEAR-TO-DATE STATS:

792 Clients 1487 Careline Calls 127 Men from January 1, 2011 through October 2011.

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REMOVING THE BARRIERS

When faced with an unplanned pregnancy, women face several real and perceived barriers. In honor of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (January 22) Care Net can provide your church a speaker, bulletin inserts, and/or a video at no charge to help recognize the barriers and how Care Net is helping to remove them.

Please call or email Robin to request any of these Life Affirming tools.
608-259-1606 ext.218 or robins@carenetdane.org

