alpha pregnancy center

Offering families a future and a hope.

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Winter 2009

Diaper Drive

I love attending holiday parties, but even more so when they are done with purpose. Last year we started a tradition with you of hosting parties with a purpose through our first annual diaper drive. As we look forward to the celebration of Christ's birth, it makes me think of the somewhat miraculous ways that other children are born. Just like Mary faced scorn from her community for being pregnant out of wedlock and her betrothed nearly rejected her, many of Alpha Pregnancy Center's clients also face scorn and rejection surrounding their own pregnancy. These women have a difficult decision to make, but just like the Lord took care of Mary, he takes care of our clients. Sometimes they bring their babies home to a room that most of us wouldn't consider much more pleasant than the stable where Jesus spent His first night. Through supplies like free diapers, formula, cribs, and clothing we are able to help these women make the choice for life, no matter what odds they are facing. By hosting a diaper drive party, you and your friends can directly impact the opportunity a child has for life. The diaper drive begins in December and ends in February. Maybe you could adjust your holiday parties and turn them into diaper drive parties, or start the New Year by supporting an APC family with diapers. You could choose to host a party, attend one being held at APC, set up a collection bin at your church or work place, or send a check for $35 to APC for the purchase of a box of diapers. Please contact us for more information about being involved in these parties with a purpose and check our website for parties being hosted that you could attend.

Walk for Life

The annual Walk for Life has taken on a new identity. This year, we walked to the homes of some of the recipients of Alpha Pregnancy Center's services, where parents were presented with gifts for their children. Approximately 85 eager walkers showed up to walk different routes, carrying bags of clothing and toys to those homes. All trails led to McLaren Park, where we had a BBQ/picnic. The man tending the grill, Jeremy, made fabulous chicken, steak, greens, and salads. Children had fun in the bouncy house, and adults enjoyed meeting other participants. Wonderful music was provided by Sandra Brunswick and Audrey Richter. Participants raised support for needed funds for the work of Alpha Pregnancy Center, and this event was truly blessed by God's hand! Thank you so much to the long list of volunteers that made this day such a success!

Opportunities to Make a Difference

Being a part of the Walk for Life, hosting a Diaper Drive Party, or volunteering to teach one of our classes are just a few of the ways you can get involved with our center. A year and a half ago, we were seeing just three to five clients a day. The number of daily client visits have grown by more than 300%, we are now seeing 15-20 clients a day. Our staff and income have not grown. We really hope you'll consider helping meet the needs of our growing clientele through praying, donating, and volunteering. For those interested in volunteering, in addition to the things you've read about in this newsletter, you could be on the layette deliver team, help in our office doing paper work and assisting clients with supplies, go through training to council and give pregnancy tests, work in the clothing room, and much more. Those of you able to donate could send a one time check to our center, or sign up to be on the "Friends for Life" team of people that make an automatic monthly donation. A generous donor has offered to match all first month donations for those who sign up on the Friends for Life Team.

Please help by praying for our ministry:

Thank the Lord because:

- He has increased our daily client visits and opportunities to share His love
- Our staff and board work well together
- We have been able to add two weekly client groups.

Ask the Lord to:

- Bring more volunteers (for the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few).
- Give wisdom to the staff and board as we plan for 2010
- Confirm to our clients the value they have being made in His image, that they might come to walk with Him.

Parenting Class: Offering physical, emotional, and spiritual support to women and families that are facing a crisis pregnancy is a tall order. We want to do everything we can to encourage our clients to choose life for their unexpected baby. We realize that saving the life of the child is very important work. In addition to that, we want to help the family create a safe and loving environment for the baby to grow. Therefore we consistently offer four classes for the clients we serve; Parenting Class, Pre-natal Class, Life Skills Bible Study, and Post Abortion Recovery. Marta Alvarez has developed a strong curriculum for our parenting class that can be taught by volunteers. Shawna Smith recently volunteered to teach this 10-week class. Here is what she said about being involved: "It was my absolute pleasure to teach the parenting class! I met remarkable women who carved time out of insanely busy schedules to be there. We shared with each other our experiences of having babies, raising toddlers, helping children sleep, cooking healthy food, and loving discipline. I felt truly blessed to be with these women every week, and they all commented to me that they learned a lot and enjoyed the class. Our class culminated with a "shower" to celebrate all of the moms and children. Gifts of clothing for the children were given to each mom and we were blessed by a very yummy meal from a local restaurant." The current session of parenting classes will end just before Christmas with another baby shower for the students. If you'd like to attend the shower and bless these parents (we currently have two dad's in the class) with items for their new babies, please contact our office.

Client Story

Abby* first came to Alpha Pregnancy Center when it was the Crisis Pregnancy Center, years ago when we were on Lawton Street. By that time she had three living children, and had three abortions. She found herself pregnant again as a result of domestic violence, and walked into the office looking for some solution other than abortion. Her story is not all that unique, one in four women experience domestic violence, and one in three will have an abortion before the age of 45! Her hurting heart needed an answer. Abby said she felt a calm and loving Spirit as soon as she walked into the office, and a picture hanging on the wall stopped any thought she was having of aborting this baby. This summer she started going to Church and has begun to walk with the Lord. When she recently came into our office to get supplies for her youngest child, she learned that we are offering a post abortion recovery group. She has been attending the group every week and the really seeing the Lord's grace and forgiveness. I hope that each of you will also see the Lord's hand of grace and forgiveness in your life, and be able to offer that to those with whom you spend your holiday season.