

# Hope Women's Center

Summer 2009

## **A Note from the Chairman of the Board**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter from Hope Women's Center in 2009. Since that January Newsletter, God has blessed the Center in so many ways.

- ✿The staff ministered to seventy new ladies in crisis pregnancies.
- ✿Three hundred twenty five ladies have returned for counseling and physical needs.
- ✿Two Board members resigned but were quickly replaced by loving, dedicated and knowledgeable individuals. The Center continues to be led by nine Board members from churches of different denominations.
- ✿The Center has eleven volunteers and four additional people have indicated a desire to minister to the Center.
- ✿The mortgage for the building is paid in full, which allows the staff and Board to plan for additional services to the Center.
- ✿Additional churches and individuals are committed to the Center.

Please continue to pray for us as we move forward in adding new services to the Center and upgrading the present services. The Center is investigating the purchase of an ultra sound machine since research indicates 85% of pregnant women will not abort if they see a picture of their baby. This is an expensive service since a nurse will need to be paid to be on-site when the ultra sound machine is used.

Thank you for your financial support and your prayers. You are a blessing to the Center. The Center needs you as we move forward in serving ladies in crisis pregnancies.

In Christ,  
Your Board Chairman  
Sue Donnell

## **New Board Members**

We praise God for three new board members. They are Janice Benton, Rev. Roger Gwinn, and Dr. Kristen Pasui. They are a great blessing to HWC. Welcome Janet, Roger and Kristen.

## **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!!**

God has been so good to Hope Women's Center by allowing us to pay off our mortgage this year. By doing this we will be able to begin looking at purchasing an ultra sound machine.

## **Chick-Fil-A Opportunity**

July 28<sup>th</sup> will be Hope Women's Center night at Chick-fil-A in Easley from 5-8 p.m. For everyone who goes to Chick-fil-A and presents their receipt to one of the Hope Women's Center volunteers, Chick-fil-A will donate 10% of the receipt to the Center. We appreciate this support from Chick-fil-A and encourage all of you to eat there on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup>. Please spread the word! Remember—eat more chicken!!

## **Many Community Opportunities**

The staff has had many speaking engagements in churches regarding the Center, Sanctity of Human Life and Abstinence. We had seven church ladies groups meet at the Center to learn about the services we provide. We participated in Health Fairs, a Mission Conference and had a Youth Rally.

## **Your Gift Makes a Bigger Difference than You Might Think!!**

Thank you to the many of you who support us with monthly, quarterly and yearly gifts. Because of you, lives are impacted and lives are saved through this ministry. Your gifts define the word "partnership," which describes a union of people dedicated to a particular calling. In our case, we partner as we reach out to those facing unplanned pregnancies, presenting the hope of Jesus Christ as we offer life-affirming alternatives to abortion. These are two of the highest callings imaginable and together we are indeed partners!

## **On Going Needs**

Hope Women's Center tries to provide anything a baby up to the age of 24 months might need. As with any "family" our stock frequently needs to be replaced. We are always in need of diapers (sizes newborn to size 6), wipes, baby lotion, powder, shampoo, baby oil, pacifiers, bottles, formula (please check the expiration date), sleepers, preemie clothing, warm coats and sweaters, new or gently used baby clothes, baby cribs (with all the parts) and bassinets. Maternity clothing is also a frequent need.

We strive to serve God by giving Him our best at Hope Women's Center—spiritually, physically and emotionally. When the women/girls come through our doors, we want to furnish them and their babies with the best items possible. Thank you for helping us to do this.

### **Dred Scott and a Reminder to Us All**

Recently our country remembered the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the infamous Dred Scott decision in which the Supreme Court told us that no slave or descendent of a slave could ever be a citizen of the United States. Today we see this decision as immoral. Back then some saw it as a victory, while other saw it for what it was—a crime against humanity.

The Supreme Court never overturned the Dred Scott decision. The 7-2 decision would still be with us today, were it not for the passing of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> amendments. If the people had waited on the Court or spent their time worrying about changing the Court, history could be quite different.

Today there is hope of overturning the Roe decision of 1973. Yet, we can do so much more than wait on the Court. Each day at Hope Women's Center we open our doors, prepared to touch hearts with the hope of life. And each day we reach out to those struggling with the pain of an abortion with the hope of forgiveness.

As we touch hearts and lives, we become the first choice of women and families in our area facing unplanned pregnancies. Here, hearts are being changed. Because of what happens here and at more than 2500 other pregnancy care centers nationwide, the abortion rate continues to slowly drop. One day, we may see abortion end simply because our influence is so strong that abortion is no longer considered by anyone to be a "viable" option. What a testimony that would be to the power of "overcoming evil with good," to paraphrase Romans 12:21.

We may not be able to overturn Roe v. Wade, but what we are doing is even more important—by God's grace, we are changing hearts and saving lives, one woman at a time. When we show hurting women the compassion of Christ, we begin to restore hope. That is and always will be more powerful than any law.

### **Starfish Are Nice, but People Change a Culture**

The story is told of a boy walking down a beach full of starfish washed up from the ocean. Though the starfish were dying, the boy picked up one at a time, tossing them back into the water. A man, watching the boy for a moment, told the lad in a cynical tone, "Son, there are thousands of starfish out there; you're not making much of a difference." The boy took a brief look at the man, bent down, picked up another starfish and tossed it back into the water. "It makes a difference to this one," he pointed out.

Whether fictional or true, the story makes a salient point that one of us can make a difference. Yet, there is a point where the starfish story cannot go, because starfish are not people.

When we touch or save the life of another person, that person doesn't simply wash back into society and go on his or her merry way. At Hope Women's Center, those we see tell others of the hope they found here. Not surprisingly, a large percentage of our clients come here because of friends who say, "They can help."

And when a small child in the womb is given life, often that mother—and father—will one day tell this child of a miraculous decision to choose life. This story won't be one of slogans and sound bites, but a personal one. And it is personal stories that turn a culture towards life.

When someone comes to know Jesus Christ in a personal way through the ministry of Hope Women's Center, eternal life will no longer be a religious phrase. It will be a reality. She will, perhaps, tell another—and another. More lives touched, more lives changed for eternity.

One person does make a difference in the life of another, and that difference doesn't stop with one. Every person who comes in our doors is a divine appointment and every choice for life is celebrated. One life matters. One life counts. And one life leads to another—and another—and another. We thank the many of you who believe with us. Your prayers, your financial support and your willingness to volunteer impact lives, one at a time. If you haven't had the opportunity, we would love to have you join us. Like the boy and the starfish, "it make a difference to this one." And yet, because we are talking about precious lives, our efforts do so much more.

### **Food for Thought**

Abortion is indeed one of the darkest evils of our culture. We are called to expose the truth about abortion—that over 50 million unborn babies have been killed since 1973; that abortion is legal until the day of birth in all 50 states; and that each abortion leaves one dead and one wounded!

One Baby is aborted every 24 seconds

147 every hour

3,542 every day

24,865 every week

107,750 every month