

Hope Women's Center

Summer 2010

Doors of Opportunity

We do many things at Hope Women's Center. We help young women and their babies with physical needs as we offer emotional support and show them the love of Christ. Our mission is to show abortion-minded women that they have alternatives to abortion and that we will be there for them. We tell each one that God loves her and has a plan for the baby she is carrying.

We look at each person who comes through our door as an opportunity to change lives. Sometimes we don't know the results of our counseling. We give them information and try to show them that abortion is not the answer and then we pray with them. We talk with them about their personal relationship with God. Some make decisions and some leave and say they will think about it. Most of the time we don't hear about the decisions they finally make. BUT, sometimes we do.

One day in May we had a woman come in for a pregnancy test. She was in her mid 30's and unmarried. She was very upset when her test results were positive. While talking to her I discovered she was leaning toward abortion and did not know Jesus as her Savior. She had had an abortion in her 20's and had also used drugs. She stated she was not using drugs now but was not financially or emotionally able to take care of a baby. Her boyfriend, with whom she was living, wanted the baby but would support her in whatever decision she made. I talked with her for over an hour. She was very receptive and willing to discuss her options. I gave her information on the different ways that the medical abortions were done. I talked with her about the emotional and physical results her previous abortion had had on her life. I offered to connect her with a Christian adoption agency. She was very troubled and confused. I witnessed to her and gave her the plan of salvation. She allowed me to pray with her.

When she left with all the information I had given her in hand, she had not made any decision about the baby or about accepting Jesus. I prayed for her daily and whenever I thought about her during the day I asked Christ to convict her at that moment and to surround her with Christian influences. Two or three weeks later, while I was at my grandson's graduation, she came back to HWC to get maternity clothes and told Judy, "Joan will be happy to know I decided to keep the baby." I called her when I heard and told her how happy I was for her and that we would help her in any way we could. I also told her I was still praying for her salvation. I haven't

heard from her yet, but I will continue to pray. The seed has been sown.

I praise God for answered prayer and for allowing us to be here to be a witness and to help guide these women in HIS way!! I also want to thank all of you who help support HWC through finances and donations. You have a part in all that happens here!! We will not know many of the results until we are Home. Thank you for caring and praying!
Joan Johnson, Assistant Director

From Served to Serving

Growing up I was raised going to church and believing in God's truth. In my teens I got mixed up with a boy and nothing else seemed to matter—not God, not family. I believed every word this boy said and promised me. I went against everything I believed in. I found myself 16 years old and pregnant. Not long after I found out I was pregnant I also found out my boyfriend was seeing someone else and had gotten her pregnant as well. It was a shock and a blow to my self-esteem. My boyfriend and I broke up and he ended up marrying the other girl, leaving me alone and scared. I had to face telling my parents the news alone. I was worried how they would react. I had a whirlwind of emotions inside me—will they kick me out? Will they try to make me have an abortion? But for me, abortion was NEVER an option. After sitting and telling them I was pregnant and answering a lot of questions, I was amazed at how supportive they really were. I heard about Hope Women's Center through another agency, so I visited them. I wasn't looking forward to it though, as I had it in my head that they would be judgmental without knowing me. Once I arrived and talked with a counselor, I was amazed at the genuine concern and love they showed me. I gave birth to a baby boy, who is now 18 years old and living on his own. Sometimes I look at him and thank God for the precious gift that He gave me and think of all I would have missed out on, if I had chosen a different path. I now am a counselor at Hope Women's Center, hoping I can share my experience with someone who is in the same situation I was in, and show concern and love to them as God shows us every day.

Dana Riddle

In the United States, three out of 10 girls will be pregnant by age 20. More than 400,000 teens give birth each year.

Bi-Lo Cards

We are participating in BI-LO's boostersplus fund-raising program this year. We can earn money for Hope Women's Center by simply shopping at any BI-LO with our BONUSCARD. Just give one of the enrollment cards enclosed to the cashier along with your BONUSCARD to be scanned within your grocery order. This one-time scan will enroll you for Hope Women's Center until May 31, 2011 and we will receive one percent of your purchases. Give the extra enrollment cards to family and friends so they can help us raise money as well.

Answer to Prayer

In June we were faced with our Liability and Property Insurance, which was \$2,243.00. However, we serve a great God who knows our needs before we ask and He works through people we don't even know. In this case, Cynthia Fowler and James Wilson, Jr. were concerned about HWC. As a result of their concern, we received \$2,000.00 from the J.M. Smith Foundation of Spartanburg just when God knew we had that need. To God be the Glory!!

New Volunteer Counselor

Dana Riddle has come full circle. Many years ago Dana was one of our clients. Today Dana has become a part of our team at HWC. She has been a blessing to us and to the girls she is working with. She is a dedicated Christian who loves the Lord and has a big heart for our young girls. WELCOME DANA!!

And if you have the time and the desire to help young people in our community, please contact us at Hope Women's Center for more information.

Ministry Opportunities

- ☉ Over the past six months we have been able to assist 335 families. Thank God for all the opportunities He gives us to help others in need.
- ☉ We have been privileged to visit in many churches to present the Center and to talk about Sanctity of Human Life, abortion, abstinence and adoption.
- ☉ We have also been a part of several Health Fairs.
- ☉ We have had a number of church groups visit the Center to learn more about what we do.
- ☉ We have also assisted two families in adoption.

If you are interested in having us come speak to your church or small group, please contact the Women's Center. We invite you to call and stop by to visit us and learn more about our ministry.

SPECIAL THANKS

- ☉ To Jimmy's Restaurant, who donated 10% of receipts during the month of March. In total we received \$400.00.
- ☉ To Rock Springs Baptist Church who gave a portion of their Wednesday night offering to HWC. We received \$400.00 from them.

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. Gently used maternity clothing is also a definite 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.

....And Some of us Are Senders

When it comes to missions, some of us are "goers"—those who go out into the field and do the work. No less important however, are those of us who are "senders" who provide the resources to get the work done. The Apostle Paul reminds us of senders in Phil 4:16 when he thanks the Philippians for sending "a gift more than once for my needs." So while Paul was a "goer" he needed "senders" like those in the church at Philippi in order to get the job done.

At Hope Women's Center, senders are important, even vital. The mission field comes through our doors and because of you we are here to welcome them. We see amazing results in touched hearts and saved lives.

Like Paul, we need "senders," who believe in this ministry enough to join us as monthly supporters. The size of the donation is not important, it's about the heart. We are looking for willing hearts. Are you a sender? If so, you can join our team of monthly supporters of any amount. With your next gift, write "monthly" on the FOR section of your check and we will know your intentions. Joining us as a sender makes a difference in turning our culture toward life.