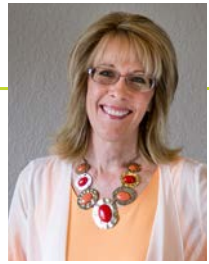




2016 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

LIFECHOICES
HEALTH  NETWORK

Reflections from Karolyn



Karolyn Schrage
Executive Director

“Mtoto ni maji au damu?”

(IS THE BABY WATER OR BLOOD?)

A young, traditionally dressed Somali couple came to the Choices Medical Services reception window. It was immediately apparent that a language barrier would make it impossible to complete the necessary forms. In a unique, God-revealed moment it was learned that the young woman could communicate using the language of Swahili, a language which just happened to be the very language I spoke serving as a missionary in Africa many years ago. Imagine the surprise to find a clinic in Joplin with a nurse that spoke such an uncommon language.

With a heavy heart, the young woman shared they just wanted pills to make the problem-pregnancy go away. They had plans to marry but the “bride-price” to be paid to the young woman’s family back in Africa had not yet been set and with the news of an impending pregnancy all “sale transactions” between the families would likely be halted. *The shame and societal pressure was too heavy*

for either to bear; they felt there was no option but termination of the pregnancy.

It was quickly clarified that the Choices Medical Services clinics do not provide nor refer for abortions, but, we could provide some necessary medical services, including an ultrasound. ***She looked carefully at the image on the ultrasound screen. Life was undeniable – the heartbeat was both seen and heard.***

At the same time, her partner’s advocate was able to use a translation app on his phone to ascertain that the couple adhered to the Islamic faith and believed from the Quran that the pre-born would not have life until 40 to 120 days after conception - when the breath of Allah entered the womb. If they waited to terminate the child after that time then they would not go to “paradise.”

As the couple discussed the ultrasound images, the young woman very emphatically asked the question, “Mtoto ni Maji au damu?” (Is the baby water or blood?) I carefully explained that for the heart to beat there must be blood but, by God’s design, the baby is placed in a cloud of water within the mother for protection and thus, the baby was in fact both water and blood. This meant, in their culture, that the baby was recognized as full of life.

The young woman stated with conviction that they would not abort their child. She said:

“IT MUST BE GOD’S WILL.”

I pray that the gift of an ultrasound to this couple from afar will go on to provide the opportunity for living water to another person, tribe or nation in the world.





JOSH Goes to College!



By now most of you have been introduced to LifeChoices' mobile medical unit, which our staff lovingly dubbed "Josh." As Josh was built to specifications last year our team received updates on his **development** during the planning phase, his **formation** during the outfitting process and then, with great anticipation, we awaited his **arrival**. We were as excited as any proud parent would be as Josh made his **debut** at LifeChoices' annual banquet last September.

Well, as any family will tell you, time goes by way too quickly and our little Josh is already going to college!

Josh is traveling to a local college once a week to provide free medical services. This college has no medical clinic on campus and has a high population of both domestic and international students that could benefit from LifeChoices' sexual health services. We are excited to see how many individuals will be served on the mobile unit, once everyone meets the new **freshman on campus**.

In addition to attending college, Josh will be **working** a second day each week by going to various other locations. He has just recently been approved to serve at a community center in one of our neighboring border states – taking our services where they've never been.

Josh is able to travel and serve at these locations because of generous gifts from you and others.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL AND PRAYER SUPPORT!

PS... Josh LOVES going to churches.

Call Jordynn at 417.623.0131 to arrange for Josh to visit your church!

GAME CHANGER

LifeChoices' 2016 Banquet

LifeChoices' 2016 Banquet
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Victory Ministry & Sports Complex

Come and learn how LifeChoices is Changing the Game!

You won't want to miss these exciting updates...



SPECIAL GUEST: Lou Holtz
Legendary Football Coach and
Analyst, ESPN (2004-2015)

Lou Holtz is an expert at overcoming seemingly impossible challenges. He does this by setting his own goals and working to achieve them. His success as a football coach is legendary.

Although he never inherited a winning team, he managed to turn all of them into champions within two seasons. His success as a man is just as impressive as his coaching career. From humble beginnings, he has fashioned a life that inspires everyone who hears him to a greater sense of purpose and the strength to fulfill that purpose.

While there is no cost to attend this event, an opportunity for financial partnership will be presented.

Adults only, as seating is limited. For more information on attending contact Jordynn at **417-623-0131** or **www.lifevoices.org/events**.



*SORRY I'M LATE, BUT I
HAD TO TURN A TRICK SO
MY "SUGAR DADDY" WOULD
LET ME USE THE CAR.*

Tearfully, Jessie* told the nurse that she was so tired and didn't want to be in "the life" anymore, but she felt trapped because of her addiction. Finding a vein to even draw blood for STI testing was difficult because of Jessie's repeated shooting up of so many different drugs.

Noticing a tattoo with a religious theme, the nurse was able to remind Jessie that the One she used to draw strength from was still with her and that He loves her dearly. If she really wanted out of "the life" Choices Medical Services would help her. Plans were made for admittance into a drug detox program and after getting clean Jessie would be able to enter a long-term aftercare program in another state.

The road ahead for Jessie is challenging, but because of her visit to Choices Medical Services she is now working to get on a different, better path. We recently received this text from Jessie:

"You do good things n help many people. U surely will be blessed beyond measure. Thank u... thank u..."

Your partnership with LifeChoices is helping direct people to new life – **real life**. On behalf of Jessie and all those we serve, **"Thank U... thank u!"**

*name changed to protect the identity and privacy of our clients



LINKS FOR LIFE 2016

This year's golf tournament was a great success! We had over 70 players and because of generous community sponsors, **over \$9,000** will go directly to client services! In fact, because of the wonderful participation in this year's event, LifeChoices will be able to provide encouragement and support to approximately 380 young men as they transition into fatherhood this year!



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR TITLE
AND PREMIER SPONSORS!**





Impacting the Nation

Karolyn teaching at a pregnancy center regional meeting in Tulsa, OK.

Did you know that your investment with LifeChoices is impacting Pregnancy Medical Clinics around the nation?

LifeChoices' team members are frequently contacted to lead or host workshops on a variety of topics including: STI Testing and Treatment, Human Trafficking Awareness, Men's Outreach, The Healing Touch, Limited Obstetrical Ultrasound Training, and Pornography. Many of these trainings provide nursing CEUs.



LifeChoices' STI Training Workshops
JOPLIN

Heartbeat International Conference
ATLANTA

National Institute of Family and Life Advocates Ultrasound Training
JOPLIN

National Institute of Family and Life Advocates STI Training
COLORADO

Mercy Human Trafficking Forum
JOPLIN

Mercy Human Trafficking Forum
SPRINGFIELD

Project Blueprint
JOPLIN

CareNet National Conference
ORLANDO

Training for regional Pregnancy Medical Clinic Alliances
OKLAHOMA, NORTH CAROLINA, ILLINOIS



BTLE %T SXS



Battle of the Sexes is a one-day, off-campus event for high school juniors. This high impact experience is designed as a "booster shot" to our 10-day program, COMPASS. We strive to empower students to navigate the craziness of life, relationships and dating successfully. *To put it simply, our goal is to help students become strong and healthy young adults. **But we need YOU! We need community leaders, youth workers or anyone who loves teenagers to serve at Battle of the Sexes.***

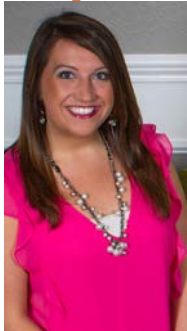
Interested in learning how you can make a HUGE difference in the life of a teenager?

Visit www.connectioninstitute.com/battle-of-the-sexes or call Joy at 417.624.4470.



**“For everything there is a season, a time
for every activity under heaven.”**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1



Many of you know Melissa “MJ” Smith who has passionately served as our School Program Coordinator for the past five years. As her little family is growing, MJ will be stepping into a new role as full-time mommy. While we are sad to see MJ go, we are pleased to welcome Chelsea Delgado to the LifeChoices family. She brings previous experience from a similar position and we are excited to add her gifts and talents to the LifeChoices team!



After 26 years of service, Rita Lawson will be moving to Texas where her husband has recently accepted a position. We celebrate this exciting transition with her and join God in saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” With that, we welcome a new season with our own Jordynn Griffith stepping into the role of Advancement Director. Jordynn has been with LifeChoices for four years and has worked closely with Rita in serving you, our wonderful partners. Jordynn is very excited about this new season and cannot wait to meet all you!



LOOKING FORWARD

FORGIVEN & SET FREE: September

Join us for a safe and confidential post-abortion support group. Call Karolyn at **417.623.0131** for more information.

ANNUAL BANQUET: September 29

Register now to attend LifeChoices' annual banquet at Victory Ministry & Sports Complex. Our special guest is Coach Lou Holtz, Legendary Football Coach and Analyst, ESPN (2004 – 2015).

www.lifevoices.org/events

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE TRAINING: October

Looking to invest in the lives of others? For more information on how you can become a LifeChoices' volunteer advocate contact Karolyn at **417.623.0131**.

BATTLE OF THE SEXES: October 25-28

We need YOU! We are looking for men and women who want to impact area high school juniors during our Battle of the Sexes events. For more details and to download a volunteer application, go to

www.connectioninstitute.com/battle-of-the-sexes.

LIFECHOICES

HEALTH + NETWORK

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WE HAVE A NEW
FACEBOOK PAGE!
BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT!

hello world!



"Thank you LifeChoices - without you
I'm not sure he'd be here today!"