



SUMMER2017  
*newsletter*

**LIFECHOICES**  
HEALTH  NETWORK



# PREVAILING SPIRIT

By: Karolyn Schrage, RN BSN, Executive Director

Desperation and hostility seethed beneath the surface as the young woman walked in asking for an abortion. Following her visit with the Choices Medical team, her countenance changed completely. Her parting words said it all...

*"Today you **saved my baby's life!***

*I don't know where I would've ended up without your clinic."*

We can never waiver in our fight to defend and protect the dignity of life in our country. The issue of 'life' is polarizing public-opinion as never before and our commitment to prevail with medical accuracy, truth, and love is needed more than ever.

A prominent advocate of women's rights and the daughter of missionaries, Nobel Prize author Pearl S. Buck, wrote:

*"When good people in any country cease their vigilance and struggle, then evil men **prevail.**"*

For 28 years LifeChoices has chosen to advocate on behalf of the voiceless – to defend the rights of women, men and children. In our clinics, there

isn't room for condemnation but instead our team provides professional healthcare and shares about the transformative power of Christ. Proverbs 24:5 reads,

***"The wise prevail through great power,  
and those who have knowledge muster their strength."***

Courageous voices are bringing to light the importance of protecting all life in our country. Recently, Missouri Governor Eric Greitens shared his stand for life with the following words:

*"I believe that we need to defend life and promote a culture of life here in the state of Missouri. I saw the value of true love and compassion in one of Mother Theresa's homes for the destitute and dying. I saw the power of faith leaders who stood up and affirmed that every life had value and worth. Our faith community and volunteers do incredible work to support people in need. **And there's few finer examples than the work pregnancy care centers do across our state.**"*

The request extended by the office of the Governor to participate in his bold mission, and the honor to introduce Governor Huckabee at a recent event in Joplin was an affirmation of you - our invested partners. Together with our staff and volunteers you choose every day to spur on the vital work of LifeChoices so love can prevail against all odds.

Thanks for being on our team for life!

Blessings,

*Karolyn*

Karolyn Schrage  
Executive Director







# FOUR YEARS AGO

By: Denise Beck, Client Services Director

*It had been four years since she had walked through our doors. Four years ago she was scared, alone, and being pressured to abort.*

Today, she was holding the hand of a 3-year-old little girl with a blonde ponytail that bounced as she walked. She proudly picked up her daughter and held her up to the window, asking by name for her nurse and volunteer advocate.

With our volunteers only working four hours once a week, it was a miracle that she happened to be there, but they quickly found a quiet corner and exchanged hugs and introductions. As they sat together, she shared that she doesn't live in town anymore but she always wanted to come back someday to tell us how much she appreciated our help when she so badly needed it. She shared, "I didn't think I could do it. I was only focused on the negatives of being a single mom and had no idea of all of the benefits". Tears were close to the surface as she said,

**"You all helped me realize that I could do it and now here is my little girl who is the light of my life".**

So much has changed in her life since that day, and it hasn't all been easy. Her daughter was born with a breathing problem which inspired her to go to school for her nursing assistants license. She then continued on with her education and is now pursuing her degree in nursing.

We trust that stories like this are happening for so many of our clients after they leave our doors, but it is a rare treat to re-connect and hear such a personal account of how our services are making a difference. As they left that day she shared, **"I just want you all to know how much I appreciate all you did for me and that this little girl changed my life for the better.** I am so thankful for your encouragement and for helping me feel that I could be a single mom. **Thank you for being here for me".**

**CHOICES**  
MEDICAL SERVICES



# ROCKSTAR VOLUNTEERS!

All year we experience blessings as streams of volunteers flow through our doors bringing life, love, and joy with them. **Over 50 selfless volunteers donated 11,439 volunteer hours over the last year.** That is the equivalent of one and a half years worth of time given to make it possible for us to offer care and services to our clients. We could not do what we do without this army of caregivers helping us to meet the real needs of our clients! Thank you all so very much!

Anna Myer	Dr. Godfrey	Kelly Moore
Ashley Osborne, RDMS	Dr. Holmes & Pam	Kim Knight
Barbara Hutchison	Dr. Manley	Kristy Crawford, RN
Becca Moss, FNP-C	Dr. Manrique	Lynna Blasé
Bill Good	Dr. Merkle	Margaret Hartman
Bob Hutchison	Dr. Roberts	Mary Poston
Carissa Cayton, RN	Dr. Sloan	Miranda Brouk
Carol DeWelt	Dr. Towery	Nina Beaver
Cheryl Burleson	Emily Carrol, RN	Pat Cloud
Christin Moss	Emily Landis	Pauline Jeans
David Foster, RDMS, RDCS	Erin Maurer	Rachel Higdon
Dawn Hogan	Evelyn Knowles	Rachel Neugebauer
Diane McNabb	Holly Richardson NP	Richard Arnold Yeager
Diane Weston	Ida Still	Sara Johnson
Doug Beaver	Jill Feurt, NP	Sara Weston, RDMS
Dr. Lewton	Julie Reed	Sha Lawry
Dr. Allison	Kasandra Ackerson	Stacy Lortz
Dr. Barlet	Kathy Sulier	Tiffney Baird
Dr. Billingsly	Katie Gage, RT(R)(CT)	Tori Jones
Dr. Cox	Katie Marsh, PA	Vickie Gilmer
Dr. Dennis		

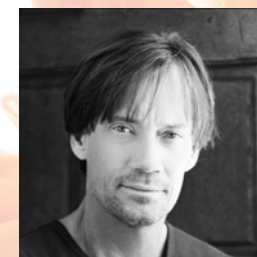
# P R E V A I L

LifeChoices Annual Banquet

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28** | **2017**  
**Victory Ministry + Sports Complex**

**Come join us as we reflect on the powerful, prevailing love shared through the work of LifeChoices this year!**

## GUEST SPEAKER



### Kevin Sorbo

ACTOR | PRODUCER | DIRECTOR

*Leading actor in movie “God’s Not Dead”,  
 Internationally acclaimed actor in T.V. show ‘Hercules’*

Kevin Sorbo has a powerful testimony of prevailing over seemingly impossible circumstances and redefining for himself and many others how one measures success. Kevin’s deep passion for the sanctity of life and issues of human trafficking is sure to bring an inspirational message to this year’s banquet.

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](http://www.lifevoices.org/events).**





# ANOTHER YEAR OF AWESOME!

By: Chelsea Delgado, Prevention Services Director

*Connection Institute is gearing up for another season with our awesome team!*

We had an amazing 2016-2017 school year! Our team received hundreds of positive student comments, teacher evaluations, and compliments from school administrators, but the best feedback came from a young girl who visited one of our medical clinics for services. Brooke\* let us know that she had moved to Joplin five years ago as a pregnant 14-year-old and happened to have our Compass class the week after she arrived. She shared that moving to a new school district and being visibly pregnant was a very hard and discouraging time in her life. She stated that,

*\*Names changed to protect the confidentiality of our clients.*

**“My presenter was the only person who I encountered that didn’t judge me or criticize me, and who treated me normally. He said that LifeChoices was here if I needed any help, so I knew I had to come to you all for this pregnancy test.”**

Stories like this are why we are so passionate about reaching students, empowering them with good information, and creating a judgement-free zone where we can invest in their lives. We are so blessed to have this opportunity in 14 area school districts, connecting with over 10,000 students each year.

We are excited to kick off this new school year with three programs for area students:

COMPASS	PROJECT ID	BATTLE OF THE SEXES
A 10-day sexual education and risk avoidance program for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students, where we teach the basics of puberty, sex, and STIs, but more importantly are able to talk with them about healthy relationships and reaching their goals.	Our newest program, Project ID, is a 5-day resiliency and critical skills program for 5th and 6th graders. This program just launched in Carthage and we are excited to begin offering it to other school districts this year!	Specifically designed for area 11th grade students, this one-day empowerment program gives us the chance to speak with students about the most relevant issues they are facing, and help them come up with a game plan to overcome their obstacles and achieve their dreams.

These programs are only possible because of your support and the amazing team of school educators that partner with us.

**For more information on getting involved with our school programming team, call Chelsea at 417.623.0131.**

# THIS YEAR WAS A HOLE-IN-ONE!

# LOOKING FOWARD



*This year's golf tournament was a great success!  
We have been blown away by the results!*

Not only was this our largest field of players to ever participate, but **over \$10,000** was raised for continued services in Carthage, Joplin and the surrounding areas!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this year's tournament such a success, and a special thank you to the above sponsors! Because of their partnership, **every registration fee went directly to client services!**

**Save the date for next year's tournament:  
April 27, 2018!**



## **FORGIVEN & SET FREE**

LifeChoices offers a safe and confidential post-abortion support group for those struggling with their choice to terminate a pregnancy. Call Denise at 417.623.0131 for more information.



## **2017 ANNUAL BANQUET**

Join us for this year's inspirational banquet, as we hear about the exciting ways love is prevailing at LifeChoices. For more information visit [www.lifevoices.org/events](http://www.lifevoices.org/events)



## **BATTLE OF THE SEXES**

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 email Alyssa at [alysam@choicesmedical.org](mailto:alysam@choicesmedical.org), or visit [www.connectioninstitute.com/battle-of-the-sexes](http://www.connectioninstitute.com/battle-of-the-sexes)



## **PROJECT BLUEPRINT: MEN'S ADVOCACY TRAINING**

If you have a passion for reaching the newest generation of fathers, LifeChoices has an amazing opportunity for you to invest in the lives of our male clients! For more information on this dynamic training and exciting opportunity, call Clarke at 417.623.0131.



## **VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE TRAINING**

Looking to invest in the lives of others? For information on how you can become a volunteer client advocate, contact Denise at 417.623.0131.

# LIFECHOICES

## HEALTH NETWORK

531 E 7TH STREET | JOPLIN, MO 64801  
417.623.0131  
[lifechoices.org](http://lifechoices.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 286  
JOPLIN, MO

Return Service  
Requested



## THANK YOU SO MUCH

TO EVERYONE THAT PARTICIPATED IN  
THIS YEAR'S BABY BOTTLE PROJECT!  
WE HAVE BEEN BLOWN AWAY BY  
YOUR GENEROSITY! SO FAR YOU  
HAVE RAISED **OVER \$60,000** FOR  
CONTINUED LIVE-SAVING SERVICES!



[lifechoices.org/donate](http://lifechoices.org/donate)



[/lifechoicesjoplin](https://www.facebook.com/lifechoicesjoplin)



[/lifechoicesjoplin](https://www.facebook.com/lifechoicesjoplin)



Want to receive our monthly updates?  
Sign up for emails at [lifechoices.org/getinvolved](http://lifechoices.org/getinvolved)

