spring 2018 newsletter

LIFECHOICES HEALTH CNETWORK

At LifeChoices, it's a daily walk among the lions:

• A plethora of pressures threaten to pounce and devour our students but our school programs **Compass and Project ID** last year alone provided empowering prevention education focusing on healthy relationship and resiliency skills to tool **7,292 students.**

• Within our **Choices Medical Services** clinics we gently welcome those broken by sexual health issues and provide STD services, pregnancy testing, ultrasounds and physician consults. We choose to stand against the shaming judgment that would crush a young pregnant girl and instead surround her with support and encouragement in her unplanned pregnancy. In 2017, over **10,000 clinic services** were provided to our community.

• Weekly we step into the lion's den where sexual exploitation abounds in exotic dance clubs and among those that have been victimized by the sexual demands of society. Our **mobile medical unit** has been on site to serve victims from **41 different locations** in the last two years.

It has been said, *"if you straddle the fence, you'll likely tear the seat of your pants."* May we be found faithful with the courage to stand firm and be found living among the lions.

As the Benham brothers wrote, "Courageous transformers confront culture with hard heads because with soft hearts they love the people in it!" Thank you for your commitment in joining us to make a difference...**courageous conviction can certainly be contagious.**

In Service to the King of Kings, the Lion of Judah,

Karolyn Schrage RN, BSN Executive Director

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting my childhood home in Africa. One afternoon there was a unique opportunity to walk among the lions. The Old Testament story of Daniel was vividly brought to mind. Daniel's story is an ever-inspirational legacy of courage that still today challenges us to commit to living lives of deep conviction. While some may choose to step away from all things controversial, others like Daniel refuse to lay low and instead choose to stand up!

Proverbs 28:1 reads, "But the godly are as bold as lions."

In the book, Living Among Lions, brothers David and Jason Benham share "The same spirit that shut the mouths of the beast for Daniel in the lion's den is here for us empowering us to live faithfully among the lions of our day!"

Lions may present in many different ways in our culture today but we are faithfully called to stand our ground with humility and gentle compassion each and every day,

LET'S HIT THE LINKS!



LifeChoices' 6th annual golf tournament is right around the corner! Last year we enjoyed a fun and exciting tournament and over \$10,000 was raised! Will you join us on the course and make this year's tournament the best one yet?!

Links for Life 2018 will be a fourperson scramble and is going to be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, April 27th at Carthage Municipal Golf Course. The day will include a pre-round lunch, team gifts, door prize, friendly competition – and a good time for all! Registration is \$400 per team and space is limited, so get your team together now!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM

Visit www.lifevoices.org/golf or call Jordynn at 417.623.0131

P.S. There are still a few spots open for hole sponsors – this is a fun and easy way to show your support for LifeChoices and to gain exposure to the 70+ players on the course! Call Jordynn for more information!

We hope to see you on the course!

"I THANK GOD EVERYTIME I REMEMBER YOU...

CHOICES MEDICAL SERVICES

2017 was an amazing year at LifeChoices, with an increase in services provided and individuals seen! Not only did we serve more individuals facing a sexual health concern, we also saw a 9% increase in individuals seeking abortion – making this our highest year for this demographic yet.

The power of ultrasound is vitally important in our work with abortion-seeking women. Our trained nurses provided nearly 2,000 ultrasounds in 2017 and this high volume of ultrasounds year after year takes a toll on the machines necessary for this work.

In December, we were so pleased to be awarded with a brand-new ultrasound machine from Focus on the Family's Option Ultrasound Program! In addition to this generous gift, they also covered the cost of training for a new nurse to become certified to perform limited-obstetrical ultrasounds. These two gifts combined will impact thousands of lives in our communities for many years to come!





"ANYONE CAN FIND THE DIRT IN SOMEONE BE THE ONE THAT FINDS THE GOLD." Proverbs 11:27

Caught in the web of commercial sexual exploitation, women from over 41 locations have been served by the Choices Medical victims' services response team in the last 18 months!

From the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force in Kansas City, one individual shared, "Law enforcement is only one piece of the puzzle. If we are to be successful in putting an end to human trafficking it will take all of us. Many thanks to your team."

Never could we have imagined how God would utilize our team to serve in this important work. Our mobile medical unit has been deployed to assist in six human trafficking operations and our team is geared with medical gobags that can treat up to 10 victims at a time. This initial on-site contact with a young woman in the moment of her deepest chaos and confusion often leads to her leaning into the compassion and safety offered by the Choices Medical team.

On one operation our team assisted with a case involving two teenagers recruited from rural communities near Joplin. They were working out of a casino in a metropolitan area, and one of the girls had her young baby with her. Law enforcement was able to arrest the trafficker immediately and our team was able to provide these young girls hope and compassion.

The invitation by law enforcement to provide essential medical services to these victims is simply the path by which we have access to the hearts of many lost and forgotten young women. There have also been incredible moments of global impact as many victims have come from outside the United States. Seated in a circle of seven victims from a recent operation in Joplin, one of the women looked up shyly and shared,

"We are Buddhists, but today your God helped us."

LifeChoices was honored to lead this victims' services response, but it was because of the Joplin community coming together that the outcome of this operation was so remarkable. These women were provided lodging, food, and safe passage to their next destination. One of the women sent the following note upon her safe arrival home, "Dear Joplin sisters, you loved us too much. We will never forget those days in Joplin when your unselfish love was so touching." The care provided to these women allowed them the safe space needed to unpack their fears and created the opportunity to dream of freedom.

A local law enforcement officer recently said, "Thanks from the bottom of my heart. I can't tell you how much I appreciate everything you do for our community."

Psalms 9:9 reads, "God is a safe-house for the battered, a sanctuary during bad times..." Your partnership with LifeChoices extends deep into many dark corners where few are permitted access. On your behalf, we are honored to bring the Kingdom to those that are seeking in our communities and around the world.

" My voice was heard today! By far it was one of the most meaningful experiences in my highschool career. Thank you! "

Battle of the Sexes 2018 was fantastic! Our volunteer team worked hard this year planning and molding Battle of the Sexes into an intentional and relevant program for students, including a brand-new video created and donated by Ramsey Media Works exclusively for this event!

We served 900 students this year from Joplin, Carthage, and Webb City high schools, empowering and equipping them with resources to make healthy life and relationship decisions. This event was fueled by 75 selfless volunteers who worked hard to make this event a success and gave of their time to connect with students and guide them through various activities and discussions.

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with area public schools to invest truth into the lives of students. We believe that with your partnership these events are planting lifelong seeds of encouragement and healthy relationship skills into the young people in our communities.



PROJECT ID CONTINUES TO GROW!

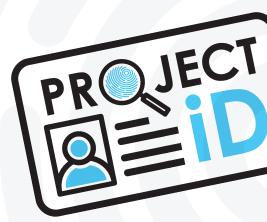
Project ID is a 5-day, pre-teen riskavoidance and empowerment program for 5th and 6th grade students, created at the request of local teachers and school counselors. Throughout the five days students learn about basic puberty, decisionmaking and coping skills, problem solving skills, healthy relationships, and boundaries in relationships and on the web. Students are taught using interactive lessons, stories, group activities and games, and conversations with parents and trusted adults through take-home exercises.

This program launched in Carthage in 2017, where we had the awesome opportunity to teach 772 5th and 6th grade students in the first year alone! 96% of these students reported enjoying the class, and 60% stated that they learned how to better protect their safety online. Our team then expanded this exciting new program to College Heights Christian School, and more school districts are requesting this program all the time!

For more information about Project ID, call Chelsea at 417.623.0131!

772 5th & 6th GRADE STUDENTS

stated that they learned how to better protect their safety online.





MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 13TH - THROUGH -FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 17TH

Your Change Changes Lives!

Change for Life is a fun and easy way for your family, church, or business to help support LifeChoices! Would you believe that last year **\$64,000** was raised by individuals gathering their spare change?! This is a simple and practical way to get involved with a local mission that is touching thousands of lives in our community each year, and LifeChoices does all the work! Simply take a baby bottle home on Mother's Day and fill it with coins, dollar bills, or even checks! Return your bottle on Father's Day and LifeChoices does the rest!

This year our goal is to distribute 10,000 bottles and raise \$100,000! Will you help us make this happen?

Contact Jordynn at 417.623.0131 for more information or to register your church, business, or organization for Change for Life 2018!

LOOKING FOWARD



FORGIVEN & SET FREE

3

n,

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.



LINKS FOR LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

LifeChoices' 6th annual golf tournament is right around the corner! Call Jordynn at 417.623.0131 to register your team today!



CHANGE FOR LIFE

Change for Life is a fun and easy way for your family, church, business or organization to support LifeChoices! For more information about the Change for Life baby bottle project visit www.lifevoices.org/events



WHITE BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

Join us for a fun day on Grand Lake as we enjoy a family-friendly fishing tournament benefitting LifeChoices! Call Hillary at 417.623.0131 for more information and to register!



ANNUAL BANQUET

Save the Date! This year's annual banquet is going to be different than ever before!



531 E 7TH STREET | JOPLIN, MO 64801 417.623.0131

lifevoices.org



Return Service Requested

GONE FISHING JULY 21, 2018

Save the Date for this year's second annual white bass fishing tournament benefitting LifeChoices!

Contact Hillary at 417.623.0131 for more information! LifeChoices FISHING TOURNAMENT



NY

ECFA

Sign up for emails at lifevoices.org/getinvolved

Want to receive our monthly updates?

 \sum