



SUMMER 2018

newsletter

LIFECHOICES
HEALTH NETWORK

“BLESS THE WORLD WITH YOUR MIND, HEAL THE WORLD WITH YOUR HEART, LIFT THE WORLD WITH YOUR SOUL, *ELEVATE* THE WORLD WITH YOUR LIFE.”

The words of African philosopher Mashona Dhlwayo beautifully mirror the mission and the heart of LifeChoices.

- Through our prevention services department, we provide empowering education to help **elevate** the minds of over 8,000 youth annually, bringing them to new heights of awareness.
- The teams at our Choices Medical Services clinics **elevate** healthcare in our communities, providing compassionate healing through vital services to over 3,000 patients each year.
- Parenting classes and case management appointments combine to **elevate** successful family outcomes, offering valuable skills in coping and resiliency.

Recently, while visiting over iced coffee, a young woman expressed her gratitude for LifeChoices' outreach teams that venture beyond the classroom and clinic walls and into the darker corners of our community at night. She shared that this relationship with our team encouraged her to look beyond her circumstances and consider making positive changes for herself and her young baby. She said, “You guys are the best thing that has happened to me since becoming a dancer.”

When love and hope intertwine with faithful investment, it **elevates** individuals so that they are given the chance to begin dreaming new dreams once again.

Together, our staff, volunteers, school presenters, financial partners, and prayer warriors combine efforts to **elevate** the broken, hurting, and oftentimes forgotten. In the Old Testament, Daniel says,

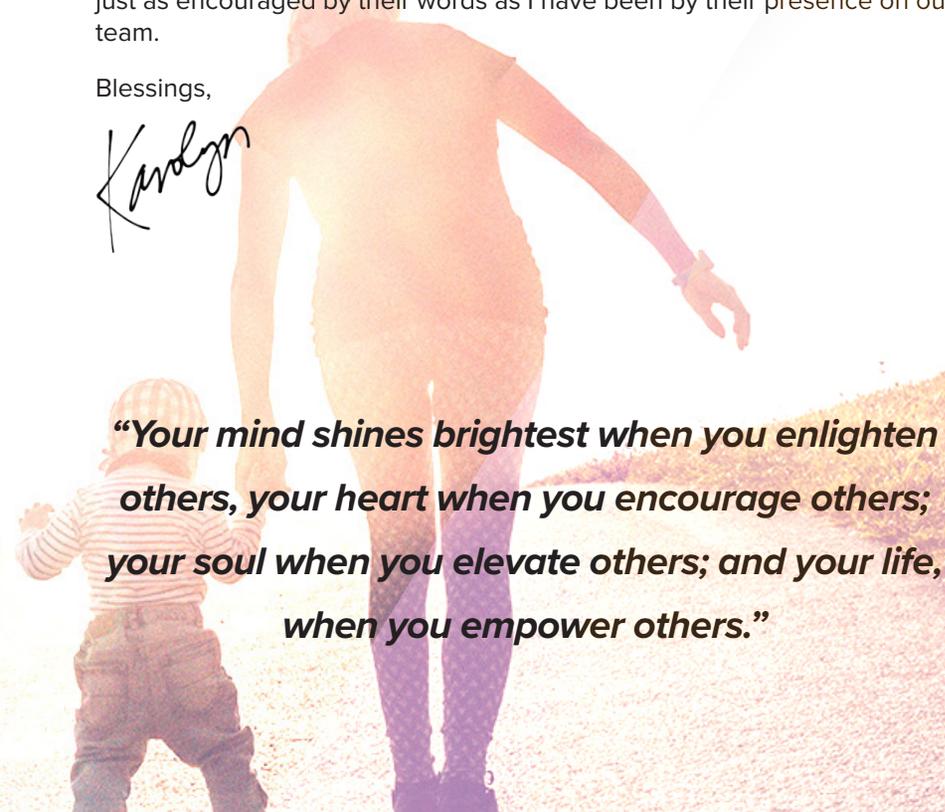
“...people who know their God will display strength and take action.”

(Daniel 11:32)

As LifeChoices nears our 30th year of ministry, we are thankful for the legacy that has been poured out into the lives of so many in our community, and we are excited about the future lives still to be touched. We cannot wait to share with you the inspiring stories of the elevating work of LifeChoices at this year's upcoming banquet. What a humbling thing it is to reflect on the strengths of our past while dreaming of the impact of the future.

Several area college students have recently joined our team through internship opportunities within each of our departments. In this newsletter, we invite you to see the work God is doing at LifeChoices through the eyes of these emerging leaders of tomorrow. I have no doubt that you will be just as encouraged by their words as I have been by their presence on our team.

Blessings,



“Your mind shines brightest when you enlighten others, your heart when you encourage others; your soul when you elevate others; and your life, when you empower others.”

ELEVATE

'18

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

VICTORY MINISTRY + SPORTS COMPLEX

**JOIN US AS WE REFLECT ON THE POWERFUL STORIES TOLD BY
THE ELEVATING WORK OF LIFECHOICES THIS YEAR!**

SPECIAL GUEST: DAVID & JASON BENHAM

Former professional baseball players, best-selling authors, and nationally acclaimed entrepreneurs

The Benham brothers have a motivating story of allowing God to elevate their personal stories for Kingdom-impact. Their deep passion for the sanctity of life combined with their upbeat personalities is sure to bring a fun and 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.lifechoices.org/events.



**"BET YA DIDN'T THINK
THIS IS WHAT YOU'D BE
DOING WITH YOUR LIFE!"**

– Lydia Proctor

People have been surprised by my desire to invest in a ministry that focuses on sexual health. Even I chuckle to think that 7-year-old Lydia (who dreamed of frills and fame and far-off lands) would not believe that she would pay her way through college by teaching "sex-ed."

Whether presenting for Compass, participating in The Battle, researching the latest adolescent health data, or assembling (literally) thousands of mail pieces, my experience working with LifeChoices has been far from slow and anything but boring. More importantly, though, it has been worth every minute.

I love that part of what I get to do is work with students. From the class of eight students in a private Catholic school to the room full of girls at a summer camp, LifeChoices is fighting to

help students live their best lives. Sometimes I see it in the little victories—a timid student finding the courage to ask a question in class—and sometimes I see it in bigger ones—a student coming forth to seek help from an abusive relationship. LifeChoices' work with students is just one facet of the gem, but it's one that I've watched give a glimmer of hope time and time again in lives where darkness pervades.

Every day LifeChoices is given the chance to extend hope. Whether at an ultrasound machine, in a strip club, a classroom, or a tiny office praying over stuffed envelopes... what a privilege to be part of this team.



GOD'S HEART BEATS FOR EACH AND EVERY LIFE

BY:
Cassidy Thomason

I was always told you can never be fully prepared for ministry, and after my internship with LifeChoices I believe it!

One morning I was given a heads up that a very young client was going to be coming for a pregnancy test. As three o'clock rolled around we were greeted at the window by a loud commotion of several people. In the background stood a quiet, subdued young girl. Her arms were crossed and her eyes glued to the ground. Little did I know how much her life would touch mine...

Due to an unforeseen communication barrier, conversation with the young girl was stilted and difficult, but soon her countenance began to change as I looked deep into her eyes and our smiles met. Thankfully you can so often connect with someone's heart without ever speaking a word.

Repeatedly, the nurse and I assured her that she had no need to be afraid and that we were there to help. However, as her story began to unfold, we quickly realized this situation would require the networking of many community resources. This young girl had been targeted and exploited by a man many years older than her, without ever even knowing it.

Her ultrasound revealed a 10-week-old baby, but while her eyes lit up with excitement, everyone around her was pushing her to terminate. However, this quiet young girl was strongly adamant - this was her baby and no one would tear it away from her.

As the appointment progressed, minutes turned to hours and soon the busyness of the day grew quiet as the clinic prepared to close. For the nurse and me, the day was far from over.

When her mother arrived to the clinic and began the necessary processes with law enforcement, the reality of the situation finally began to sink in. I will never forget the piercing cry that howled down our hallways as she expressed the betrayal and hurt she felt at the thought of punishing the older man who claimed to love her.

Thankfully we were able to offer her a safe place to go that evening for a quiet respite. We transported her to the safe house, brought her dinner, and then said a tearful goodbye. But this was just the beginning...

Later that week she returned for an appointment with one of our volunteer physicians and referrals for further counseling were made. Then, both our client and her mother returned the following week to attend parenting classes! Through the ongoing partnership with multiple law enforcement agencies, the necessary interviews took place and justice for this sweet girl is underway.

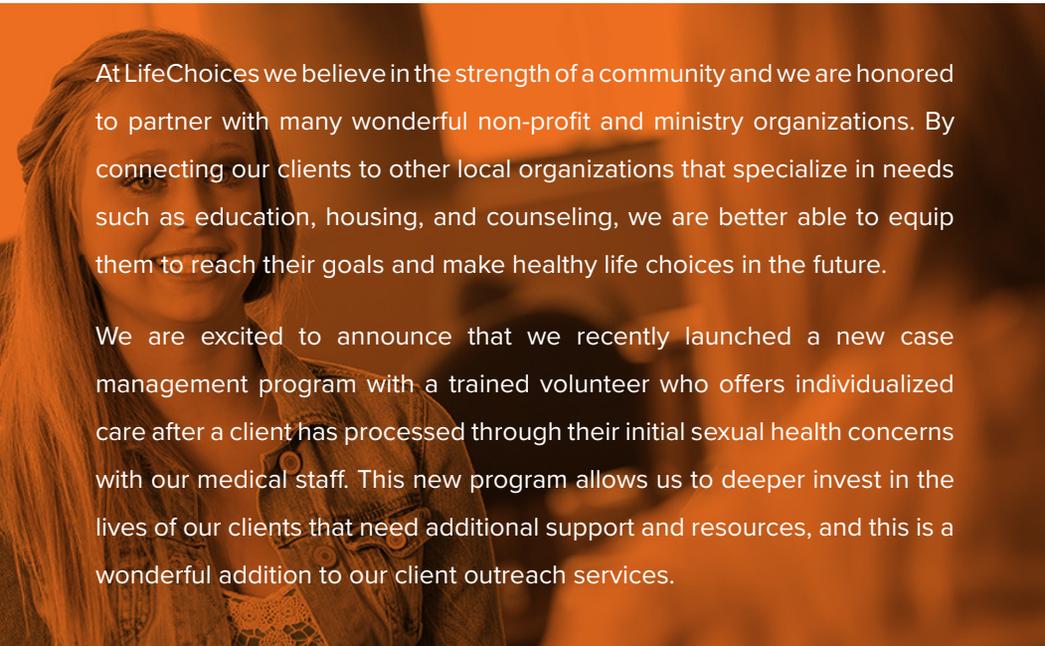
Together, LifeChoices is journeying with this young girl and her family to find hope in a world of lost innocence and tragic betrayal. Slowly they are beginning to heal from the most horrific of situations.

Even if I am still underprepared for ministry, because of my time with LifeChoices, I experienced a life-changing situation that will forever remind me that God's heart beats for each and every life.



**"ALONE WE CAN DO SO
LITTLE. TOGETHER WE
CAN DO SO MUCH."**

– Helen Keller



At LifeChoices we believe in the strength of a community and we are honored to partner with many wonderful non-profit and ministry organizations. By connecting our clients to other local organizations that specialize in needs such as education, housing, and counseling, we are better able to equip them to reach their goals and make healthy life choices in the future.

We are excited to announce that we recently launched a new case management program with a trained volunteer who offers individualized care after a client has processed through their initial sexual health concerns with our medical staff. This new program allows us to deeper invest in the lives of our clients that need additional support and resources, and this is a wonderful addition to our client outreach services.

For more information about our parenting classes, fatherhood advocacy programs, or our new case management program, please call **Denise** at **417.623.0131**.

CHOICES
MEDICAL SERVICES

INTO THE NIGHT

By: **Raven Mack**

My experience at LifeChoices this summer has been enlightening and deeply encouraging. I have been given opportunities to participate in many aspects of LifeChoices, from the nitty-gritty research for the school programs, to observing pregnancy tests and STI appointments. However, the most impactful experience for me has been witnessing the sexual exploitation outreach done by staff members late into the night.

I've been included as the team has visited with women as if they are old friends, and I have been amazed to see that their relationships have extended to getting to know their families. I have seen the hard work that is done to gain access into these dark places, and I've seen the prayers and emotion that the team pours out over this outreach! LifeChoices builds true, long-lasting relationships with these women, which often leads to life transformation.

After witnessing the work of LifeChoices firsthand for a few months, it is clear that they work hard to restore dignity to all they serve. By following Jesus' example and looking through His eyes, LifeChoices is making a tremendous Kingdom-impact on our community.

THE BEST YEAR YET!



This year's golf tournament was the best yet! We had a wonderful time celebrating the work of LifeChoices while enjoying a beautiful day at Carthage Municipal Golf Course. Over 76 men and women played in this year's tournament and **nearly \$11,000** 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 following sponsors:



Because of their partnership, every registration fee went directly to client services!



ANNUAL BANQUET

For more information call Jordynn at 417.623.0131 or visit www.lifevoices.org/events



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



SAVE THE DATE! LINKS FOR LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Don't miss this fun event! We hope to see you out on the links April 26, 2019! For more information call Jordynn at 417.623.0131



SAVE THE DATE! THE BATTLE 2019

Our annual "Battle of the Sexes" event for high school juniors has been re-named "The Battle" and is scheduled for the fall of 2019. Mark your calendars now to be part of this exciting event, or for more information call Chelsea at 417.623.0131



FORGIVEN & SET FREE!

LifeChoices offers a safe and confidential post-abortion support group for those struggling with their choice to terminate a pregnancy. For more information about this group and their meeting times, call Denise at 417.623.0131

WE'RE HIRING!

Connection Institute, the school education department for LifeChoices, is looking for engaging presenters to become part of our Project ID and Compass teams! Project ID is a program designed for 5th and 6th grade students, while Compass is our 7th, 8th, and 9th grade sexual health and relationships program. If you are passionate about working with students and are interested in subcontracting with us to do so, or if you have any questions about these programs, please email **Chelsea Delgado** at chelsead@choicesmedical.org!



LIFECHOICES

HEALTH + NETWORK

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THANK YOU SO MUCH!

This year's baby bottle campaign has been a tremendous success and we are blown away by your generosity! So far you have raised **nearly \$65,000!** If you have more Change for Life baby bottles, feel free to drop them off at any of our clinic locations.

Your change changes lives!

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