



SPRING2019
newsletter

LIFECHOICES
HEALTH  NETWORK

When young sailors aboard the USS Finback pulled out a 20-year-old Navy pilot from the Pacific Ocean, they had no idea they were rescuing the future 41st President of the United States of America, George H.W. Bush.

“THAT’S BECAUSE THE FUTURE IS NOT VISIBLE TO THE PRESENT.”

Over the last 30 years the LifeChoices team has been rescuing thousands of children whose lives hang in the balance as their basic human right to breathe their first breath is contemplated. These are our future nurses, teachers, doctors, and soldiers...and maybe even the next President of our country.

Young mothers and fathers of these children are given hope in the midst of their sexual health storm. They are shown dignity and love no matter what decisions they make. Those that choose life for their little ones are offered parenting classes and newborn supplies. Those who feel they have no option but to terminate their pregnancy receive grace and compassion. All of our clients leave our clinics knowing that we will not abandon them nor leave them to drown. We lovingly walk with them in their journey of restoration, showering them with the love necessary for their own healing.

The words of Matthew 5:14-16 come to mind as we reflect on 30 years of being light in our community.

“YOU’RE HERE TO BE LIGHT, BRINGING OUT THE GOD-COLORS IN THE WORLD. GOD IS NOT A SECRET TO BE KEPT.

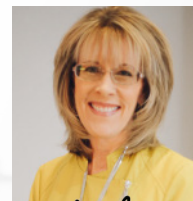
WE’RE GOING PUBLIC WITH THIS, AS PUBLIC AS A CITY ON A HILL...NOW THAT I’VE PUT YOU THERE ON A HILLTOP, SHINE!”

A few months ago I was performing an ultrasound, and witnessed once again tears flow down the face of a young mother as the image of her baby appeared. Seeing the heartbeat of her son was overwhelming. She was instantly convicted to get a grip on her substance abuse and start a new life for herself and her child. The father of the baby stood in shock as the evidence of life was undeniable.

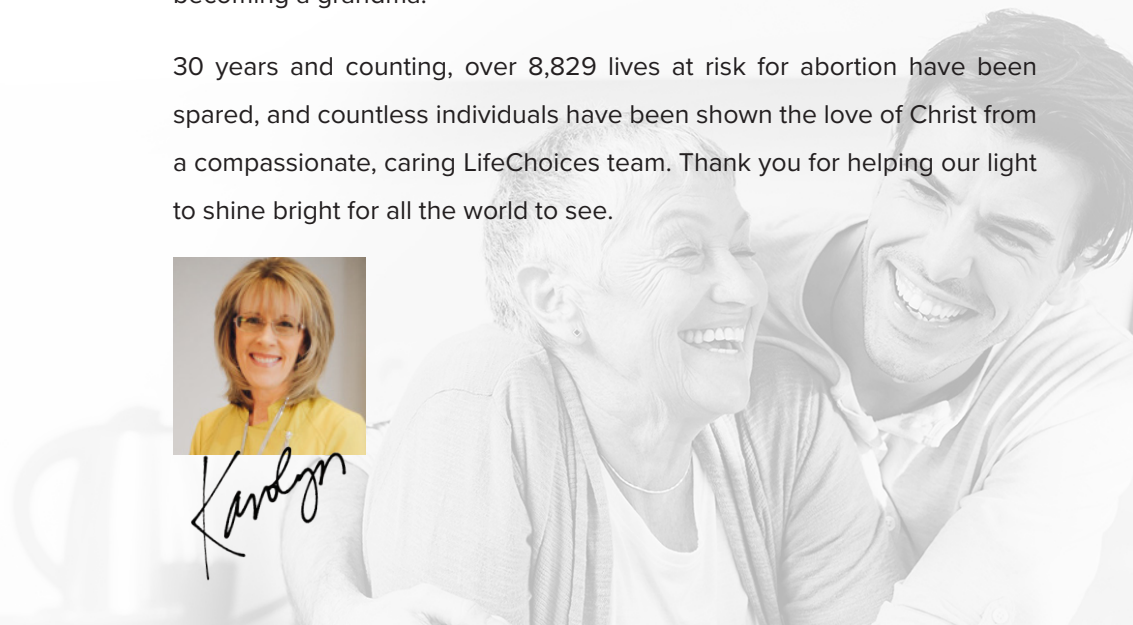
Both grandmothers of this little one were present in the ultrasound room, and one turned to me, eyes glistening with tears, and shared,

“Over 20 years ago I came here when I had nowhere to go. This is my baby boy all grown up. Without LifeChoices he wouldn’t be here today and I wouldn’t get the chance to feel the excitement I have right now of becoming a grandma.”

30 years and counting, over 8,829 lives at risk for abortion have been spared, and countless individuals have been shown the love of Christ from a compassionate, caring LifeChoices team. Thank you for helping our light to shine bright for all the world to see.



Karolyn





LifeChoices' **7th annual** golf tournament will be here before we know it! Last year we enjoyed a fun and exciting tournament, and over \$10,000 was raised!

Will you join us on the course again this year?!

Links for Life is a four-person scramble and will be held at 1:00 PM on **Friday, April 19th** at Carthage Municipal Golf Course. The day will include a pre-round lunch, team gifts, door prizes, friendly competition, and a good time

for all! Registration is \$400 per team and space is limited, so get your team together now!

To register a team, visit www.lifevoices.org/golf or call Jordynn at 417.623.0131. **We hope to see you out on the course!**

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 at the tournament. Call Jordynn for more information!

“Life is a gift of our Creator and it should never be for sale.”

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal practices in the world today. According to the Southwest Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, there were **571 cases involving child sexual exploitation/human trafficking** in our region in 2018. We can no longer blindly deny the existence of human trafficking in our backyard.

For over 30 years, **LifeChoices has been a strong voice for the voiceless and defender of life.** Since 2016, we have been expanding our mission to include prevention education about this rising danger to our local children, and serving firsthand with medical services for those suffering from the effects of modern day slavery. In conjunction with the local coalition against trafficking, our Victims Response Team has responded to local, state, and federal requests for assistance with 12 human trafficking operations. Since launching this outreach initiative, LifeChoices has served over **101 survivors of trafficking and exploitation!**

The compassionate and professional response behind the innovative implementation of our mobile medical unit has allowed for partnerships with other domestic trafficking organizations, and has led to collaborative efforts to make a difference locally, throughout our state, and Nation-wide. We are honored to serve on the Missouri Attorney General's task force against trafficking, and to be members of the coalition against trafficking serving the US Prosecuting Attorney in the Western District of Missouri. Because of your support, our traction and impact in southwest Missouri has been phenomenal and is now being documented as a template for action in other regions of our Nation!

We dare to step into new areas to serve the most vulnerable because we believe in the value of all life, whether that is of a tiny baby in the womb, or a woman exploited in her own neighborhood.

“Let it not be said I was silent when they needed me.” - William Wilberforce

A TIPTOE AND A WHISPER

Sometimes it takes a client tiptoeing in for our services to fully realize what she needs. And, often, it's the whispers that we say consistently over several appointments that eventually add up to a bigger moment. Here are Carrie's* tiptoes and the whispers she received, which made all the difference.

We first met Carrie on our mobile medical unit. She was a college student and it was apparent that she was driven and kind. As many do, Carrie had bought into the idea that part of the "college experience" was casual hook-ups, and so she wanted to be tested "just to be sure". That first appointment was brief, but the whispers of acceptance, encouragement and love she received had her walking back onto the mobile unit a few months later...

Her second visit was longer and she shared a little more. She shared her dreams of the future and the promising career path she had in front of her. She shared

about her friendships on campus, as well as her supportive family at home. Our team encouraged her to stay on a path that would allow her to achieve her goals, to meet a man that would respect her, and to know a God that loves her deeply.

Carrie's third visit was full of laughter and catching up on what she had done in the months between appointments. She had attended church with her family and worked hard at her job. She had returned to campus to finish her degree and, in the midst of that, she had re-kindled a relationship with another student. She didn't know if he had other partners, and she wasn't sure where their relationship was headed. While samples were taken for testing, the staff again whispered to her that she deserved a relationship with a man that truly cared for her.

Carrie's fourth visit was defined by tension and nervousness. She had missed her period and thought she might be pregnant. She knew immediately where to go; Carrie came straight to our mobile unit, tearful and anxious. When the pregnancy test was positive and an ultrasound was offered, our team helped Carrie convince her partner to come see the images. The staff whispered support and encouragement to them, and

the appointment ended with an opportunity to pray with them as they contemplated their options.

When Carrie returned for her next appointment, she was more grounded and sure of her decision.

**THINGS WERE
NOT PERFECT,
BUT SHE
KNEW SHE
WAS GOING
TO BE FINE.**

Her partner had decided that abortion was their best option and wanted her to terminate; Carrie swiftly told him that abortion was not an option for her and she would have this baby with or without him. She had talked to her parents about the pregnancy and they were passionately supportive of Carrie and her baby. With the support of her family, she was beginning to see a way that she could have this baby and still graduate and complete the career goals she had in mind. At the end of her appointment, Carrie confidently took the pictures of her baby and asked for our team to pray with her.

A tiptoe onto the mobile unit and repeated whispers of encouragement from our team had prepared Carrie for this moment. We never know the seeds that we plant during those hard visits with clients that seem disconnected and distant from reality,

**BUT EVERY
MOMENT
AND EVERY
WHISPER CAN
OFTEN ADD
UP TO A LIFE-
CHANGING
DECISION.**

**Names changed to protect the privacy of our client.*

CHOICES
MEDICAL SERVICES

EMPOWERING STUDENTS

The opportunity to go into schools and teach students biblically-based principles about relationships is not an opportunity that we take lightly. We are proud to present three different and unique programs in **16 area school districts!** Last year alone we educated **almost 10,000 students!**

Kristin, one of our Project ID presenters, recently spent a day guiding 5th and 6th grade students to think critically about their futures, equipping them with tools and practical exercises:

“Every time we make a choice - big or small - what happens afterwards?” Kristin asked a class of 5th grade students. “Consequences!” one student shouted with a hand raised. *“Absolutely! And sometimes we make a choice that has negative consequences, maybe because your friend pressured you or you listened to something on the internet, but ultimately who is responsible for the choices that you make and the outcome of those*

“I WAS BLOWN AWAY WITH HOW HELPFUL AND INFORMATIVE COMPASS WAS FOR BOTH OF US! THIS PROGRAM IS WELL RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN AND REALLY PUTS THE PARENTS IN THE FRONT SEAT OF THE CONVERSATION.”

— 8TH GRADE PARENT

choices?” “ME!” the class unanimously shouted.

It is truly amazing to watch children put the building blocks of healthy decision making together on their own. We believe in the strength and power of our youth, and we are honored to walk alongside them as they make important decisions impacting their futures.

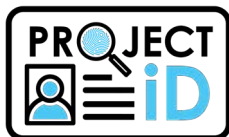
In Project ID, we spend five days with students talking about healthy decision making in areas relating to taking care of their bodies, discerning between a real or toxic friend, and how to set boundaries for the internet. In Compass, our 7th, 8th, and 9th grade program, we expand on those critical thinking skills by challenging what students believe about dating and their behaviors online. We present medically accurate information about puberty, reproduction, and STIs, and we lead in-depth discussions on topics such as cyber safety, the harm of pornography, and healthy relationships. Every day we encourage discussions between students and their parents, creating a bridge that allows parents to speak to the values important to their family.

We strive to create a fun and safe environment for students to explore complicated topics. One student recently shared, “It was an amazing experience, I learned a lot of stuff and I now know the hazards of sex. Compass kind of made a better relationship between me and my parents so I can talk to them more. Thank you.”

It is one of our greatest privileges to speak into the lives of the teens in our communities. Thank you for your support of these important programs!



**A FUN AND SAFE
ENVIRONMENT
FOR STUDENTS TO
EXPLORE
COMPLICATED
TOPICS**



**WE ARE SO
THANKFUL FOR
OUR VOLUNTEERS!
LAST YEAR OVER
10,000 HOURS
WERE DONATED BY
OUR VOLUNTEERS,
MAKING IT POSSIBLE
TO SERVE OUR
CLIENTS WITH
EXCELLENCE.**



Val and Jimmy Snyder volunteer as client advocates with us once a week. They have found a unique way to serve together so we wanted to share a few of their thoughts with you!

Thank You to All Our Volunteers!

For more information on getting involved,
call Denise at 417.623.0131

What motivated you to volunteer with LifeChoices?

Val: The truth is, I could have been a client of LifeChoices twice in my life. In 1973, I became pregnant as a teenager. I got the measles early in my pregnancy and my doctor offered me an abortion. I bravely made the choice to carry, and can now say I have a perfectly healthy 45-year-old son. Sadly, I made a different choice another time in my life. I wish I would have had a place like LifeChoices to come as a young girl. It could have been life changing.

What has it been like to serve together?

Jimmy: It is such a fulfilling time that Val and I get serve together. We each get to be on the front line of this extremely important and sensitive ministry. From day to day you never know who will walk in the doors here and what needs they may have, but you have the opportunity to have a huge impact on their lives AND do it together.

Advice for anyone thinking about volunteering with LifeChoices?

Val: I promise you will be blessed. Volunteering is the most hands-on part of the ministry. We meet so many people each and every day that have real life needs and concerns and fears. It just takes some compassionate listening and prayer.

LOOKING FORWARD



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



LINKS FOR LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

LifeChoices' 7th 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!



SAVE THE DATE! 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Save the date – you will not want to miss this event! This year's annual banquet is going to be bigger than ever before!

SAVE
THE
DATE!

OCT
8
2019

LifeChoices' 30th Anniversary
celebration
BANQUET

Save the Date for this year's 30th anniversary celebration! This year's banquet will be bigger than ever before, and you will not want to miss the exciting things we have planned. Mark your calendars now to join us!

LIFECHOICES
HEALTH + NETWORK

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