



LIFECHOICES
HEALTH  NETWORK

SUMMER2019
newsletter

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“Arise, Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.”

Isaiah 60:1

No one wakes up one morning longing for an abortion. No one ever wants to suffer through a sexually transmitted infection when experiencing a relationship betrayal. No child desires to be a victim of sexual exploitation or end up a prostituted survivor.

Across our nation the divisive debate on abortion legislation is a painful, polarizing topic. The teen STD epidemic is devastating many of our youth. Every two minutes another child is lured into sexual exploitation in our country, and every community in the USA has growing issues with consumer-demand for illegal sex.

In a world that is sexually saturated with neon promises of happiness, **LifeChoices stands as a solid lighthouse of hope.**

We know that the darker the landscape, the more brilliant the flicker of a light in turbulent times.

“When we are brave enough to look at our darkness, we become courageous enough to shine out light.” – Alexi Ponos

For 30 years LifeChoices has provided a safe space where those caught in the challenging chaos of sexual confusion can find sanctuary. Our teams are going into the schools, the clinics, the jails, and visiting adult entertainment businesses. We choose to lead with grace, and when the relationship is ready, we have the privilege to gently empower with truth!

The Kingdom opportunities to be gospel-whisperers and view all people as pre-followers of Jesus are standing strong as a testimony to transformed lives over and over again. We are making a generational difference in so many families.

Last year, LifeChoices was recognized as the recipient of the prestigious national Care Net Presidential Award for Family & Fullness of Life. The years of serving with ordinary obedience using best practices has postured us well for the extraordinary ways that LifeChoices is now serving in our communities and across our country. C.S. Lewis wrote,

*“Don’t shine so others can see you, **SHINE** so that through you others can see HIM.”*

As I scroll through my texts and the contact list on my phone, so often I pause to pray for the ongoing opportunities we have to speak LIGHT and LIFE into the hundreds of individuals touched

by the heart of God because of the ministry of LifeChoices. It is HIS warmth and light that draws a hurting world into a circle of love. This year’s **30th Anniversary Celebration Banquet speaker, Tim Tebow**, spoke these words,

“I want to make someone’s life better because I’m here. If you have that attitude it will change your day and change your life.”

May we all delight in knowing that because we were given life, we are here today and we can strive to make someone else’s life better each and every day!

*“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light **shine** in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:6*



Shine

LIFECHOICES'
30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Tuesday, October 8th

Leggett & Platt Athletic Center, MSSU

Join us as we celebrate the incredible ways that God's light has been reflected through LifeChoices over the last 30 years! This year's event will be one of the best yet but space is limited, so make plans now to join us for this exciting event!

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

Registrations will be limited to adults only, as seating is limited. For more information on attending, contact Jordynn at 417.623.0131 or visit www.lifevoices.org/banquet

WITH SPECIAL GUEST TIM TEBOW

Tim is a two-time national champion, first round NFL draft pick and Heisman Trophy winner. In addition, he serves as a college football analyst for ESPN. Prior to joining ESPN Tebow played three years in the NFL for the Denver Broncos and the New York Jets. Currently, Tebow is pursuing a career in professional baseball as a member of the New York Mets organization.

Tebow is the author of two New York Times Best Selling books; Through My Eyes, which was named the #1 sports and religion book of 2011 and Shaken: "Discovering your True Identity in the Midst of Life's Storms" which released in 2016 and won the 2017 Evangelical Christian Publishers Association Book of the Year. Tebow released his third New York Time best seller, This Is The Day, on September 25, 2018.

Tim Tebow grew up the son of missionaries and has returned to the Philippines several times throughout his life to spread God's

word, and do the Lord's work by serving the needy.

The Tim Tebow Foundation was established in 2010 with the goal to bring faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need. The foundation fulfills this mission every day by making dreams come true for children with life-threatening illnesses, building Timmy's Playrooms in children's hospitals, providing life-changing surgeries to children of the Philippines through the Tebow CURE Hospital, sponsoring Night to Shine, a nationwide prom for people with special needs, providing care for orphans in four countries and adoption aid grants for families who choose to adopt an international child with special needs.



GOD IS ON THE MOVE!

“Go into all the world.” Mark 15:16

It’s amazing how much of the “world” has relocated right here in our very own backyard! With increased mobilization of our medical teams, we are truly on the move in so many new directions. Here are a few updates on the incredible work of our mobile unit team.

Refugees:

Noel, MO is home to refugees and immigrants from many different countries, as well as families whose ancestors are generational residents. We were recently invited to participate in a community wellness event in Noel, where our mobile unit team provided wellness screenings as well as information about our services in the Joplin and Carthage clinics. A young refugee man from Africa was recently reunited with his wife and was excited to know that when they start their family they can visit our clinics for their pregnancy test and ultrasound. Repeatedly, the team heard the words “thank you” in many languages, including: English, Spanish, Burmese, Sudanese and Somali.

Inmates:

When the Department of Health shared their growing concern regarding the syphilis epidemic in southwest Missouri, our team stepped up. Within a few days we had a plan to deploy a two-person team to a local jail every two weeks to provide testing to both male and female inmates. On one occasion, the young man being tested told his nurse, “I know you, you did an ultrasound for my baby-momma.” A tender exchange about the need for this daddy to ‘get things right’ and get back to his newborn son led to prayer and the opportunity for ongoing encouragement in his life.

Survivors:

When area law enforcement is faced with cases involving victims of sexual exploitation, their call to LifeChoices initiates a high-speed response. Be that in the middle of the night with no notice at all or with a few days of planning, our team is ready to roll. As local members of RISE (a local coalition against trafficking), we serve as victim-advocates prepared with a go-bag of supplies and options for individualized safety plans, often coordinating travel for survivors needing to leave our community. At times this involves purchasing a bus ticket, providing private transportation, or quick mobilization in a private plane to whisk someone away to a safe place for long-term restoration and healing.

Legislators:

Our team’s reputation to serve with innovative excellence has taken us into unexpected high places! As a result of our positive outcomes with domestic survivors of trafficking, our Executive Director, Karolyn Schrage, has been invited to serve on the Missouri Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Task Force. Word of the collaborative efforts of LifeChoices with local, state, and federal law enforcement has resulted in frequent requests for interagency trainings across the nation!

For thirty years **God has been on the move** through the ministry and outreach of LifeChoices! We cannot wait to see what the next 30 years will hold!



“JESUS DID THE REST.”

The call came from a concerned parent; her daughter had given her a permission form from the school regarding the COMPASS sex education program. She was wary of someone teaching her daughter about such an important topic and she wanted more information and answers. This young mother shared that she hadn't always made the best choices when she was younger and she didn't want her daughter introduced to these intimate topics so young.

After a lengthy conversation on the phone with our Prevention Services Director, an invitation was extended for this mother to come into our office to review the curriculum and discuss all of her concerns at length. We are always encouraged when parents are so invested in their child's life that they choose to actively participate in the education we provide in 16 area school districts.



At the end of the visit, the mother decided to allow her daughter to participate in COMPASS. Before leaving she shared, “I've been here before as a client and everyone was really sweet. Mischa was my nurse and **she prayed for me before I even knew how to pray for myself**, and it eventually gave me the courage to make better choices and **Jesus did the rest.**”

From a patient in our clinic to the parent of a student in our school program – LifeChoices is leaving its mark on this family, and so many thousands of others. Thank you for your support of these important programs!

COMPASS

YOUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES!



Change for Life 2019 was a tremendous success and we continue to be blessed by your generosity.

This year we distributed over 7,300 baby bottles through 109 businesses and churches, and so far you have raised **nearly \$70,000!**

Thank you so much for your continued support of this important program. We could not do what we do without you!

If you have more Change for Life baby bottles, please drop them off at either our Joplin or Carthage clinics. Your change changes lives!

2019, OUR BEST YEAR YET!

Links for Life 2019 was our largest and best tournament yet!

We had a wonderful time celebrating the work of LifeChoices with **over 90 men and women** at Carthage Municipal Golf Course in April. We had 23 teams participate in this year's tournament and **nearly \$12,000** was raised for continued services in Carthage, Joplin, and the surrounding areas!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make Links for Life such a success, and a special thank you to the following underwriters. Because of their partnership, every registration fee went directly to client services!

We will see you on the links again next spring!



LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

WE NEED YOU!

Every year the Choices Medical Services team serves over 3,800 individuals with free and confidential medical services. To do this requires the dedication and support of dozens of volunteers. In 2018 we were blessed by the commitment of **51 men and women** who gave **10,000 hours** towards serving our clients!

We are looking to grow our volunteer team, and we need you! All that is required is a willing heart, a desire to serve people, and four hours per week. Our volunteer advocates provide an integral part of our ministry through crisis intervention counseling, so we will provide comprehensive training and ongoing support as you are equipped to serve our clients with love and compassion.

If you are interested in exploring this opportunity further, please call Hillary at 417-623-0131!



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LIFECHOICES'
30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

October 8th, 2019

Exciting announcement included inside!
This is going to be a banquet that you do not want to miss!