

SPRING  
**NEWSLETTER**





# PERSEVERE

# WITH PURPOSE.

The ultimate dream to compete in the upcoming Olympics has certainly been a motivating factor for many athletes as they have poured years into physical and mental preparation. The current sideline noise about possible Olympic cancellation due to the worry of a global pandemic has to be pushed aside as these athletes persevere with clear focus on the finish line ahead. The author of Hebrews puts it this way -

*“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”*

- Hebrews 12:1-2

For the past 30 years, LifeChoices has been running against the clock, training and adjusting for every turn, every hand-off, and each obstacle that may threaten to deter us from the goal ahead. As we reflect on this last year of serving our community, nation, and the world, we pause to catch our breath and celebrate the incredible victories that we have seen along the way. The partnerships of so many have led to these reasons to celebrate:

**4471 individuals** received confidential sexual health services

**96% of women** vulnerable to abortion chose life for their unborn children

**371 men** received fatherhood mentoring services

**10,564 students** received empowering education for healthy decision-making

**100+ organizations** worldwide were trained and resourced by the LifeChoices team

**30 survivors** of trafficking and exploitation were served by our Victims Response Team

Pastor and author Dale Partridge made this statement: *“Do not ask God to guide your footsteps if you’re not willing to move your feet.”*

Over the past 30 years there have been moments of growing weary, stumbling, and reevaluating our pace, but as the famous five-time Olympic medalist Sanya Richards-Ross says, *“Failure I can live with. Not trying is what I can’t handle!”*

As we round the bend for the next leg of the race ahead, we choose to **persevere with purpose**, committed to serving those who are broken-hearted and need the helping hand of another to hobble across the finish line in their own race of life.

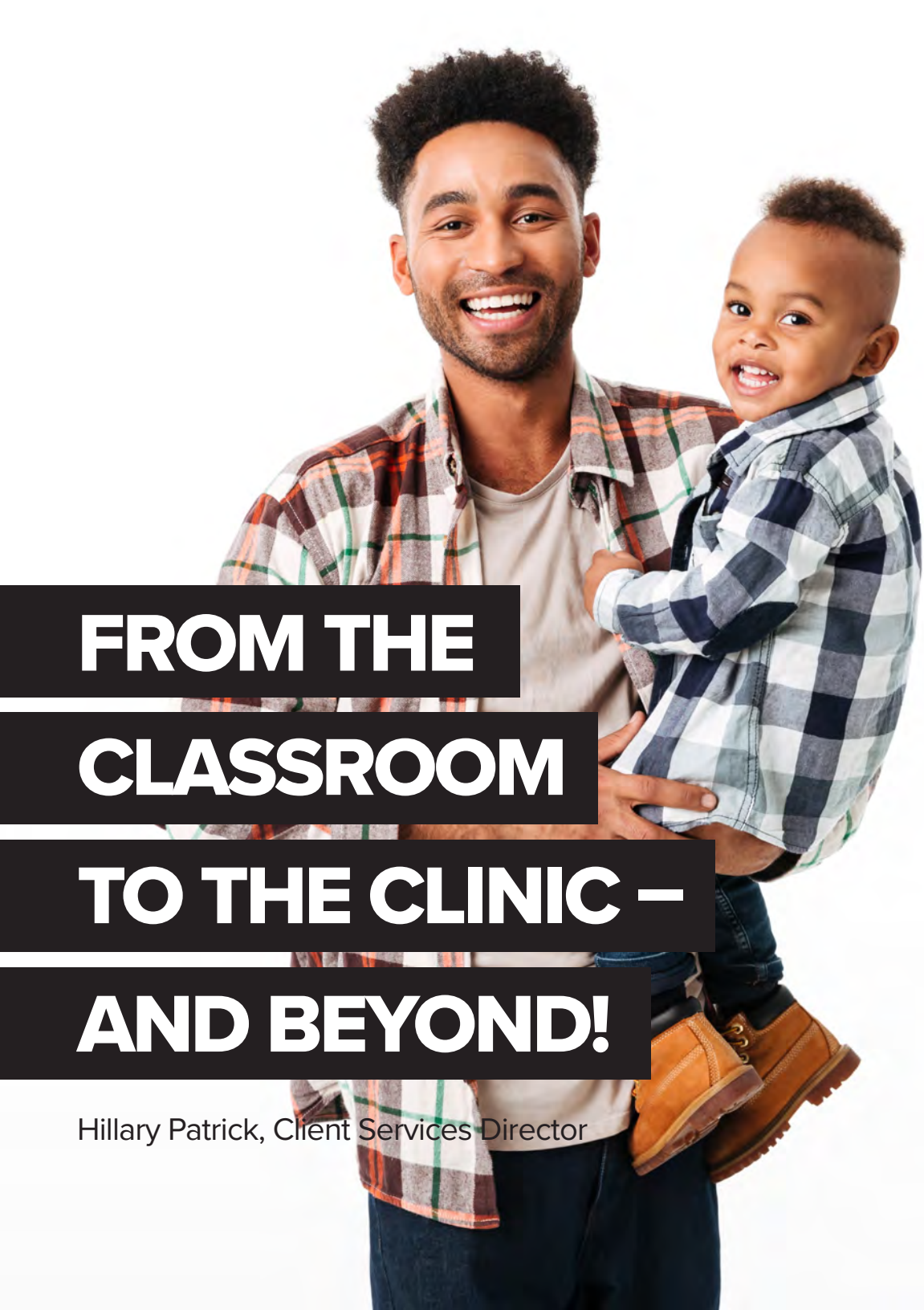
The words in 1 Corinthians 9 spur us forward...

*“Everyone runs...run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You’re after one that’s gold eternally. I don’t know about you, but I’m running hard for the finish line. I’m giving it everything I’ve got.”*

Thank you for joining us in this race for life. We look forward to seeing what else we will accomplish together!



*Karolyn*  
Executive Director



# FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE CLINIC – AND BEYOND!

Hillary Patrick, Client Services Director

The grandmother of a sweet one-year-old little boy reached out to LifeChoices for help in finding an affordable car seat for her grandson.

During her visit with our Care Coordinator, we learned that this young boy's parents came to our clinic with their unexpected pregnancy the year prior. When this couple was younger, they first learned about our clinic services through our Compass education program at their school. The young father said that **he knew they would experience expert care and accurate information from our clinic team because that is what he remembered receiving from his Compass instructor.**

This young couple not only received medical services and counseling from our team during their pregnancy, but they also attended our parenting classes in order to become the best parents they could be. Now, over a year later, they came to LifeChoices again for help with finding a car seat because they knew that our team cares about their family. From the classroom to the clinic, **we have invested over 20 hours with this couple**, giving us the opportunity to provide them with a full-circle experience of care.

In 2019, our new Care Coordination program provided **78 client visits** and offered over **300 community resources** to individuals seeking additional support and care from the LifeChoices team. We also provided free prenatal classes for clients beginning the journey into parenthood. These classes, taught by LifeChoices staff and volunteer medical professionals, allow us to invest in clients long after the pregnancy test and ultrasound are provided. In continuing our efforts to better reach young families, we are excited to announce that we will begin offering **online parenting classes** in 2020! This alternative education option for parents that are unable to attend classes in-house will further broaden our reach into the community, empowering new and existing parents along the way!

Your investment in these ongoing resources show our clients that this community is here to support their family through their entire parenting journey – not just through pregnancy. Thank you for making these services a reality! For more information about volunteering with our Client Services team, please call me today at 417-623-0131!

Ashley\* was tearful and anxious when she walked into the clinic with her boyfriend, Trevor. She had taken several pregnancy tests at home but didn't want to believe the results...

Ashley had significant health issues and had been told by multiple doctors that she would probably never conceive and, if she did, it was doubtful she would be able to carry a pregnancy to term. She and Trevor never imagined that children would be part of their story. They both had successful careers and a baby didn't fit into their plans. Ashley was not sure she was mentally prepared to be a mom and did not feel she could provide adequately for a child; she was completely overwhelmed. She told her nurse that she was a Christian and had always been against abortion, but now that the decision was actually before her, she was sure that was her best option. Trevor quietly stated that he would support her in whatever choice she made.

After our team confirmed her positive pregnancy test, we offered Ashley an ultrasound. Both Ashley and Trevor were extremely quiet during the ultrasound but asked to take the photos home with them and agreed to return to the clinic to see a volunteer doctor a few days later. Our team prayed that

the resources and support we had offered them would begin to change their hearts towards this life growing within...

On the day of their next appointment, Ashley and Trevor came into the clinic with smiles and "good news" to share. They had decided to keep the baby! Ashley said that her change of heart came when Trevor shared with her that he wanted them to have the baby and become a family. Ashley said his belief in their ability to parent gave her the confidence she needed to keep the baby. Trevor told their nurse, "It was seeing the heartbeat during the ultrasound that convinced me."

Once Ashley and Trevor had decided to parent their child, our team surrounded them with resources and support. We connected them with a volunteer physician that eased their concerns about Ashley's health issues and we helped them make a plan for sharing the unexpected news with their families. We also shared with them about our free parenting classes and material resources we can provide to them once their baby arrives. Most importantly, their nurse had the opportunity to pray with them about this exciting new adventure and their transition to becoming parents. Ashley and Trevor left our clinic that day with a

peace about their life-affirming decision and a plan full of resources on their new path of parenthood.

Thank you for helping us support young couples like Ashley and Trevor every single day! If you or someone you know is interested in joining our medical services volunteer team, please contact me at 417-623-0131

\*Client names changed to protect privacy.



**IT CAN ALL  
CHANGE WITH  
ONE LITTLE  
HEARTBEAT.**

Mischa Long, RN BSN - Director of Nursing



# NEVER THE LESS,

# WE PERSISTED.

Chelsea Delgado, Prevention Services Director

Walking into a classroom full of students you don't know can be daunting. You never quite know what to expect and every class is different.

However, we do know with certainty that when we walk into a classroom in any of our 14 area school districts we will encounter students who come from unstable homes. We know that we will meet students who have experienced abuse and neglect. We will work with students who have no idea what healthy relationships look like because that has never been modeled for them. We will encounter students who desperately need someone to believe in them, and our team is ready to be that for them.

A few weeks ago, I received a call from one of our presenters after a hard day in the classroom. "I just am not connecting with them. I don't think they have listened to a word I've said..." he lamented. However, the very next day a student gave this presenter a picture they had drawn, thanking him for willingly spending his time teaching the Compass program. It was a wonderful reminder that students ARE paying attention and they DO care about making healthy life choices – we just have to be persistent in our outreach to them.

Another presenter recently told me about a defiant student they had who had stood and demanded, "Why are you here? Why do you even care?!" The presenter tried explaining they were there because they care about

teenagers and their futures, but the student wasn't satisfied. After several more conversations, that student's curiosity led them to visiting the church where our presenter works. And, a short time later that student was baptized there, having their life forever changed by the Compass program and their presenter.

When I reflect about the "why" of our three school programs, I think of the many students who have come up to me in tears, and shared that they have been abused by someone they trusted. I think of the students who have made such a connection with our presenters that they attend church with them, invite them to their games, performances, and graduations, or come into Choices Medical years later stating that their presenter made them feel safe and cared for.

In 2019, our Prevention Services department had the blessing of **servicing over 10,000 students in southwest Missouri and southeast Kansas**. We were able to empower thousands of students to choose healthy lives for themselves, now and in the future, and we are looking forward to another year of doing so because of your support.

If you are interested in empowering the next generation through the work of LifeChoices, please contact me at [ChelseaD@choicesmedical.org](mailto:ChelseaD@choicesmedical.org).

The 2019 Tree of Life project was incredible because of you!

Each year during the Christmas season we are blessed to have several churches partner with our annual Tree of Life project. This is a fun way for the community to provide material resources to families that have recently welcomed a new baby into their lives. Sometimes these gifts are the only gifts our clients receive!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make Tree of Life a success again this year. Because of you, we received over 3,000 newborn items that we can share with our clients and their children this year!

Your generosity makes an impact on the lives of so many.

We appreciate you!



# THE 2019

# TREE OF LIFE

# PROJECT WRAP!