

SPRING NEWSLETTER



WITH GRATITUDE

WE CELEBRATE!

The chaotic challenges of the year behind us will never be forgotten. But as we pause to reflect, it is with great gratitude that we also choose to celebrate!

Melody Beattie wrote, “Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.”

Since 1989, the faithful friends of LifeChoices have continued to inspire us with their prayerful support and spirit of generosity. In a year filled with so many uncertainties, there was a steadfast calm that God would see us through – and He didn't disappoint!

- **Despite school closures, 4,800 students were educated through our programs.**
- **94% of abortion-vulnerable clients chose life, resulting in 900 babies born throughout our community!**
- **38 survivors of human trafficking received services and support from the LifeChoices team.**
- **Parenting class hours increased over 34%!**

Life-affirming services never skipped a beat as LifeChoices' clinic doors stayed open, the medical mobile unit kept rolling, and essential student programs adapted and evolved.

With our core programs thriving, future dreams and visions continued to expand:

- **A new space for essential newborn resources was purchased and renovated.**
- **Safe parking for staff who provide extended-hour appointments was secured.**
- **A respite facility for survivors of human trafficking was designed and construction is underway!**

As the year ahead unfolds, we cannot wait to share how your generosity has paved the way for yet more Kingdom-expansion opportunities. Stay tuned - exciting announcements are still to come!



“You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.”

– Isaiah 9:3



BIG DECISIONS

NEED BIG HELP.

Christy Cox, Carthage Clinic Director

It was her last semester of high school when Jenny* walked through our doors for a pregnancy test. In her mind, abortion was her only option. Her age, circumstances, and dreams of a nursing career all caused her to feel like it was the worst possible time for a baby. The idea of finding a house, getting a job, and going to school – all at the same time – seemed too overwhelming.

A volunteer client advocate visited with Jenny about her pregnancy options and then it was time to meet the nurse and have an ultrasound. Our team did not expect to see much on the ultrasound, but surprisingly saw a vibrant 6-week-old baby. The heartbeat was vivid and Jenny's heart started to soften towards the idea of becoming a mother. She shared, "I think I am going to keep my baby. It is so precious..."

The nurse offered to have Jenny return to the clinic in a few days for another ultrasound. This time Jenny brought her boyfriend and he was in awe as he heard the heartbeat of his child for the first time. **In that moment, our team watched Jenny and Trevor* grow from scared teenagers into glowing young parents.**

Jenny's advocate and nurse both encouraged her that her plans for her future were not destroyed. Her path may look a little different from what she had planned, but she could still pursue a nursing degree and live the life she imagined. We shared with Jenny and Trevor about the incredible generosity of our community through the Tree of Life donation drive. We encouraged them to return to the clinic after their baby was born so that we could shower them with an overflowing bag of newborn baby supplies. They left the clinic that day with smiles from ear to ear and excitement about the new life that God had blessed them with. Thank you for your kindness and generosity to support young families like Jenny and Trevor!

*Names have been changed to protect the confidentiality of our clients.

A VOICE FOR THE SILENT VICTIMS.

Karolyn Schrage, Executive Director

It has been said, “Justice is not a new idea to learn, but an old idea to remember.”

For over 32 years, LifeChoices has been a voice for the voiceless, dedicated to speaking up for those who have no voice – the silent victims of abortion. Through LifeChoices’ longtime, faithful service to women who have faced unthinkable abuse and sexual trauma, new opportunities have recently expanded this core mission to include serving those who have been wrongfully exploited – **the voiceless victims of human trafficking.**

Since 2015, you have believed in LifeChoices’ mission to serve in this new way. Through your support of the mobile unit and our recent Amani Landing respite center for survivors, you have opened doors for LifeChoices to offer hope, help, and compassion to women who are often forgotten and discarded. We could not do this without you!

Recently, our team has been requested by the Missouri Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Task Force to join efforts in a statewide fight against trafficking and exploitation. Our mobile medical unit personnel provide essential testing and treatment, while other team members prepare hot meals, provide clothing and hygiene resources, offer compassionate

advocacy services, and connect survivors with referrals for ongoing after-care restoration. LifeChoices has served alongside more than 70 law enforcement officials from approximately 10 local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. **Through these special operations with the Missouri Human Trafficking Task Force, our team has provided services for 15 women, one man, and five children.** Our team is excited for continued opportunities to serve in this way.

During one operation, a young woman shared of her spiral into the dark life of sexual exploitation. Through tears of humiliation, she paused to hear the voice of a LifeChoices team member ask her about her faith. She responded, “I had a Bible once, I have no idea where it is now though...” In the freezing chill of that night, she was embraced in the warmth of a fleece blanket, provided a hot meal, offered clothing and a place to stay, but most importantly she was given **her very own Bible to treasure as a lifeline of hope** to a future free of pain and exploitation.

We never could have imagined where this journey would have taken us over the last five years, and we have no way to know what the next five years will bring, but with your support LifeChoices is continuing to

**“Learn to do good. Seek justice.
Correct oppression. Bring justice to the
fatherless...”** - Isaiah 1:17

Thank you for standing beside us in this fight!





WHAT A YEAR!

Chelsea Delgado, Prevention Services Director

The COVID-19 pandemic may have forced us to slow down, but the Prevention Services department at LifeChoices never stopped working towards the education and empowerment of local students.

In May, we worked with educators in Carthage to develop take-home worksheets over important topics like cyber safety, abuse, and human trafficking. These packets contained education as well as resources for both students and their parents. At a time when many students were spending exorbitant amounts of time in front of a phone or computer, we wanted to support parents and help students know how to identify relationship red flags and create healthy boundaries online. This take-home curriculum was so well received by the Carthage community that we made it available to all of our partnering school districts!

We began serving in local classrooms again in September and our presenters were so excited to be with students again! Our team adapted to social distancing guidelines and teaching while wearing masks, and they served **over 4,000 students in less than four months!** We also implemented virtual classes and parent nights for those who were unable to attend due to quarantines and isolation periods. Students were able to log-in to in-person classes and follow along in their digital workbook so they could later re-enter class without having ever missed a beat!

We know that even though there are many changes happening in every aspect of a student's life right now, Compass and Project ID remain as important as ever to provide students with age-appropriate, truthful, and medically accurate education.

One teacher recently shared,

“The Compass program has been an essential part of the content that we teach to our junior high students. Our favorite part of the program is how it opens up a line of communication between students and their parents about keeping themselves informed, safe and aligned with their family’s values, expectations and lifelong goals. We appreciate the attention to research and current statistics, as well as the age-appropriate language that is used throughout the program. This program takes topics that have been considered taboo and brings them to the forefront for discussing them at an age that they begin to surface for our students, in order to keep them safe and allow them to reach their full potential in life.”

We are looking forward to another year of educating and empowering students in whatever way we are able. Thank you for your continued support of these important programs. For more information about how you can get involved with the Prevention Services team, please contact me at 417-623-0131 today!

2020

WRAP

UP!

Our 2020 events were incredible because of you! We are so thankful for your enthusiastic support of LifeChoices amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some highlights:

- **Links for Life 2020 was our largest golf tournament ever!**
- **The Change for Life baby bottle program raised over \$50,000!**
- **Our first-ever special virtual event engaged viewers from more than 15 states!**
- **The Tree of Life donation drive received nearly 2,000 newborn baby supplies!**

Your generosity makes an impact on the lives of so many. We appreciate you!

We also want to share our thanks to the following sponsors for their support of the 2020 Special Virtual Event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Names & Numbers

Battery Outfitters

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LINKS FOR LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

LifeChoices' annual golf tournament is right around the corner and space is limited! 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



ANNUAL LIFECHOICES BANQUET

Save the date for our annual banquet and stay tuned for more details to be released soon. We cannot wait to share this year's special guest speaker with you!



