

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



TIME FOR COMPASSION

KAROLYN SCHRAGE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As our Supreme Court recently rendered their historic decision to reverse a long-held standard in our nation to now favor the sanctity of life we have all seen firsthand a nation in chaos. Many are weeping as they feel this ruling is an act to repeal their freedom while others celebrate it as an answer to decades of prayer.

As we have done for the last 33 years, LifeChoices remains steadfast to bridge the gap for our community and clients, sharing truth with abounding grace and tangible love.

God directs us to love people with whom we disagree and to serve well those who are caught in the crossfire of deep deception. Micah 6:8 reminds us of this important task to **“act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”**

We know that laws passed down from federal and state legislators will not suddenly turn hearts towards the dignity of life. The hopelessness of our world will continue to drive many broken-hearted individuals to the services provided by LifeChoices.

*“There is a season for everything and a time for every delight and event under heaven... **A time to weep and a time to laugh.**” - Ecclesiastes 3:4*

Even before this historic Supreme Court decision, our team was pivoting and evaluating our efficiency and facility readiness. While much of the world faces go-slows, supply chain issues, and a downward turn economically, LifeChoices was recalibrating to accommodate exponential growth challenges. Careful faith-filled strategic planning propelled us into high gear and resulted in the following exciting updates:

- Our Joplin clinic was remodeled and expanded to include **three additional patient care rooms**, allowing us to now serve 10 clients simultaneously.
- To better meet our growing patient needs in Joplin we decided to close our brick-and-mortar clinic building in Carthage and **increase our mobile unit outreach** to include not only Crowder College, Lafayette House, and the Jasper County jail, but to now also deploy six times each month directly into the heart of the Carthage community.
- Repurposing our Carthage medical staff allowed us to **increase our late-evening client appointment availability** for students and individuals who work during regular business hours.

- The resources that are generously donated for newborn families were **relocated to a newly renovated space** that has allowed for better inventory and distribution to clients.

- Our **online parenting classes reached an all-time high** as more individuals began participating and receiving vital information on how to best care for their children.

- The **Amani Landing human trafficking respite center was completed** and opened to receive survivors of sexual exploitation. Because of your support we were able to complete this project in less than 12 months and we have already utilized this space 10 times to provide hospitality and safety to women in our community.

- Our **volunteer fatherhood advocacy program hit a record high** of services provided to young men.

- A **new property acquisition blessed the Prevention Services team** with an in-service training room, adequate office space, and storage space for supplies for our school programs. The administration team was also relocated to this new space as their old offices were repurposed to exam rooms in the Joplin medical clinic remodel.

LifeChoices will tirelessly continue standing for life no matter what new challenges may come. Our team will be fueled by courage, compassion, and a commitment to THRIVE in the days ahead. John 10:10 warns us that the devil's schemes attempt to hold us in survival-mode but the hope and good news of Jesus positions us to **thrive** so that everyone may have **LIFE abundantly!**

Our response during this season is not one of **timidity but of tenacious, unrelenting love.** LifeChoices is proactively creating ways to challenge our community to level-up with new opportunities for engagement and we are so very excited to share more about this new season of LifeChoices with you at our annual fall banquet. *(See the next page for more details!)*

In the story of Esther we heed the words spoken through Mordecai to a young queen who found herself positioned for historical impact:

“For if you do not speak... help will come from another place. But you and your family will die. Perhaps you are queen for such a time like this.”

LifeChoices is ready to serve for such a time as this!

LIFECHOICES ANNUAL BANQUET

THIRTY FIVE

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, October 13th
Joplin Family Worship Center

Doors open at 6:00 PM • Dinner begins at 6:30

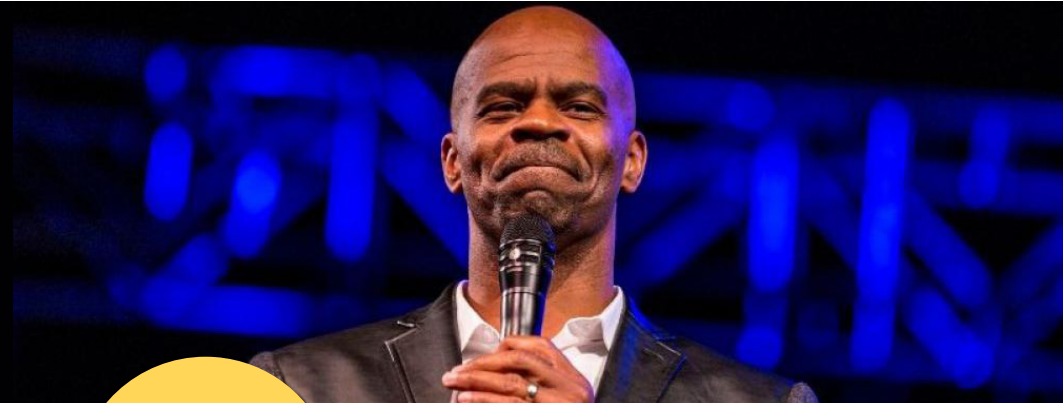
2022 has been a year full of exciting growth to the many programs and services provided by LifeChoices. We are so grateful for how God has provided during this season and we cannot wait to share these incredible updates with you at our annual celebration banquet this fall.

We are excited to welcome special guest **Michael Jr.** to this year's event. Using comedy and dynamic storytelling, he brings laughter and encouragement to audiences all over the world as he inspires individuals to discover and activate their purpose. This unique skill set has landed him on stages like The Tonight Show on NBC, TEDx Talks, and Jimmy Kimmel Live. You can find him in Sony Pictures' feature film War Room, as well as starring roles in Selfie Dad, Laughing On Purpose and More Than Funny. We know that you will love our evening together with Michael Jr. this year!

Save the date to join us on **Thursday, October 13th** for a special evening highlighting the impact of LifeChoices. **We need you to help us ensure that the important work being done by LifeChoices continues into 2023 and beyond!**

Registration information for this year's event will be published soon. Please watch our social media accounts or visit www.lifechoices.org/banquet for updates in the coming weeks.

We are forever grateful for your faithful support of LifeChoices. We could not serve 14,000+ people each year without you!



 /lifechoicesjoplin

 @lifechoicesjoplin

PARTNERING FOR PREVENTION

Chelsea Delgado, Prevention Services Director

As the lady turned in her Change for Life baby bottles, she took a moment to say **THANKS**. She shared that her grandson had recently completed his 7th grade **COMPASS** prevention programming class provided by LifeChoices in his school district. She went on to explain that her grandson appreciated that the class wasn't awkward at all, but in fact very helpful, and his parents appreciated that the class homework was designed to foster healthy conversations between kids and their parents. She wanted to say on behalf of her entire family how much they really appreciated that such a **challenging topic was presented in a comfortable manner**.

The last few years have been rife with change, both in and out of the classroom, but we have been so blessed to have not slowed down in our mission to provide support and prevention education to students and families in our region. In 2021, we saw an increase in students served both in our classrooms and through special events geared toward equipping students with information and resources to help keep them safe.

As our classrooms filled and simultaneously our medical clinic became busier than ever, God blessed us with an opportunity to grow our student programs in several incredible ways!

- We now have a new building with space dedicated for student resources and a training room for our presenters! This gives us the opportunity to **grow and dream** in new ways and we are excited to see what changes are around the corner!
- This summer we have been hard at work with student programming in three school districts and at a summer camp that reaches students who may not typically receive our programming during the school year.
- A top priority for 2022 was to update and redesign our student workbooks with new statistics, engaging questions to foster parent and student conversations, and eye-catching graphics. Edits are complete and the new booklets will be hot off the press for the 2022-2023 school year.

- An exciting program expansion was recently solidified as we renewed a partnership with the juvenile court system to provide classes for students in 5th - 9th grades within their Achievement Court beginning this fall!

As we inventory the new student workbooks, build tables and assemble chairs in our new training room, and continually fight against a culture that is encroaching on the innocence of students, **we humbly invite you to partner with us in the following ways:**

- **Pray** that students and parents will build strong bridges of communication and trust with each other.
- **Pray** that students will create healthy boundaries to keep themselves safe from dangerous influences.
- **Pray** that our presenters are protected and given renewed vigor for our mission.
- Partner with us as a **monthly donor** to see that students in our community have access to critical healthy relationship and resiliency programs.
- Consider if you might provide a **one-time gift** to adopt a class in your school district and provide essential prevention programming for your local students.

Thank you for all of the ways that you support LifeChoices and pour into the next generation. **We are on track to serve over 10,000 area students this year and this is only possible because of you!**

To make a gift towards these programs, please fill out and return the enclosed pledge card. For more information about our Prevention Services team and other ways that you can get involved, please contact Chelsea Delgado at 417-623-0131. **We appreciate you!**



“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

- Elizabeth Andrew

WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Last year, **over 11,000 hours** were donated by this amazing team of individuals, allowing us to serve more than 4,000 clients in our medical clinics.

Scott Creson and Shelby Roberts are an amazing father/daughter duo who volunteer as client advocates with us once a week. We love the generational impact that their family is making in the families of our clients. We hope you enjoy this Q+A about why they serve at LifeChoices!



Shelby, what motivated you to volunteer with LifeChoices?

I started going to the annual LifeChoices banquet with my parents when I was younger, so I had grown up knowing about LifeChoices and felt passionate about the services for women that are offered here.

Scott, what first interested you about LifeChoices?

When Shelby started volunteering she told me about the need for more men to meet with the fathers of the babies. In many cases my background is similar with these guys so I felt like I would have something to offer and I just wanted to be used by God.

What is it like to have a shared passion/interest in volunteering at LifeChoices?

Scott: We are interested in shared client stories. Obviously, we are careful to protect client confidentiality but it's nice to get Shelby's perspective and to relate to each other with our client interactions.

Shelby: It's nice to collaborate a little bit on talking points and conversations with clients. It's cool at the end of the day that we may have a different backgrounds but we can come together to serve clients together.

Why is it important for your family to serve your community in this way?

Scott: Serving at LifeChoices is “walking the walk.”

Shelby: We both feel like we are called to serve the community and other people through our faith, and it's special that Dad and I have created a bigger bond when serving together in this way.

Advice for anyone thinking about volunteering with LifeChoices?

Scott: I am a private introvert but being vulnerable with clients is important in connecting with them. I share with clients that I'm not a counselor, I'm a grandpa. Don't be afraid to get involved.

Shelby: Being a Client Advocate helps you understand other people who are different than you. Often, our clients just want someone to talk to, they want someone to listen with an open-heart. No judgement, just being there for them.

Anything else you want to share?

*Shelby: The impact isn't just for them; each client impacts me personally too. **I'm hoping that I impact them but at the end of the day, they bless me more than I could have ever imagined.** Some days are hard but then you meet with a client that you connect well with and it reminds me of why I choose to serve!*

Thank you to all our volunteers! For more information on getting involved, call Hillary at 417-623-0131!

LINKS FOR LIFE '22 WAS INCREDIBLE!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

This year's event had a full field of 25 teams with **over 100 men and women** coming out to show support for LifeChoices! **Nearly \$12,000** was raised for continued services in Carthage, Joplin, and the surrounding areas. We are thankful for everyone who joined us on the links for this event.

We want to thank everyone who helped make Links for Life such a success and share a special thank you to the following event underwriters. **Because of their partnership, every sponsorship and registration fee went directly to client and student services!**

We cannot do what we do without your support and partnership. Thank you!

Thank You to All Our Sponsors

TITLE SPONSOR: TROY & JENNY RICHARDS



**Save
THE
Date!**

**JOIN US ON THE
LINKS IN 2023 ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST!**



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Want to receive our monthly updates?
Sign up for emails at lifechoices.org/getinvolved

YOUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES!

CHANGE FOR LIFE 2022

Thank you for your incredible generosity!
You have raised over **\$75,000** so far!

Visit www.lifechoices.org/changeforlife
to view ongoing updates from this event.

