

NEWSLETTER



SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

“BUT THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH; THEY WILL SOAR...THEY WILL NOT GROW WEARY!” ISAIAH 40:31

To serve a community for over three decades, an organization must remain steadfast and committed to their mission. Yet our ever-changing culture requires that we relevantly connect with those in sexual health chaos to reach generations in crisis.

We've **soared to new levels of engagement** over the last 30+ years, working hard through our prevention education efforts to stand in the gap for our youth with unique and relevant programs. Our medical services have expanded and lead us to be a premier clinic in the pro-life movement through trainings about expanded medical services and a holistic approach to serve babies, and their parents. Additionally, our Care Coordination church referral initiative took off this last year and brought eternal hope and tangible help to many young families. Lastly, state-wide and beyond, we've continually been requested to serve alongside law enforcement during operations designed to fight against human trafficking. And most importantly, we continue to provide foundational crisis pregnancy services to thousands of individuals in our community every single year.

Because of diligent work, a vigilant mission focus, your generosity, and God's wonderful blessing, HE has soared LifeChoices to new heights beyond our wildest dreams.

Bob Goff, New York Times best-selling author and the special guest speaker for this year's annual celebration banquet, writes, ***“That's what love does – it pursues blindly, unflinchingly, and without end. When you go after something you love, you'll do anything it takes to get it, even if it costs everything...it's about going to extremes and expressing the bright hope that LIFE offers us, a hope that makes us brave and expels the darkness with light...Simply put: love does!”***

We are incredibly excited for Bob to join us at this year's event as we gather with all of you to reflect on the great impact we have made together. With your support, we will continue to equip and empower our clients to SOAR!

Will you join us?

**Thursday, October 26th
at Hope City Church**

Doors open at 6:00 PM,
dinner begins at 6:30 PM.

Registration for this year's event is now open, but seats are filling fast! Please visit lifechoices.org/banquet or call 417.623.0131 to register today!

An opportunity for financial partnership with LifeChoices will be presented.

Due to limited seating, adults only please.

We are deeply appreciative of your faithful support of LifeChoices. We could not serve over 14,000 people each year without you!

FAR AWAY PLACES

KAROLYN SCHRAGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“THEN YOU WILL TELL OTHER PEOPLE EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD ABOUT ME. YOU WILL DO THAT IN JERUSALEM, IN JUDEA, IN SAMARIA AND IN PLACES FAR AWAY.” - Acts 1:8

Recently I sat across the table at a local restaurant from a young woman and her toddler – she had reached out because she wanted to catch me up on the great strides she had taken to better her life. So much life had transpired in the years our paths had intermingled...

I met Roxy* when she was dancing at a local **adult entertainment club** where our outreach team goes each Wednesday night to bring light into very dark places. Later, she brought her teen sister to our **medical clinic** with an unplanned pregnancy. When her little sister found out that we were the same people who taught **Compass, the healthy relationships class in her school**, she immediately eased and began sharing how she wished she had listened to everything she had learned about cyber safety and healthy choices. And then, when the sweet baby girl was born, their entire family was so grateful that LifeChoices was there with **newborn resources and parenting classes** to equip and empower the new young momma.

Over and over throughout the years, even while fighting her own demons of substance addiction, this young lady continued to send people to our clinic.

Roxy eventually found herself with her own unplanned pregnancy.

As we wrapped up the ultrasound in our Choices Medical exam room, I asked once again if I could pray for her, but also for the father of the baby and the little one within. Tears spilled from both her and the daddy's eyes. They both knew he was facing additional **jail** time and might not be around when the baby was born...



This young man recounted how he and I first met at an out-of-state adult dance club where our outreach team had been invited to visit. He also shared that when he ended up in jail for drug charges, he saw a Choices Medical team for **STD testing** there, too! And then he was unexpectedly standing in an ultrasound room at our clinic and seeing his baby's heartbeat for the first time. Quietly he asked, **“Are you guys everywhere?”**

Not too long thereafter, on a bright summer afternoon, Roxy arrived for a special **baby shower** thrown in her honor at our clinic and attended by multiple of our team members.

Now here she sat, thanking LifeChoices for all the ways our team intersected and invested in her life. Both she and her boyfriend are now substance-free, have jobs, and are working hard to make the world a better place for their daughter.

Thank you for helping us to share tangible acts of love to people in “places far away.”



**Name changed to protect client confidentiality.*

EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH TO MAKE HEALTHY AND INFORMED CHOICES

Our Prevention Services programs are currently provided in **14 area school districts**, and in every single one of them there is an incredible sense of *possibility*. We walk in the door to see students buzzing around, chatting with one another, and bubbling with energy. We get the amazing privilege to step into these students' lives at a very foundational time and teach them essential skills that they will use for years to come.

HOW DO WE USE EDUCATION AS A TOOL TO HELP STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?

Our goal is to promote healthy conversations and relationships between youth and their parents/safe guardians and empower students to know they can steer their lives in whatever direction they choose. **We believe students are strong and capable of making healthy choices – they just need the tools to do so.** We love diving into issues that these students encounter every day like relationships, communication, and boundaries, as well as educating them on topics like STDs, teen pregnancy, abuse, and cyber safety. All our classes are medically accurate, research-backed, and age-appropriate. We have worksheets, in-class activities, and student workbooks that we have meticulously crafted for increased student engagement and parent interaction. We also host Parent Nights so parents can become an active part of their child's education, see first-hand what they are learning, and have open conversations about the topics most important to their family at home.



WHO IS OUR PROGRAM FOR AND WHAT DOES IT TEACH?

We have five different days of curriculum that slightly vary from age to age (ranging from 5th grade through high school,) but when it comes to the big themes, we talk about **warning signs for unhealthy relationships, resiliency skills, boundaries, goal setting, cyber safety, and how to identify the grooming process of abuse.** Most simply, we talk about who they are, where they want to be in the future, and how to get there. What they learn in these lessons not only affects the students today, but also those around them. It is our belief that these programs will impact our community as a whole for generations to come.

These programs are only possible because of our sub-contracted classroom presenters. What do they love about the program? We asked them!

"I love that I can still be a mom when my kids are home, but give back to other kids, too. Compass and Project ID are such needed programs. Kids are so lost these days when it comes to knowing what real relationships are about, let alone the impact of relationships on their future."

"Basically, I love teenagers. They are my favorite people. I love it when a teenager says, "That was actually helpful," at the end of a class."



DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH US?

To share truth and fact.

To love students as they are.

To make an impact in a student's life.

Reach out to Chelsea Delgado, Prevention Services Director, at chelsead@choicesmedical.org or 417.623.0131 to learn more about becoming a presenter!

The youth of our community need you!

COORDINATED CARE BEYOND THE CLINIC

HILLARY PATRICK, CLIENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

Choices Medical is a revolving door for those who are homeless, unemployed, under-insured, vulnerable, and emotionally distressed. As we lock the clinic door every evening, we ask ourselves, “How can we do more?” **How can we support men and women who long for change but have no hope?** How do we break the cycle of destructive behaviors that are often passed from one generation to the next, while already offering **800+ services each month?**

This year we partnered with four area churches to pilot a new initiative aimed to restore faith, establish community, and develop personal relationships for our clients beyond the identified need for resources. **The Care Coordination Church Referral program strives to provide coordinated care beyond the**

clinical setting, through the doors of the local Church. In the last year we have connected over 40 individuals to area churches.

One marriage has been reconciled, two individuals are in church on a weekly basis, and one couple allowed their children to attend VBS for the first time ever! Another individual shared, *“Thank you for being my friend and keeping in contact with me. I don’t know how I would have been able to get through this pregnancy without you.”*

Whether a client is faced with an unplanned pregnancy or unexpected sexual health crisis, we want to educate, empower, and equip our clients with the information they need to SOAR.

By providing confidential and professional healthcare services, care coordination connections, material resources, online education classes, and now our new church referral program, we are providing wrap-around care for those who need it most. Thank you for partnering with us. **Lives are forever changed because of you!**



FORGIVEN AND SET FREE

In a published survey of women who experienced an abortion, 70% claimed a Christian religious preference and **43% reported attending church monthly or more at the time of their abortion.**

For many, the after-effects of an abortion places heavy barriers to believing they deserve forgiveness for a decision they never wanted to face in the first place. No one wants an abortion – women and men who have experienced a traumatic loss through pregnancy termination are desperately longing for the grace and healing freedom found in Jesus.

At LifeChoices we have an incredible partnership with a local church to provide women a confidential and safe space to seek recovery from their past.

A recent participant in this program shared the following with us as this freedom became a reality for her:

*“I came to this group at the worst time of my life. I was broken, constantly crying, full of anxiety, guilt, and hatred for myself. It all stemmed from the choice I made when I was 20. And then, when my child became sick with a rare genetic disorder, I spiraled. I thought it was my punishment from God for terminating that earlier pregnancy...I learned I wasn’t alone and that healing is possible. Words I hadn’t thought were true for 12 years! By the end of the group, my self-loathing and the hatred that I felt was gone. I found myself more confident and happy. If I hadn’t been led to the Forgiven & Set Free group, I don’t want to think where my life would be right now. Now my days are filled with happiness and joy, trying to follow God’s will, and happy thoughts of going to heaven and one day getting to see my baby and reunite with him. **This group truly saved my eternal life and relationship with God, and myself.**”*

If you or someone you know might want to join in this journey to freedom, please contact Hillary at hillaryp@choicesmedical.org for more information about the next session.

CORPORATE SPONSORS SPOTLIGHT

Did you know LifeChoices has several companies that partner with us through our Corporate Sponsorship program each year? These partnerships are incredibly important as they help to cover the overhead expenses for our various events, as well as assist with monthly operating expenses for our medical clinic and school programs.

WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES WITH YOU.

PLEASE HELP US SHOW THEM OUR GREAT APPRECIATION!



ROARK



GET INVOLVED!

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES & WAYS TO STAY IN THE LOOP



CHANGE FOR LIFE 2023 WAS INCREDIBLE!

Thank you so much for your continued friendship and generosity with LifeChoices. This year we distributed more than 5,000 bottles to 80+ local churches. **We are excited to announce that this year's baby bottle program has raised nearly \$85,000!** In the last 10 years, our local churches have raised over \$700,000 through this fun and easy project! Thank you so much!

YOUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES!

LET'S CONNECT!

Want to support the work of LifeChoices but feeling tight on time or money? Interacting with our social media posts is a free and easy way to support LifeChoices and spread awareness about our programs, services, and upcoming events! You can even turn on notifications for our pages so that you never miss another post!

Connect with us on Facebook by searching for LifeChoices Health Network, or find us on Instagram at @lifechoicesjoplin.

LIFECHOICES HEALTH NETWORK

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SOAR

LIFECHOICES *annual banquet*

Registration for this year's event is now open, but seats are filling fast!

Visit lifechoices.org/banquet or call 417-623-0131 to register today!



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