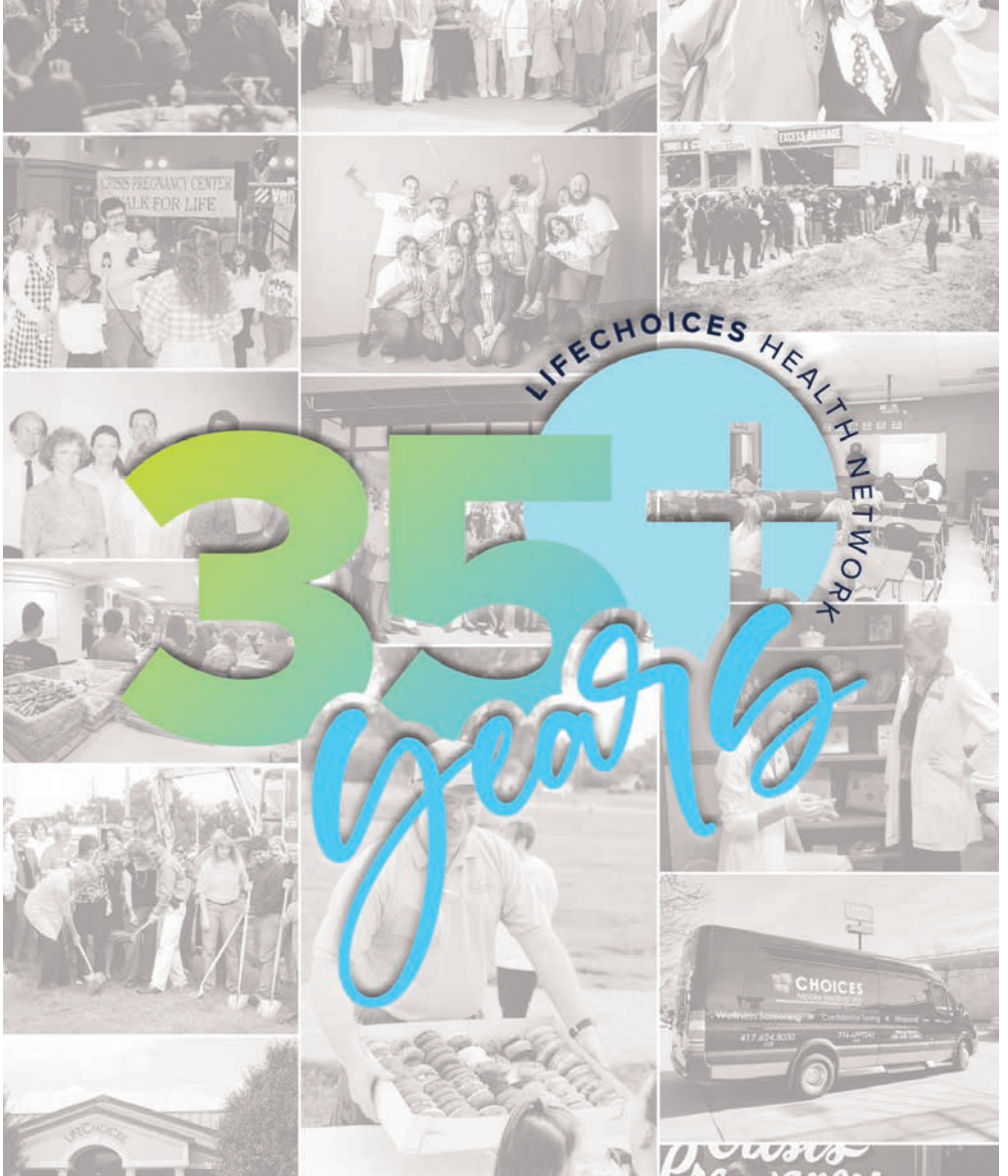


# SPRING NEWSLETTER





# HERE'S TO 35 YEARS!

KAROLYN SCHRAGE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**“WHEN YOU FIND  
ME, YOU FIND LIFE,  
REAL LIFE, TO SAY  
NOTHING OF GOD’S  
GOOD FAVOR”**

– PROVERBS 8:35

Since 1989, LifeChoices has provided life-affirming holistic services that allow us access to the hearts of individuals who often know very little of God’s good favor.

From classrooms across our communities, to the clinic and mobile medical outreaches, and extending on through our care coordination services for families, LifeChoices is proud to be a resource for those we serve.

Our empowering education, professional medical services, and wrap-around aftercare approach draws a world in chaos closer to finding life that is abundant in HIM.

**Earlier this year we marked 35 years of service to our community!** What an incredible achievement! In that time we have been honored to provide:

- 335 survivors of sexual exploitation new options and hope for the future
- 25,000+ ultrasounds for pregnant mothers
- 250,000+ students with critical healthy relationship programs and resources

**We are also so very excited to share that in our 35th year we**

**have officially served 350,000+ total individuals as a ministry!**

The stories behind these unbelievable statistics could fill volumes of books – stories of lives born, children protected, families mended, and hearts turning to the God who lavishes His good favor on all who come to know Him. **We are deeply grateful for YOUR faithful and generous support that has made this all possible!**

It’s been said to “live the story you want to tell,” but at LifeChoices we also often share the quote “Don’t judge me by the chapter of my life that you walked in on.” The compassionate hope that we are privileged to share with our clients often provides a plot twist that rewrites the next chapter of their life to be filled with

wonderful new beginnings!

**As we celebrate 35 years of service, would you consider joining us in providing a special gift on behalf of someone you know who has been a student in a LifeChoices school program, received an ultrasound or testing in our clinics, been gifted newborn supplies for their baby, or perhaps been a volunteer, staff member, or Board member?**

A celebration gift of \$35, \$350, or even \$3,500+ will be an investment in the new stories that are written every day through God’s work at LifeChoices.

Happy 35th year, LifeChoices!

# 5-STAR IMPACT

We recently shared that LifeChoices has served 350,000 lives in our local communities! While this is an impressive statistic, the truth is that every person represented in this number has a unique and special story of hope and healing that they encountered because of LifeChoices.

Unfortunately, it would never be possible for us to share all these stories with you, but here are a few comments from recent student and client encounters with our team! Serving our community is our greatest honor, but we could never do this without you. Thank you for making moments like these happen every single day!



“

Very kind staff. The nurses make you feel comfortable like family. They also provide lots of support and resources.



I called and got an appointment an hour later, got a pregnancy test and got an ultrasound same visit. It was fast and the staff is super friendly.

”



“

Incredibly nice staff that took time to explain everything and made sure and checked if I had any questions. I have zero complaints. I will definitely visit again if the need arises.



“

*I had an excellent teacher. She showed me the importance of contacting a safe adult if I was abused or had any other problems. She showed us all of the risks of unhealthy relationships at this age.*

“

*This class was a great experience that taught me a lot about being safe as a teenager, and there were no judgments or biased opinions. I could tell that the organization genuinely cared about my health. Thank you so much!*



## Patient Review



I had a very good experience with this place. I was in a vulnerable state and they all showed a lot of compassion and care for me. I would recommend going here to anyone needing any of their services. I've never been to a place where I felt less judged and like everyone was there to help me.



## Patient Review



8 years ago I went there for a routine check-up at the age of 17 and they informed me that I was pregnant. I was scared and embarrassed and emotional. The ladies there were so supportive and the kindest human beings. I now have a super smart 8 year old girl who is full of life. I'm so grateful for the support this awesome place showed me at the time.



## Patient Review



Everyone was fabulous and made the whole experience more comforting. I am very thankful for the vast array of knowledge these girls shared with me today. 10/10 recommend to anyone for any services needed!



# LOITERING WITH INTENT.

KAROLYN SCHRAGE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Many years ago, a faith leader shared the phrase “loitering with intent” to describe how he viewed the work of LifeChoices. Simply put, loitering with intent is about finding unique ways to build God-connections with those around you.

Melissa\* is a young woman who was wooed into the commercial sex industry as a recent high school graduate because of the fast cash she could make for her car payment. It was supposed to be a simple means to an end, but it is a harsh industry to withstand. Drugs and alcohol are often used to numb the personal objectification, women work long and physically demanding hours, and typically sacrifice sleep in order to keep their “day lives” functioning. On top of this, the hooks of money, deception, and manipulation can present insurmountable hurdles for the women who get caught in this lifestyle.

Weekly loitering with intent brought LifeChoices team members into her place of employment with consistency, compassion, and community. Over time, Melissa was drawn to the non-judgmental love we showed her. Eventually, she would join us for coffee or a quick bite to eat. One day a tragic family emergency caused Melissa to reach out with pleas for prayers. Our team supported her not only through prayer, but also with meals, visits to the hospital, and loving support. Not long after, Melissa found herself in a dangerous relationship and LifeChoices was able to help her relocate to a new community where she could recalibrate and refocus her life.

**Once the ties of exploitation had been cut, Melissa was able to begin dreaming about her future – she had a desire to attend college, become a lawyer, and eventually help other women like herself.** One semester at a time she began taking classes to make this dream a reality, and year after year LifeChoices continued pouring into her life with intentionality.

Last December some of our team members, alongside her family, cheered Melissa on as she received her law degree - **a dream that was once impossible was now a dream realized!**

At LifeChoices we are constantly looking for ways to creatively connect with those seeking comfort in a hurtful world. This focus has led us to student programs, professional clinic services, local jails, college campuses, and human trafficking operations. And for the last eight years, this has sent LifeChoices to weekly outreaches with individuals working in the commercial sex industry. This type of ministry focus is certainly unique and perhaps unexpected, but the relationships we have built with these women and the lives we have seen changed are truly remarkable. We know that it is only by loitering with intent that we have the great opportunity to see these miracles happen. Thank you for your support!



# WITH GRATITUDE, WE CELEBRATE!

In 1989, a small group of passionate and dedicated individuals came together with a desire to serve young women facing unplanned pregnancies and lacking a safe place to turn for support. From this group our ministry was birthed and since that time we have seen God move in incredible ways! We have had several building purchases and expansions, provided dozens of national trainings, offered thousands of innovative programs and resources in our community, and impacted countless lives.

Last month we were honored to gather with friends and supporters to celebrate this milestone and to prayerfully launch into our NEXT 35 years of service. We opened the doors of our Joplin medical clinic for a come-and-go open house event where people were given the opportunity to participate in a self-guided prayer walk through the clinic. We were delighted to see many familiar faces and to celebrate all that we have accomplished together with you!

If you missed the open house but would also like to join us in prayer for this season of ministry, here are a few ideas for you:

- *Pray for wisdom and love to pour into the families we serve.*
- *Pray for our clients to have peace and to feel loved by our team.*
- *Pray that students will make healthy life choices in their relationships and online.*
- *Pray for a path to safety for those in danger of exploitation and trafficking.*
- *Pray that God would multiply our time, talents and treasures to further this important work.*

**Thank you so much for your longtime  
friendship and support of LifeChoices.  
We couldn't have done any of this  
without all of YOU!**



# SHARING THE BLESSING

KIMBERLY HAMPTON,  
EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR



It is truly incredible to reflect on how LifeChoices has been impacting our community for 35 years. Throughout this time, we have sought to continually improve our services and expand to reach more individuals. Our team is constantly researching and developing the best resources for our clients. Additionally, we believe God has blessed us so that we may also bless others. Because of this, we have made our client resources available to other like-minded organizations and now **LifeChoices products are being used throughout the U.S. and in more than five different countries!**

Our team also has the privilege to host bi-annual training seminars to help other organizations increase their reach through expanded medical services. By sharing our experiences and resources, we are able to help them grow their impact in their own communities. **To date, more than 220 organizations have been equipped and trained by LifeChoices!**

An individual who attended one of our trainings shared, **“Thank you for the blessing of this training. I feel so inspired! I am looking forward to implementing all I learned. Thank you for being such a wonderful example.”**

Your support of LifeChoices not only helps those in our community but has a far-reaching impact around the world – thank you!

## Links for Life

April 19th, 2024



Join us on the links for our annual golf tournament! This will be a four-person scramble held at Carthage Golf Course. For more information visit [lifevoices.org/golf](https://lifevoices.org/golf) today!

## Change for Life

Mother's Day to Father's Day



Our annual baby bottle program will be kicking off soon! This is a fun and easy way for churches, businesses, and families to support the work of LifeChoices. Learn more at [lifevoices.org/changeforlife](https://lifevoices.org/changeforlife) or call Jordynn at 417-623-0131.

## Annual Banquet

October 17th, 2024



Save the date to join us at this year's exciting annual banquet! More information coming soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

# LIFECHOICES HEALTH NETWORK

531 E 7TH STREET | JOPLIN, MO 64801  
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[lifechoices.org](http://lifechoices.org)

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Want to receive our monthly updates?  
Sign up for emails at [lifechoices.org/getinvolved](http://lifechoices.org/getinvolved)



## YOUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES!

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