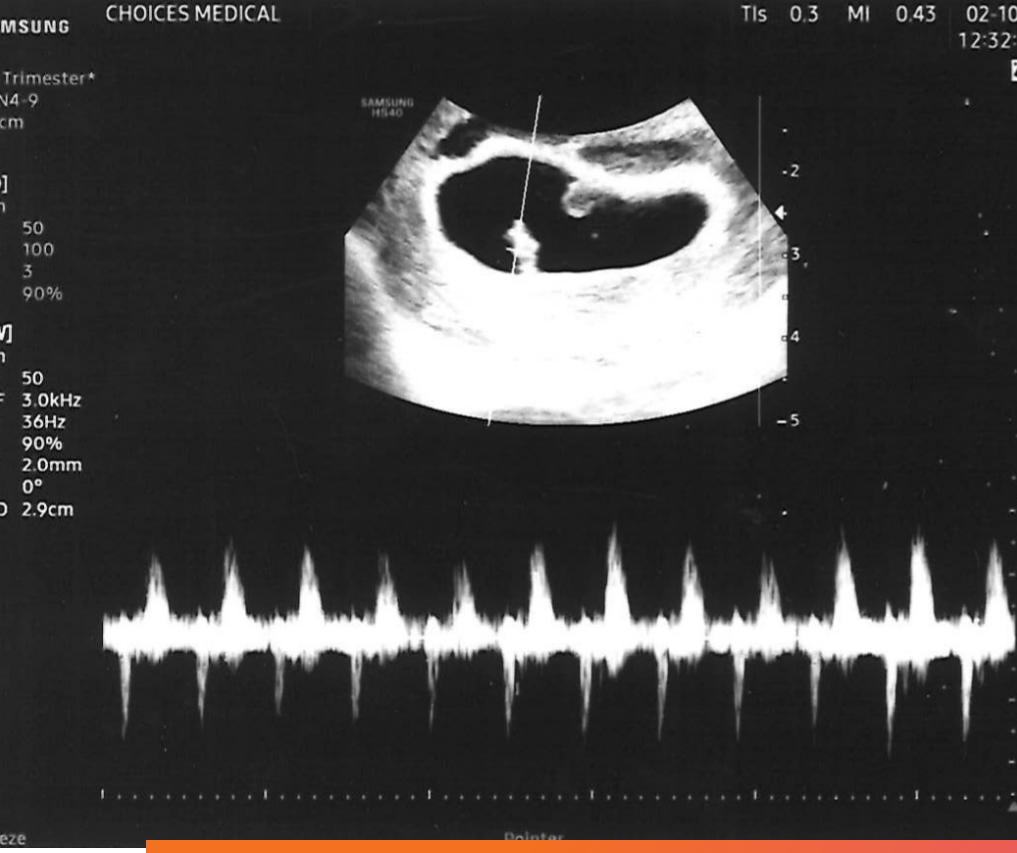


NEWSLETTER





**“I DON’T KNOW
IF I CAN DO THIS
ANYMORE...”**

MISCHA LONG, RN, BSN, DIRECTOR OF NURSING

For over three decades, LifeChoices has stood in the gap for the vulnerable in our community, sharing hope and healing through professional and compassionate healthcare with those who often desperately need it. **In 2024, we provided over 1,600 free pregnancy tests and already this year we have seen a 56% increase in pregnancy clients.**

Our clinic has also recently served a record number of women who are contemplating abortion decisions. With a new abortion clinic 35 minutes

outside the Joplin metro, coupled with the proliferation of websites that offer abortion pills by mail, women are now making abortion decisions quicker than ever, with limited or no physician oversight.

Our team is well-trained to provide advocacy, resources, ultrasounds, STI testing/treatment, partner resources, adoption information, and more for these women. Additionally, our team discusses abortion pill reversal protocols and post-abortion care services should a client choose to terminate their pregnancy and then find themselves with physical, emotional, or spiritual needs that require additional care.

In the last three months, five women have contacted us about abortion pill reversal services. One of these encounters will stay with me forever...

“Hey, can I come see you tomorrow? I think something is wrong.”

As I read these words, my heart sank.

I quickly scheduled her for another ultrasound appointment and was thankful she brought her boyfriend with her. They were young, barely making ends meet, and had no support from their families. He appeared to truly care about his girlfriend but lacked the tools needed to support her through this emotional process. The hope coupled with worry I saw on their faces during this ultrasound further deepened my own internal sadness.

As we diligently performed the ultrasound and quickly realized their baby no longer had a heartbeat, I thought to myself *“I don’t know if I can do this anymore...”* I set my own emotions aside to provide this couple with the emotional and physical support they needed to manage this loss, but as we were processing as a team afterwards, my heart was encouraged by a teammate saying, *“What if our services help in some way with their own grief process? Isn’t that still a win for the lives of that young couple?”*

Later that night, our client sent me another text saying, *“Thank you for the pregnancy loss gift. **We really appreciate it. And thank you for seeing me today. Thank you for everything.**”*

Despite her heartbreaking loss, this client took the time to thank us and, in turn, encouraged our own breaking hearts. We desperately desire to provide care and compassion for couples who are facing one of the hardest decisions they may ever make. **I am thankful this young woman knows that we care and that she is loved – despite the decisions she has made.**

Thank you for standing alongside us in this important work. Your prayers and partnership give us the strength to continue offering love, grace, and hope to all we serve.



CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE!

HILLARY PATRICK,
CLIENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

As we reflect on last year, we are proud to share that we reached an impressive milestone of **more than 6,500 volunteer hours** served by **over 75 individuals** throughout our organization! This sacrificial gift of time allowed us to serve **more than 4,200 individuals in our clinics and 51 survivors of exploitation in 2024!**

To our dedicated volunteers, whether you've spent hours accomplishing administrative tasks, lending a helping hand for our events, serving with our sexual exploitation outreach team, or taking on a larger commitment as a weekly volunteer for client care, your impact is undeniable. **You are the champions of our mission, and it's because of your tireless support that we can make a tangible difference in our community!**

If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at LifeChoices, please contact Hillary at 417-623-0131.



WE RECENTLY ASKED A FEW OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHY THEY SERVE AT LIFECHOICES, AND HERE IS WHAT THEY SHARED:

"I spent a great deal of my life believing that a fetus was merely a blob of tissue, but when I became a Christian everything in my life took an about-face and it seemed fitting, when the opportunity arose, for me to become an advocate for life." – Scott B., Male Advocate

"When I retired 2 years ago, I knew I wanted to volunteer at LifeChoices in any capacity I could. As a Client Advocate, I have the opportunity to love and serve as Jesus did with unconditional kindness and compassion. I also serve on the Care Coordination team and get to offer vulnerable clients additional support once their clinic appointment ends. This could mean connecting them to a local church, referring them to other organizations for resources, or just accompanying them to appointments or coffee dates. Through these roles, I've come to realize it's an opportunity for Jesus to impact one life at a time, leading to one family, which could ultimately impact a future generation!" – Kim L., Client Advocate

"I serve because it's an organization that loves people well, without judgement, while gently speaking truth and being proactive in offering assistance and resources. It gives me an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with others!" – Kim M., Volunteer Nurse

"I love how LifeChoices loves on the unborn, the new parents, and those that might feel stuck, hopeless, lost, or alone. If only one person is helped because of the little that I can offer, it is worth any and every minute I can spare. Little brings me more joy or blesses me more than serving at LifeChoices." – Priscilla P., Administrative Volunteer



“A JOURNEY TO A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH ONE STEP.”

KAROLYN SCHRAGE, RN BSN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It was a cold winter day as our team prepared for the Arkansas Attorney General's *Operation Obscured Vision*. We were privileged to provide consultation to local service providers in the months leading up to this seven-city multidisciplinary operation against illicit massage businesses. Additionally, in collaboration with many other organizations, our team was able to respond with medical services and victim's support for potential trafficking survivors, utilizing our experience from **34 previous human trafficking operations**.

We are excited to report that 16 women received services from our team. Additionally, multiple arrests were made by law enforcement and ongoing investigations continue.

And, while the news headlines recount seizures of assets and arrests of criminals, **God used our team to help many of these victims realize that freedom was just one step away.** We know their journey will be long and their traumas won't be easily erased, but a pathway to healing is possible.

After spending several days at our Amani Landing respite center, one of the ladies shared, *“Thank you very much for your meticulous care and letting me feel the warmth of family in a foreign country.”* When responding that the warmth she felt was God's love, she said, *“I think he (God) is as beautiful as sunshine. There is love everywhere. I am very grateful to God for letting me meet you.”*

LifeChoices has had the privilege to access the hearts of **over 380 victims of human trafficking and exploitation** since 2016. Many of these are domestically trafficked women right here in our own backyards. For most, they don't realize there is a way out — no one has ever shared how their **next step** could be the **first step** towards a new life of freedom.

Thanks to a generous gift from a couple in our community, LifeChoices has implemented a new program called “Next Steps” to assist individuals stepping out of sexual exploitation or trafficking. **When a gift is given towards this program, it is used to help survivors follow their dreams of higher education, trade school, job placement programs, etc.**

This couple has also kindly pledged to match any Next Steps gifts (up to \$20,000) with a gift towards our General Fund to keep our ongoing services available for those who need medical care, material resources, and pregnancy support. **Your generosity towards this new program will have double the impact for our medical clinics and school programs, as well as helping expand services for survivors of exploitation and trafficking.**

Already we've been able to provide **next step** tools to help several individuals see their dreams realized. For one, it was a new laptop to begin dental assistant school. For another, it helped with a utility bill so she could stay in school. And for yet another, it was car repairs so she could keep her new job. **While some of these steps may seem minor to us, for others these steps are a lifeline to freedom.**

If you are interested in being part of the “Next Steps” dream, please make a note on the enclosed pledge card. **Your gift may give someone the courage needed to take that first single step forward...**



AMPLIFYING OUR IMPACT

CHELSEA DELGADO, PREVENTION SERVICES DIRECTOR



We are incredibly excited to share that AMPLIFY is expanding into new school districts! **This means more high school students will have access to engaging, evidence-based education designed to equip them with the tools they need to make healthy choices about relationships, online safety, and their futures.**

Amplify is a high-energy, interactive assembly that reinforces key lessons taught in our 7th – 9th grade program, COMPASS, with relevant messaging for 10th – 12th grade students. Through **expert-led discussions, real-life stories, and our live Q&A session with law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, child educational development specialists, and medical professionals**, students learn about the following topics:

- Sexual assault prevention
- Cyber safety
- Boundaries
- Consent
- Recognizing abuse and predatory behaviors
- Mental health
- Local resources for ongoing support

Our goal is to give students the confidence and knowledge to navigate life's challenges successfully.

Every time we introduce Amplify to a new district, we see firsthand the impact it has on students – **helping them build stronger, safer, and healthier lives, both now and in the future.** We're grateful to the schools, educators, and community partners who believe in this mission and help make this program possible.

If you'd like to learn more about bringing Amplify to your district, we'd love to connect! Together, we can continue making a lasting difference for students across our region.

For more information, visit www.connectioninstitute.com or email ChelseaD@choicesmedical.org.



THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

Last year's Tree of Life campaign was truly incredible! Our shelves are now stocked with essential material resources for new families, thanks to YOUR generosity!

We were blessed by **30 local churches** and groups who participated in our 2024 Tree of Life program, and we are so excited to announce that we received **over 5,000 items** donated throughout the Christmas season, **valuing more than \$30,000!**

Our team gifts over 200 totes full of essential newborn baby supplies to young families every year. Your generosity through Tree of Life will have a tangible impact on hundreds of families in our community throughout 2025!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Links for Life April 18th, 2025

Join us on the links for our annual golf tournament! This will be a four-person scramble held at Schifferdecker Golf Course. For more information visit 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 or call Jordynnn at 417-623-0131.

Annual Banquet October 23rd, 2025

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

Volunteer Training Ongoing

Want to make an impact?! LifeChoices now offers ongoing training opportunities for those interested in getting involved with our medical or client programs. For more information, please contact Hillary at 417-623-0131.

LIFECHOICES HEALTH + NETWORK

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