

PREGNANCY CENTERS

153

Babies Born

1097

Healthy Pregnancy & Parenting Lessons

308

Conversations
About Faith in God

454

Individuals Served

1833

Client Visits



Danielle's story: "We weren't really expecting to be pregnant. I felt like I was done having kids and he thought he didn't want any kids, but then we found out that I was pregnant. I wanted to talk everything through and see what was the best route for both of us.

The first visit, when I walked in, they were very friendly – I felt very comfortable. They gave me a pregnancy test, which was positive, then they walked me through the different choices like abortion, adoption and keeping the baby. What I learned about abortion is really the aftermath – how I could feel after an abortion and I hadn't put much consideration into that. After thinking about how I would really feel if I had an abortion....would I be able to feel okay? That really stuck in my mind.

To learn that, yes, I can do this. Yes, I do have challenges, but I can get over those challenges. Having Informed Choices on my side to help me and guide me and knowing that I had a support system – that's when I decided. I got into the car and said, "I think we are going to keep our baby – we got the support we need."



CLIENT REVIEWS:

These people are absolutely God sent! I am so thankful for finding them when I truly needed the medical support. The nurse, receptionist and the volunteer here provide you with all the information you need to make an informed decision. They give you a safe space to talk about your situation.

All the information and talk I had today at the clinic was what I needed and I couldn't ask for more! Thank you so much.

Thank you for encouraging first-time parents to feel more ready and capable!

Got more than I expected. Very warm people. Felt welcomed and unashamed. Very clean facility.

Perfect place to get support and questions answered about parent planning and choices!!!! ...100% recommended!

I have been attending classes for almost my whole pregnancy. I'm so glad I was able to meet such wonderful people -they are encouraging and make you feel so empowered! I'm so grateful... without them I'm not sure where I'd be today.



GRAYSLAKE - 847-231-4651
888 E Belvidere Rd #124, Grayslake, IL 60030

CRYSTAL LAKE - 815-455-0965
610-1 Crystal Point Drive, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

OUR CORE VALUES:

HOPE

We offer each client the highest value found in the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and encourage them to grow in discipleship through participation in a local church family.

TRUTH

We value absolute truth as properly defined by the inerrant and infallible Bible and commit ourselves as an organization to speak and act in accordance with that truth.

PRAYER

We value prayer and openly acknowledge the role it plays in accomplishing our mission since we are completely dependent on God's provision and wisdom.

INTEGRITY

We value integrity and demonstrate it through authentic relationships, by ensuring privacy and confidentiality, and honest communication with our clients, donors, employees, and volunteers.

LIFE

We value all human life, both born and unborn, because we affirm that God created it in His image which makes it worthy of respect and protection starting at conception and ending at the moment of natural death.

STEWARDSHIP

We value God's resources and wisely steward all generous donations entrusted to us so that we may offer all services free of charge to meet the needs of our clients.

FAMILY

We value the nuclear family and believe God's ideal for raising children is a monogamous heterosexual marriage and coach our clients toward that end whenever its possible and appropriate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lana Steinecker – Chair
Paulette Schaeffer – Treasurer
Hunter Hamilton

Jeffrey Van Etten – Vice Chair
Teresa Godfrey – Secretary

Executive Director: Sarah VanDerLip

Clare Titus, Bookkeeper

CENTER STAFF

Kathleen Isacson, Crystal Lake Center Director
Cheri Belke & Pat Maibauer, Client Care Coordinators, Crystal Lake
Tom Hackl, Volunteer Men's Life Director

Lisa Merritt, Grayslake Center Director
Wilhelmina Maldonado, Client Care Coordinator, Grayslake

MEDICAL STAFF

Dr. Raymond Bianchi, MD – volunteer Medical Director
Kim Joslin, RN – Nurse Manager
Courtney Shilkus, RN

Dr. Rebecca Keith, MD, volunteer Ultrasound Interpreting Provider
Anjanette Sorenson, RN
Sharyl Rodriguez, RN

NEW LIFE RESALE

Sheryl Ringel, Manager
Rebecca Davidson, Assistant Manager

Sylvana Boutros, Assistant Manager
Marilyn Harrison, Assistant Manager

HEALTHY CHOICES

Coreen Huff, SRAS, Director
Debbie Steinberg, Presenter

Tony West, Presenter
Abby Raymond, Presenter

NEW LIFE RESALE

616 W Liberty, Wauconda 847-526-0383 - Open Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Compassion, Hope & Help
For Pregnancy Decisions
support.informedchoices.org



OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE
TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES ABOUT
PREGNANCY AND PARENTING BY SHOWING
THE LOVE OF JESUS AND PROVIDING
LIFE-AFFIRMING EDUCATION AND SUPPORT.

DEAR MINISTRY PARTNERS

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for you! With your help, Informed Choices continues to grow, serving a record number of new clients last year. In the face of challenges and uncertainties, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to serve women and families with compassion, dignity, and life-affirming support.

Here are some highlights from our journey in 2023:

- Thanks to Dr. Rebecca Keith, we resumed performing ultrasounds in our Centers in January, reinstating a crucial service for our clients.
- Brave women stepped forward to lead Surrender the Secret post-abortion studies, offered at both our Centers, a host church, and virtually.
- Women and couples benefited from professional counseling sessions provided through our scholarship program.
- The Board of Directors updated our mission statement and established Core Values, guiding us in our mission to serve with excellence and integrity.
- Our team participated in specialized training aimed at enhancing our interactions with the Gen Z demographic.
- We added two more nurses to our team, expanding our capacity to provide timely and compassionate care to women facing unplanned pregnancies.



In 2016, Illinois Senate enacted a law that required pregnancy centers and pro-life doctors to discuss the so-called “benefits” of abortion and provide women with a list of where they could receive that procedure. In response, Informed Choices joined a lawsuit to challenge this legislation, asserting our right to adhere to our religious beliefs. In September, our case went to trial in Rockford, and while awaiting Judge Ian Johnston’s decision, we are grateful for the dedicated efforts of our attorneys from Alliance Defending Freedom. **It was an honor to stand alongside fellow Executive Directors and pro-life doctors, defending the vital work of pregnancy centers throughout Illinois.**

In the closing days of 2023, your generous gifts enabled us to purchase two new ultrasound machines, a crucial investment that will enhance the quality and precision of our services. These state-of-the-art machines will enable our nurses to provide expectant mothers with clearer and more detailed images of their unborn babies.

As we embark on a new year filled with hope, resilience, and determination, I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. Together, we will continue to empower women, uphold the sanctity of life, and foster of community of compassion and Christ-like support.

With sincere appreciation,
Sarah VanDerLip
Executive Director



HEALTHY CHOICES

15

Schools



6,752

Students

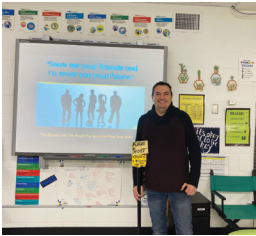
The 2023 school year has been the most “normal” year since the pandemic.

During the summer we had the opportunity to speak with some young adults at The Allendale Becker House in Waukegan. This location is a transitional living program to homeless young adults ages 18 to 23 years old. They provide housing and teach life skills to help them get back on their feet and back in to the world. The clients and staff really enjoyed our lessons and are looking forward to us coming back in the summer.

In the fall we added Abby Raymond as a new speaker. She recently got her associates degree and is a dedicated athlete training for the 2028 Olympics in her sport of Women’s Olympic Weightlifting. Students are very excited to meet her and she does a great job sharing personal experiences that tie in to the different topics that we discuss.

1153

Presentations



8TH GRADE STUDENT FEEDBACK:

I learned about being careful what you do either on your phone or in public to people. I will be more careful with the choices I make.

I enjoyed the “Where is it going?” Lesson. I found it to be relatable from seeing middle school relationships...they are pointless.

I learned how to build a healthy relationship.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Thank you to the 274 ministry partners who made our Hike for Life event a HUGE success, raising a record setting \$83,931!



NEW LIFE RESALE

From the very early days of our ministry, our resale shops have helped provide funding for our pregnancy centers, parent education classes, and the Healthy Choices School program. We are grateful to the amazing volunteers and managers who faithfully work to price and display the donations we receive.

Despite concerted efforts throughout 2023 to enhance operations, policies, and compensation structures, our search for full-time managers proved unsuccessful. Coupled with dwindling profit margins and donations, the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to not renew the lease at our Grayslake location in December 2023.

However, we are pleased to continue operation of New Life Resale in Wauconda. With our combined group of volunteers, we remain optimistic about the prospects for success at this location. We are committed to serving our community and advancing our mission, and we invite our ministry partners to join us in this journey.

- Become a New Life Resale **Volunteer** and have FUN with us!
- **Donate** your gently used clothing, household items, home & holiday décor
- **Explore** New Life Resale for unique treasures and unbeatable bargains



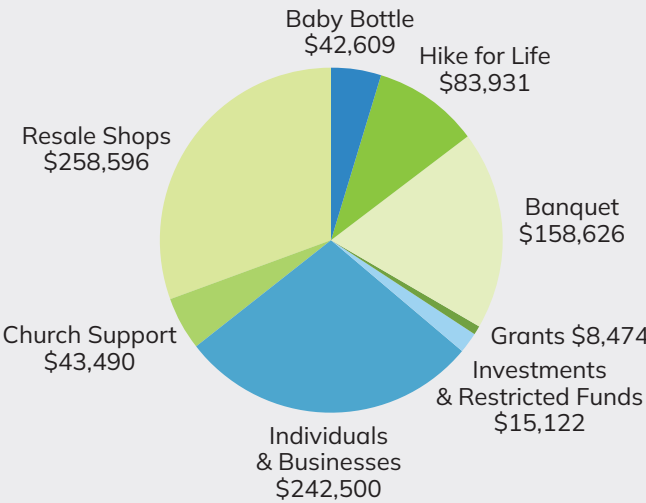
PRAYER REQUESTS BY TEXT

Join the Informed Choices team as a prayer partner

Scan the QR code or visit: www.ministrytexts.com/informedchoices to begin receiving prayer requests by text. The pregnancy center staff will send urgent requests as they are serving women in crisis.



2023 REVENUE



2023 EXPENSES

