

2020 DRIVE-IN BANQUET



OUR 2ND RECORD-SETTING FUNDRAISER IN 2020!

**330 GUESTS
RAISED \$126,500**

We were very excited with the opportunity to host our annual fall banquet at McHenry Outdoor Theatre. Our team of amazing volunteers checked people in, served individually packaged dinners, and directed parking so that our guests could enjoy a safe, socially distanced evening.

Guest speaker, Monica Cline shared her eye-opening, insider experience on how our young people are being targeted as future abortion clients. She affirmed the importance of Sexual Risk

Avoidance education, like our Healthy Choices program, as the positive alternative to the sexual risk reduction programs currently being promoted.

It was an evening of worship. It was a time to praise God for what He has done through Informed Choices to help new parents and a time to share the testimonies of lives He has changed and saved. It was a time for our partners to worship with us through their support, and a time of gratitude for His provision and care.



VIRTUAL HIKE FOR LIFE

91

Registered Hikers

54

Families

476

Sponsors

\$58,360

Raised



Mother's Day weekend was the kick off for our very first virtual event, the 2020 Hike for Life. Our supporters were amazing in their willingness to adapt and in their commitment to support our ministry. From sending handwritten letters asking for support to recruiting the dog to help raise funds, these faithful friends came through in a BIG way...raising a record setting **\$58,360!!!**



OUR MISSION

Empowering women and men to make informed choices by presenting Jesus Christ to those involved in Pregnancy decisions through provision of physical, emotional and spiritual support.

CRYSTAL LAKE - 815-455-0965

610-1 Crystal Point Drive, Crystal Lake, IL 60014



Kim Joslin, Nurse Manager
Cheri Belke, Client Care Coordinator
Kathleen Isacson, Center Director

GRAYSLAKE - 847-231-4651

888 E Belvidere Rd, Grayslake, IL 60030



Amy Farm, Sonographer
Nancy Telling, Client Care Coordinator
Cheryl Hansen, Center Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kathleen Isacson - Center Director
Cheri Belke - Client Care Coordinator
Cheryl Hansen - Center Director
Nancy Telling - Client Care Coordinator

MEN'S LIFE VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR

Tom Hackl

ADMINISTRATION:

Clare Titus, Bookkeeper

MEDICAL STAFF:

Dr. Anthony Caruso, MD
- volunteer Medical Director
Kim Joslin - Nurse Manager
Amy Farm - Sonographer

HEALTHY CHOICES

Coreen Huff, SRAS - Director
Presenters: Tony West, Collin Nicholls,
Jessie Weiss

NEW LIFE RESALE

55 N Barron Blvd., Grayslake 847-231-5564
616 W Liberty, Wauconda 847-526-0383
Manager: Sheryl Ringel
Assistant Managers: Wendy Eckrote, Sylvana Boutros, Deborah Dorsey, Renea Hamilton, Rebecca Davidson

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND MEN TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES BY PRESENTING JESUS CHRIST TO THOSE INVOLVED IN PREGNANCY DECISIONS THROUGH PROVISION OF PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT.



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Compassion, Hope & Help
For Pregnancy Decisions
friendsofic.com



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2020 has certainly been a challenging year, yet we can clearly see how God's care, provision, and protection for Informed Choices has not wavered. When businesses and schools were forced to close, our pregnancy centers remained

open. Our staff continued to answer the calls, provide pregnancy tests, options education and ultrasounds. In retrospect, we know that God had been preparing our ministry to serve women and men during a pandemic, ensuring His work was still carried out.

When we completed the remodel of our Crystal Lake location in March, we realized that the new client room was the only room large enough to maintain the required 6-foot social distancing to continue meeting in person with abortion vulnerable women.

The recent implementation of Bright Course, an online streaming service allowed us to provide parenting education remotely, when we were not able to have pregnant women and new parents visit our centers. We were able to send links and follow up by phone to maintain a connection with our clients. In fact, we had more parents participate than before Covid!

Managing all those remote learning classes and follow-up, was handled by our new Client Care Coordinators. The hiring of these two women had

our ministry adequately staffed to handle this adjustment to how we offer services.

As I look back at 2020 with the pandemic and civil unrest, I think about how we all faced circumstances that we didn't plan. Circumstances that brought uncertainty, perhaps fear or panic, and a desire that our lives would just go back to normal. These are many of the same feelings a young woman experiences when facing an unplanned pregnancy. With the prayers and support of ministry partners like you, Informed Choices is committed to being here for her at that critical time she learns she is pregnant. To sit

with her when all she can see is the negative and speak hope into her circumstance. To help her identify her strengths and see possibility. To encourage her to look at her situation with the future in mind and carefully weigh this decision that will forever change her life. As we do, we pray her life will be transformed as we point her to God, pray with her, and walk with her through this journey.

All of this work was possible because of you, our faithful ministry partners.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. Thank you for generously supporting us through this difficult year. As we remember how God has led us through 2020, we can step with confidence into 2021, knowing that no matter what challenges Informed Choices may face, God will see us through. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

In His service, Sarah

SO DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU; DO NOT BE DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I WILL STRENGTHEN AND HELP YOU; I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND.
-ISAIAH 41:10

AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY, "PREP FOR LIFE" ONLINE CLASSES & A NEW BABY BOY

Only five months from graduation, K's plans did not include pregnancy. Yet, that's exactly what happened. Faced with peer pressure (her friend had 3 past abortions and was encouraging K towards that decision) as well as uncertainty about the relationship with the baby's father, she began researching methods of abortion. During her initial appointment at Informed Choices, K was able to talk about her concerns and get information about abortion procedures and risks. After weeks of indecision that included scheduling and canceling an abortion multiple times, K decided to carry her baby. She began our Prep for Life online classes and continued talking with an advocate as her pregnancy progressed.

There have been challenges for this couple, but in September, we celebrated the birth of their son. Today, we continue to talk with K and are encouraged to see her grow spiritually and as a mother through this journey.



NEW LIFE RESALE

Like so many businesses, our two New Life Resale locations were forced to close for 3 months due to Covid. When we were able to reopen, many of our dedicated volunteers came right back to help process donations and serve our customers. In fact, together they **served 9,446 hours!**

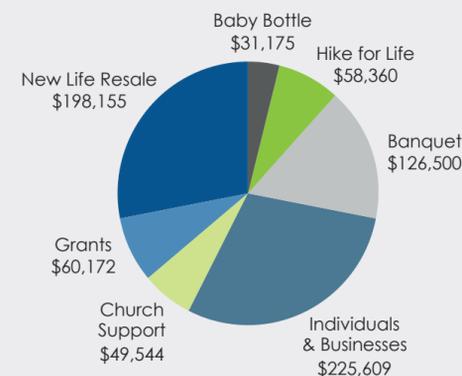
Due to the pandemic and related closure, we experienced a reduction in total donations and customer traffic. We are grateful that we were able to recoup most of those losses by year end.



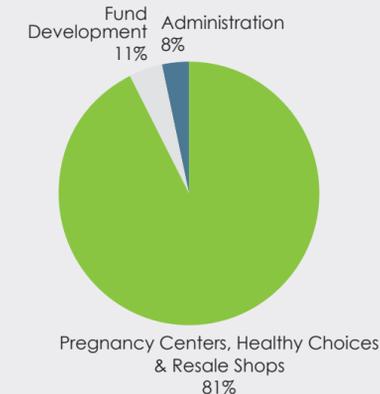
MEN'S LIFE

Our male advocates meet with men involved in a pregnancy decision, offering a godly male perspective on their situation. Men's Life Advocates also meet regularly with new fathers to discuss discipline, relationship struggles, financial strain, and many other topics that contribute to being a healthy parent.

2020 REVENUE



2020 EXPENSES



PREGNANCY CENTERS

536

Individuals Served
(including 63 men)

1806

Client Visits

125

Babies Born

373

Spiritual Conversations

72%

of clients are
at-risk of abortion

55

Post abortion
recovery
discussions



"Thank you so much for everything. Your kindness, your compassion, your prayers, you listening to me when I'm having a rough time - just thank you for being you."

"I love how warm and inviting this clinic is. They are very open to answer every question with patience and kindness. This center made me feel 100 times better about all my questions and feelings about pregnancy."

"Very friendly staff. I was 100% comfortable in sharing my symptoms and what's going on with my body."

HEALTHY CHOICES

2020 started off with our busiest year yet for Healthy Choices. We were blessed to add in 3 new schools and were double and sometimes triple booked each week through the end of the school year. The unthinkable happened when schools shut down on March 13, 2020 due to Covid19. We were able to film some lessons for our 8th grade classes on building healthy relationships and several of our schools used them during their spring remote learning. Over the summer we had no idea what would happen come fall but we prepared by filming several of our "hands on" classroom activities outside with my own daughter and several of her friends. We were so thankful to start teaching remotely mid September! The Healthy Choices team has adapted very well to remote learning. We are very blessed to be able to continue partnering with many of our schools. The health teachers and students are excited and thankful to "see" us each week. Even with the spring shut down, the Healthy Choices team still worked with **4237 Students** and did **866 Presentations in 11 schools** during 2020!!

Coreen Huff, HC Director

