

Informed CHOICES

Pregnancy & Parenting

Crystal Lake • Grayslake

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Compassion, Hope & Help
For Pregnancy Decisions

support.informedchoices.org



**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.**

DEAR FRIENDS OF INFORMED CHOICES



What a year we have experienced! Your partnership with our ministry has enabled us to celebrate the victories, weather the storms and continue serving women and men facing unplanned pregnancies.

As we celebrated the Supreme Court's decision in June which overturned Roe, pregnancy centers around the country became targets for pro-abortion activists who encouraged protests, vandalism, and online attacks. After talking with our local police departments and the FBI, we implemented safety precautions to protect our clients, staff, and volunteers. THANK YOU for praying for our protection and generously giving to cover this unexpected, necessary expense.

This year, many Illinois leaders committed to making Illinois a sanctuary state for abortion by passing legislation and FDA regulations to expand abortion access. Yelp and Google blocked pregnancy centers from appearing in abortion related searches, which made it harder for us to reach women considering abortion. In spite of this, 93% of the undecided, abortion vulnerable women we served chose to carry their babies!

The mission of Informed Choices is about more than saving babies. We care about the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the whole family. Through our parenting education, advocates support new parents beyond the birth of their baby. They build relationships, point people to God, and look for ways

to connect them to a church community.

Informed Choices established a Counseling Scholarship Program in 2022. Several of our clients shared struggles with depression and relationship troubles. When we learned that there is a three-month waiting list for mental health assistance through the health department, our team looked for additional resources to help them. Through an agreement with a Christian Counseling organization, new parents are now offered the opportunity to receive short term counseling.

In October, we experienced an incredible loss when our Medical Director, Dr. Anthony Caruso, passed away. Unable to offer our medical services until another volunteer Medical Director was located, we contacted a ministry friend, Dr. Raymond Bianchi. His help allowed our nurses to perform pregnancy tests. We also partnered with Life Choices (Elgin) so our clients could get an ultrasound at one of their locations.

They sent their mobile ultrasound unit to our Crystal Lake center each week. Recently, Dr. Rebecca Keith agreed to interpret our ultrasounds and our nurses returned to performing ultrasounds in our centers.

Through it all, you have stood with Informed Choices in prayer and support. Thank you! Together, we begin a new year confident in our calling and in the Lord's provision. We trust in His ability to change and save lives as we continue to serve women and men in the year ahead.

In His service,
Sarah

“
**WE CARE ABOUT
THE PHYSICAL,
EMOTIONAL, AND
SPIRITUAL
WELL-BEING OF THE
WHOLE FAMILY.**
”

2022 SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS



Front doors locked at all times

Front door buzzer with a camera installed

Locked door installed between the waiting room and the rest of the building.

Film applied to windows to prevent items from being thrown through the glass

Security cameras monitor entrances and all exterior walls

PREGNANCY CENTERS



Jennifer: "The first thought that came to me when I found out I was pregnant... I did think about abortion. But deep inside me, I kinda felt like I didn't know if I could go through that pain and through that process, but I wasn't sure."

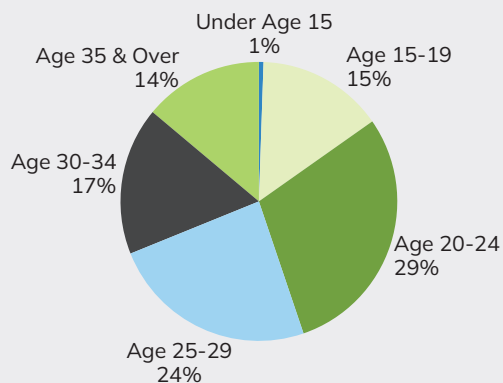
My dad was mostly encouraging me to abort, saying I was just starting life at twenty-one. He was worried about how I would afford to have this child. My mom was mostly saying, 'whatever you decide'. Plus, I had just started a new position at work and I thought maybe I would lose my job as well as my friends. I felt that if I had my baby, I would lose friends."

When coming to Informed Choices the first time, it was for the ultrasound... being able to see the little speck that was my baby. I didn't see it as a fetus the way my dad would -- I saw it as, 'that's my baby!'"

Brandon: "I got to see the ultrasound. I was actually excited. I even went to my mom and showed it to her. And then she was also excited." Their healthy baby boy, Santiago was born August 9, 2022. Jennifer and Brandon returned for parenting education and feel the information they have received has helped them make better decisions about how they would like to raise their child. They are so grateful for all the support they have received through Informed Choices.



CLIENT AGES



75%

of pregnancy test clients were at risk of abortion

432

Individuals Served
(including 36 men)

1908

Client Visits

152

Conversations
About Faith in God

93

Babies Born

NEW LIFE RESALE

The volunteers and staff of New Life Resale invite you and a friend to come join the team! Our stores are great places to volunteer, find treasures and make friends all while supporting the mission of Informed Choices. Here's how you can get started;

- **Donate.** Gather items that are stored or tucked away in your basement, attic, or closet. Those canister sets, cookware, bakeware, and collectibles from many years ago are exactly what our customers are looking for.
- **Volunteer.** Come talk with a manager about volunteering a few hours a week. You can be a treasure hunter too as you help us sort and display the donated items.
- **Shop.** Stop by and browse our shops...you never know what amazing deal you might find!

HEALTHY CHOICES

14

Schools

6,136

Students

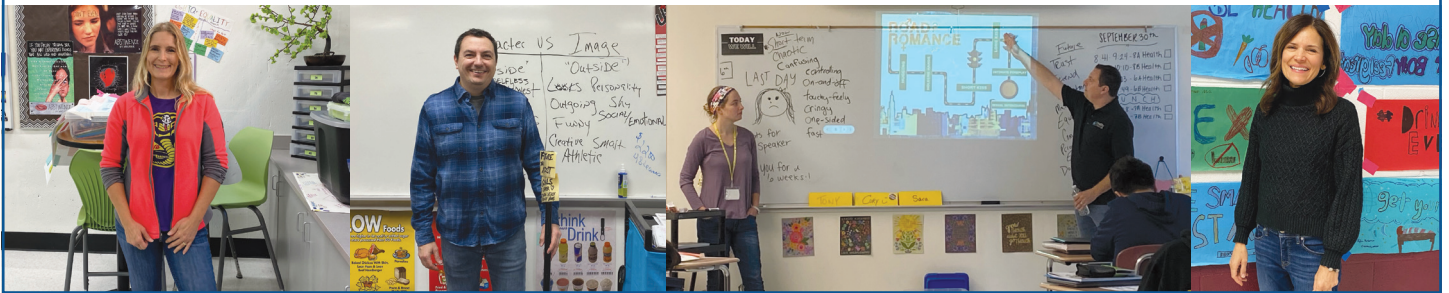
960

Presentations

The 2022 school year had many challenges and many blessings. We were incredibly thankful to be back in person in most of our schools. In January we were still wearing masks as we were in the height of the Omicron variant. Many students and staff were out of school or quarantined because of covid. Then in March we witnessed the amazing blessing of gradually seeing many beautiful faces as masks were no longer mandatory and students started feeling comfortable removing them.

We were overjoyed to start the next school year in late August back to normal, and in three additional schools!! It has been wonderful to be back at Northwood and Creekside in Woodstock and also at Lundahl in Crystal Lake after a two year hiatus due to covid. In addition to our public and private schools, we have also partnered with a home school group and are talking with several more in the area that are interested in our classes.

Coreen Huff, SRAS, Healthy Choices Director



IN REMEMBRANCE

The ministry of Informed Choices mourns the loss of two men who volunteered their time and talents to make our ministry what it is today.



Dr. Caruso served as our volunteer Medical Director for nearly 10 years. In 2012, he was instrumental in helping Informed Choices (then Tri-County Pregnancy & Parenting) to become a limited medical facility offering ultrasounds. He was a brave, outspoken pro-life champion who served pregnant women for

decades through several pregnancy centers as well as his own practice in the Downers Grove area. Our team will miss his friendly, caring support for our Centers and his heart for pregnancy center ministry.



Jeff sacrificially served on our Board of Directors for the past 10 years. Through his dedicated efforts, we acquired ultrasound machines, exam tables, a Resale truck, and new flooring for the Wauconda shop. He helped create an Employee Manual, a Board Manual, and our first Annual Reports. If you

attended one of our banquets and were able to watch a client share her story on the screens, that was because Jeff arranged the screen rentals. The board and staff will miss his encouragement, optimistic outlook, and friendship.



WAYS YOU SUPPORT US

Informed Choices Pregnancy Center teams are able to serve women and men each week through the generous support of our ministry partners. We are extremely grateful for you! Thank you monthly Friend for Life partners. Thank you church, individual and business partners. Thank you to the 21 churches who hosted a Baby Bottle Campaign. Thank you to the 114 participants who walked in the Hike for Life - this year was another record setting event!



Hike for Life

And an overwhelming thanks to every person involved in the 2022 Annual Banquet. It was a wonderful evening where ministry friends and guests gathered for dinner and fellowship. We celebrated life as we shared a few of our client's stories and guest speaker, comedian Gordon Douglas, had us all laughing. Again, you generously gave to support our mission for the year ahead.



Annual Banquet

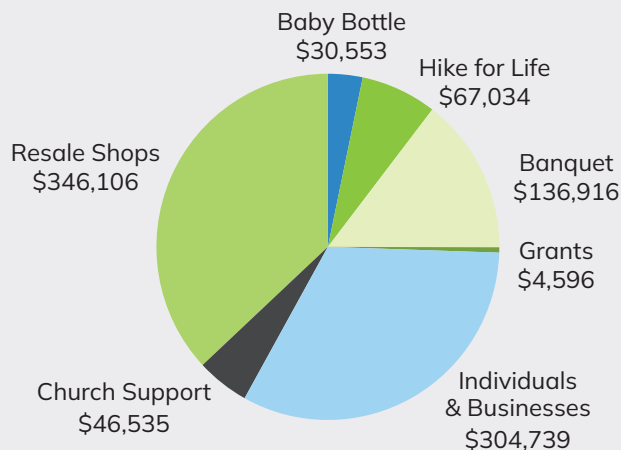
PRAYER REQUESTS BY TEXT

Join our Prayer Team!

Informed Choices sends prayer requests by TEXT directly from our Centers so you can be praying while we are meeting with a woman considering abortion. Just provide your cell phone at www.ministrytexts.com/informedchoices or scan the QR code to get started.

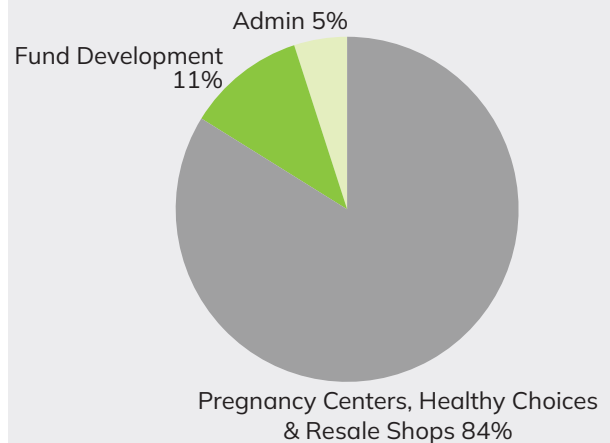


2022 REVENUE



Resale Shops Contributed \$70,748 in Funding

2022 EXPENSES





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

GRAYSLAKE - 847-231-4651

888 E Belvidere Rd, Grayslake, IL 60030

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lana Steinecker – Chair
Paulette Schaeffer – Treasurer
Hunter Hamilton

Executive Director: Sarah VanDerLip
Clare Titus, Bookkeeper

Jeffrey Van Etten – Vice Chair
Teresa Godfrey – Secretary
Dan McConchie, Advisory Board Member

CENTER STAFF

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

Lisa Merritt, Grayslake Center Director
Grace Hoffman, Client Care Coordinator, Grayslake

MEDICAL STAFF

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

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

NEW LIFE RESALE

Sheryl Ringel, Manager
Rebecca Davidson, Assistant Manager
Bob Milliman, Assistant Manager

Sylvana Boutros, Assistant Manager
Deborah Dorsey, Assistant Manager
Jenny Skarzynski, Assistant Manager

HEALTHY CHOICES

Coreen Huff, SRAS, Director
Debbie Steinberg, Presenter

Tony West, Presenter
Sara Swanson, Presenter

NEW LIFE RESALE

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

55 N Barron Blvd., Grayslake 847-231-5564
616 W Liberty, Wauconda 847-526-0383