

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

### Can we end abortion in Pittsburgh? Can we make abortion unthinkable?

Since 2010, interestingly the same year we began mobile ministry with our ICU Mobile Clinic, we have seen abortion numbers drop significantly in Allegheny County. In 2010, there were 7,897 abortions performed in Allegheny County; approximately 2,000 more than were performed in 2014 (The latest reporting period). That does not negate the fact that 6,202 abortions still took place in Allegheny County in 2014. 3,329 were residents of Allegheny County and the rest were from surrounding counties.

We have seen two of the five main abortion clinics close their doors. (Planned Parenthood, Allegheny Reproductive Health Center in East Liberty, and Mcgee Women's Hospital still remain open)

So it would appear that a significant decrease has taken place and we should be encouraged. But is it enough to end abortion in Pittsburgh? And can we make abortion unthinkable?

Some would say that we can end abortion when we get the right people in government offices and we can legislate change. Some organizations would claim that by being very aggressive and spending millions of dollars on google ads to reach abortion minded clients, cloning pregnancy centers to all look and feel the same; similar to fast food chains, that yes, indeed it is possible. Still others would suggest that abortion clinics will close as people pray outside their doors and pray for the workers to leave their jobs. Let's just say, that there are many of us hard at work in this movement who would like to see this happen and many different thoughts about how to make it happen.

Truly only God knows. As I pray and ask God to end abortion and to make it unthinkable this is what I have learned.

**Abortion is a heart issue.** We see this here at Choices on a daily basis and that's why we believe it is so important to listen and care for each person who enters our doors individually. Many women and men come to us with hardened hearts. When that heart begins to soften we know it is because of the Holy Spirit working through us. We know that prayer is an integral part of changing hearts and that is why we believe our email prayer chain is so vital.

**It is a spiritual issue.** Satan is the master of deception. He deceives people with lies; "Go ahead, no one will have to know. It can be a secret." "It's really the best thing for this baby, you're just not ready to be a parent..." Satan wants to rob women of the joy of motherhood and being in families and ultimately he wants to rob God, our creator

who makes us in his very own image, of joy by destroying what He has created. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

**It is a cultural issue.** In today's world, abortion is seen as a "right" and to take it away would be an assault on women. Thus we hear lines such as, "It's a woman's right to decide what to do with her own body." "No one can tell me what to do!" "To not allow abortion would be a step backward for women." "Abortion should be legal anytime, anyplace, for any reason."

I don't believe there is just one solution. I do know this, it will take all of us working together, Christians willing to lay aside their own agendas, working in unity with one another, not having a spirit of competition with each other, but seriously humbling ourselves and calling on God to use each and every one of us however He has called us. It will take pastors having the courage to speak out about abortion and those things

that lead to abortion. Taking a biblical stand on premarital sex and preaching it. Speaking up for marriage and against divorce. Pastors calling their churches to love the unlovely and the broken. It means that Christians need to stop pointing fingers and posting hateful messages on social media. Each one of us needs to ask God, to show us what breaks His heart and then take action to do something to show His love. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35. It will take sacrifice, to help a mother and her child financially and physically.

Choices Pregnancy Services is on the front lines daily, poised to help women in unplanned pregnancies, women who are thinking about or planning to have an abortion, men who are pressuring girlfriends and wives to abort, parents (some of them Christians) who think it would be best for their teenage daughter to have the freedom from the consequence of a choice made in secret. Our three clinics are staffed with trained professionals and volunteers who are some of the most loving and compassionate people I know. But we can't do it alone.

We need you, our supporters, to stand with us, to pray with and for us, to give generously and to "open doors" for us. We need you to genuinely show love for your neighbors so that when they need help, they know that they can turn to you. We need to work in unity together with others in the prolife community. We are grateful for our sister pregnancy centers, for those who pray during 40 Days for Life, for legislative groups such as PCUC (People Concerned for the Unborn Child) and others.

**HE IS ABLE**

...to do **EXCEEDING  
ABUNDANTLY**  
above all that we  
**ASK** or **THINK**

EPHESIANS 3:20

# Mobile Clinic News

## Continued from page 1

We are grateful for pastors who teach God's plan for families, to speak up for those who have no voice and to show compassion and care for women and men in unplanned pregnancies. We are grateful for believers from all denominations who agree to come together to affirm life.

Friends, we cannot stop, we must do more. We cannot give up. This is BIG! Much, much bigger than anyone of us, but it starts with each one of us. Can we end abortion in Pittsburgh? Can we make it unthinkable? Perhaps, but only if we do what He has commanded, to truly love one another.

*"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."* Ephesians 3:14-21



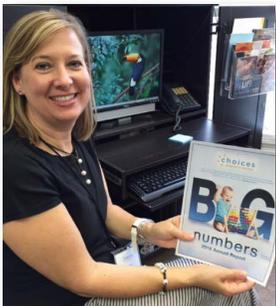
Because every life matters,

*Keri Muir*

Keri Muir, Executive Director

## Fundraisers? Who needs them?

We do! Have you ever wondered why we have to constantly fundraise or ask for money? Did you know that in 2015 we raised \$389,517 through our fundraising events and efforts? Praise the Lord! As we continue to grow we continue to need your support and the support of others; not only at our fundraisers but as individual, corporate and monthly donors. I have never seen more generous donors than those who support us. On behalf of our Board, I want you to know that we take your charitable giving seriously. We spend carefully. We are transparent and accountable. We want you to be proud of us and how we use your gifts to save and change lives. All of the money we raise stays here locally. If you have questions, would like to see our annual report, or want



more information about investing in the life saving work of Choices Pregnancy Services please give me a call. I would love to have the opportunity to sit with you, hear your story and to share ours. ~ Keri - 724-457-1220 or [keri@pregnancychoice.org](mailto:keri@pregnancychoice.org)

*Volunteer Dana S. takes a look at our 2016 Annual Report.*



***We've got some great events coming up that you'll want to attend. Take a moment now, to save these dates:***

**"Take Aim for Life" - Trap Shoot** – Saturday, September 17th from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM. This is a fun and challenging event for those who enjoy shooting clay pigeons. Form a squad now, ask friends to join you from church or work. Trophy's awarded for the top three teams, the top two shooters, and more.

Breakfast and lunch are included. Come prepared to participate in the raffles and drawings for great prizes! See our web site [www.choices-for-life.org](http://www.choices-for-life.org) for more information.



**Fall Fundraising Banquet** – "A BIG Celebration of Life!" Thursday evening, November 10th, 6 PM. We are excited to have Jamie Kendrew as our speaker. He has an amazing and powerful testimony of life, forgiveness and hope to share. You won't want to miss it.

**The Banquet Information Meeting** will be held on September 26th at 6PM for EVERYONE who is planning to host or sponsor a table. Even if you've helped before, come – be informed, updated and inspired on how to be the best banquet host you can be! Refreshments will be served. Location still to be determined.

*As with all of our fundraising efforts we appreciate having our events totally underwritten. This is a great opportunity to take a stand for life in order to share our ministry with other like-minded individuals in our community. Want to know more how your business, family or organization can help?*

Contact Susie Driscoll, Events Coordinator at [susie.driscoll@pregnancychoice.org](mailto:susie.driscoll@pregnancychoice.org) or 724-457-1220.

## Leaving a legacy for life

You are a faithful donor. You give to Choices annually or on a monthly basis, but have you considered making a planned gift through your estate? As many of our loyal supporters mature, some have given thought as to how they might continue to leave a legacy of life. Giving now, and making plans to give in the future will sustain this ministry into the next generation. If you have questions or need more information please give Keri a call.

*"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants."*

Deuteronomy 30: 19



# Connections

**“Happy Birthday, dear mobile!** On your sixth birthday, those that love and pray for you can’t help but look back over the previous years and your service to this city we love and be grateful to the Lord who had planned it from the start. You have been a front-runner in Pittsburgh to a unique mobile ministry and the impact here has been amazing. The Lord’s hand has been on you, dear mobile, and the team He called to be there.



We started with patient number 100. Last week, we ended with patient number 2017. That’s a lot of lives that have been touched. Though I don’t know the exact number of lives we have saved, God knows! You haven’t read about our latest accolades on any announcements lately, but the

Lord knows our “statistics” and that’s what counts.

I will never forget that beautiful morning six years ago. On our first day, we parked at the curb in front of the abortion clinic in East Liberty. We created quite the stir, since no one had heard of a clinic on wheels that offered the services we do. Back then there were two abortion clinics a few doors from each other. Prostitution and drug deals were rampant in East Liberty before the transformation that is happening now. It was a windy day, and I can still see you, Keri, holding our sign at the corner so that it wouldn’t be knocked over. We had quite a few patients that day, many on their way to one of the clinics. One of our first patients was pregnant with twins. She chose life!



It would take many pages to recite all the times the Lord has guided us, strengthened us, rejoiced with us and comforted us. He has done abundantly more than we have asked or imagined over the last six years and I believe there are many more to come. Thank you for your love and prayers for the mobile ministry. They make a difference!”

*Sue Smith – Director of Mobile Services*



*Client Advocate, Lisa B. enjoys meeting with her client.*

We love the connections that are made throughout pregnancy with our patients and our volunteer advocates. This young mom from our Beaver Valley Clinic came faithfully to every appointment throughout her pregnancy in order to be ready for when this sweet baby arrived. At Choices we know that it’s not just about “saving” a baby’s life, and then wishing them “good luck with that!” We want to prepare moms and dads for the life they have chosen and to establish relationships that will last a lifetime!



Be watching and praying as we anticipate adding a second MOBILE CLINIC to our “fleet.” We have been a pioneer and leader of mobile services in Pittsburgh and nationwide. Six years ago, the Lord prompted us to creatively step out of our comfort zone to bring mobile ultrasound services to the city of Pittsburgh in

order to reach out to abortion vulnerable women in their own neighborhoods, on college and university campuses and even in front of abortion clinics. We know that the abortion numbers have dropped, and in Pittsburgh/Allegheny County they are dropping at a greater rate than the rest of the state, but even still, the numbers remain staggering. As Christians, we continue to want to do more! The millennial generation is used to getting everything quick. They don’t like waiting. With our mobile we meet them right at the point of decision.



Currently our mobile is staffed and “GO-ing” out 5 – 6 days a week. A second mobile will help us to expand our reach and go to areas we have not been able to go before. But it is a BIG challenge as we begin to raise money to purchase a new, modern mobile clinic and then to staff it with trained professionals.

If you would like more information, would like to help with this new campaign, or would like to start us off with a donation, we’d love to hear from you as we commence “Vision for Life II.”



Thanks to everyone who participated in our 2016 Walk BIG for Life! It was a tremendous day and we passed our \$65,000 goal and raised \$72,114 in pledges and sponsorship! This was our BIGGEST and BEST Walk for Life ever!

**Please take note of our Walk Underwriters:**

**Advanced Pain Medicine, Dr. Mark Lo Dico  
William James Construction  
Holsinger Certified Public Accountants**

**Donations of items:**

Thermos – Choices water bottles, Knights of Columbus – Moon Twp., bottles of water, Small Media Large – photography, Shipley Brothers Plumbing – materials for Start and Finish sign, Starbucks – Moon Twp., Coffee.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped in so many different ways! Special thanks to Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church – lunch preparation; Living Faith Community Church – providing their party truck with cotton candy, snow cones and games; and Pathway Church, Moon Township for breakfast preparation.



# Stay on top of the news from Choices!



Little by little we are phasing out our paper newsletter. It is costly and takes a lot of time to process. If you enjoy getting this newsletter once or twice a year and would like to know even more, we encourage you to sign up for our email letters that come more frequently with current, up-to-date news on a regular basis.

You will hear encouraging stories of lives that are being changed and saved, and news about how you can get involved with this life saving work. Sign up today by emailing [info@pregnancychoice.org](mailto:info@pregnancychoice.org) and mention "Newsletter" in the subject line.

If you are on Facebook, you will also get up-to-date information if you 'LIKE' our page "Friends of Choices," or urgent prayer requests by emailing [keri@pregnancychoice.org](mailto:keri@pregnancychoice.org) and mentioning "Add me to your prayer list" in the subject line.

Thanks for your support! We have welcomed many new babies recently and have gratefully seen many more women and men say "Yes to Life!"



Akila, Aurora, Gaven, Navi, Ivy, Bella, John, Timothy, Annabell, Aria, Jade, Tinlee, Leanna, Diana, Selena, Emmet, Jason, Gia, Dominick, Joshua, Mark to name just a few!

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**Choices Mission Statement:**  
To encourage and equip individuals to make informed life choices.

Visit us online!  
Ministry Support [www.choices-for-life.org](http://www.choices-for-life.org)  
Client Support [www.pregnancychoice.org](http://www.pregnancychoice.org)  
Education [www.realchoiceseducation.org](http://www.realchoiceseducation.org)

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