

# Caring and Sharing

A PUBLICATION OF PREGNANCY HELPLINE, INC. OF MADISON

WINTER 2013, VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

## *New Location*

IT IS WITH GREAT JOY WE ANNOUNCE OUR NEW LOCATION!

Our Sharing Center is now located at the **Catholic Multicultural Center**, 1862 Beld St., off of Park St., in the Lower Level. We are so excited about this partnership. The CMC has a similar mission — to serve all people in a compassionate way. The CMC offers English and computer classes, provides a warm meal 7 days a week, a food pantry, and many other services. Through our partnership, they now are able to reach women, children, and families in a new way.

As most of you know, we had to re-locate our Sharing Center. After being in the old Holy Redeemer school for over a decade, the building was no longer usable, especially because the roof leaked. We served our last clients there December 15, 2012. We look forward to re-opening on February 2!

AS WE MOVE INTO OUR NEW SPACE, WE HAVE NEW NEEDS AS WELL.

Our monthly rent has increased and we need to purchase new furnishings to create an environment that will be both comfortable and efficient. We are looking to buy a new reception desk, as well as commercial clothing racks for the baby clothes. **Please consider donating to our organization so that we may furnish our new space.** We've provided an envelope in this newsletter.



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## Director's Corner



What an amazing few months we've had! Needing to move our Sharing Center was difficult news, but I'm so excited about this new partnership. The CMC was our first choice to relocate. Not only are we on a major transportation route, but we are housed within an organization that upholds the dignity of every human being, not matter what their circumstances.



I loved seeing so many of you at our 30th Anniversary party. That whole event was amazing. Special thanks to Tricia Erzen from our Board for organizing it. We had a great turn-out, the raffle was a hit, and our volunteers, donors, and even clients were able to meet and share stories.

We've been able to open and fully fund our Safe Sleep program and have seen it grow. We are now giving out 1-2 pack-n-plays a week! We've got a new logo and are building a new website. And we have added a passionate new Board member, Jessie Sadler.

Please spread the word about Pregnancy Helpline. I'm available to speak to school, church, or other groups. And please consider volunteering with us. Together we can do so much!

## Client Story

"IF YOU GUYS  
WEREN'T HERE, WE  
WOULDN'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO."

-TRISHA,  
SHARING CENTER  
CLIENT

Jessica is a current client of Pregnancy Helpline, where she's been using services for the past 9 years for her 4 children.

Jessica heard about the Sharing Center from friends and comes every month. That's actually how most of our clients hear about us. Word of mouth is a powerful thing.

If there were no Sharing Center? "I'd be outta luck," Jessica tells me. Jessica has received clothes, diapers, formula, and her stroller from us.

Jessica has been in and out of local shelters in Madison. She often tells friends about us and brings them to the Sharing Center.

One such friend is Trisha, who was with Jessica when we spoke at the Sharing Center. Trisha tells me, "If you guys weren't here, we wouldn't know what to do."

Meeting the needs of Jessica and Trisha is exactly what the Pregnancy Helpline is here to do.

## Volunteer



**Don Gostomski** answered a St. Peter's Church bulletin ad for a crib repair and deliverer. That was in 1992 and he has been with the Helpline ever since! While he started with crib delivery, he soon realized he was needed on the phones. "They thought I should get telephone training if a male

called, so I got trained on that as well."

Don remembers well his earliest deliveries. "One of my first crib deliveries was to a blind woman who was so excited and happy to get it, I will never forget. About a year latter I delivered a crib to a Hmong fam-

ily and the little kids were really excited, and they marched down to the car and insisted on helping me carry up the crib pieces."

Don's philosophy on service: "My feeling is if every one does a little it makes it easier for everyone else." Thanks so much, Don!

## Upcoming Events

### Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

All you can eat!

**Sunday, April 7, 8am-12:30pm.**

KC Roundtable, 1611 N. Bristol St., Sun Prairie.

Cost: \$9-adult, \$3-child, 3 & under free.

All proceeds benefit Pregnancy Helpline.



### October Baby

October Baby is a powerful movie, based on the true story of a girl who survived an attempted abortion.

Bring your teens, friends, and family to watch this beautiful movie about discovery, identity, and forgiveness. All proceeds will support our organization! Rated PG-13.

Locations and Times:

**St. Albert the Great, Sun Prairie, Feb 10, 6pm.** Popcorn free, concessions for sale. Cost: \$5/person, \$3/student, \$20/family. Donations matched by Saint Jude Healthcare.

**IHM, Monona, March 2, 6:15pm.** Light meal provided. Free will offering. Donations matched by Wisconsin Right to Life.



## Partners in Caring

American Girl	Chad Millar Photography	R Church	St. John the Baptist Parish
American TV	Christ the King Parish	The Raymond Group	St. Maria Goretti School
Auntie Em's Consignment	Diocese of Madison	Sacred Hearts Parish	St. Paul's Grad Group
Babe's Bar and Grill	Good Shepherd Parish	Saint Jude Healthcare	St. Peter's School & Parish
Badger Catholic	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Shopko	St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
Blackhawk Church	Kicks Unlimited	St. Albert the Great Parish	St. Vincent DePaul
Blessed Sacrament Parish	Knights of Columbus	St. Ambrose Academy	Visionary Design Concepts
Cathedral Parish	Pro-Life Wisconsin	St. Bernard Parish, Middleton	Wisconsin Right to Life
Catholic Multicultural Center	Queen of Peach Parish	St. Christopher Parish	Women's Care Center

## Opportunities

### VOLUNTEERS

- Sharing Center sorters. Come 1-2 times a month for 2-3 hours to sort and size baby clothes.
- Phone volunteers. Answer calls from home. We especially need Spanish speaking phone volunteers.

### DONATIONS

We depend entirely on donations of time, material goods, and financial assistance from generous people in the Madison area.

Checks can be made out to: Pregnancy Helpline, Inc. and mailed to:  
PO Box 5261  
Madison, WI 53705

### CONTACT US

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Alissa Hirscher, Pregnancy Helpline Director at 608-222-0008 or email [pregnancyhelplinedirector@gmail.com](mailto:pregnancyhelplinedirector@gmail.com)





## SHARING CENTER HOURS

Saturday 9am-12noon  
(closed Holiday weekends)

Catholic Multicultural Center  
1862 Beld St. (off Park St.)  
Lower Level

Call 608-222-0008



## OUR MISSION:

The Mission of Pregnancy Helpline, Inc is to provide life-affirming, compassionate care; giving accurate information, material support, and community referrals to women and their families before, during, and after pregnancy.

**Pregnancy Helpline** is a non-profit, non-political organization supporting Madison-area families for 30 years. We depend entirely on donations of time, material goods, and financial assistance from generous people in the Madison area. If interested in volunteering, donating, or for more information, please call (608) 222-0008 or email us at [pregnancyhelplinedirector@gmail.com](mailto:pregnancyhelplinedirector@gmail.com).



PO Box 5261  
MADISON, WI 53705