

Caring and Sharing

A PUBLICATION OF PREGNANCY HELPLINE, INC. OF MADISON

OCTOBER, VOLUME 2017, ISSUE 2

A Cartful of Diapers

“Who brought all those diapers?” This is the question we were asking as a young family pushed an entire cart of diapers (3086 to be exact!) up to the pack n play collection the morning of our DipaerDash. Our generous benefactor was Christina McMichen, and here’s her story:



“I turned 30 on September 3rd and have 3 kids under 5. A 5k was on my bucket list, but I’m not a runner. With encouragement, I signed up and started training 11 weeks before the race. I’d wake up at 5:30am, just to make sure I got it in! A friend donated diapers to support me. I’m active on Facebook groups, so I asked for leftover diapers from friends. I’d post my progress online, as it made me more accountable. People started following me on Instagram. I was really encouraged by their support and diaper donations. Then came Sept 1 and I thought for each of the 23 days leading up to the Dash, I’d write a positive quote about running for each day. The diapers just came flowing in. I ended up creating a Paypal account, and got almost \$200 donated to me that I could buy diapers with. One day I went in and cleaned out the diaper shelves at Aldi! **I just kept asking people and friends to donate, and they just kept giving.** In the end, I had the

support of 23 different people. It was so hot that morning, but I still had a great time on my first 5K!” Christina won the prize for most diapers donated that day, and she brought us joy and gratitude. Most importantly, she provided over a week’s worth of diapers for our Sharing Center Families. Hope to see you next year, Sept 22, at the Dash, Christina!



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Director's Corner



In July we had our annual leadership meeting. It was a time for the staff, Board, and coordinators to share about our program growth, needs, strengths and dreams.

I took a moment to pause and look around the room. Having worked in many different environments, I have experienced many co-workers and teams. I realized what an incredible group of people we have at the Helpline. What a gift it is to work with this group. We are like-minded, sharing a passion for life and families in our community. We may have different ideas of how to approach a problem, and personality quirks, but are so bonded by our faith and mission. It has been a privilege to serve among this group of talented, intelligent and generous people!

Thank you to the Board, Program Coordinators, and staff that make this organization great! Thank you to the Pregnancy Helpline Dream Team!



Melissa Hasker

Client Story



NICOLE AND HER FAMILY

Nicole has been visiting our Sharing Center for about a year. She found out about us from her case worker. She has 2 children, a little boy who is almost 2, Godwin, and a little girl almost 3, Kafui.

Nicole is from West Africa, Togo, and came here in 2005. She now lives in Madison and is a home care

attendant. She and her husband have been married for 3 years.

One day she was at the Sharing Center and saw Liz, our coordinator, working by herself. She decided she could help Liz. She comes from a tradition of sharing time and resources. "I'm Christian. In my country, we share food, we share

water. I want to help here." Nicole says that there was nobody to help her when she was pregnant and now she wants to give her time to help us and help other young moms.

"I told a lot of people to come, especially if they are pregnant. They always thank me, and I say, don't thank me, thank them!"

Nicole

Volunteer Spotlight



JACKIE GARCIA, PHONE VOLUNTEER, AND FAMILY

Jackie is a social worker by day, and a phone volunteer by night! As she learned about Pregnancy Helpline through her work as a case manager, she saw that it was in line with her values and faith. After talking with a "really nice volunteer" during a referral, she joined the phone volunteer team in

March 2017. Right away, she jumped into a big project. Our resource section was out of date and difficult to update. "I thought if it was all updated, it would make new volunteer training more efficient." Through a grant from Queen of Peace, each phone volunteer now has a spiral bound resource manual,

making their time working with families more efficient and smooth. "The Helpline fills a huge need, sharing support and increasing families knowledge, as well as meeting material needs." Jackie now helps us fill those needs. Thanks for sharing your skills with us, Jackie!

Jackie Garcia

Updates



Upcoming Phone Volunteer Training

**October 28
January 27**

**9:00am - 2:00pm
Catholic Multicultural Center**

Answer all calls from home. On-going training and support at monthly meetings. Sign up for shifts that fit your schedule. Contact Alissa Hirscher, if interested: info@pregnancyhelpline.net.

**Coming early in
2018...**

**Comedy
Night!**

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PregnancyHelplineMadison](http://www.facebook.com/PregnancyHelplineMadison)



Donate using PayPal
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www.pregnancyhelpline.net



Partners in Caring — 2017 Sharing Center Sponsors

<u>January:</u> Ripple Management	<u>April:</u> In in memory of Carl and Kathleen Regenfelder and Richard Meyer	<u>July:</u> North and South BBQ, Anonymous	<u>October:</u> Kapur Family
<u>February:</u> Total Care Dental	<u>May:</u> Bellissimo Family	<u>August:</u> Springtime Chiropractic	<u>November:</u> Cabinet Masters
<u>March:</u> In memory of Victor and Carol Dorn	<u>June:</u> In memory of Maria E. Welton	<u>September:</u> Hartberg Family— in memory of our children	<u>December:</u> In honor of Dorothy Riesch

Sharing Center sponsors pay a month's rent (\$600).

To become a sponsor in 2017, please contact Alissa Hirscher at info@pregnancyhelpline.net or call 608-222-0008.



Opportunities

VOLUNTEER

- 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.

DONATE

We depend entirely on donations of time, material goods, and financial assistance from generous people in the Madison area. Donate online or by check. 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
Phone: 608-222-0008
Email: info@pregnancyhelpline.net.

OUR PROGRAMS

- Helpline (phone)
- Sharing Center & Diaper Bank
- Baby Care Package
- Safe Sleep



Sign up for our monthly newsletter at www.pregnancyhelpline.net/news.cfm, or scan this code.

SHARING CENTER HOURS

Saturday 9am-12noon
(closed Holiday weekends)
Tuesdays 5-7pm

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 35 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 info@pregnancyhelpline.net.



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