

Lifeline.....

A quarterly publication of Heart Choices
Beloit Concordia Osborne Smith Center

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Mission Statement

To empower as many individuals as possible in the greater North Central Kansas area to make healthy life choices related to their sexuality, childbearing, and parenting, consistent with the sanctity of human life.

"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN"

First of all, let's just get this out of the way. May I just take a moment to introduce you to *Lane Eugene Thompson* (see above photo), my very first grandson, born on October 7, 2017! At the risk of sounding like prejudiced grandparents, Larry and I are convinced he is the most precious thing we have ever seen. I can't say I wasn't warned, but honestly I do not know when I have had so much love in my heart for one of God's precious gifts!

In over fifteen years of offering help and hope to young mothers and supporting them in choosing life for the unborn children, I have had the blessing of playing a "grandmother" role to many children, sometimes even being present in the delivery room and being listed on the hospital website. What a joy to watch these children grow and flourish as their parents use the education and support they received at Heart Choices to establish safe and loving home environments.

The need continues to be great, however. Our center is here to gently guide these women and families to the choice of life and provide the resources they need to be a godly, responsible parent. Heart Choices has been filling the needs of those in crisis since 2002 and has been able to provide classes, supplies, and emotional support to those in our community when they need it most.

As we quickly approach the end of another year of ministry, I am rejoicing at the many blessings we have seen in 2017! This year we were honored to serve **173** clients in **1028** visits at our locations in Beloit, Concordia, Osborne, and Smith Center! That's over 300 more visits than last year. **25** women received services on the mobile ultrasound unit which we sponsor in Concordia each month, helping them choose life for their babies, and we filled over **350** material aid requests.

God has also blessed us with partners like you who come alongside us with prayer, time, and support. To those individuals, we say THANK YOU!! They have given of themselves because of their heart for the needy in our community and their response to God's command to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and value human life. Without the blessing of these supporters, the work could not be done and lives would be lost.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus whose life brought HOPE and LIGHT to a dark world, we would love to have you join us as a partner in this ministry. Your end of year gift would be a true blessing to help offset some of the lean months when giving was down. Then would you prayerfully consider becoming a monthly donor, either by check or by electronic funds withdrawal, so that we can have the peace that comes from knowing this work is funded and you can have the peace of being a part of God's plan in our community? You may also give securely on our website at www.heartchoicesbeloit.com/donor.

Again, I say "Thank You" for your support and pray that the God of Hope bless you abundantly in this Christmas season and as you enter into a New Year of service for Him.

Alice

Walk Run for Life Brings Community Together to Celebrate Life!

We had a wonderful time at the 2017 Walk Run for Life at Chautauqua Park on October 1. The sunny, breezy day was great for the 5K runners and walkers, while others enjoyed musical entertainment, balloon release, meal, birthday cake, and a walk in support of life through downtown Beloit, joining the LifeChain for prayer at the courthouse. **\$13,204** was raised for Heart Choices!! THANK YOU to all who participated, donated, or helped!



"Bluewater" (Shipman Family) from Lebanon provided a variety of gospel and bluegrass musical entertainment.



The Glen Elder Friends Church team won the "Golden Baby" fundraising trophy, raising \$2,005!



RACE WINNERS



5K Male: Brogan Monty--1st
Kevin Buser--2nd
Ethan Neal--3rd



Female 5K: Sharayah Smith-1st
Joni Adams-2nd
Shawna Doane-3rd



THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 WALK RUN FOR LIFE SPONSORS!

AgMark, Inc. Brush Art Corporation Cunningham Telephone & Cable
The Farmers Bank of Osborne Central Valley Ag HeBrews Café Hubbard Feeds Inc.
Landoll Corporation Mill Street Trading Co. Peterson Farms Partnership S & S Drug
Shamburg Oil Co./Shamburg Feed Service Star Seed, Inc. Soundwaves and Expressions
State Bank of Downs

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!!

LOVING DONATIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN

In honor of

Leah Hewitt
Ren Bradley

In memory of

Betty Collins
Mary Van Pelt
James R. Rice
Leo Emmott, Jr.
Luella Reinert
Doc & Harriet Chapman



STUDENT AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

The *Seven Myths of Sexuality* program was presented to students in Thunder Ridge (Kensington), Smith Center, Minneapolis, Concordia, and Sylvan Unified schools this fall, with more schools being scheduled for the spring semester. For information about bringing Doug Twaddell to your school, you can email Megan at megannulf@gmail.com or call 243-6953.

Secret Keeper Girls (ages 7-12) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 pm at the Beloit Center. Visit the Secret Keeper Girls Facebook page or email Megan for more information.

HANNAH REARDON EARNS BREASTFEEDING ACCREDITATION

Hannah Reardon, a volunteer client advocate for Heart Choices, recently became accredited as a Breastfeeding Counselor through Breastfeeding USA. Breastfeeding USA is an organization that empowers breastfeeding moms through mother-to-mother support.

Hannah has been providing informal breastfeeding support to Heart Choices clients since 2011, but states: "Earlier this year I had several friends who faced exceptionally difficult breastfeeding challenges. I recognized my need for additional training and made the commitment to become a Breastfeeding Counselor. I was able to successfully complete all my coursework online. I am a stay-at-home and homeschool mom to 3 little ones yet I can still be a resource to new moms by offering free breastfeeding support through texts, phone calls and Facebook. I look forward to adding to the network of breastfeeding education and support already available in North Central Kansas."



Hannah with husband, Jeff, and children Priscilla (2), Titus (4), and Abby (7).

Hannah hosts a monthly breastfeeding Lunch & Learn event at Heart Choices on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at noon. The December 19th meeting will focus on "Cookies and FAQs." All breastfeeding moms (and babies) and moms-to-be are welcome to attend. There will be additional Facebook classes offered online for moms who are unable to attend meetings in person. The Facebook Group can be found by searching for "NCK Breastfeeding Lunch and Learn."

Heart Choices also offers a "Simply Breastfeeding" module as a part of the "Earn While You Learn" program. This module is offered free of charge at all locations and is open to any mothers who wish to learn about the benefits and techniques of breastfeeding.

We want to congratulate Hannah on the accreditation accomplishment and commend her for the time she invests in young moms. Hannah can be contacted at hannah.reardon@breastfeedingusa.org or by phone at 712-291-0790.

Welcome New Arrivals!



"Recently I faced one of the hardest situations I had ever had when I had to defend my ability to parent to a judge. Yet, in my most difficult time, a peace came over me. It was hard to describe. Then I remembered that my Heart Choices advocate told me they would be praying for me. I realized that must be the reason I was feeling peace — it was GOD that I was feeling. He answered their prayer!

I am so thankful for my Heart Choices mentor and what she has done to help me through this time."

~~Parenting class client

Thank you so much for all that you do to support life, motherhood, and positive family life in this community. I was so thankful to have you as a resource as I venture into motherhood. God bless you all!

~~New mother

Thank You

to those who blessed us with donations of diapers and baby items:

Asherville Achievers 4-H Club
Concordia Knights of Columbus
Alton United Methodist Church
St John's Catholic Schools
Cloverleaf 4-H Club
Dollar General – Beloit
Jewell Red Hat Ladies

Looking Down on Us

Donise Underhill, client advocate, Concordia and Beloit

Have you ever imagined the Lord looking down on various scenes from history distraught by our human tendency to run from His loving care? When I picture the Lord deciding to send His very own Son to save us, I imagine that He looked into the accounts of war, poverty and violence of faraway lands. Undoubtedly, God not only had all of those scenes in sight but He also could see North Central Kansas in 2017. He certainly could see all the hurting, desperate mothers, fathers and children that would need services from Heart Choices in this area.

James 1:27 implores us to care for widows and children. We don't have to look further than our own community to see this population clearly. At Heart Choices, we are serving single mothers and children on a daily basis, as well as to single fathers and families. When you partner with Heart Choices, you are fulfilling God's important decree to take care of widows and children. We not only provide information and resources to the precious individuals entering our doors but also spiritual guidance for those who wish to receive it. We share the news of our Lord and Savior because we know that true joy and salvation is only given by Him!

Thanks to each of you who are so faithfully giving to Heart Choices in prayer, service and donation! We couldn't reach out to the families in this area without you. Each dollar, package of diapers or other donation given goes directly to provide services to the clients that God brings to our doors.

Our mission field is clearly **here and now!**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our current needs:

- ___ Diapers (sizes 4-6)
- ___ Wipes
- ___ Baby Wash
- ___ Diaper crème
- ___ Monthly partners

"What these people do for children & families is amazing!! I am great full for heart choices in many ways words can't express how much this place & the people warm my heart."

~expectant mother

MELISSA OHDEN is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Despite the initial concerns regarding Melissa's future after surviving the attempt to end her life at approximately seven months gestation, she has not only survived but thrived.

With a Master's Degree in Social Work, she has worked in the fields of substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence and sexual assault counseling, and child welfare.

After years of searching for her biological family and offering them forgiveness for the decision that was made to end her life, Melissa's story, and her life, is so much more than one of survival. It's evidence of the intergenerational impact of abortion on all of our lives. More importantly, it's a testament to the beauty of God's grace in our lives, the power of love, and the transformational power of forgiveness and in answering God's call for your life.

Fulfilling the purpose that she believes God set out for her when He saved her from the certain death of the abortion attempt, Melissa is truly a voice for the voiceless.



Heart Choices
2018 Spring Banquet
Featuring
Melissa Ohden
Tuesday
April 10, 2018
7:00 pm
Beloit Municipal Building
119 N. Hershey St., Beloit

SAVE THE DATE!!