



Carolyn's Place



PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

CAROLYN'S VOICE

Adoption: A Loving Option

With the Christmas season again upon us, we reflect upon the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, upon the Blessed Mother, and also upon St. Joseph, the foster father Jesus, who opened his heart to help raise the Son of God.

Adoption. How did such a life-affirming solution to an unexpected pregnancy become such an unpopular option? Can this way of thinking be reversed? Perhaps, if more people begin to spread the word about adoption as a choice that provides the most benefits, and does the least harm, to women facing crisis pregnancies and their children.

Think about this: In the past year, two million families in the United States have made requests to adopt a child. By comparison, approximately 1.5 million babies are aborted each year in this country. Joining in a national trend, Carolyn's Place has stepped up efforts to increase awareness about adoption as a loving option to an unplanned pregnancy.

Carolyn's Place Director, Ellen Cavallo, recently attended a three-day Infant Adoption Awareness conference held in Rocky Hill and sponsored by the National Council for Adoption. By attending this conference, Ellen received certification from the Council as an adoption specialist. "That doesn't mean we can arrange adoptions, but that we know enough about it to present it in a professional, factual manner to clients," Ellen explained.

"Adoption has always been presented to pregnant clients at Carolyn's Place, depending on a client's age and circumstances. But very few choose it. There are no easy answers for this kind of situation. If you are 13, 14, 15 — no matter how old you are — many people are looking for the solution that they think will cause the least amount of pain and inconvenience," Ellen said.

Before Roe v. Wade, adoption was a common answer to an unexpected pregnancy. Prior to 1973, about one in five children born to unmarried white women were placed for adoption. By the late 1970s, the number dropped to less than one in ten, and by the late 1980s, to one in thirty, according to an article by CareNet.

Advent 2004

Mission Statement

Jesus said, "Anyone who loves me will be true to my word."

(John 13:34)

Our purpose in Carolyn's Place, a Pregnancy Resource

Center, is to seek to live out these words of Jesus by offering care, concern and love to any woman who finds herself in a problem pregnancy situation. We will do all that we can to help her in making a decision for life. While not pursuing any political agenda, we will help support in whatever ways needed, every woman who chooses to allow her baby to live.

By our words and deeds, we will support the Right to Life of every child in the womb as well as the right of the mother to continue the mystery that began at conception. We will work to make known this Right to Life in any way possible.

Adoption: A Loving Option continued....

“The question to be answered was once, “who would raise the child?” After Roe v. Wade, the question became, “should the child be born?”

Donna Warner in the Adoption Factbook III, the National Council for Adoption's 1999 publication, the question to be answered was once, “who would raise the child?” After Roe v. Wade, the question to be answered became, “should the child be born?”

The legalization of abortion, increased social acceptance of single parenthood, and increased availability of welfare benefits are among the reasons adoption figures have declined.

According to the National Council for Adoption, young unmarried women who choose adoption consistently attain higher levels of income and education than their peers who choose single parenting. In addition, young, unmarried women who make an adoption plan are more likely to subsequently marry than those who choose single parenting.

Over one million babies are born to single mothers every year in the U.S., yet only 20 percent of unmarried mothers receive child support from the child's father. Children of single parents, particularly teen parents, are at a higher risk of physical, social, and economic disadvantages.

Connecticut's adoption policies require open adoptions, which enables the birth parents to pick the adoptive parents, and also decide how much or how little contact they will have with the child and the adoptive family. In Connecticut, there is a 90-day period in which birth parents can petition the court to have the infant returned to them.

“When Carolyn's Place presents talks to youth groups and parents, members of the Education Committee previously had waited for someone to ask about adoption before raising the issue. To increase awareness about this option, adoption information is being worked into all of the talks presented as a positive solution,” Ellen said.

“More than three-quarters of the people attending the adoption conference worked for family planning agencies, including Planned Parenthood, and many stated they had not previously considered adoption as a solution to present to clients,” Ellen said. “It really made an impression on a lot of people there.”

“For me, one of the big positives was spending three days there and sharing dinner with people who didn't feel the same way as I did on life issues, because it gave me an opportunity first of all to listen to them and then very quietly and gently interject some thoughts. You can present adoption without ever talking about abortion, and it is such a positive, pro-life option.”

“We sometimes think everyone working in clinics knows what we know, but sometimes they just haven't hear or their hearts haven't been open. It has to be their hearts that are moved. There wasn't one person in the room who wasn't crying when they brought in the girl who had gone through the adoption process as a 20-year old,” Ellen said. Adoption is such an awesome option, but so few choose it because they think about themselves, not what is best for the baby. Imagine the difference for the young woman who says, “I'm gong to do what is best for my baby right now. I'm not it,” and then chooses adoption. She is able to move on with her life. There is pain there, obviously. There has to be a period of grieving and healing. But then, when she is able to move on, she has the knowledge of knowing she loved someone so much she put that baby first, the baby is alive and with a family that will love him or her forever.

A Note From Ellen

It was the beginning of one of our Female Responsibility groups and I was handing out invitations to a Christmas cookie bake. Questions were flying, “can we eat the cookies we make miss?,” “what else will we do?” All of a sudden a voice was heard, “I hate Christmas.” Everything stopped. Then came tons of noise, “you’re crazy,” “girl, what are you talking’ about.” The voice replies, “think about it...what if someone gave you a birthday party and you weren’t even invited!” Again, silence, followed by quiet tones of “I see what you mean.” I was stunned and the conversation that followed wasn’t what I had prepared, but it certainly made me think.

So the young lady’s “message” is mine as we prepare for Christ’s Birth during this Advent Season. As we rush about trying “to do it all”, let’s take the time every day to quietly welcome Jesus. When we’re at the mall looking for that “perfect gift”, take a few minutes to think of the Perfect Gift...Jesus, the gift that keeps on giving. Wading through decorations, making homes and packages look beautiful, let’s make our hearts and souls beautiful places where he dwells. Remembering who we are celebrating will make us less tired and less harried.

On Christmas Day have a birthday party. And if we’ve taken the time throughout this beautiful season, we’ll know who the guest of honor is. And most importantly, so will he!

May the Lord of Life bless you all and hold you close during the coming year!

Reflections

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.
all things came to be through Him,
and without Him nothing came to be.

What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1: 1-5

Prayer for Life

O God, our Creator, all life is in your hand
from conception until death.

Help us to cherish each person and to
revere the awesome privilege
of our share in creation.

May all people live and die in dignity
and love, sharing and helping as we are able.

Bless all of those who defend the rights of the unborn, the
handicapped, the victims of abuse, those on death row, and the
aged.

Enlighten and be merciful toward those who fail to love;
grant them a conversion of heart and give person your peace.

Let freedom be tempered responsibility, integrity and morality.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



My Right To Be Loved

By Donna Marie Pitino

Dear Mom,

Yes, I know you are scared,
And, as yet, unwed.
Do I have a right to be born?

And you worry about
How you'll keep me fed.
But I have a right to be born.

Love contains a vast wealth.
For we are God's own.
I have a right to be born.

I know you will love me;
The seed has been sown.
Yes, I have a right to be born.

God will help and guide us
If only we ask.
He has given my right to be born.

It's time to accomplish
This heavenly task.
Thank you, Mom. I will be born.

Love, Jesus

National News

Adult Stem Cells: Real Treatment for Real Patients



As noted by Bradley R. Hughes Jr. in a recent publication of the Family Research Council, *Real-World Successes of Adult Stem Cell Treatments*, there is great support among pro-lifers for adult stem cell research and treatment.

It is embryonic stem cell research and treatments, which requires the destruction of early human life to acquire the cells, that is objectionable to those who believe in the sanctity of life.

Adult stem cell treatments are beginning to show great promise in treating a wide range of illnesses, Hughes writes. Yet the debates in popular media tend to ignore and obscure the medical breakthroughs made by adult stem cell research—success that has conspicuously eluded embryonic stem cell treatments.

“Adult stem cells have provided real treatments for real people. Meanwhile, treatments using embryonic stem cells have not produced any clinical successes.”

Hughes notes that adult stem cells have provided real treatments for real people, including those suffering from spinal injuries, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, lupus, Crohn’s disease, ocular degeneration, blindness, heart disease, leukemia, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, aplastic anemia and sickle cell anemia.

Meanwhile, treatments using embryonic stem cells have not produced any clinical successes. Rather embryonic stem cell treatments tend to create tumors in numerous animal studies.

In a world with limited funds for research, Hughes writes, why are we arguing about unproven and often dangerous embryonic stem cell treatments, when treatments using adult stem cells are today producing real results for real patients?

On Election Day, California voters approved Proposition 71, a \$3 billion taxpayer-funded human embryonic stem cell initiative. In arguing against Proposition 71, actor and director Mel Gibson said, “I was never in a Petri dish, but at one state I was that little cluster of cells myself, as were you, as was the doctor, as is everybody. Tell me anybody who wasn’t at some point in their development, and I’ll give you a cigar.”

Source: American Life League and the Family Research Council

We want to be the first choice of women facing crisis pregnancies.

You can make it happen.

Carolyn’s Place Pregnancy Resource Center has a simple vision. We want to be the first choice of every woman in our community who is facing a crisis pregnancy. To realize this vision, **we need more volunteers**—women and men— who will give of their time to assist us in all types of areas.

Call us today. Let’s make this vision a reality.

(203) 597-9050.

National News Continued...

Suspension Sought for RU-486

The Family Research Council in November reported that lawmakers plan to introduce a bill to temporarily suspend the sale of Mifepristone/Mifeprex, most commonly known as RU-486, and launch an investigation into the process surrounding its approval in 2000.

RU-486, used to induce abortion, was put on an accelerated approval process intended for experimental drugs in the treatment of life-threatening illnesses, of which pregnancy is not included. RU-486 was known to have serious side effects, yet the drug was approved.

The proposed bill would ban the drug while the Government Accountability Office conducts a six-month investigation into the approval process the agency used previously before it determined that RU-486 was a safe and effective drug for woman. If the FDA is found to have violated its own rules for drug approval, RU-486 will be banned indefinitely.

Source: The Family Research Council

Thank you...

A huge thank you to Janice Battista for her hard work on our newsletter. Janice wrote the lead story, edited the rest and put it all together for the last ten years. God is calling her to a new path in her journey. She will be moving out of state to pursue an exciting new endeavor. Janice will be greatly missed. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say....may the Lord of Life bless you abundantly!

Carolyn's Place Celebrates 12th Anniversary

Nearly 200 volunteers and supporters celebrated the 12th anniversary of Carolyn's Place at the annual dinner on November 7th at Mahan's Lakeview in Wolcott. The evening provided wonderful fellowship and an opportunity to reflect on the ministry's activities. Carolyn's Place was founded in 1992 a year after Father Rousseau found an abandoned newborn in the vestibule at John the Evangelist Church in Watertown on a chilly November evening.

Everyone at the dinner marveled at the fact that the tiny baby, named Carolyn, is now a teenager!

Through the efforts of Carolyn's Place over the past 12 years,
640 babies have been born.

14,747 pregnancy tests have been administered.

25,628 calls were answered.

314 education presentations were given.

119,189 volunteer hours were donated on the 24-hour hotline.

2,163 personal needs were filled.

Keynote speaker, Sister Suzanne Gross, F.S.E., program coordinator Pro-Life Ministry for the Archdiocese of Hartford, spoke on building a culture of life, and commended the ministry for its outstanding service.

Many thanks to Diane Premus and the dinner committee for organizing the dinner, to all who attended, and to the local artists, Sam D'Ambruoso, who donated an original oil painting for an auction on behalf of the ministry!

Dear Friend, Carolyn's Place is entirely supported by contributions. Your donation is greatly appreciated to help continue ministering to unborn babies and their mothers and delivering a message of life to teenagers and adults. Thank you for your generosity.

Yes I would like to donate \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please cut out this form and return it with your donation in the enclosed envelope. All donations are tax deductible.

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*One word,
one action,
one selfless deed,
Can lift many souls
who are in need.
All it takes is simply
one.*
