



Carolyn's Place



PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

CAROLYN'S VOICE

Teens Face Difficult Challenges

Flipping through the pages of magazines geared toward teenagers and viewing movies targeted at young people is enough to make you wonder how our teens deal with the barrage of media messages focused on sexuality and body image. At this stage in their lives, our teenagers are learning how to adjust to their physical and emotional changes while navigating very confusing social waters. Several teens who have volunteered at Carolyn's Place in various ways say that they, and many of their peers, are pro-life and believe in abstinence until marriage.

"Sex is one of the biggest issues facing teens right now, next to drugs and alcohol," said Vinnie Santiago, a recent graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury who has shared his musical gifts at Carolyn's Place masses. "Many teens do not realize the damage premarital sex causes to their soul and the possible physical damage as well. I don't think the media helps at all, when it uses sex for almost everything. You just see it all the time. There's a lot of peer pressure persuading people to do a lot things that they may not even be comfortable doing. You rarely hear the message of abstinence, so not many kids think of that as an option. But I've seen a recent turn, especially among a lot of high school kids—the desire to save themselves until marriage, and wanting to keep their virginity a sacred thing. For me, it helps to have a good strong foundation in God, and a strong prayer life," said Vinnie, who is also active in a ministry team with the ROCK Group (which stands for Revival of Catholic Kids). "As long as you have a good spiritual foundation, you can stand by your views."

Vinnie's sister, Miriam, agreed that it often requires courage to take a pro-life stand in public, but ultimately others listening to the debate hear a message they may not otherwise hear.

Miriam recalled a day when she and a classmate debated the issue during a study session. Although she did not change the other girl's mind at the time, she believes she influenced others who were listening. "A couple of them wanted to find out more. They didn't know about abortion." Miriam said she feels many teens who have heard the abstinence message are choosing to live by it. "A lot of girls and guys are choosing to wait. They see the problems that come from doing stuff like that. Higher standards are definitely something I learned from my parents and older brother."

Fall 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.

Teens Face Difficult Challenges continued....



When Sherry Langrock of Southbury learned that one of her high school classmates formed a group to bus participants down to Washington, D.C. for a pro-choice demonstration, the 18-year old senior decided she wanted to do something to make a stand for life and set up a respect life club at Pomperaug High School, where she was given permission to create a bulletin board with pro-life posters and informational pamphlets on abortion and health issues.

“Many people my age view abortion as an easy solution”, said Sherry.

I don't think people really are thinking it's actually a human life. They should take the time to realize it's another human life...a gift from God, and no one has the right to end that life.”

“Sherry graduated this spring, but is hoping younger students will keep the committee going. In addition to taking a stand at her high school, Sherry and other members of Covenant to Care, from Sacred Heart Church in Southbury, demonstrated their support for life by collecting clothes and other items for Carolyn's Place clients.

More recently, the energetic teen organized a talent show at her church, with proceeds going to Carolyn's Place.

Like Sherry, Nicole Macioci, 15, a student at Southington High School, grew up in a household that emphasized pro-life values. Nicole's mother, aunt, grandmother and grandfather are all active volunteers at Carolyn's Place. When assigned a school project this past spring that required writing to a state or federal legislator, Nicole already knew what she wanted to write to Sen. Christopher Dodd about, “I wanted him to understand the truth about abortion, because even though a lot of people don't want to believe it, there is scientific proof that it's a baby.”

Carolyn Bradshaw, another graduate this spring of Pomperaug High School went on a mission trip last year and came home inspired after listening to what other teens are doing in their communities. She organized a prayer group at Sacred Heart Church in Southbury, called Hearts on Fire, that performs community service activities, one of which was to paint the reception room at Carolyn's Place. One client commented on the cheerful room that it was like “having my own sunshine.”

Carolyn remarked on the challenges teenagers face today, “teenagers are bombarded with images of what everyone expects we will do. There are so many mixed messages from parents, educators, friends and the media that it can be very confusing. To survive, you need strong morals and ideals of what is right.”

“I think she's been a leader among her prayer group. I'm very proud of what she's done,” said Carolyn's mother, Chris.

Teens can make a difference by...

- Praying daily for babies at risk of abortion and the mothers.
- Speaking up when abortion is discussed. Don't be shy—you've got truth on your side!
- Getting educated! Keep up to date on current pro-life issues and events by visiting pro-life websites....

www.rockforlife.org.

- Writing pro-life papers or speeches for school. This is a great way to spread the message to teachers and classmates.
- Wearing a pro-life t-shirt. It's your constitutional right to wear it to school. If you don't already own one, the American Life League offers shirts for sale at

www.prolifegear.com.

- Writing a letter to politicians, companies and entertainers who publicly support abortion, and let them know you're disappointed with their position.

(Source: American Life League)

A Note From Ellen

***"You are God: We praise you;
You are Lord: We acclaim you;
You are the Eternal Father:
All creation worships you."***

So begins the Te Deum, an ancient prayer of the Church. It is a prayer of praise that draws us more deeply into the Mystical Body. It is filled with truth and hope.

Truth and hope are very important at Carolyn's Place. We deal with life issues on a daily basis. Abortion is an "option" in today's world because it is legal and because the truth of what it is has been masked with palliative-sounding words.

When a young woman comes into the office to discuss "options", we speak the truth about abortion.

The particular surgical procedure, along with related physical health risks are discussed. We also talk about the emotional/psychological risks. We then discuss fetal development and let her know what her baby is doing at that moment. We always refer to her baby as a baby. Adoption as a loving option is presented. Support in parenting is talked about as well.

During the entire appointment, we talk about life as a gift...the gift of this particular child and her courage in coming to Carolyn's Place, seeking information and support. During the entire appointment, we pray for the mother and her child. She'll never leave our office and say, "I didn't know."



The work at Carolyn's Place is not for the faint of heart. It requires deep faith and immense trust. Giving accurate, truthful information never guarantees results. It means having done the best we could, we step aside and leave the situation to God. It means that if in a few weeks the young woman comes back and says, 'I'm going to have my baby, but I can't do it alone,' we become her support for as long as she wants it. The support may be taking a 3 a.m. call because she "can't sleep" and is "scared." It means giving her supper, taking her shopping, helping her study for her GED, becoming her labor coach, bringing her to church...it means truly "walking the walk."

On the other hand, the young woman may come back in a few months having had an abortion. She states she feels "awful," "can't sleep" and her relationship "isn't working." Through gentle probing she begins to cry and blurts out, "I can't believe I had an abortion." That begins a walk of a different kind...one through the post-abortive process. It is filled with deep pain and tears...but God's mercy and forgiveness always triumphs.

God has graced us with staff, board members and volunteers who bring their unique gifts to the table of life. All are willing to walk the various walks with those we minister to because of a deep commitment to God's great gift.

The work, though difficult at times, is always filled with promise. And so we pray with the Church:

"Lord, show us your love and mercy; for we put our trust in you.

In you Lord is our hope: and we will never hope in vain.

Evangelium Vitae (cf Ps 139 1,13-16)

“Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mother’s womb, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with his own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered and whose vocation is even now written in the “book of life.”



Education Team Wrap-Up

Presentations, talks and workshops were given from September 2003 through May. Our talks always bring calls to our crisis line. Teens call for appointments to talk about issues personally and in more depth. Parents call and come into the office to get more information and discuss how to present the information more effectively to their children.

The young men in our “responsibility” group at a local high school ended the year with a swim/cook out at the home of education team member Tom Tanganelli.

We are always looking for new team members. If you enjoy teens and are excited about life issues, call Ellen at (203) 597-9050.

Annual Dinner

This fall, Carolyn’s Place celebrates 12 years of service to the community. We are bringing all of our friends together for an evening of fantastic food, rejuvenation and appreciation. This year’s guest speaker is Sister Suzanne Gross, FSE, of the Franciscan Life Center in Meriden. If you attended last year’s dinner, you will receive an invitation in the mail within the next week. Otherwise, please contact Diane Premus at (860) 621-7009 to reserve your seat.

**CAROLYN’S PLACE
12 ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL DINNER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2004
4:30 P.M.
MAHAN’S LAKEVIEW
WOLCOTT, CT
DONATIONS \$30.00 PER PERSON**

GOD’S GIFT

By Donna Marie Pitino

Are you really mine?
Could God have given
Such a gift?
I’ll need help
To care for you,
But I can talk to others
And talk to God,
And when life gets
tough
I’ll know I’m not alone.

I still can’t get over
The miracle of you.
The feeling of love
So strong,
yet so simple.
I’ll just love you—
That’s what God is
asking.
I’ll just love you.
For you are my gift.

National News

Unborn Victims of Violence Act



In a landmark right-to-life victory, on April 6, 2004, President Bush signed into law the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. The bill survived a showdown in the U.S. Senate by a single vote— 49-50. President Bush signed the bill at a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, in the company of seven women and men who had lost loved ones, born and unborn, in violent crimes. Among them were Sharon Rocha and Ron Grantski, the mother and stepfather of Laci Peterson.

The enormous media attention given to the murder of Laci and her unborn son, Connor in December, 2002 and to subsequent judicial proceedings, helped to boost the bill, especially after the family asked lawmakers to give the legislation the alternative title of “Laci and Connor’s Law” almost a year ago.

Before signing the bill, the President remarked,

“as these and other families understand, any time an expectant mother is a victim of violence, two lives are in the balance, each deserving protection, and each deserving justice. If the crime is murder and the unborn child’s life ends, justice demands a full accounting under the law.”

Throughout that period the bill was vigorously opposed by pro-abortion advocacy groups such as ACLU and Planned Parenthood. These groups have asserted that crimes like the killing of Laci and Connor Peterson have only a single victim. They also say that the new law conflicts with the U.S. Supreme Court rulings that dictate legal abortion, although the bill specifically exempts abortion.

According to three national opinion polls 80% of the public agrees that a crime like the killing Laci and Connor Peterson in California has two victims and should be charged as two homicides. The position opponents of the bill that such crimes have only one victim—the pregnant woman—is supported by only 7% to 10% of the public in three polls cited.

The new law recognizes as a legal victim any “child in utero” who is injured or killed during the commission of a federal crime of violence. The law states that if a person harms a pregnant woman while violating an existing federal crime, he or she will be charged under the previous laws for her injury or death, but also will face a second charge for the harm done to the second victim, the unborn child. The law deals only with federal and military crimes, not with state crimes.

Source National Right to Life

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.

Baby Bottle Boomerang Brings Blessings

Four area churches raised nearly \$14,000 for Carolyn's Place this spring and summer simply by passing out empty baby bottles to their parishioners.

Generous parishioners returned the bottles a few weeks later filled with spare cash, change, checks, to support the ministry.

The Respect Life committee at St. Ann's Church in Bristol implemented the fundraiser this spring, for the second year in a row. St. Teresa's Church in Woodbury, St. Francis' Church in Naugatuck and St. Augustine's Church in Seymour heard about the unique and easy fundraiser, and decided to adopt it, with the same tremendous success St. Ann's parishioners experienced.

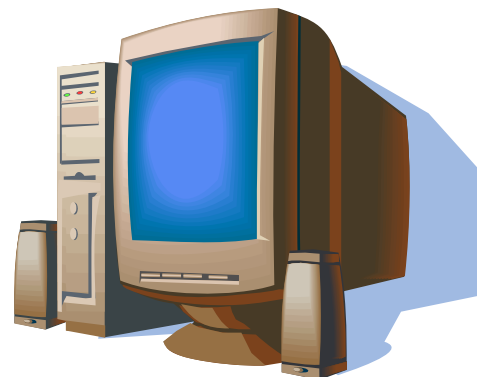
A nation-wide program to help raise funds for pregnancy resource centers, the Baby Bottle Boomerang was established in Greenville, S.C. by Elaine Ham, through her Plans for You consulting organization. Local groups simply order special "Wee Witness" bottles to distribute to members of their church, and ask that participants return the bottles filled with donations from family and friends to benefit a pregnancy resource center.

Local churches are encouraged to insert a slip of paper inside each bottle containing information about the ministry's background and services. More information about how to implement this fundraiser is available through Carolyn's Place.

Many, many thanks to all who participated!

New Equipment

As a result of a very generous donation by Jane Teta, Carolyn's Place now has all new computer equipment. The equipment will be used for all of our educational forums, brochures and any communications such as this newly designed newsletter. Thank you Jane for bringing our technology into the new millennium!



Scout Leads Effort to Create Garden

When the Education Team at Carolyn's Place brought its pro-life message to teens at the Church of the Epiphany in Cheshire this spring, Jason Climer was inspired to help the ministry.

"I thought 'What a great organization Carolyn's Place is,' and decided to help out and do my Eagle Scout project for them," explained Jason, a junior at Cheshire High School..

He called Carolyn's Place to ask what he could do to help, and earned that the ministry's grounds could use some sprucing up. Jason developed a plan to design and build a garden beneath the beautiful painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Members of Jason's parish and members of St. Thomas Beckett Church, also in Cheshire, donated more than \$800 to create the garden.

Jason gathered up a team of 11 Scouts, including his two brothers, Nathan and Alec, his mom and dad, Cindy and Charles, and his scout master. The group built the garden in one day this summer, and returned the following day to plant a variety of flowers. The crew had \$150 left over after the project was completed, and donated the money to support the ministry's services.

The project has had a positive affect on the neighborhood, with numerous children watching the work in progress and many others pausing at the garden to pray.

"I really feel good about that," Jason said.

Center Activity

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the generous support of our volunteers to accomplish the many great things we are able to do for our teens, babies and mothers in need of love and support. When we looked at our activity over a year from March 2003 to March 2004, we recognize God's grace in action.

- ◆ **Phone Calls** Carolyn's Place received **3,907** phone calls. Of the calls received;
 - ◆ 1,117 were pregnancy related
 - ◆ 103 requested abortion information only
 - ◆ 131 requested housing
 - ◆ 193 requested birth control
 - ◆ 50 calls were for education talks
 - ◆ 30 calls were for women seeking post-abortion information

- ◆ **Walk-Ins** **210** walk-ins plus many others who came in during the Christmas Season for personal need items.

- ◆ **Clients Seen** **596** clients were seen.

- ◆ **Pregnancy Tests** **344** free pregnancy tests were giving during the year. Of these
◆ **272 teenagers** were tested.

- ◆ **Positive Tests** **164** pregnancy tests came back positive.

- ◆ **Babies Born** **57** babies were born.

- ◆ **HIV and STDs** **4** clients tested positive for **HIV** and **53** tested positive for **STDs**

- ◆ **Personal Needs** More than **210** clients picked up personal needs items.

- ◆ **Donations** More than **60** donations of clothing, diapers and other supplies were made, including generous gifts through baby showers and giving trees.

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.

Carolyn's Place

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Waterbury, CT 06078

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Fax: 203-597-9080

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ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO. 345**

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