



CAROLYN'S VOICE

Carolyn's Place Annual Dinner Welcomes Guest Speaker **REBECCA LOBO**

On Sunday, November 1, 2009, Carolyn's Place will celebrate the 17th anniversary of our formation with our Annual Dinner to celebrate life. *This year, we are thrilled to have Ms. Rebecca Lobo as our guest speaker.*



which is painted specially for our event each year by acclaimed artist Sam D'Ambruso, who will join us at this dinner.

The Carolyn's Place Annual Dinner is held each year in celebration of the birth of

Rebecca Lobo was a star of the University of Connecticut's women's basketball teams of the mid 1990's. In 1995, she led UConn to a 35-0 record and the NCAA championship. She went on to play on the women's Olympic basketball team in 1996, winning a gold medal. As a pro in the Women's National Basketball Association, Rebecca played for New York Liberty, Houston Comets, and Connecticut Sun. She was selected to play in the first ever WNBA All Star game in 1999. She retired from basketball in September 2003. Currently, Rebecca is a reporter and color analyst for ESPN. She married *Sports Illustrated* columnist Steve Rushin in April 2003, and she and her husband are the proud parents of three young children.

Rebecca is a member of Life Athletes (<http://www.lifeathletes.org/>), an association led by over 300 professional and Olympic athletes who try to live lives of virtue, abstinence until marriage, and respect for life. The organization's members make a commitment "...to respect the lives of others, especially the unborn and the aged...". This commitment is consistent with the Carolyn's Place mission. Rebecca is also involved in many other community endeavors, including the Children's Miracle Network and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation and is an advocate for breast cancer research.

The evening's festivities will be held at the Villa Rosa Pontelandolfo Restaurant, 380 Farmwood Road in Waterbury. The event, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., includes appetizers, a five course sit-down meal, wine at your table, and a cash bar. There will be a special guest presentation by Rebecca Lobo, a brief update about Carolyn's Place, and special honoree awards. We will also have a raffle for a beautiful oil painting of a country theme

Carolyn Marie, the infant found at St. John the Evangelist Church in Watertown – the event which led to our organization's founding and its name. At this year's dinner, we will celebrate her 18th birthday. Since that time, Carolyn's Place has provided support and educational outreach services to young women and men throughout Waterbury and the surrounding communities.

Interested in attending?

Seating is available, and reservations can be made by contacting the Carolyn's Place business office at (203) 597-9080 or by returning the reservation form on the last page of this newsletter. The price is \$50 per person. Seating is limited so we ask you to please reserve your seat(s) no later than October 20, 2009. All reservations must be made in advance. Sorry, no seating at the door.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mission Statement

"Love one another"
(John 13:34)

Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center is a ministry committed to empowering individuals, through education, comfort, and assistance, to make life choices related to their sexuality and child-bearing consistent with the sanctity of human life.

Special Guest Honorees

State Representative Selim G. Noujaim

Saving Mommy

By June Archer

"...and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6

A teenager, a Christmas card, and a plane ticket.

On the Christian calendar, Advent is a time of expectation – waiting and watching for the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem. Several years ago during the Advent season, the staff at Carolyn's Place did some watching and waiting of their own.

A phone call came from a young girl who was expecting her first child. It was a pregnancy not without difficulty. "Terry" was a 19-year old prostitute addicted to crack cocaine, and the day she called Carolyn's Place for help, she was standing in an abortion clinic where she had gone to end her baby's life. Above the admonitions of clinic staffers in the background telling her that no one would want her baby, Terry told Director Ellen Cavallo, "I don't think I can kill my kid." Ellen gave her directions to Carolyn's Place, and Terry hung up the phone.

No one knew if Terry would actually show up.

Every year, Carolyn's Place receives many Christmas cards from people all over the country. Some are friends and patrons and some from unknown people who are offering help or prayers or donations. On that particular day, just after the phone call from Terry, Ellen came across a beautiful handmade Christmas card in the day's mail. A married couple in California, who were unable to have children had sent it. They were contacting various pro-life pregnancy centers in search of a child to adopt and had included a toll-free number where they could be contacted. They expressed a desire to adopt a child no matter its color, health status, or gender. They just wanted a child to love.

No sooner had Ellen read that last line when Terry, the 19-year old crack-addicted prostitute, walked through the door. That wait was over.

What else could Ellen do? She immediately showed the Christmas card from the childless couple to Terry. She read the letter and started to cry, and when Ellen asked Terry what she wanted to do next, she said she wanted to call that toll-free number.

The woman on the other end of the line was overjoyed when she received that call. She offered to send money for a plane ticket. Ellen suggested that sending the plane ticket itself was a better plan.

Two days later, Ellen drove her young client to the airport to catch a plane to California. Terry was not very talkative. Seeking to reassure her, Ellen told Terry, "I am so proud of you for saving your baby's life", to which Terry responded, "I think this kid is saving *mine*."

Five and a half months later, Terry gave birth to a boy, born with health difficulties. He was adopted by the couple whose Christmas card came at just the right moment and saved both a mother and her child. True to their word, they were looking for a child to love no matter the challenges.

That was several years ago. Since then, Terry went to school and is now a social worker, currently in a Master's program. She and the couple who adopted her son enjoy an extended family relationship.

Not all stories come together as this one did; the phone call from a pregnant teenager, a plea from a childless couple, and a plane trip that resulted in happiness for all involved, but each step took courage. Courage for Terry to stop the noise behind her that said no one would ever want or love her child, courage for the young couple to admit their helplessness in search of a child to love, and courage for Terry and that couple to make that journey together to save the life of a little boy who someone else would have just thrown away – literally.

If you Google “adoption vs. abortion” online, you can’t even imagine what you find with regard to pros and cons. Try it. It’s amazing – and scary. Rarely do you find a story like Terry’s online because the only people who think to post or blog are those who see an unplanned pregnancy as the end of the world.

Is an unplanned pregnancy for a single mother a tough thing? You bet. Is the decision to keep her baby amidst the shouts that it will ruin her life a tough one to make? Yes. Tougher still is the courage to admit that they are ill-prepared to take on the responsibility of a child and to admit that they want that child to live a good and happy life – even if it means a life outside of their embrace. Some would rather terminate that child’s life than see it happy with someone else.

That is why Carolyn’s Place and pro-life pregnancy care centers like it exist across the country. They offer the help, support, and information necessary for women in unplanned pregnancies to choose life for their child and hope for themselves – whether they keep their child or give it a life with someone else. Pass it on... this is the good news in pregnancy!

Truly, Terry’s little boy saved her life, as she predicted. Her mother’s heart, unformed in its newness yet unprepared because of its difficulties, knew that there was something better for her child, and because she had the courage to save him, he saved her life as well.

He was worth the wait.

If you, our reader, think this story sounds familiar, then you have a great memory! In fact, we ran the tale of this young mother some years ago in another Carolyn’s Place newsletter. We felt it bore repeating for many reasons, but none more important than to shine a spotlight on National Adoption Month, celebrated every year in November.

This year, on Saturday, November 21, Carolyn’s Place – in conjunction with The Children First Foundation – will co-sponsor a “Celebrate Adoption” breakfast at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell. The breakfast will feature speakers from Catholic Charities and the Safe Haven program. Pregnancy care centers are welcome to set up tables to distribute their information. In addition, Carolyn’s Place Director, Ellen Cavallo, will speak to newsmen at Holy Apostles on Sunday evening, November 20. Her topic will be “How to Discuss Adoption with Understanding and Compassion.”

For information on how to reserve a table for your pregnancy center’s material at the breakfast, contact Carolyn’s Place or The Children First Foundation (www.thechildrenfirst.org).

The Children First Foundation promotes and supports adoption as a positive choice for women with unwanted pregnancies or newborns. They are the leaders in providing the “Choose Life” license plates, now available in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

ADOPTION

Making adoption a more positive option... Carolyn's Place hosted an adoption workshop. It was presented by Penny Rearick, district supervisor for Adoptions from the Heart, in Glastonbury. Staff members from three other pregnancy care centers attended, as well as Carolyn's Place staff. Ms. Rearick discussed current myths surrounding adoption, how adoption has changed, and current state laws. She also shared some real success stories. Carolyn's Place phone consultants will go through her workshop at their November meeting.



ADOPTION LICENSE PLATES

Our young moms need to understand what an awesome option adoption is. Children’s First Foundation has an adoption license plate available. Put in the code CP on the application, and you’ll travel with the message and Carolyn’s Place gets a donation! For more information, call or visit 1-877-FUND-ADOPTION.org.

From the director's desk of Ellen

We were blest this summer with an extra pair of hands. Adrienne Osso, a Senior at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, did her internship at Carolyn's Place. After the initial contact with her Professor and filling out the school contract, Adrienne was ready to begin. She went through a training period but was quick to jump right in and take on responsibilities. Adrienne did it all; from assembling cribs, computer inputting, and cleaning to answering the crisis line and meeting with clients. It was great having her energy and enthusiasm around the Center. She intends to pursue a Masters Degree at the Institute for Psychological Studies in Washington, D.C. Thank you Adrienne for sharing your time and talents with Carolyn's Place, and good luck with your future endeavors.



Over the years, Carolyn's Place has had other interns from both high schools and colleges such as Western Connecticut State University and Post University. They have varied in length from a few weeks to a semester. If you are interested in more information about doing an internship with us, please contact Ellen at (203) 597-9050.

It's a win/win situation.



Fall 2009 Wish List & Thank You!

(If you can help with any of these items, new or used, please contact us at (203) 597-9050.

ITEMS NEEDED: Laptop computer, memory stick for computer, card table or folding table, colored pocket folders, 2" and 3" loose leaf binders with view panel in front, loose leaf dividers with numbers on tabs, paper towels, and potted mums for our front and back stoops.

LABOR NEEDED: Occasional small carpentry jobs and some yard clean-up and fall plantings.

We are sincerely grateful for the donations we received from our Spring/Summer Newsletter. A special thank you goes out to Gene and Jackie Ritacco for once again, coming to our rescue and donating a box of computer paper, Ron and Rita Painchaud for the Home Depot gift card, Dr. Paul Bruch for the computer chair and changing table, and the generous donor who donated the flat screen computer monitor,

S D N C E R

BOOMERANGS

For help to sponsor a Baby Bottle Boomerang, contact our "Boomerang Coordinator"

Wes Wensek at (203) 266-4282

or

wwensek@att.net



A SPRING BOOMERANG

Thank you to **St. Thomas Becket Church, Cheshire**, for sponsoring a Baby Bottle Boomerang in May and June. This was their first Boomerang and they raised \$2,197.30. We are extremely grateful to all who helped in making this a success and a special thanks to Ron and Noreen Pearsall for organizing the event.

BOOMERANG FLIES

A special thank you to **St. Michael Church in Beacon Falls** for hosting a Boomerang for us this year. To date, they have raised \$1,711.19. We are truly grateful for the continued support we receive from this parish.

HAMMER & NAILS

We would like to thank Dave Parady for providing us with some much needed carpentry skills these past few months. Dave has fixed cabinet doors, stained our back porch, and built beautiful covers for our radiators.

Thank you also to Jean Luc Fortin for coming to our cry for help and fixing the front door that would not close and our backyard retaining wall.

We are extremely grateful to both men for sharing their skills with us and helping to keep our Center in working order.

Baby Collection

We are grateful to **St. Thomas the Apostle in Oxford** who took up a collection of much needed diapers and baby items for us. A special thanks to Eileen Westgate who spearheaded this collection.

IF YOUR PARISH OR ORGANIZATION WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG:

- Purchase, or borrow from us, a sufficient number of baby bottles for your parish or organization.
- Distribute a baby bottle to anyone interested in participating.
- Ask them to fill the bottle with spare change.
- Have everyone return the filled bottle at the end of a specified time period. (Usually about 3 to 4 weeks.)
- Total the donations, and send one check to Carolyn's Place, Inc.
- Return borrowed bottles to Carolyn's Place, or save your purchased bottles and reuse for a future boomerang.

A Delicious Fundraiser

The Seymour Knights of Columbus, Council #53, hosted a BBQ dinner to raise money for Carolyn's Place. The event was a BIG SUCCESS for all. The food, made and served by members of the Council, was delicious consisting of ribs, pulled pork, hot dogs, several salads, and many scrumptious desserts. The evening was extremely well attended, and in addition to the meal, there were beautiful raffle items and entertainment from a young teenage boy playing the piano.

We are thankful to all the members of the Council, with a special thank you to Steve Dziadik for suggesting the idea and to the event organizers, Alex Overkamp and Donald Gaughan.

The Knights raised \$800 with this dinner and, more importantly, raised awareness in the community about the special gift of life and our Carolyn's Place ministry. THANK YOU.



EDUCATION CORNER

By Carol

EXCITING NEWS!

The Carolyn's Place Education Team has been invited back to a Waterbury high school to begin our 8 week Respect, Responsibility, Relationship Program (RRR)! Our plans are to have four classes, twice as many as last year, due to a greater demand on the part of the students. By God's Grace, doors are opening for us to share the good news that they are "Worth Waiting For", and their sexuality is a gift. Interested in joining our team, call Carol Bracken at (203) 695-3999.



Did you know?

According to the Connecticut School Health Survey 2007
YOUTH BEHAVIOR COMPONENT

Current sexual activity among students in Connecticut more than triples between grade 9 (15.4%) and grade 12 (53.8%); the increase is statistically significant.

Join Fr. Rousseau on a Pilgrimage to Italy, Switzerland, and Germany

Opportunity of a Lifetime: See the Shroud of Turin (the reputed burial cloth of Jesus) on display in the Cathedral in Turin, Italy. Then, travel to and visit the Italian Lake District; Lucerne, Switzerland; Munich, Germany; and finally, the Passion Play of Oberammergau which is performed every ten years. Join Fr. Robert Rousseau, Founder of Carolyn's Place, and Deacon William Lovelace of St. Augustine Parish in North Branford, on this unforgettable Pilgrimage for ten days, May 12-21, 2010 (mass daily). For further details and information, call (203) 484-0403 or email f.rjr@sbcglobal.net.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

It's not too late to become a member and make a difference in the lives of so many babies and their moms.

Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center

Yes! We want to take action and support Carolyn's Place.

We have enclosed a check for: _____

Cornerstone Circle Pillar Protector Patron Friend
(\$2,000 +) (\$1,000 +) (\$500 +) (\$100 +) (\$25+)

(We wish to remain anonymous:)

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

17th ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATION

As Referenced on Page 1

Cut and return by October 20 with check payable to Carolyn's Place, Inc.

17th ANNUAL DINNER RESPONSE



I would like to attend the Carolyn's Place Annual Dinner.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Names of Those Attending at \$50 Per Person

Please circle meal choice after each name as follows: CF for Chicken Francese or RB for Roast Beef

- | | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | CF RB | 6. _____ | CF RB |
| 2. _____ | CF RB | 7. _____ | CF RB |
| 3. _____ | CF RB | 8. _____ | CF RB |
| 4. _____ | CF RB | 9. _____ | CF RB |
| 5. _____ | CF RB | 10. _____ | CF RB |

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Check Number: _____

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR LIFE AND CAROLYN'S PLACE

Please take out an ad in our dinner program. Place an ad from your business or a personal message in support of Carolyn's Place.

Circle size of ad: FULL PAGE \$150

HALF PAGE \$80

QUARTER PAGE \$50

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

1. Circle the size ad above that you desire.
2. Type, print, or send artwork you wish to have appear in your advertisement.
3. Make check payable to Carolyn's Place, Inc.
4. Return this form with your ad and check in the enclosed envelope before OCTOBER 10.

QUESTIONS: Call the business office at 203 597-9080.

Carolyn's Place
Pregnancy Care Center

137 Grandview Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708

Client Phone: (203) 597-9050
Education Office: (203) 695-3999

Web Site: www.carolynsplace.net

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WATERBURY, CT
PERMIT NO. 345**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Carolyn's Place
Pregnancy Care Center
Hope for the future by
promoting responsibility.

Rebecca Lobo to speak at Annual Dinner.
See inside for details
