



# CAROLYN'S VOICE

## Choosing Life: Its Joys and Sorrows

My name is Andrea Rodriguez, I am 26 years old and a single mother to my little guy Andrew, of 15 months. I first found out about Carolyn's Place when I found out I was expecting. When I was told I was pregnant many thoughts came to mind, but I was very excited and nervous, I wasn't too sure of how my baby's father would react. Unfortunately my baby's father decided that he did not want to be a part of our son's life when I told him we were expecting. Once he said he wasn't going to be a part of our baby's life I decided that I would have to make a big decision. I chose to be a single mother and fight for the right of my child to have everything in the world because the baby has no fault that he has an irresponsible father. I chose his father and made the mistake. My family was very supportive and as weeks went quickly I was in need of support, guidance, and an apartment. I went to Carolyn's Place looking for those things after an online search. While I spoke to Mrs. Ellen she informed me about the earn as you learn program, the program teaches you how to care for the baby, about the baby's stages in life etc. I enrolled in the program rather quickly because there's never enough learning when it comes to children. I learned so much and was able to earn many items for my little guy that otherwise he would not have. Carolyn's Place was able to help me with diapers, clothes, and furniture. I've also had many problems with my baby's father getting him to pay child support and whenever I needed someone to talk to there has always been someone available at Carolyn's Place. With only one income it is very hard to make ends meet, but I knew that God wanted me to have this child for a reason. It's only normal for emotions to be going crazy during pregnancy but when you have to be in such a challenging situation battling back and forth with the person that you were once in love with and making sure they do the right thing it makes it that much more difficult. I think that whoever goes through this type of situation goes through a lot of emotional stages. I was

able to get support that I needed to get through to myself that even though my son's father doesn't want to be a part of his life or mine any more, that I hate him because he's making our son grow up without a dad and without the bonding that a child needs with their father, but at the same time I love him because if it wasn't for him I wouldn't have my little guy. With the support and guidance from Carolyn's Place and my family I finished my Bachelors Degree and had my little boy. I am currently attending college to get my Masters Degree in Social Work. I thank God that there is a place like this to help young single parents. Carolyn's Place has given me guidance, and support when I needed it the most and the times when I get upset about the situation that I put my son in I know that just talking to someone makes everything better along with daily prayers. In the near future I would like to volunteer at Carolyn's Place to help and support other young parents in similar situations. I would like to give back all the help and support that has been offered to me and extend a hand to all in need. Thank you again Carolyn's Place for all of your help and support. God Bless you all.

Love,  
Your Friends and Extended Family  
Andrea and Andrew

### *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.*

**JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 7 AT 6:30 PM**

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS**

# ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATION

The Villa Rosa Pontelandolfo Restaurant was the scene for our 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on November 1, 2009 as we celebrated Carolyn Marie's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and the subsequent founding of our ministry. A record 288 guests were in attendance and had the pleasure of listening to UConn and Olympic basketball star Rebecca Lobo. Rebecca, a mother of three young children and a member of the pro-life group Life Athletes, stepped away from her familiar sports setting to speak to us on the importance of family and making good choices. We were overwhelmed by her charm!



This year, Carolyn's Place introduced three newly established annual awards. These awards were presented to members of the Waterbury area community who have made exceptional contributions to the defense of life and the mission of Carolyn's Place.

Maureen Anne Donohoe died in 1986 at the age of 20. She spent her short life courageously speaking out and writing in defense of the sanctity of human life. Carolyn's Place was founded in memory of Maureen. Msgr. James Coleman, pastor of SS Peter and Paul Parish in Waterbury, along with Maureen's parents-Ray and Jessie Donohoe, presented *The Carolyn's Place Maureen A. Donohoe Life Award* to Waterbury State Representative Selim G. Noujaim. Rep. Noujaim, a



staunch advocate for life and family values, accepted his award graciously and proudly – and with his trademark sense of humor – in the presence of his entire family as well as his extended family and friends.

*The Carolyn's Place Walter J. Williams Service Award* was named in memory of our dear friend and board member, Walter Williams, who passed away early in 2009 following a long illness. This year, Director Ellen Cavallo – as well as Walter's wife and son – presented the award to Mrs. JoAnne

Macioci. JoAnne has been a phone consultant for Carolyn's Place for over ten years, and has coordinated the phone scheduling and countless fundraisers.

Carolyn's Place founder Fr. Robert Rousseau presented *The Carolyn's Place Ministry Award* to Fr. Joseph E. Looney, pastor of Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and former pastor of St. Margaret's Church in Waterbury. Father has had a lifelong commitment to pro-life ministry through his preaching and his public stance on the sanctity of life. He has spoken at many local pro-life conferences and recently gave a pro-life retreat in Chicago.

As in years past, artist Sam D'Ambruoso donated our raffle prize – a beautiful oil painting of a Housatonic River landscape. Mrs. Barbara Nieves from Watertown was the lucky winner. Mr. Frank Mirovsky won our second prize – a one-night stay and breakfast for two at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Southbury.

Our guests enjoyed a delicious five-course meal and had the opportunity throughout the evening to view a table displaying Carolyn's Place history, to catch up with friends, and to have their photograph taken with Rebecca Lobo.

We are grateful to everyone who made the evening such a big success and a wonderful and memorable celebration. We look forward to seeing *you* at our next Annual Dinner!



Many thanks to our photographer Allen Thibodeau for donating his time and talents

## JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 6:30PM

The Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at SS Peter and Paul Church, 116 Beecher Ave. Waterbury, CT. The evening will begin at 6:30 PM with a Mass to celebrate the "gift of life", followed by the meeting which will update you on our year's activities while offering you an opportunity for questions and answers.

ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.  
Bring a friend! Meet our Board of Directors and enjoy a dessert buffet!

## ALAN & DAN

For the past several months, as a part of the Marra-kech, Inc. program Alan and Dan have been assisting with odd jobs and cleaning at our Center. The program, funded by DCF, provides opportunities for teenage students to earn money by doing service jobs in the community. We are very grateful for the work Alan and Dan have provided to Carolyn's Place. They have helped keep the place clean and organized. Dan has moved on to other projects and we wish him well. We hope that Alan will remain with us and appreciate the fabulous job he continues to do serving our ministry. **THANKS GUYS**

# S O N C E R E

## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

During the Advent Season we were truly blessed by the generosity of so many people and organizations. We are sincerely grateful for every donation, large or small, that we received. This enabled us to distribute Christmas gifts to many of our moms for their babies, as well as helping to restock our items to use for new clients. We are grateful to the following parishes and organizations: Watertown Ecumenical Council, Watertown Methodist Church, Our Lady of Loreto CCD Class, IBM, St. Mary Magdalen -Oakville, St. Matthew-Forestville, Blessed Sacrament Pre-school-Waterbury, Our Lady of Grace-Bantam, Church of the Nativity-Bethlehem, SS Peter and Paul-Waterbury, The Immaculate Conception-Harwinton, St. Francis Xavier-Waterbury, The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception-Waterbury, Soroptomists, Inc.-Waterbury Branch, St. Teresa Men's Club-Woodbury, St. Ann-Bristol, and 3 individuals who were "Santa" for three of our clients. We apologize if we inadvertently neglected to acknowledge an organization. Please know that we say THANK YOU to all of our supporters.



Members from St. Teresa Men's Club in Woodbury deliver diapers from their Christmas collection.

## BLANKETS FOR BABIES

Deacon Diane Caggiano from St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Meriden spearheaded a "Blankets for Babies" collection this winter. Expecting a handful of blankets, Diane was delighted when she received over 50 different blankets, even one coming to her from California. THANK YOU

## SNUGGLE UP

*There is nothing more comforting than to be snuggled in a warm, soft blanket. At Carolyn's Place we know it is particularly important for every baby to have their own "special" blanket. This year, thanks to the generous outpouring from different organizations we were able to provide each of our moms with a special handmade blanket for their newborn babies. We are truly grateful to all of you who made this possible.*

## LESSONS OF LOVE



The students in the Family and Child Development Class at Wilby High School in Waterbury used their newly learned skills to help others. The class learned quilting skills by making baby quilts which they delivered personally on a "field trip" to our Center where they took a tour and learned about our services. Each quilt was wrapped with a children's book and the students also brought many baby items for our clients.

*WE ARE SO GRATEFUL!*

## A FIFTH GRADE PROJECT

Under the leadership of their teacher, Ms. Sally Olsen the fifth grade students at Sprague School in Waterbury took up a collection throughout the school to purchase material. They used the material to make blankets to donate to Carolyn's Place to distribute to our moms and babies. THANK YOU for thinking of us and helping our babies.

## IBMers Do It Again!



Some of the men employees at IBM in Southbury, learned to make blankets with the help of their female co-workers. These warm, fleece blankets are donated to us for our moms to snuggle up their babies. THANK YOU

## KEEPING WARM



Alyssa Gaskin (pictured with her grandmother) from Jr. Girls VFW Post 8075 in Prospect displays children's fleece scarves that she and members of her Post made for Carolyn's Place. THANKS SO MUCH

## SOFT PETS



MANY THANKS to the members of the Holy Cross High School Honor Society will bring smiles to some children with the stuffed animals they donated to Carolyn's Place.

# THANKS

## BOUNTIFUL BOOMERANGS

This Advent, the students at **St. Bridget School in Cheshire** held a Baby Bottle Boomerang for our ministry. Baby bottles were placed in each classroom and the students brought in their spare change to fill them. At the end of the event they gave Carolyn's Place a Christmas gift of \$310. THANK YOU to all of the students for putting us on your "Christmas list."

We are extremely grateful to the parishes of **St. Joseph in Canaan and the Immaculate Conception in Norfolk** for hosting their first Baby Bottle Boomerang for Carolyn's Place. To date the parish has raised \$1,325. We appreciate the support from Fr. Brian Jeffries and the combined parish communities

Thanks so much to the parishioners of **St. Ann Church in Bristol** for hosting another Boomerang for our ministry. This year they raised over \$1,505. We appreciate the leadership of Corrine Clark for organizing the event. The parish also hosted an Advent Giving Tree for Carolyn's Place supplying us with many baby items. We are so grateful for the generosity of the parishioners in supporting our ministry for so many years.

This year **St. Augustine Church in North Branford** hosted their third Baby Bottle Boomerang, to date raising \$4,853. We are very grateful to the entire parish for their generous response and especially to the event organizers: Melayna Lovelace Mary Pacelli and Linda Proto.

Thank you to the **Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem** for holding their second Baby Bottle Boomerang for Carolyn's Place this fall. In addition to raising over \$2,995, the parishioners also collected baby items for us to distribute to our moms for their babies. We appreciate Fr. Joseph Looney, event organizer Debbie Quinn and the parish members for their continued support.

Members of **St. Teresa Church in Woodbury**, with the enthusiastic support of their pastor Fr. Kwiatkowski, had a busy Advent Season supporting life by hosting two events for Carolyn's Place: a Baby Bottle Boomerang and a Diaper Drive. Organized by the **Men's Club** under the leadership of Nick Volkringer, we received countless boxes of diapers to distribute and also help restock our supply for our moms to use for their babies. The Boomerang, organized by pro-life rep Wes Wensek, rose over \$5663. We are sincerely grateful for the tremendous support we have received from all of the parishioners of this parish.

Joan Gigliotti and the parishioners of **St. Mary Magdalen in Oakville** did their first Baby Bottle Boomerang event this year and raised over \$3,000. Thank you so much to Fr. Gregory and all of the parishioners for their support.

Right now, **St. Rose of Lima in Newtown, St. Aloysius in Plantsville, St. Francis of Assisi in Naugatuck** and the entire student body of **St. John the Evangelist School in Watertown** are continuing their regular and substantial support by sponsoring Boomerang events during Lent.

### 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.



*Helga and Bernhard Roegele are pictured here getting ready to take their load of 650 baby bottles to St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown for their regular Lenten Boomerang event. This is their sixth year leading this activity. Baby Bottle Boomerang events can be done anytime. Lent, Advent, and the months of May and October are particularly popular."*

**EDUCATION CORNER**

Carolyn' Place recently presented an education program to the students in grades Pre-K to 8 at St. John the Evangelist School in Watertown. The presentations focused on age appropriate material about the special gift of life. Grades Pre-K, K, 1 and 2 all heard the story Angel in the Water and discussed how each child is God's gift.

Grades 3 and 4 *Baby Steps*. This sound of the baby see how im-ception to birth. spoke about life of different forms watched the vid-ing how life be-the womb to form each of us... a special Masterpiece from God. Grades 7 and 8, divided boys and girls, discussed the importance of respecting themselves and others and making good choices regard-ing their sexuality.



watched a DVD entitle video shows the ultra-in the womb and to portant life is from con-The students also and created a collage of life. Grades 5 and 6 eo Masterpiece learn-gins and develops in

The programs were presented by Susan Danielowski and Ellen Cavallo, both from Carolyn's Place. The students were enthusiastic and respectful listeners making the day enjoyable for all.

***If you are interested in having any of these programs presented at your school please contact us at 203 597-9050.***



**DID YOU KNOW**

The part of the brain that young people need the most to develop good judgment and decision making does not develop until the early twenties...Parents keep this in mind when you're expecting teens to make important decisions.

*From the desk of Ellen*

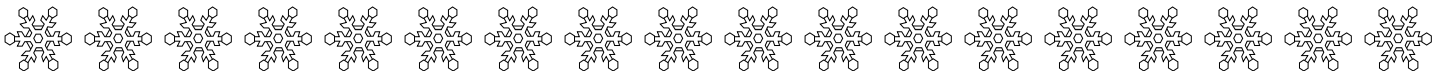
Carolyn's Place has had a very busy, fulfilling winter. Our Earn While You Learn (EWYL) program had 25 graduates, many of whom included both moms and dads.

Three nursing students from St. Joseph College, W. Hartford, have been putting together a self respect workshop for some of our clients as a part of their community outreach. We also have four dental hygiene students from Tunxis Community College in Farmington, working with us. They will provide a presentation to our EWYL parents on good oral hygiene during pregnancy and for their newborn. Volunteers and staff continue to "walk the talk" whether it be taking a young mother whose car died to a pediatrician appointment, going through labor and delivery with a client who has no support,



Clients from EWYL program

or answering a 4 a.m. call on the crisis line. We have the absolute privilege of celebrating life as the incredible gift it is.



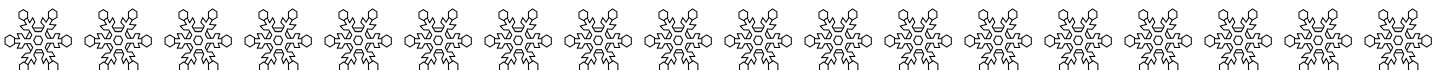
**Winter 2010 Wish List & Thank You's!**

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

**ITEMS NEEDED:** Laptop computer, a new small printer, paper towels, Home Depot gift card, pastel colored computer paper, 8'X11' photo albums.

**LABOR NEEDED:** Occasional small carpentry jobs, some yard clean-up and anyone interested in helping to teach a craft or other practical skills to young girls.

We are sincerely grateful for the donations we received from our Fall Newsletter. A special thank you goes out to Gene and Jackie Ritacco for donating a Staple gift card which was used to purchase materials for our education programs, the anonymous donation of two memory sticks, Wes Wensek for the card table, and Dave and Terri Poirier for the folding table **MANY THANKS**



2009 - 2010 Membership Drive (as of Feb. 18, 2010)

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*Carolyn's Place*  
Pregnancy Care Center

137 Grandview Avenue  
Waterbury, CT 06708

(203) 597-9050

Web Site: [www.carolynsplace.net](http://www.carolynsplace.net)

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

*Join us for our annual meeting April 7*  
*@ 6:30 pm*  
*See page 3 for details*

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