

Women's Choice Center

of the Quad Cities

A Ministry of Life & Family Educational Trust

Better Choices For Life

2020 Spring Newsletter

"20/20" seems to be a meaningful tagline sparking ads and articles in this year of 2020. In the semantics of vision, these numbers together indicate a measurement of sharpness with our eyesight, but not necessarily perfection. That fact surprised me because previously I thought it meant the highest standard for my eyesight.

Psalm 119:18 (The Message) says "*Open my eyes so I can see what you show me of your miracle-wonders.*" Daily praying this prayer of David's can help us to discern where our current path will lead us while gleaning the very support we need. Maybe turning to our Guide is likened to wearing corrective lenses when our sight isn't 20/20. Some roads are more difficult than others and the "correction" or guidance is there to light our way.

Daily at Women's Choice Center and on our Mobile Medical Unit "Grace" we welcome women, men, and families who walk through our doors in many degrees of need. With open arms and hearts it's our desire and joy to seek ways to walk alongside them on their journeys. Because of many like you reading this who lovingly support LIFE, we are able to translate your prayers, financial support, and resource donations to meet each individual need. Please read the stories in this issue: of people whose lives are forever changed by our support, and of our education work to reach youth in local schools and churches.

I love telling stories of our past to witness the positive reactions from those who had no idea that Planned Parenthood's (PP) proposed entrance into our area was first met with the resistance of thousands, who labored courageously to keep an abortion clinic out of our community. Eventually, however, their clinic was built and opened in Bettendorf in 1999 – followed by WCC building and opening across the street in 2002. Many Pray-ers and sidewalk counselors persevered, and in 2017 PP's closure was nothing less than answered prayer. In 2018, the building was redeemed and reclaimed to support LIFE daily as Women's Choice Center!

Our work continues. While PP has left our community and the number of their sites is declining nationwide, the number of abortions they perform continues to rise. Our upcoming 2020 banquet speaker recently asked me: "What if there had been more prayer and preparation in the 60's before 1973's Roe v. Wade decision? Would it have happened?" Let's again join arms, to walk together and prepared into the future, so we need not ever look back with any regrets.

Linda Rubey,
Executive Director



Children are a gift from God.
~ Psalm 127:3

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It's Birdies for Charity Time!
Remember us through your
Birdies for Charity Giving



Life & Family Educational Trust/
Women's Choice Center
Birdies Number 873



The Roth Family

Volunteer Spotlights

ANNETTE WILLIAMS, a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, has been sharing her time as a Women's Choice Center volunteer for the past four years. After seeing a local church play that truly touched her heart about issues like addiction and abortion, she scheduled a visit to WCC. "I knew this is where I wanted to be as soon as I came in for the tour," she notes.



Annette Williams

Annette says that service and spiritual growth are her adult life's priorities, and that she feels especially called to serve as a volunteer Client Advocate at WCC. In this role, volunteers work directly with clients – listening to them and providing emotional and prayerful support, as well as educational material and information about options and available resources.

"I know what it's like to have no one there to reach out to," says Annette. "I had a miscarriage when I was 17 years old and almost five months along." As a high school senior and the oldest child in her family, she'd been afraid to tell her parents about her pregnancy and had been trying to hide it. "I tell clients that they are so blessed to have Women's Choice Center to come to," she explained. "Here, I've learned so much about being humble and getting myself out of the way so that I can serve God by doing this work."

Today, Annette and husband Brad are parents to two grown children. Daughter Breanna and her 7-year-old son Jude make their home in the Quad Cities, and son Isaac is a senior studying engineering at Iowa State University. Annette's church home is Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Silvis, where she serves as a Eucharistic Minister and makes daily Mass an important part of her day. On most mornings, you can also find her taking long outdoor hikes and praying the rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy aloud. In her free time, Annette enjoys traveling, being with grandson Jude, and reading non-fiction books about others' faith experiences – Wayne Weible's Medjugorje books are a favorite.

NADINE ROTH and her husband Tim hail originally from Fort Dodge (note: their last name rhymes with *both*). After coming to the Quad Cities for employment 33 years ago, they settled in Bettendorf, where they are members of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. In their 37th year of marriage, they're proud parents and grandparents. Daughter Erin and her husband Phil have four daughters; son Nathan and his wife Kiley are expecting their first baby (a girl!) in April.

While retired from their full-time careers in the Quad Cities, Tim at UPS and Nadine teaching 1st and 3rd graders in Pleasant Valley, they're still as active as ever with family and the community. Nadine works part-time as a Circulation Clerk at the LeClaire Library. At Women's Choice Center, she's in her 4th year of working as a weekly volunteer. Nadine says it's the people that keep her coming back to the Center, "Volunteers and staff here are so loving and supportive, at a level that I just didn't expect. Their dedication to families and babies is awesome."

Whether she's at the Reception desk or helping a mom find items in Chloe's Closet, she can attest to the impact of WCC's ministry. "I love it when I can see that we've alleviated something, and given a new mother rest and relief. I don't even have the words for the joy and satisfaction that brings to me as a volunteer." For the past few months, Nadine has also taken on an additional task at WCC: keeping social media posts up to date. She credits the *Called and Gifted* class she completed at St. John Vianney Church this fall with helping her further discern and volunteer this use of her God-given talents.

When she's not working at the library or volunteering at WCC, you might find Nadine engrossed in a favorite fiction or inspirational book, biking, or making a quilt for a grandchild. Tim and Nadine also enjoy their free time together traveling, doting on their granddaughters, and hosting camping outings with friends

Changing Hearts With Our Newest Outreach Program

Women's Choice Center is known for being a place where people receive loving and supportive services during difficult times in their lives. But what if we could help prevent more crises before they happened? What if we could inspire and empower young men and women before they find themselves in overwhelming, challenging situations? These questions were the driving force behind our newest community outreach program: REAL Essentials for Healthy Relationships.

REAL Essentials uses an evidence-based, nationally recognized approach to sex education, Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA), formerly referred to as *abstinence* education. SRA encourages avoidance rather than reduction of risky behaviors—the goal is for youth to not merely reduce the risks associated with sexual activity, but to eliminate those risks altogether. SRA encourages young men and women to pursue decision-making skills that will guide them in achieving optimal health physically, emotionally, and in their relationships.

A common thread of our presentations is the emphasis we place on the benefits of delaying sexual activity and the consequences of being sexually involved too soon.

We use fun and interactive presentations to help students learn essential skills for developing healthy relationships. Topics we have presented include:

- Learning About Self and Others
- Characteristics of Healthy Relationships
- Decision-Making and Refusal Skills
- Navigating and Setting Healthy Boundaries
- The Impact of Social Media and Pornography
- Risky Behaviors and Consequences
- Making Decisions About Sexual Health
- Goal-Setting and Future Orientation

Since 2018, trained Women's Choice Center staff have offered age-appropriate education to over 500 students in grades 7 through 12. To measure the impact of each delivery of our message, we ask students before, and again after the presentation, whether they agree with: "*I plan to reserve sexual activity for when I'm in a committed marriage relationship.*" We are greatly encouraged by responses received from school and church leaders, as well as from the students themselves.

Agree Before vs. After Program Participation

	<u>Before</u>	<u>After</u>
Sophomore	63%	76%
Junior	38%	52%
Senior	38%	59%

Would you like to bring REAL Essentials for Healthy Relationships to your group or school? We are excited to work with school classrooms, church youth groups, confirmation classes, and any other groups who want to encourage healthy relationships and decision-making amongst young people.

Please contact us at life@womenschoicecenter.org to discuss what will work best for you and your group!

Client Spotlight: Taylor's Story

"Taylor" doesn't have a car but lives nearby a Mobile Medical Unit site. Coming for a pregnancy test, she thanked us over and over. After a history of relationships that ended in verbal, mental, physical, and sexual abuse, her newest relationship had ended. She told us that if she was pregnant she would have an abortion. Just twenty years old and not employed, Taylor had dropped out of school in her senior year. She was terrified of becoming a 'deadbeat mom' with nothing to offer her baby. After we provided a pregnancy test that showed negative, she cried from relief and happiness. While we'd served her medical need, it was clear that Taylor had emotional and spiritual needs.



We expressed sorrow for the way she was treated in her previous relationships and offered her counseling referrals. We also provided her with extensive sexual risk avoidance education, educating her on the risks of pregnancy, STIs, and emotional attachment that come with sex outside of a committed relationship. Above all, we emphasized to her that she was worthy of being treated respectfully. When she shared with us that she believed she deserved the abuse she'd experienced, we challenged her belief. We told her that she is a child of God who deserves to be treated the way He intended His daughters to be treated.

Before leaving, Taylor agreed to an appointment with our Center's volunteer Psychiatrist. She cried as she thanked us for our kind words, saying she got so much more out of the appointment than she ever expected. She said that today was a wake-up call and that she really wants to consider making different choices for a better, healthier future. We presented her with a prayer shawl and prayed over her, reminding her that God is walking with her and so are we!

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Educational Trust

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Mission Statement

Women's Choice Center is dedicated to offering free services for the God-given task of helping women and families make informed choices for life by respecting human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

Compassionate • Confidential • Ready to Help

Save the Date!

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

*Women's Choice Center Annual Fundraiser Dinner
and (new this year) Fundraiser Luncheon!
Waterfront Convention Center*

You're invited to join us on Tuesday, September 29
Fundraiser Dinner (doors open at 6 pm), 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Or *NEW* Fundraiser Luncheon (doors open at 11 am), 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Both events will feature national speaker and author Kirk Walden

Kirk Walden has spent more than 25 years working in the pregnancy help ministry, including serving as a Center Director. He is a senior writer with Pregnancy Help News and an Advancement Specialist for Heartbeat International. His book, *The Wall*, outlines a path to end abortion in our country. Please join us to hear Kirk's powerful perspective on creating a true culture of life in America!



**To register: life@womenschoicecenter.org
563-332-0475**