



# The Birth Choice Quarterly 2018

Vol.1, No.1

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## *From The Director's Desk*

*WE WILL SAVE 1,000 UNBORN LIVES FROM DEATH BY 10/31/21, OUR 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, THROUGH OUR CARING AND COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT & EDUCATION.*

### ***WE'RE MOVING!***

August! The month of Unprecedented blessings.

An uncommon God will disperse uncommon blessings, uncommon favor and uncommon harvest.

I am believing God for the unheard-of, unusual, unique and new things – so shall it be in Jesus' Name.

This month of August is our month of open doors and new things. Every perfect gift and blessing from God for us shall not pass us by in Jesus' name.

Happy Month of August – The month of Unprecedented blessings

Change is right around the corner as fall approaches and I feel excited to share the renewal of our "Celebration for Life" newsletters. Change can bring an abruptness of chaos and unexpected experiences but it's our constant in

accepting change that can make it "a little" bit easier to deal with. Mind you, I am going to stress "a little" here. Change can be scary and exciting and it can be tiresome and exhausting without support and loved ones around us -- it's for this very reason that I am looking forward to starting up our newsletters again to connect with you, our supporters and community, fill you in on what we are up to here, and invite you to join us on our journey as we continue serving the young women, children, teens, and families that walk through our Center's doors.

As mentioned in some of my e-blasts (for those of you who have been following), we have been going through structural changes in staff and leadership, program development, events, and even physically moving our location. Since I came on last Fall, I have been blessed to be a part of this organization where God has beautifully aligned serendipitous occurrences, where the right people, support, team, and additional resources have been coming into the picture. There have been some

challenges of course but God has winked several times throughout the process -- through small and big ways. Over this past year, we have experienced a whole new staff on board (which you can read more about on the bottom of this newsletter, have had our first annual Spring Film and Fashion show, will be launching our expanded teen outreach program (Rise Above Project), and have set our Celebration for Life event on November 10, 2018, and lastly are converting to a medical ultrasound clinic! It's happening. The move will begin in December of this year.

Thanks to the financial and emotional support of you all, we can now officially make our vision into a reality and reach a greater need in our community. More women will feel comforted, safe, supported, and loved through their pregnancies and the parenting process as they can receive expanded services at the office through ultrasound and STI testing. We are so excited for this conversion and expansion as it will help us to continue to build stronger families and community right here in the desert at Birth Choice of the Desert's Pregnancy Help Clinic.

As the process of change can come with an overwhelming period of challenges and growing pains, I feel happy to report that things are now moving swiftly and favorably as God is providing the creative solutions, resources, and promises He has for this organization. I also know that it is God working through supporters like you to help us touch lives. Every gift, whether small or large, helps us make changes here, in the lives of the unborn. And, has set us on track to meet our goal of saving 1,000 lives by our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021!

To those of you who support us financially, thank you. And to those who might consider partnering with us in the future, we appreciate you thinking of us.

If you'd like to continue helping us roll with the tides of change and momentum more smoothly with the proper resources to serve the unborn, please consider making a gift. More information on how to donate is attached to this newsletter or please visit our website [www.BirthChoiceOfTheDesert.com](http://www.BirthChoiceOfTheDesert.com) and sign up for our e-communications.

Thank you and God Bless,

*Lupe Ramos Amith*

Board of Directors: Sue Dreisbach, Chair • Bryan Fair, Vice-Chair • Jeanne Jewett, Secretary/Treasurer • Peter Kulevich, Sarayah Yisrael, Members at Large



*Pictured above is one of the many God winks we recently have received towards funding for our conversion and program development. Birth Choice was accepted for a week long scholarship training with Heartbeat International last month where I was provided with educational support and tools around the pregnancy help services we offer to our women and families who walk through our doors. As I was budgeting for our expansion and move in Palm Desert as a medical clinic, I realized that I needed to cut down \$5,000. This was another lesson in accepting my limitations and instead surrendering and relying on God's strength to provide. Right after I surrendered this budgeting, I was called to the stage at this conference where they handed me a \$5,000 check! The same amount that Birth Choice was needing! Of course God knew what we needed and of course He would provide! Our God is faithful!*

*This is just one of the small miracles we have been experiencing through this expansion. Thank you for your continued prayers and support! I hope to continue sharing with you more of these moments.*

**We are moving to our medical clinic in December 2018 which will allow us to offer ultrasound and STI testing. Our new address will be 74303 Highway 111 Suite A Palm Desert, CA. Please come visit us.**

**We thank you for continued support!**

# Testimonial Spotlight



*Pictured Above:* Birth Choice team receiving gifts from St. Francis of Assisi Ladies Guild from the Baby Shower event they hosted in the Spring.

Thank you Catholic Daughters of the America's Court #1462 for hosting your continual support!



"Giving birth and being born brings us into the essence of creation, where the human spirit is courageous and bold and the body, a miracle of wisdom." – *Harriette Hartigan*

## Sarah's Story...

Sarah is one of a kind story because she is a one of a kind young lady. Her story is one of grace, bravery, and faith when all the odds were stacked against her as a pregnant, homeless 16-year-old. It is our blessing to have served her and this is part of her testimony...

*I remember being dropped off at Birth Choice by a friend's mother. I was scared, confused, and unsure of what was going to happen. I sort of had an idea I was pregnant but my first visit to Birth Choice confirmed this.*

*I didn't think I could keep the baby because my living situation was a mess. I've been in and out of foster care so many times that having a child would have been the last thought on my mind. There was no way I thought I could do it or would even begin to know how and the last thing I needed was to be pregnant.*

*I cried and told the counselor how scared I was. Receiving positive for the test put me into a frantic. I didn't even know where I was going to live next either. The counselor was able to help me calm down and figure out my next step which was a place to live. Knowing I had a place to sleep helped me calm down. The counselor told me to just remember to ask for help and keep taking the next step and so that's what I did. That's what got me to receive medical help and housing support to help me have my baby of whom I thought it was impossible to have.*

# Volunteer Spotlight



I recently moved to the desert not too long ago and wasn't working and needed to find something to do! Christina, the E.D. Assistant, had told me about her volunteering experience at that time and gave me the encouragement I needed to get out of my comfort zone and try something different. With my previous work at schools, I figured it was time to risk another path and I am so glad I did. I have felt welcomed there since I started volunteering and am thankful to be a part of the Birth Choice community I have been helping Christina with administrative tasks but I have been able to sew and crochet shawls and blankets for the young mothers and babies here. It has been a joy and a blessing to be able to create and put these skills to work. My grandmother had taught me how to sew and it's a blessing that I can still carry forth this tradition in service towards others. I do believe that whatever good you do does come back to you exponentially and I am thankful Birth Choice allows me to do good. There's so much satisfaction in volunteering here. - Elvia Ann Roble



My name is Cindy Jaimes. I live in Indio and work as a retail assistant at a private golf club. I was born and raised in the Coachella valley, I lived in North Carolina for half a year and in Montana for four months. I enjoy traveling and seeing new places.

I don't work during the summer season and have four months to myself, I really wanted to do something that would keep me busy and when I googled places to volunteer near me "Birth Choice of the Desert" came up and I just felt like I needed to reach out.

I enjoy being in the office with the rest of the girls, I feel like we all have a calling to be here. I love their mission in helping new moms and their babies and being so supportive for others. I'm glad I'm volunteering here and I would recommend others to volunteer or donate.

## Birth Choice of the Desert's Pregnancy Help Clinic

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR: SUE DREISBACH

*BUT I TRUST IN YOUR UNFAILING LOVE; MY HEART REJOICES IN YOUR SALVATION  
PSALM 13:5.*

Dearest Friends, We hope that you enjoy our new communications campaign including e-news, newsletters and social media! We are committed to keeping you, our loyal supporters, abreast of all the good work we are doing here at our Center. We are excited to have reached this major milestone in our history – with the addition of Medical Ultrasound Clinic. We could not have done it without you ♥ God Bless.

## Staff Spotlight

When asked why I decided to join the Birth Choice Family, several reasons come to mind, here are a few: Years ago, my husband and I were in a difficult financial situation, in a new city, new job and 2 toddlers with another on the way. I looked up a pregnancy support service in the phone book and came across a place called Birth Choice in San Marcos, Ca. They invited me to visit their facility and welcomed me warmly. I never forgot the kindness and love of God shown to me through them, their caring words of welcome, support, and resources for my pregnancy. Fast forward 24 years later, I decided to contact Birth Choice to reconnect after all these years and to inquire about volunteering with them until I could find a job. I volunteered 2 days and imagine my surprise when I found out Lupe, the Executive Director, had been praying for an assistant and hired me! God works in mysterious ways many times, for sure! I love knowing we are here to serve and share God's love with every young mother, father and baby that walks in to our office. I feel honored to be a part of a bigger picture in making a real and positive difference in our beautiful Valley. Thanks to all our faithful donors for your support, it is very much appreciated! -Christina. E.D. Assistant/ Donor

I'm passionate working at Birth Choice, since we attempt to persuade the crises which may lead some parents to believe they have no choice but to abort their child. That is why I work to offer abortion-vulnerable mothers and fathers the help they need to overcome their difficult situations and choose life when faced with an untimely pregnancy. - Nancy, Case Manager



Mandy Dukovan earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Montana and a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin. Mandy has always been passionate about helping others, but her interest in helping women, children and families grew even more after she had her son, Brock. "As a first time mom, I needed the support of my family, friends and spouse so desperately and I know that not everyone has a strong support system and I wanted to be a positive support system to others I chose to work for Birth Choice because I love that they view life as a blessing. I also really love their mission to build strong families and communities. Mandy and her husband, Nick, are avid sports fans and love attending sporting events. Mandy also enjoys water sports such as wake boarding and slalom skiing, and spending time with her family and friends, no matter the activity. -Mandy, Case Manager

While taking a break from my Marriage and Family Therapy Doctoral Program, I came across Birth Choice at my church when I was looking for a place to volunteer. Immediately, I fell in love with the mission, the environment, and the work. It's very important for me to be involved with work that I am passionate about and can connect to. What's even more vital are the relationships where I work and the integrity and shared values within those relationships. From the moment I volunteered, I felt welcomed

and accepted. Immediately from my volunteering experience I knew I wanted to work here once provided the opportunity. God's presence exists in these spaces and I know God is doing great works in and through the staff, the supporters like you, and through those who receive our services. It makes me happy to be a part of a larger mission and to be of service. - Jilliana Antoniewicz Development Assistant

I have a passion for helping people from all walks of life, because of this passion I decided to pursue a MA in Guidance and Counseling as I wanted to acquire the proper tools to be of assistance to others. Birth Choice of The Desert has allowed me to be that help to families in need while applying my education and training. Through this organization I have had the honor of being a shoulder to lean on to expectant as well as newly delivered mothers and their families. -Andre Cardenas, Case Assistant

### **\*UPCOMING\*** **EVENTS\***

Celebration for Life Dinner and Show-11/10/18

Film and Fashion by Troy Luncheon- 4/27/19

Baby Bottle Campaign (Sanctity of Life)-1/20/19

Baby Shower for the Unborn 6/2/19



# **\*\*Babies Saved\*\***



1. H.L. 4/4/18 6lbs 3 oz
2. J.J. 4/30/18 7lb 5 oz
3. A.R. 7/31/18 7lbs 13 oz

Birth Choice welcomes these new additions to the family!

## **WAYS TO HELP US!**

With the move into our new location, we are needing help with counseling and waiting room sponsorship of the following items:

- Furnishings for 3 consultation rooms (\$1,000 per room)
  - Sofa, table, chairs, cabinet, decoration
- 6 large flat screen TV's for video demonstrations (\$500 each)
- Cabinets for educational materials and baby items (\$2,500)
- Help with move and installation of cabinets
- Refrigerator for Staff Room



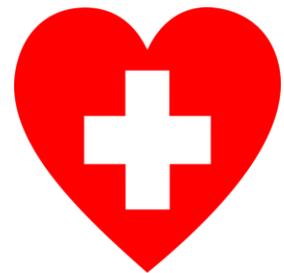
- Ultrasound room (\$5,000 medical equipment)
- Water dispenser \$400
- Reception room furnishings (\$2,500)

## **VOLUNTEER!**

We are also looking for a Nurse Practitioner who can work 20 hours a week under the Medical Director and oversight of our medical staff. We will provide the Obstetric Ultrasound training.

**Donate NOW**

[www.BirthChoiceoftheDesert.org](http://www.BirthChoiceoftheDesert.org)



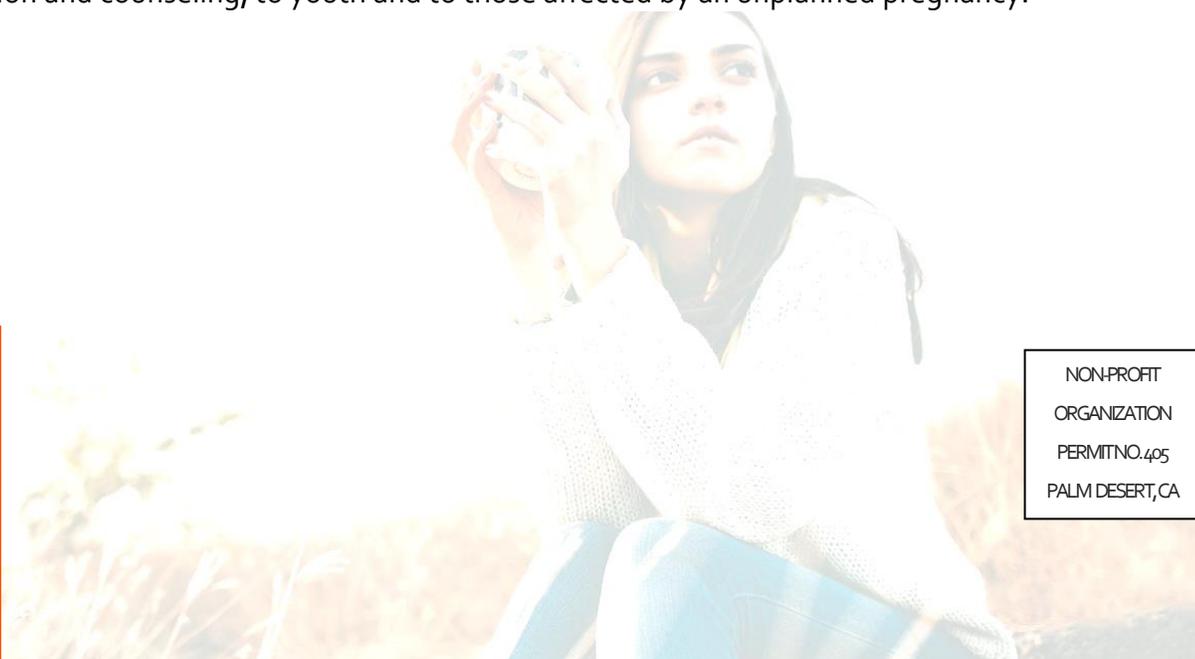




Birth choice is a 501c (3) providing free confidential consults and resources to women and families facing unplanned pregnancies.

Our mission is to provide help in a safe environment that nurtures hope and informed choices, through education and counseling, to youth and to those affected by an unplanned pregnancy.

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ORGANIZATION  
PERMIT NO. 405  
PALM DESERT, CA

79440 Corporate  
Center Dr. #106  
La Quinta, CA 92253