



# *The Connection*



## *Guardians of Life*

### **2024 THEME**

"Give justice to the weak and the fatherless maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked" Psalm 82:3-4 ESV.

2024's theme is "Guardians of Life". As Christ-followers, we are called to "rescue the weak and needy". At Life Choices Resource Center, our mission is to rescue those weak and in need. We are "pro-life womb to tomb", meaning we do our best to guard all life...especially the mother's and the baby's.

Join us this year in our efforts to become guardians of life. We have an endless amount of opportunities in which you can aid in this movement. Whether you feel called to volunteer, donate, or attend one of our events, we know we can count on you!

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# *From the Director's Desk*

**BY JEREMY BEWLEY**

Hello, Guardians of Life,

We are beginning a new year, and I could not be more excited to see what God has planned for Life Choices Resource Center through this "Pro-Life Womb to Tomb" ministry. As you all know, we now live in the aftermath of what Proposal 3 has done in Michigan where we choose to live and raise our families. In other words, the fight for life has compounded in our state. With that, I could not be more thankful for all of you guardians, who, through prayer, volunteering, and support, can help ensure that we are equipped to stand in the gap now and into the future!

We started the year off by having a prayer night here at the Center. We were blessed to have several staff and board members, along with pastors from four counties, join us. We went to every single room of the Center explaining the impact that space has on our ministry. Someone prayed a blessing of God's will over each room and how it can impact the value of life and our ability to scatter seeds for God's kingdom. It was powerful, and I look forward to this being an annual event! For some, it was the first actual tour of our Center, and in my opinion, they could not have picked a better and more thorough way to do that. I want to thank everyone who was able to attend.

In the past few months, we have had a change in our Nurse Manager role. Michelle Decker, who has been our Nurse Manager, decided to take a step back so she could have more time for her responsibilities at home and with her family. Michelle is still helping as our backup nurse, as well as continuing to lead our Lamaze program. I am so thankful for the time, effort, and impact Michelle has had and for her availability to help moving forward.

With Michelle leaving, our former backup nurse, Helen Bowen, has become the Nurse Manager. Helen brings a lot of management and nursing experience, coupled with a strong passion for life and a personality that makes people feel welcomed and comforted! I am excited for Helen to use her past and future training and experience to continue the growth of our clinic!

As the Director of Life Choices Resource Center, one of my privileges and responsibilities is to visit our local churches. I do this in order to bring updates and increase awareness of our services and our current needs. If I have not been to your church or small group recently, please contact me to add it on the 2024 schedule. I also invite anyone who has not seen our Center to set up a time individually or for small groups to come for a tour. You will be impacted by seeing what we do and the passion and desire this ministry has to protect life. Each year, a few of the staff attend the Heartbeat International Conference. Heartbeat is an organization that unifies Pregnancy Resource Centers like Life Choices Resource Center worldwide. This conference allows us to meet people from other places who are doing the same thing we are. It is not only educational but also enlightening. This conference provides the necessary training to keep this ministry pointing in the correct direction. It also helps our Nurse Manager get the required "CEUs" for her nursing and ultrasound certifications. We are looking forward to this vital experience.

We are extremely grateful for your support through prayer, volunteering, and financial gifts. Due to inflation and expenses that increase with ministry growth, we continue to seek additional support, whether from individuals, groups, or churches. All donations, regardless of amount, have a huge impact on this Kingdom-work. Please refer to the list of fundraising events and current needs list found elsewhere in this newsletter. A self-addressed envelope is included for your financial gift. Thank you for being a Guardian of Life!! We look forward to seeing you in 2024!



## *Current Store Needs*

- 8 oz. Baby Bottles
- Baby Gates
- Wipes
- Sleep Sacs
- Diapers- sizes Newborn - 6
- SIMILAC ADVANCE powdered formula
- Baby Toiletries- Baby shampoo, diaper cream, Baby lotion, etc.

## *Client Services Manager Update*

**BY SHAWN PETSUCH**

We are thankful that winter is almost past, and we are looking forward to Spring. We have had three babies born to clients in the last 10 weeks alone!

Our clients were able to acquire over 9,000 items from our store last year thanks to the generosity and donations from our surrounding communities!

Clients earn credits by participating in our Earn While You Learn (EWYL) program. This is a national program offered by pregnancy resource centers across the nation. Clients make a one-hour appointment each week. They choose a video pertinent to their family situation and age of their child/children. Videos come from Bright Course, which is a subscription-based video-streaming service for providers who want to help their clients learn about topics such as prenatal care, parenting, relationships, life skills, and more. Each video has a worksheet attached which the client completes with an Advocate. There is also a homework sheet to take home and a spiritual application sheet to ponder. As each video and worksheet is completed, credits are given to the client. Before the appointment ends, they can then take their credits to shop in the store.

During these appointments, relationships between Advocates and clients are built during times of intimate conversations and problem-solving the everyday challenge of parenting. Having a listening ear and a heart to serve are the only things we require of our Advocates!

The Lord has brought us two new Advocates: Brenda Klacking and Patty Regnery. Brenda was a volunteer 10+ years ago at our other location. She returned to us as a volunteer last fall. Patty Regnery came to us this year. She helps assist in the Clinic in addition to training as an advocate here in the Resource Center. We are still praying for two receptionists and two store volunteers. We trust the Lord to bring them in His time!

# *From the Nurse's Desk*

BY HELEN BOWEN

Welcome and please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Helen Bowen and I have proudly served this community for well over thirty years as a nurse. I want to begin by stating how it is with great pleasure that I complete my career serving God here at the Options Resource Clinic.

I, like you, know that life begins before birth, that each child is made in the image of God, and that He cares about the women who struggle with the reality of unintended conception.

Working for the Center I am regularly reminded of Matthew 18:10-14, "The parable of the lost sheep". The shepherd gladly leaves 99 known sheep to search high and low for the lost one. Clearly the Kingdom of God is accessible to all, even those who have sinned or strayed from His path.

We are a faith based ministry serving the Lord locally with opportunities to reach those contending with unexpected pregnancy and in need of assistance with making informed consent in a non-judgmental, loving environment. We offer education and information regarding their options (parenting, adoption, and abortion-related trauma). During this time, we also provide information regarding Life Choices Resource Center and community resources that exist. All this education, support, and assistance is supplied in a loving, caring setting by personnel who support the mother's decisions.

Currently our center is blessed with 4 Registered Nurses who function as patient advocates, 2 Registered Nurses functioning as sonographers, and as an added bonus, 2 nurses serve on our Board of Directors. Dr. Jim Hines, our Medical Director, practices primarily out of the Saginaw area and specializes in Diagnostic Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, in addition to Family Medicine. This allows him to diagnose and treat sexually transmitted diseases, read ultrasounds performed at our Center, and interpret tests and lab results from the Clinic. We are truly blessed to have him!

I am honored to serve you, our Board of Directors, and this community in these and any other ways I might. I also look forward to any questions you may have for me and am available through text, email, or phone.

Email: nurse@lrc-wb.org Office: (989) 345-7398 Cell: (989) 387-6580

## *Community Education: Lamaze Classes*

Did you know we offer Lamaze classes? In these three-segment classes, pregnant mothers and their support person learn about what to expect during labor, postpartum, and newborn care. Our entire 2023 schedule is on our website, so be sure to check it out and share with any pregnant woman in your life. These classes are available to everyone in the community. You do not have to be a client to join.

May 6th, 13th, and 20th from 5:00pm-7:00pm

August 24th from 10:00am-4:00pm

November 9th from 10:00am-4:00pm



# *Upcoming Events*

## *Walk/Run for Life*



Saturday, May 11th, join us at Ogemaw Heights High School for our annual Walk for Life...with the new expansion of a Run for Life. This year, we are making this event bigger and better! We will have a 5K cross country fun-run, food trucks, face painting, and more. It is a day filled with fun for the entire family! To register online, visit our website or scan the QR code here.

## *Golf for Life*

Wednesday, July 17th, our annual Golf for Life outing will be held at the Nightmare Golf Course. Please follow along on social media and our website for when we will begin accepting team registration.

## *Fundraising Banquet*

Thursday, October 10th, we be a wonderful evening for our annual fundraising banquet. If you are interested in being a table host this year, please let us know.

## *Derrick & Julie Tennant Comedy Show*

Friday, October 11th, we will be hosting Derrick and Julie Tennant for a night of comedy. Tickets will be available for purchase online and in person. Please stay posted for more details!

# Ongoing Fundraisers

## Seven Weeks Coffee

Do you love coffee? Do you love our mission of pro-life? Buy your coffee through Seven Weeks Coffee, and 10% of your purchase goes *directly* to our center! Shop our link here: <https://sevenweekscoffee.com/?ref=LifeChoicesResource>



## ShopRaise

Wouldn't it be amazing if a you could contribute to our organization while doing your daily shopping? Well, that's totally possible with ShopRaise! Simply download the Chrome extension or the mobile app and connect with us today. Find more details on our website.



## Baby Bottle Drive

It's simple! Just pick up a basket of baby bottles from the Center, hand them out to your church or community group, then collect and return them to the Center. We do all the counting, and as always, donations are tax deductible.



# Volunteer Highlight

LCRC: Tell us how God called you to the Center?  
Originally, upon moving to West Branch in 2004, the church, to where the Lord led our family, was heavily involved in the Center. God moved in my heart to begin volunteering there. A few years later, the Lord gave us more children, so I took many years off to raise babies. Once God brought Jeremy to the Executive Director position, I began volunteering again.



LCRC: Why do you think God led you to this position?  
I believe God has led me back to the Center through my husband's involvement, being the director, and His leading. Jeremy knew the needs of the Center and saw an available spot he thought I could fill. I am grateful for Jeremy's (and Shawn's) encouragement for me to volunteer again; I have made beautiful friendships with lovely people, I have the privilege to pray for families I would otherwise not know, I am also very thankful that our children are able to be involved in the eternal work being done at the Center. I love our Center family!

*Amie Bewley*

*Position: Client Advocate*

*Amie volunteers on Thursdays and has been with our Center since 2005. She is the wife of our Director and an unofficial Lactation counselor for our nursing moms as well. Whenever she has extra time at the center, she helps in the store sorting our clothing donations or packaging diapers. She also homeschools four of their five children still at home.*

*Church: Covenant Family Fellowship*

*Favorite Verse: Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose".*

## Board Members

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Shawn Petsuch*  
CLIENT SERVICES  
MANAGER

*Helen Bowen*  
NURSE MANAGER

*Maya Henry*  
MARKETING & IT  
SPECIALIST

*Michelle Decker*  
COMMUNITY EDUCATOR

**Life Choices Resource Center**  
**575 Court Street**  
**West Branch, MI 48661**

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Life Choices Resource Center  
Options Resource Clinic



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@optionsresourceclinic



[www.chooselifecconnection.org](http://www.chooselifecconnection.org)  
[www.lcrrclinic.org](http://www.lcrrclinic.org)

### *Our Mission Statement*

"The mission of Life Choices Resource Center is to promote sanctity of human life by reaching out with Christ's love through our pregnancy resource center, medical clinic, and sexual and relationship educational programs".