

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Established November 6, 1991

The Pregnancy Support Center of Valdosta opened in 1991 as a community-wide Christian outreach to women in crisis pregnancies. The purpose of the ministry is to provide tangible support and positive, life-giving alternatives to the abortion-minded woman. This is accomplished through emotional and material support, and through the gospel of Jesus Christ. With the realization that a crisis pregnancy is often a symptom of some underlying, unresolved issue in the woman's life, services were eventually expanded to include sexually-violated and post-abortion support groups.

The ministry developed out of an initial vision of Perimeter Road Baptist Church. While still in the planning stage, other churches and denominations in the Valdosta area joined this life-affirming group in organizing a cross-denominational outreach to those at risk for abortion. More than 50 churches are currently represented in the ministry through financial and volunteer support.

The PSC is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt, non-profit, charitable organization and accepts no government grants or funding. Support depends entirely on the generosity of churches, businesses and individuals in the community. Approximately 1/4 of the budget support comes from the Board of Directors' annual fund-raising dinner.

In June of 1998, the Pregnancy Support Center moved from the original location at 210 W. Gordon St. to 206 W. Gordon Street. The original facility became a housing center and was opened with the goal of increasing options available to the small number of clients who face homelessness because of their stand against the pressure to abort. The need in this community was not as great as anticipated, so in 2005 the building became the "Learning Center" with classroom space to serve a greater percentage of PSC clients.

The Repeat Boutique Thrift Store opened in August of 1998 on the corner of Oak and Gordon Streets. Proceeds from this resale shop benefit the ministry of the Pregnancy Support Center. This resale shop also ministers to the community by providing outreach for merchandise to foster parents, burnout victims, and missionary families. An addition was completed in 2003 to provide more room for volunteers and staff to accept and sort ever-increasing donations.

In January 2001, the conversion to limited services medical clinic was completed and Pregnancy Support Center became Pregnancy Support Clinic. Dr. Charles Hobby became the Medical Director overseeing the medical services. These include pregnancy testing by a Nurse, as well as limited ultrasound. PSC in-house statistics for 2005 show that over 75% of women who have ultrasounds in the office carry their babies to term. The PSC was approved for a partial grant (80%) to receive a new ultrasound machine through the Focus on the Family Option Ultrasound Program in 2006.

In 2001, an additional program was implemented to help women who choose life for their babies. This program provides necessary material goods for clients while teaching responsible decision-making. The Earn While You Learn incentive program allows women and men to learn about their pregnancy and parenting skills while earning "Mommy Money" or "Daddy Dollars" that can be redeemed for items in the "Baby Mall." Churches & community members donate all items in the Baby Mall by holding a baby shower or donating gently used items.

In September of 2001, a satellite center, Family Lifeline Center, was opened in Madison, Florida. A separate director and advisory board were established. Adding this center under the PSC's ministry umbrella enlarged the territory to reach women in unplanned pregnancy. In 2007 this center affiliated with A Women's Pregnancy Center in Tallahassee, Florida with the blessings of the PSC.

In 2004, the Baby Bottle Boomerang (BBB) fundraising project began to bring community awareness of the PSC during Sanctity of Human Life Month (January) or from Mother's Day to Father's Day, as well as throughout the year. This annual event allows community members to pray for clients and their children

while collecting/donating spare change to help support the ministry. In addition to prayer support, the BBB has raised over \$160,000 in seven years to help cover the cost of services provided free of charge to clients.

By January 2005, a full schedule of repeat clients and abortion-minded callers & walk-ins made it necessary for Earn While You Learn classes to be formed to group repeat clients with women in like situations. Women who have never given birth are taught prenatal care, labor & delivery, & newborn care through the *First Time Parents* classes. Women with older children learn biblical parenting skills in *Parenting by Heart*. *Discipleship* classes are offered for clients who accept Christ & for those who desire to learn more about the Word of God. Computer skill training was taught for several years by a volunteer who had taught at VSU for 39 years. This was made available for women who desire to increase their job readiness. These classes are offered in the former housing center, renamed the "Learning Center." The "Baby Mall" was also moved to that facility. This transition has made the main facility of the PSC into a peaceful center to provide unhurried attention to women in crisis.

In 2006, the first annual community-wide Pure Love Conference was held to promote the message of abstinence until marriage to teens and parents in the area. The event was widely successful the last 4 years, reaching 15,000 students through assemblies in area schools and over 3,000 teens and parents who came to the weekend conference. We believe this program will help youth to choose purity and make other healthy life choices.

A satellite office, Options Now, *A Life Choice Clinic*, was opened in January 2007 to reach college/career clients. Pregnancy testing and limited ultrasounds are provided at this office. Focus on the Family's Option Ultrasound Program provided a 2nd grant for an ultrasound machine delivered in April 2007. Due to economic constraints the satellite office of Options Now was closed in November 2009. With this closure, the Options Now offices are combined at the Gordon Street location. Hours were expanded to Monday through Friday. Continuing to appeal to the most at-risk woman, who is 18-24 years old and in college, the PSC is now doing business as Options Now for all client services. This allows more consistent advertising and less confusion for our clients.

The need for outreach to the male involved in the unplanned pregnancy resulted in recruiting and training a male volunteer counselor in the fall of 2007. The Men's Ministry Coordinator then became a staff position in April 2008 to serve the men of our community who are abortion-minded or desire support in their role as a father. Participation in this program was less than hoped and the position was closed after a year. During that year the Coordinator did see 25 men and led one to accept Christ.

Lives impacted from 1991 through 2010...

- More than 7,000 pregnancy tests have been performed with more than 15,738 total client visits.
- 1,834 Gospel presentations have been made since we started recording in 2006.
- 486 professions of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.
- 40 clients have made a plan for adoption.
- 2,520 births have been recorded.
- 825 of the recorded births have been spared from becoming abortion statistics (these are our Red Rose Babies!).
- 113 women received healing from their past abortion using the Bible studies, *Forgiven and Set Free* and *Surrendering the Secret*.
- 1,554 clients received limited ultrasounds since 2001.
- Over 20,000 have received the purity message through the Pure Love Conference and other abstinence outreaches.