

News from the Pregnancy Support Clinic

Winter 2008

Lifelines

newsLETTER



Our MISSION Statement

The Pregnancy Support Clinic exists to offer women and families in unplanned pregnancies practical assistance, encouragement, and unconditional love. Our vision is to inspire and equip individuals to make positive decisions for life and relationships based on the Word of God. The PSC Ministry consists of *Prevention* through abstinence education, *Intervention* in unplanned pregnancies through accurate abortion information and ultrasound, the window to the womb, *Restoration* for post abortion healing, and *Redemption* through sharing the Gospel.

PSC Hosts 17TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

Keynote Speaker to Make the "Case for Life"



Keynote Speaker Scott Klusendorf will make the "Case for Life" at the Pregnancy Support Clinic of Valdosta's Annual Fundraising Dinner on **March 11 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.**

Have you ever questioned the humanity of the unborn? Ever pondered the questions: What is it or is the unborn a member of the human family? If you have, YOU need to attend the Pregnancy Support Clinic of Valdosta's Annual Fundraising Dinner on Mar. 11 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

Our speaker this year is Scott Klusendorf, the president of Life Training Institute (LTI). He is a passionate and engaging platform speaker who makes "The Case for Life." He contends that a life affirming message can compete in the marketplace of ideas. A graduate (with honors) of UCLA, Klusendorf has participated nationally in numerous debates at the collegiate and university levels.

Mr. Klusendorf has appeared on well known syndicated programs like:

- "Hour of Decision" with Billy Graham
- "American Family Radio" with Tim Wildmon
- "Focus on the Family" with James Dobson

Each year the Pregnancy Support Clinic of Valdosta invites its supporters to an elegant evening of celebration as we thank the Lord for all He has done. Red roses fill the room as a symbol of the Red Rose Babies births recorded during the previous year. The mothers of these babies came to our clinics seeking an abortion, but changed their minds after hearing the truth. In addition to red roses, white roses represent those who have given their lives to Christ after counselors shared the gospel with them, and pink roses are a symbol of those babies whose mother made a plan for adoption. As the event is a fundraising dinner, we give our partners an opportunity at the end of the evening to take part in our ministry throughout the coming year through donations of financial support, time, and talents. Join us on **March 11** as we "Praise the Creator of ALL Life" at our 2008 Annual Fundraising Dinner. Seating is limited.

For more information or to register for the 2008 Annual Fundraising Dinner, please call Marilois Campa, (229) 333-0080 or log onto <http://partners.pscvaldosta.org>.



prevention . . . intervention . . . restoration . . . redemption

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Britt McLane,
Board Chairman

Life. What is it about life that makes it so important to us? We cling to life, go to great lengths to improve it, prolong it, and protect it. All this despite the fact that the Bible tells us that life will continue even after our earthly death, and will actually improve. Many of you know that I am a funeral director. I really enjoy my job, not in small part because I help people celebrate the lives of their loved ones who have died. So many state and acknowledge that the person is better off, but still, if you offered them the chance to go immediately and be with that departed loved one, they wouldn't go. Why? Because we love our lives and our lives are a gift from God, a loving and good God, who has always loved us, and wants to bless us beyond measure. Who in the Old Testament, along side the many do's and don'ts of the law, commanded his people to celebrate different festivals throughout the year because of His wonderful acts toward his people.

Truly, the life that we will experience one day with Him in heaven will be more wonderful than we can imagine, in part because it will be so much like the life that we enjoy and find blessing in today, in this life. But, we also know that there are many things that make this life bad, hard, hurtful. Things that God didn't want in His creation, namely Sin. Sin is where we as individuals depart from the way God intended life to be. Sin has consequences. The consequences of sin don't always strike the person who sinned in the first place. Sin destroys life. **That is why we must both stand for life and opposed to sin.** We must help mothers see and hope in the fact that life is still possible. We must help young parents and potential parents (youth) either not start or break a cycle of sin, because it will only destroy. Choices made in the past lead to a desperate situation, but further bad choices- abortion, will only make it worse. Good choices, and providing the necessary resources to make those choices more obvious and easier, will once again bring life. ***A life that we can celebrate!***

Britt

How Are We Doing?

"Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; The Lord will protect him and preserve his life." Psalm 41:1.

God has blessed us richly throughout 2007 as we have had regard for the weakest in HIS kingdom, the unborn. Below is the End of Year Statistics Report for the Pregnancy Support Clinic and Options Now. For more information please contact Pam at (229) 333-0080.



Pam Whitlock,
Office Manager

	Pregnancy Support Clinic of Valdosta	Options Now, A Life Choice Clinic
	Year Total	Year Total
Total Client Visits	1,216	148
New Clients	386	66
Ultrasounds	192	46
Gospel Shared	205	44
Clients Accepting Christ	7	0
Births Recorded	181	5
Red Rose Births	82	3
Adoptions	3	0
Community Education	14,551	1,483



The Abortion/Breast Cancer Link



Dena Ruiz,
Nurse Manager

Is induced abortion a risk factor for breast cancer? Yes, according to both the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer and the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute. At the Pregnancy Support Clinic, our goal is to provide women with medically accurate information about abortion. We believe that women should be fully informed about all the risks before making such a life altering decision. Of course, it is important to keep ourselves informed of all the latest research so that we can feel confident that we are sharing the most accurate and up-to-date information with them.

This past July, I was privileged to attend a medical conference for pregnancy help medical clinics. At the conference, I attended a seminar by Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, a breast cancer surgeon, who co-founded and is Vice President of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute. Dr. Lanfranchi discussed the physiology behind the Abortion/Breast Cancer (ABC) link and encouraged us as health care providers in this industry to share the ABC information with the women we serve.



Abortion raises the risk of breast cancer in two ways. First, the age at which a woman has her first full term pregnancy is delayed. This has been a known and recognized risk factor for years. Second, in early pregnancy the hormones produced cause the breast cells to multiply in the number of cells, which are susceptible to developing cancer. These cells further develop and change into cancer resistant cells late in the third trimester of pregnancy. If the pregnancy is terminated through abortion the breast tissue is left with more of the immature types of cells and incidentally more places for cancer to develop. The physiology behind this risk is the same for a woman who has had a preterm delivery of her baby before 32 weeks gestation.

Those in the abortion industry would deny these facts and have even managed to convince many that there is no link between abortion and breast cancer. This is not surprising knowing their history of covering up the truth to push forward their agenda. After reviewing the research, listening to the experts, and studying the physiology regarding the link between abortion and breast cancer we believe it to be real. Abortion does raise a woman's risk of developing breast cancer. We believe women need to know this information in order to make a fully informed decision. To read more about this issue, I encourage you to visit the website of the coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer at www.abortionbreastcancer.com or the breast cancer prevention institute at www.bcpinstitute.org.



Ministry Needs

Part time Staff Nurse

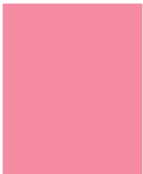
5 Flat Screen Monitors

Volunteers - Male & Female

Person available one day per week to pick up furniture and large items for Repeat Boutique.

For the Mommy Mall:

- ◆ Newborn Diapers
- ◆ Baby Wipes
- ◆ Baby Lotion
- ◆ Baby Shampoo
- ◆ Baby Wash



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Leslie Strickland,
Abstinence Coordinator

Thousands Impacted by Pure Love Conference

On Jan. 13, the 3rd Annual Pure Love Conference, sponsored by the Pregnancy Support Clinic, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and local churches and businesses kicked off at Mathis Auditorium. In addition to general sessions open to both parents and teens, a "for parents only" session was held to educate parents as to how to talk with their children about good choices. The kick-off was followed by three days of abstinence training in the local middle and high schools. The event this year was co-coordinated by **Sharon Fisher, Renee Graham, and Leslie Strickland.**

The guest speaker this year was **Shelly Donahue**, lead national trainer for WAIT Training in Denver. Donahue has been a health and PE teacher as well as a coach and mentor for 19 years. "Teens know how to be sexually active, they just don't know how to love well," stated Donahue. "As parents, we can't give our children something we never got. Your children had the opportunity to learn abstinence and relationship education thru WAIT Training and it was a privilege to bring it to South Georgia and North Florida."



Parents and Students attend Pure Love Conference Kick-off at Mathis Auditorium

The purpose of the conference was to promote and encourage sexual abstinence until marriage and godly purity for teens. "We want teens to stand up and be strong and able to say no to inappropriate sexual behavior," stated event co-coordinator Strickland. Organizers sought to reach as many teens as possible with the Pure Love Conference in Lowndes and surrounding counties. It is estimated that 9,000 parents and teens were impacted through the Conference between the kick-off event and subsequent school visits. With the Pure Love Conference, organizers are able to teach a biblical basis for teens to stand firm against temptations and stand strong with the help of the Lord. "It is so important to teach our teens that abstinence education is much more than instruction to just say no," stated event co-coordinator Graham. "We want to provide them with information about the physical, mental and emotional consequences that result from sexual activity outside marriage and equip them with relationship skills, refusal skills, and other information that will enable them to make smart and godly choices for their lives. It is important that they know all the benefits of waiting."



Pure Love Conference guest speaker, Shelly Donahue, speaks to students at Lowndes High School

"Teens are constantly bombarded with a message of sex through the media, internet and porn," stated Strickland. As parents we are fighting against evil, but with the Lord's help and all of us working together we can save teens' lives!"

For more information on the Pregnancy Support Clinic's ongoing abstinence initiatives, contact Leslie Strickland, 229-333-0080 or email leslie6887@bellsouth.net.

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On Jan. 24, 2008, Options Now, A Life Choice Clinic celebrated ONE YEAR!

Happy Birthday
Options Now!

2007 has seen lives changed as volunteers and staff members minister to the abortion vulnerable 18-24 year old women on our college and university campuses. The rewards have been tangible with the birth of 3 Red Rose Babies! The mothers of these babies came to Options Now seeking an abortion, but changed their minds when told the truth.

Options Now, A Life Choice Clinic is a satellite ministry of the Pregnancy Support Clinic, strategically located off of Baytree Road to be easily accessible to university students.

Through targeted marketing and edgy advertising, Options Now has reached out to our university population. In 2008 we hope to bring even more awareness of our clinic to VSU through the formation of Blazers for Life Choices, an official student organization recognized by the University.



Options Now offers free pregnancy testing as well as free limited ultrasounds to our clients. The clinic is a life affirming ministry, supporting life in all its forms from conception to natural death. In the future, we would like to expand our services to include STD testing. This would open the door for counselors to discuss healthy life choices, which

include abstinence, with our clients.

The mission of Options Now, A Life Choice Clinic is the same as the PSC - to offer women and families in unplanned pregnancies: Practical Assistance, Encouragement, and Unconditional Love. We seek to do this in 4 ways, through prevention, intervention, reconciliation and redemption.



Do You Know Roe?

Test your knowledge of legal abortions in America

Note: The U.S. Supreme Court's control over abortion laws is significantly influenced by two 1973 decisions: Roe v. Wade (Roe) and Doe v. Bolton (Doe). To keep things simple, this I.Q. Test considers both rulings but refers to the better known of the two cases, Roe. So, Roe represents both Roe and Doe in the questions.

- 1) Which most accurately describes when a woman may have an abortion under Roe?
 - Anytime during the first three months (first trimester) of her pregnancy
 - Anytime during the first six months (second trimester) of her pregnancy
 - Anytime during her entire pregnancy
 - Anytime during the first three months, but can have an abortion later if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest
- 2) Which best describes the limitations Roe places on why a woman may have an abortion?
 - No limitations
 - Only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger
 - No limitations during the first three months of pregnancy, but only medically necessary abortions after that
- 3) True or False. Roe allowed late-term abortions.
 - True
 - False
- 4) True or False. If Roe were overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, abortion would immediately become illegal in the United States.
 - True
 - False

For the complete quiz, including answers, please go to our partners website, <http://partners.pscvaldosta.org>. Click on Resources.



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Dear God,

I thank you first for opening my eyes and heart to your gracious love. I never understood you as a loving God, and that set me on the wrong course from the start. I know that if I had known you then my life would be so different in countless ways. I am blessed to know you now. Thank you Lord, for helping me to see.

When I had my abortion back in 1990, I was young, impressionable, scared, and vulnerable. I can't comprehend now what I felt then and what led me down the path I took that resulted in my abortion. I love life, Lord, and that decision has haunted me for 17 years. I know now that I wasn't required to carry that burden. I know that burden was taken from me before it even happened.

Dear God, there are things though that I'd like to know. Will I ever know her? Will she know me? I want her to know that I love her. I loved her the moment I learned that she was. It hurts me that I stole her chance at life. I regret the choices I made leading up to and including my abortion. Please hold her close to your heart.

Thank you for your indescribable gift.

*"Meredith"**

**Name has been changed for confidentiality.*

A PAS (*post abortion syndrome*) Client Writes a Love Letter to God

Interactive Learning at PSC Proves Successful

Classes have resumed at our PSC Learning Center after taking a short break during the holidays. The classes currently available to our clients are First Time Moms, Parenting by Grace, My New Identity in Christ, and Computer class. Also we will soon be having classes just for fathers. Fathers are already invited to any classes that are available to our moms, but these fatherhood classes will be just for men. Fathers will have an opportunity also to meet with a male counselor to discuss critical issues such as father's rights and obligations, child support, custody and visitation, pregnancy and fetal development, co-parenting without marriage, and co-parenting with marriage. There will be more information to come in the near future, on the new "Daddies That Care" class.



Cynthia and Jocelyn share during the Parenting by Grace class with Donna Ross, Client Services Coordinator.

All our classes provide valuable information to each client who attends, but they also provide a support group—a place where they can go and interact with others who face some of the same daily challenges they face. During November and December, we offered special holiday classes and shared information about Christmas and Thanksgiving traditions. It was amazing how enthused clients became when they talked openly about their families and their traditions. We also demonstrated how to make simple Christmas ornaments that would be fun and inexpensive to do at home with their families. At Thanksgiving we looked over the past year and talked about all the things that we were thankful for and recalled the event for which we were the most thankful. We even shared our biggest disappointments and how God had turned these into periods of needed growth.

Many times during class, clients will present a current problem they are facing at home. For example, one mom shared that her son was acting out at school on a regular basis, and she had run out of ways to deal with the problem. Once she presented the problem in its entirety, another mom shared a similar experience and how she handled it. This information was exactly what she needed to hear. On another occasion, we actually had someone go into labor during class. Everyone dropped everything to help her. (She delivered several weeks later.) Our classroom is a place where our clients can go and talk about anything that is a concern and know that what they share will stay there.

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PSC Volunteers - the **HEART** of our ministry



Celeste Vernon,
Director of Volunteers

If you've been keeping up with all that's going on in the ministry of the Pregnancy Support Clinic and our Options Now clinic I'm sure you have noticed that we've been busy. You may have been surprised, perhaps even amazed at the scope of our outreach:

1.) **Abstinence Education** - including the Pure Love Conference and developing relationships with campus organizations at V.S.U. 2.) **Free services at our clinics**- free pregnancy testing, limited ultrasound, pre- and post-abortion counseling, parenting and computer classes, Bible studies, baby and maternity needs assistance, as well as general "support" for our clients throughout their pregnancy. 3.) **Sanctity of Human Life Month** - recognized each January, we provide bulletin inserts to area churches and kick-off our Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraising campaign. I could go on for a good long while trying to relate to you all that goes on not only here but beyond our doors as well.

While we have a tremendously capable staff that has grown with the expansion and development of the aforementioned services, we could never accomplish all of this on our own. **Our volunteers truly are the heart of our ministry.** We can say this because we believe that's where their service starts. We believe, and hear from our volunteers, **that they feel a tug at their heart, a call from God, to come and do their part to reach women and their partners with the Gospel message and a witness for Life.** Some of our volunteers experienced a change of heart during their own unplanned pregnancy or maybe have come to know first-hand the power of forgiveness and freedom that comes only through an encounter with a loving and living God.

Whatever their reason for being here their service is varied. Some of our faithful volunteers keep up our lawn and help to maintain our facilities. Others, like those pictured here, come faithfully each week to assist where needed like in the preparation of baby bottles or the writing of thank-you notes. (A few even helped us to get this newsletter in the mail.) We have volunteers that meet face to face with our clients, counseling with them, teaching them life skills, even praying with them to receive Christ. Those with a heart for intercession pray for our clients via our e-mail prayer alerts. Large projects, like the Baby Bottle Boomerang, call for temporary reinforcements to tackle the task at hand. Individuals, like **Jim and Kathie Owens** and **Amy Struble** stepped in to help along with **Vivian Sabbath** who rallied an entire organization, the **youth group at Southland Church**. In addition, students from the **Baptist Collegiate Ministry at V.S.U.** and other students from **Crossroads Baptist Church** all pitched in to prepare the bottles and get them to the churches in time for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. **We offer them heart-felt thanks** for their service, offered in the name of Christ, resulting from hearts that have been changed by His love. They are indeed the **heart of our ministry.**



Mary Alice Griffin, Penny Nolan and Tammy Hauser help prepare baby bottles for the upcoming Baby Bottle Boomerang.

If you would like to be a part of this ever growing ministry contact Celeste Vernon, (229) 333-0080 or email celeste@pscvaldosta.org.

**WE
NEED
YOU!**

Our next Volunteer Counselor Training is now being planned for the week of **April 21-25**. (Please note that this date is tentative and time and place are to be set.) This training is for anyone interested in volunteering as an intake counselor, class teacher, or telephone hotline counselor.

We are also looking for male volunteers to be a part of our new men's ministry. If you would like to make a difference in the life of one of our dads then this work is for you.

To register or receive more information, please **contact Celeste Vernon, Director of Volunteers, at 333-0080.**



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Good News for Life in Georgia

The good news for Georgians is the number of abortions in the state decreased from 2003 to 2005 (See the chart of statistics from the Center for Disease Control below). Considering the difference represents 969 babies that is good news.

Though this decrease is good news, Georgia still ranks in the top 20 states for the percent of abortions. The numbers in the chart are heart-breaking. Citizens need to be involved if the number of lives saved goes up and the numbers who are aborted goes down.

Here is a summary of legislation that is life-affirming that passed in 2007:

- **Woman's Ultrasound Right to Know Act -HB 147** -requires that the mother be *offered* an opportunity to view the fetal image and the fetal heartbeat at the conclusion of an ultrasound; and it requires that the abortion facility give a list of health care providers, facilities and clinics that offer to perform ultrasounds free of charge.
- **Non-Embryonic Stem Cell Act** - After the 2006 session, Governor Perdue signed an executive order that created a stem-cell tissue bank. To see more about this go to www.SavingTheCure.com

FUTURE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES include the *Human Life Amendment, Advanced Directives, Georgia Abortion Complication Reporting Act, Human Cloning Ban, and the Human Dignity Act.* **Let's focus on one you will hopefully vote on in November:**

Human Life Amendment - H. R. 536 - This amendment will make Georgia the first state in the nation establishing the "personhood" of each of its citizens from fertilization until natural death. For more information and the **ACTION** steps you can take go to: www.personhood.net.

Abortions Performed in Georgia By Year

2005 - 31,739	1992 - 38,052
2004 - 32,708	1991 - 38,407
2003 - 34,545	1990 - 39,245
2002 - 34,298	1989 - 35,857
2001 - 33,545	1988 - 32,068
2000 - 31,680	1987 - 36,439
1999 - 33,095	1986 - 32,571
1998 - 32,349	1985 - 35,130
1997 - 32,702	1984 - 33,782
1996 - 35,790	1983 - 33,920
1995 - 35,178	1982 - 33,113
1994 - 36,374	1981 - 31,888
1993 - 37,819	1980 - 33,288



Praises

- ♥ The 85 Red Rose babies born through the PSC and Options Now in '07
- ♥ The 7 women who accepted Christ in '07
- ♥ The New Men's Ministry - Daddies That Care - starting in '08
- ♥ The 41 churches who supported us through Baby Bottle Boomerang and Sanctity Of Human Life Month
- ♥ The new volunteers who have come to serve
- ♥ Our faithful prayer warriors and donors
- ♥ Pure Love Conference '08
- ♥ Abundant Life Church of God for gifts to our Mommy Mall

Prayer Requests

- ♥ The 17th Annual Fundraising Dinner, March 11
- ♥ An increased impact for JESUS and LIFE in South Georgia and North Florida in '08



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