

# LIFE NETWORK of Southern Illinois

A Pregnancy Resource Center

Summer, 2023

## From Executive Director, Debbie Geist

Last month Life Network celebrated 30 years of ministry – 30 years of being a beacon of help and hope for those facing an unexpected pregnancy. God's faithfulness throughout the years has been nothing short of a miracle. Allow me to reminisce and share some highlights with you.

When the ministry began in 1993, Roe v Wade was the "law of the land" and because of that devastating 1973 decision babies were considered unimportant and seen as a problem, not a blessing. Abortion facilities like Planned Parenthoods were rapidly growing in number and over one million babies were lost each year to abortion. Since 1993, we have seen that number steadily decrease and while, we would love nothing more than to see every baby protected, we are grateful for the reversal of Roe v Wade last year that gave states the opportunity to pass their own laws protecting the preborn. Half of the states now significantly protect life, including fourteen with full nine-month protection and still more with "heartbeat laws" or laws that protect children after the first trimester. While it is disheartening that Illinois has taken a different approach by increasing abortion accessibility, we are grateful for the prayers, perseverance and hard work that has brought us this far and are humbled that God allowed Life Network to play a small part in this accomplishment.

In 1995, two years after its incorporation, Life Network (Waterloo Crises Pregnancy Center) rented a small building in Waterloo that once served as an ice cream parlor and ministered to twenty-five clients that first year. The only services offered at that time were self-administered pregnancy tests, options counseling, and a few baby supplies such as diapers and other small items. Over the years, we realized that to adequately serve our growing clientele, we needed to provide services that would not only assist with physical pregnancy, but would address emotional, social, mental, and spiritual health. We prayed for God to give us wisdom and direction and he quickly answered. In 2001, Life Network purchased a two-story house on Main Street and in 2014 moved to our current location on Market Street; a beautiful 3400 square foot facility that includes a baby boutique! Through the years, our clientele grew and last year we had the opportunity to minister over 2200 times to those in need of our assistance. We expanded our service area to include Red Bud and surrounding counties, hired medical staff and now offer Ultrasounds, Childbirth/Breastfeeding classes, Parenting Classes, Professional Counseling, STI testing/treatment, Abortion Pill Reversal Consulting, and much more to our clients!

Not only is God using Life Network in this community, but Pregnancy Resource Centers throughout the United States are making a significant difference in this battle for the preborn. We now outnumber abortion clinics 4 to 1 and are no longer flying under the radar. Even Planned Parenthood realizes the positive effect we are having and is trying to undermine and spread falsehoods regarding Pregnancy Centers. This excerpt comes directly from the Planned Parenthood website:

***It's important to be aware of fake clinics, also known as crises pregnancy centers. These are clinics or mobile vans that usually advertise pregnancy testing and counseling, but they're run by people who are anti-abortion — their goal is to shame, scare, or pressure you out of getting an abortion. Crisis pregnancy centers don't offer a full range of health care services, won't give you honest information about your pregnancy options, and don't have to follow privacy laws.***

There is so much about this statement that is incorrect, and it saddens me that girls dealing with an unplanned pregnancy might see this kind of rhetoric and believe it. Life Network has been and continues to be a haven for anyone in a crises pregnancy and ALWAYS shares life-affirming truth in a loving, compassionate way. We NEVER shame, scare or coerce anyone and treat our clients with the utmost respect. We are diligent in following privacy laws and our medical services are overseen by licensed medical staff. What Planned Parenthood failed to mention is that pregnancy centers are community supported not-for-profit organizations that offer services FREE OF CHARGE to our clients therefore we do not need to worry about a quota and can offer personalized care to each client that walks through our doors. Our goal is to empower them with educational resources so they can make an informed decision about their future and the future of their baby. In short, we believe that all human life is created equal regardless of size, level of development, education and of dependency. Is that a terrible thing?

Yes, God's favor has certainly been upon us the past 30 years and we are humbled and honored to be His servants. We realize that none of this would have been possible without you – our faithful donors and we are thankful for the selfless support that you have given over the years.

LET US HOLD  
UNSWERVINGLY TO  
THE HOPE WE  
PROFESS, FOR HE  
WHO PROMISED IS  
FAITHFUL  
HEBREWS 10:23

## MISSION STATEMENT

**Waterloo Office**  
618.939.4224  
722 N Market Street  
Waterloo IL 62298

Life Network of Southern Illinois is a Christ-Centered ministry committed to upholding the sanctity of human life.  
[www.mylifenet.org](http://www.mylifenet.org)

<https://supportmylifenet.com>

**Red Bud Office**  
618.282.4225  
324 N Main Street  
Red Bud IL 62278

## Client Story...

Michelle Schweiger, RN, Director of Client Services

We fill in the gap for our clients in many more ways than just helping them with baby items. For some of our clients we are like surrogate Aunts and, let's be honest, Grandmas. Often clients will come in just wanting to talk, brag about a child's newly acquired skills and visit for a bit. I believe they're looking for some positive affirmation, encouragement and maybe advice. We certainly don't have all the answers but what Grandma doesn't enjoy visiting with a precious grandchild. Here are a few of our babies that we thought we would brag about.



## Center Needs

360 Sippy Cups  
Size 4 Pampers/Huggies  
Booster High Chairs  
Pull-Ups, 5T-6T  
(Girl)  
Toddler Meals & Snacks  
Baby Juice

A&D Ointment  
Size 7 Pampers/Huggies  
2T-4T Toddler Socks  
Walmart Gift Cards  
(used to purchase special  
formula/needs for clients)

## MEDICAL UPDATE

Julie Stuart, RN, Nurse Manager

### What's New in the Abortion World...

With the advent of the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol, and last year's Roe v. Wade decision to put the issue of abortion back to the states, the pro-abortion lobby has been working on ways to circumvent the above issues. Recently Heritage House (one of our national affiliates) put on a webinar with information on one of the ways the pro-abortion groups have found a work around. It is called the "Multi Pill Misoprostol Only Protocol." This type of abortion uses only the second pill of the original 2 pill abortion protocol (RU486).

The second pill in the RU486 regimen is called Misoprostol (Cytotec). It was originally prescribed for prevention of ulcers in those taking NSAIDS (certain anti-inflammatories). Then, it was discovered that Misoprostol could be used, instead of Pitocin, to induce contractions when there was a fetal death that needed to be delivered. Currently it is used to soften the cervix to get a mom ready for induction (at a much lower dose due to risk of complications).

The "Multi Pill Misoprostol Only Policy" instructs women to take 3-4 pills, placed under the tongue for 30 minutes, then swallow, wait for 3 hours, then place 3-4 more pills under their tongues, swallow, then wait 3 hours, and repeat again. That's 9-12 pills the women take...at home...alone. And, because the first pill in RU486 (Mifepristone, which starves the baby, leading to its death) is not used, there is a high probability that the women would pass a live baby. If there is a complication, women are told to seek help, but told they do not need to tell the treating doctor what medication they took.

Why is this being promoted and researched by the World Health Organization (WHO)? It is a work around the Abortion Pill Reversal. Since the first pill, Mifepristone, is not used, the Abortion Pill Reversal cannot be used. And, in states where there are abortion restrictions, women can use this method instead.

What can you do? Pray—for changed hearts and minds regarding abortion. Pray for life and children to be valued again in this country and around the world. Pray that women in unplanned pregnancy situations, find pregnancy care centers, not abortion providers first.

Gifts have been received

In Honor of

Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Bill and Kim Holtgrieve



LIFE NETWORK  
of Southern Illinois'  
**TRIVIA  
IS BACK!!  
NIGHT**

September 30, 2023

Waterloo High School Cafeteria

505 E Bulldog Dr., Waterloo IL 62298

DOORS OPEN AT 5P | START TIME 6P SHARP

RAFFLE AUCTION | 50/50 RAFFLE | ATTENDANCE PRIZES

PRIZE WHEEL \$5/SPIN – GUARANTEED A WINNER

UP TO \$100 GIFT CARD

MAXIMUM OF 10 PER TABLE | \$150 TABLE FEE

[MULLIGANS INCLUDED]

TABLES LIMITED  
RESERVE TODAY!

618.939.4224



**Bring your own food & drink - Soda & water will be sold**  
**No alcohol, smoking or vaping on school property.**

All proceeds benefit Life Network



# UPDATES...

## 2023 BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



**RAISED TO DATE: \$31,585.96**  
**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED!!**

It's not too late to fill a bottle!! Contact us or stop by one of our offices for more information! Or ask your church to get involved - they can call us, get all of the information and decide if they would like to participate.

## 2023 BANQUET

Many thanks to those who supported **Life Network of Southern Illinois** at our annual fundraising dinner held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Donors are the lifeline of this ministry, and we are so grateful to our financial partners for their dedication to the pro-life cause. Thanks to you, the banquet was a **TREMENDOUS** success! Due to rising food costs, etc., we had to limit our attendance this year, but God's people stepped up in a **BIG** way, and I'm excited to announce that we surpassed our financial goal of \$200,000! That is amazing and we give God all the praise and glory for HIS continued faithfulness.

David and Jason Benham, our keynote speakers, captivated the audience with their humor and boldness as they presented their story of how God took less than ideal circumstances and turned them into a powerful testimony for HIS glory. They challenged us to take a bold stand for **LIFE** and our **FAITH**, even amid adversity. We all left that evening with a renewed passion to stand firm in our convictions as we to fight for the lives of the pre-born.



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**SAVE THE DATE**

**2024 SPRING BANQUET, APRIL 11, 2024**  
**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: KELLY LESTER**

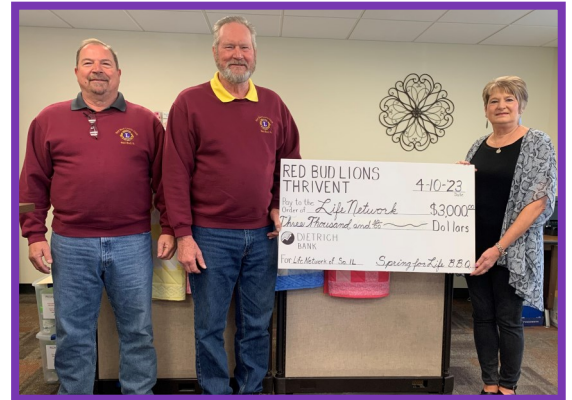
## 2023 LIFE TRIVIA SPONSORSHIP

**WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF LIFE TRIVIA SPONSORS!**

If you or your business are interested in making a monetary donation for Trivia Sponsorship, please contact Debbie Geist at 618.939.4224.

# WE HAVE BEEN ABUNDANTLY BLESSED...

THANK YOU to all churches, organizations and individuals who donate to Life Network. Your generosity, prayers and encouragement are invaluable as we minister to those in need of our services.



## Our Babies

Ivy  
Francesca  
Anderson  
Alannah  
Oaklynn  
Rosalind

Aki  
Ellie  
Avhara  
Vivian  
Beckham  
Alaina

Alex  
Jordyn

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)*

Life Network is 100% donor funded. Thank you!!!

Gifts have been received  
In Memory of

Aiden Patrick Bourgeois, Norman Bubash, Greta Kloos Dunn, Paul Gilliam, Robert Heller  
Ezekiel Brooks Neptune, Joanne Hoffman, Bill Schmitz, Roy Schreder, Mel Zimmermann

722 N. Market St.  
Waterloo IL 62298

**LIFE NETWORK**  
of Southern Illinois

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Postage Paid  
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Permit #55  
Waterloo, IL  
62298



### **Board of Directors**

Jack Turner, Chair  
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### **Medical Director**

Joe Cangas, M.D.

### **Ministry Staff**

Debbie Geist  
Executive Director

Michelle Schweiger, RN  
Director of Client Services

Julie Stuart, RN  
Nurse Manager

Georgia Hutchinson  
Financial Administrative Assistant

Peggy Buettner  
Receptionist/Educator

### **PARTNER WITH US**

#### **PRAY:**

- Become a Prayer Partner! When staff or clients are in need of prayer, we'll send you an email. Sign up by emailing [nursesem@htc.net](mailto:nursesem@htc.net)

#### **DONATE:**

- Website - <https://supportmylifenet.com>
- Mail, Call or Come Into the Office - We accept credit cards, checks and cash or use the QR code to donate online!



### **SAVE THE DATES:**

#### **\* LIFE TRIVIA NIGHT**

Saturday, 09.30.2023  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

#### **\* LOCAL PRO-LIFE EVENTS**

United for Life,  
WATERLOO 3rd Saturday of  
Sept & Oct 10-11A  
Rt 3 & Moore St.  
Contact Barb, 618.578.8697

RED BUD 2nd Saturday of Oct  
2nd Saturday in Sept 10-11A  
4-way Stop  
Contact Robin, 618.792.1051

 /lifenetnetworksoill

 LifeNetworkSouthernIL