

LIFE NETWORK of Southern Illinois

A Pregnancy Resource Center

Spring, 2025

From Executive Director, Debbie Geist

In June of 2022, Life Network became a consulting center for the APRN – Abortion Pill Rescue Network. This network consists of more than 1,400 healthcare professionals, pregnancy centers, hospitals – **and now pharmacies** – that administer or refer for APR (Abortion Pill Reversal). Their main objective is to help women that have started a chemical abortion (RU486) and are having second thoughts, find support and guidance in reversing that abortion.

Last year, Life Network had the opportunity to assist a young girl that was seeking an abortion reversal. While the result was not what we had hoped for, the APRN as a whole, has successfully reversed over 5,000 chemical abortions since its launch in 2017. The story below is one of those success stories and taken from an article published by Heartbeat International – one of our affiliates.

Elizabeth found herself unexpectedly pregnant with Evelyn after a brief reunion with Ben, her ex-partner. With Ben already moved out and their relationship strained, Elizabeth faced the daunting prospect of single motherhood. Despite her initial excitement, doubts from family and friends left her feeling unsupported and unsure.

Seeking guidance, Elizabeth turned to Planned Parenthood but found little solace there. Pressured into a pill abortion, she regretted her decision immediately upon receiving a text from Ben expressing his desire to keep the baby. Frantically searching for hope, she discovered abortion pill reversal (APR) and reached out for help.

With the support of Ben and a network of compassionate individuals, Elizabeth embarked on the journey of reversing the abortion. Through this process, she witnessed the resilience of her unborn child and the unwavering support of her community.

As weeks passed, Elizabeth and Ben embraced parenthood, attending counseling sessions together and witnessing the miracle of their daughter's life unfold through regular sonograms at their local pregnancy center. The experience not only strengthened their bond but also reaffirmed Elizabeth's belief in the importance of providing second chances to women facing a similar crisis.

On January 18th, 2024, Elizabeth gave birth to Evelyn, a vibrant testament to love and resilience. With their daughter in their arms, Elizabeth and Bill found joy in their newfound family unit and began planning a future together!

This is an amazing example of the hope and support women find in a crisis pregnancy and the profound impact of APR and pregnancy care centers like Life Network, with respect to preserving life. Like Elizabeth, circumstances can quickly change so having an option like APR is a vital and significant resource for women that regret their chemical abortion decision. Knowing there is a possibility to save their preborn baby is God's way of giving them a second chance.

Life Network understands that pregnancy decisions are an emotional and private choice, and we want every client to feel confident in the information they receive because research and caring professionals confirm it. The recent addition of pharmacists to the APRN brings another level of expertise to the abortion reversal process because pharmacists have an in-depth knowledge of how the drug mifepristone (the first pill given in the abortion pill protocol) works and how its dangerous effects can be reversed with progesterone.

The decisions made during times of unplanned pregnancies can be life changing, making it more important than ever that we provide accurate and up to date information to every client that walks through our doors. This is why Life Network will always strive to offer correct and carefully researched data while providing practical, spiritual, and emotional support to all our clients.

"The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Proverbs 16:9

I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I've ended up where I needed to be.



MISSION STATEMENT

Life Network of Southern Illinois is a Christ-Centered ministry committed to upholding the sanctity of human life.

www.mylifenet.org

<https://supportmylifenet.com>

Waterloo Office

618.939.4224
722 N Market Street
Waterloo IL 62298

Red Bud Office

618.282.4225
324 N Main Street
Red Bud IL 62278

Client Story...

Michelle Schweiger, RN, Director of Client Services

According to annually collected homeless data, more than 10,000 people experience homelessness in Illinois on any given day.¹ You're probably thinking, "OK, what does that have to do with a pregnancy care center in Monroe and Randolph Counties?". Well, that's what I want to share with you.

There is new terminology to describe homelessness, I recently learned. In recent years advocates and activists have begun to use the word unsheltered or houseless to describe individuals without a physical address.² There are at least four categories currently used to describe the "unsheltered", they are: transitional, episodic, chronic and hidden.³ The category that I'd like to focus on is hidden homeless or unsheltered. Although, we have worked with individuals who were experiencing ALL the other types of homelessness as well. Yes, you read that right. We work with every category of the unsheltered at both pregnancy centers in Monroe and Randolph Counties.

Those who do not have a permanent home and temporarily live with others are a part of the hidden homeless population. Because these individuals or families seek help from friends, family and neighbors rather than national housing support groups, there are no statistics on them, thus making them "hidden". Young people are believed to make up a large portion of this group.⁴ This group is also sometimes referred to as couch surfers, because they stay briefly with someone, sleeping on their couch before moving onto the next family member or friend's house.

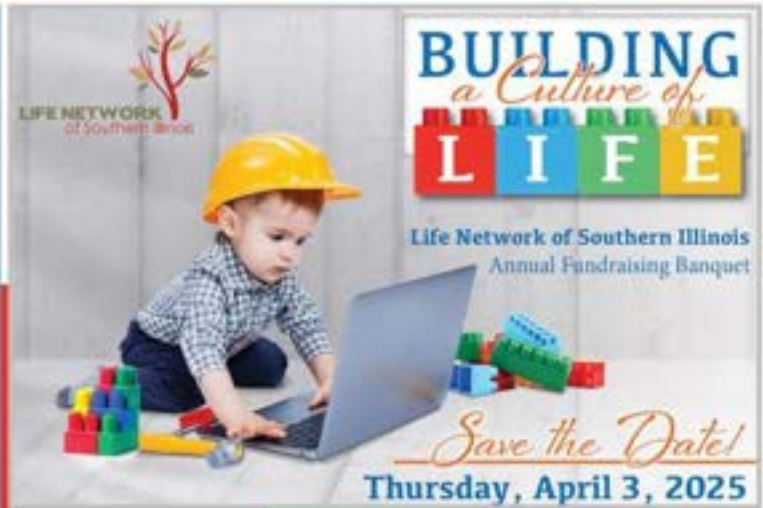
Thankfully most of us will never be part of the unsheltered. Sadly, more and more of our clients ARE couch surfing, living in their cars, or staying in places meant to house far fewer individuals. It is heartbreaking working with our clients and their children that are unsheltered. You may be thinking, why don't they just go get a job? Some of them HAVE jobs but are still unable to afford and sustain proper housing. I say all of this to raise awareness, to let you know that even in our rural communities, people are struggling in big ways.

Here at Life Network, we do what we can, but we can't provide for ALL our clients' needs. With your generous help and support we CAN make sure their babies have formula, diapers, clothes, and blankets. In so doing, we ease their financial burden a bit. We CAN listen to them, provide them with referrals and offer them encouragement. We CAN show them Christ's love and let them know someone cares. So, thank you for continuing to partner with us, thank you for your continued prayers and don't forget to count your blessings each and every day!

"There but for the grace of God, go I."
-traditionally attributed to John Bradford

¹ Illinois Response to Homelessness Guidebook
Blanchetthouse.org, 2022

² Olan, 2023
³ Olan, 2023



BUILDING
a Culture of
LIFE

Life Network of Southern Illinois
Annual Fundraising Banquet

Save the Date!
Thursday, April 3, 2025

KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. WILLIAM LILE

Dr. Lile is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and the founder of ProLifeDoc.org. After touring the surgical suite of an abortionist's office for the first time and seeing the equipment ready for the next procedure, Dr. Lile was called to dedicate his life to stopping abortion. He is passionate about providing quality healthcare to all patients—inside and outside of the womb and is a frequent guest of both television and syndicated radio shows.



** RESERVATIONS REQUIRED **

Please call 618.939.4224 if you would like to host a table or attend the Banquet.

Thursday, April 3, 2025
The Falls Banquet Center | 300 Admiral Weinel Blvd
Columbia IL

What's Happening in Red Bud?

Peggy Buettner, Satellite Manager

It's a New Year and when the New Year starts, we all want to make the best of it. We can start by making better choices than we did last year. That is what we want for our clients, too. When they come in for the Earn While You Learn lessons we try to encourage them to make better choices for themselves and their children. We have a wide variety of classes that our clients can choose from. They might pick one about Toddler Safety and at the end of the lesson we will give them safety items such as cabinet locks or outlet covers. Toddler oral health is another one they can choose. We had a Mom who before watching the lesson had no idea that children should begin seeing the dentist as toddlers. The mom, after watching the video, took her little one to the dentist and was very happy she did. She started the good habit of going to the dentist at an early age.

We have Life Skills classes that help clients prepare for getting a job. Our clients can learn how to be well equipped for a job interview. Once they get a job, they can learn how to budget the money they are earning to make the most of every paycheck.

Last year I had the opportunity to go to two local schools and work with young ladies who were pregnant and chose to keep their babies. I really enjoyed meeting with these young girls and encouraging them as they were walking a difficult path. I did classes with them to help them through their pregnancies and assist them on how to care for the newborns. We were able to get them cribs and car seats which might have been difficult to get on their own.

If you know of any young ladies that would benefit from our services, please tell them about us. We would love to help them learn to make better choices.

MEDICAL UPDATE

Julie Stuart, RN, Nurse Manager

I recently listened to a podcast from "40 Days for Life." (40daysforlife.com/abortion-pills-2025) It was both enlightening and disturbing. On the podcast they discussed the abortion pill (RU486 or Chemical Abortion) and how it is distributed in the U.S. The abortion pill has become the most popular method for abortion. In 2024, about 2/3 of abortions were chemical and that number is increasing due to mail-order and telehealth abortions.

Mail-order and telehealth are dangerous ways for the abortion pill to be distributed. With a telehealth visit, a woman will talk with a provider, but there is no way to do a physical exam to verify the exact gestational age of the baby. Since the pill can only be given up to 10 weeks gestation, any discrepancy of dates increases the chance for complications from the abortion pill. With mail-order, a woman does not talk with a healthcare provider, which creates many questions and concerns, among other issues. Was the package delivered in a timely manner and to the correct address? What if someone was expecting a different medication through the mail and assumed what was delivered was their pills and took it without reading the label? In most cases, there is no signature or confirmed receipt when the pills are delivered. (Remember, a 14 year old girl cannot be given Tylenol at the public schools, but she can order the abortion pill online and take those pills without anyone knowing.) Where is the pill coming from? Who ordered it and what are they going to use it for? (I'm specifically thinking of a sex trafficker.)

So much uncertainty and questions about the use of the abortion pill and its results and effects.

I end with this...*pray without ceasing*. Pray to change society's hearts and minds regarding pregnancy, babies and children. They need to be thought of as blessings not hindrances to our lives.



Center Needs

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Baby Juice (no apple) | Baby Wash Clothes |
| Disposable Nursing Pads | A & D Ointment |
| Socks (Girl Newborn - 24 months) | Children's Board Books |
| Toddler Snacks | Walmart Gift Cards |
| Flip-Top Straw Sippy Cups (Boy/Girl) | (used to purchase special formula/needs for clients) |
| | Use our QR code to order online for easy shopping! |



Shop our Amazon List!



Shop our Walmart List!



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

2024 TOTAL RAISED: \$34,073.52

2025 RAISED TO DATE:
\$1,535.46



If you haven't received a bottle at your church, please contact us or stop by one of our offices!

EVERY PENNY MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Gifts have been received

In Memory of

Joanne Hoffman, Billie Jean Taylor, Pat Thomas

Gifts have been received

In Honor of

John Timothy Wellman

2024 LIFE TRIVIA NIGHT * \$17,000 RAISED

THANK YOU to our Trivia Sponsors:

Anonymous
LifechurchX
First Baptist Church of Waterloo
Concord Presbyterian Church

First Baptist Church of Columbia
George R Kutterer Council 6165
Knights of Columbus, Columbia
MA Technologies LLC

Red Bud Industries
Bean Tree Café
Rotary Club of Monroe County
North County News

Thank you to everyone who came out for the evening! We appreciate your continued support!



2024 STATISTICS



CLIENTS WHO CHOSE LIFE
99%



CLASSES
387



CHILDBIRTH & BREASTFEEDING CLASSES
57



ULTRASOUNDS PERFORMED
29



TOTAL CLIENT VISITS/PHONE CALLS, ETC.
3,057



NUMBER OF SUPPLIES GIVEN
1,415



PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING
21 Clients



PREGNANCY TESTS PERFORMED
41



780 HOURS SERVED

WE HAVE BEEN ABUNDANTLY BLESSED...



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED YOUR TIME, TALENT & TREASURE. GOD TRULY BLESSES US AND OUR CLIENTS!!



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



Our Babies

Aniyah
Madilyn
Elliot
Kohen

Emelia
Donald
William
Teven
Chase

Oliver
Elliette
Samael
Lunahare

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)

722 N. Market St.
Waterloo IL 62298



LIFE NETWORK
of Southern Illinois

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Postage Paid
Non-Profit Org
Permit #55
Waterloo, IL
62298



Board of Directors

Jack Turner, Chair
Jessa Pauline, Vice Chair
Jennifer Roscow, Secretary
Andrew Wetzler, Treasurer
Tim Grove
Bill Holtgrieve
Father Carl Scherrer

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
Satellite Manager

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 nurse@htc.net

DONATE:

- Website - <http://supportmylifenet.com> or QR code →
- Mail, Call or Come Into the Office - We accept credit cards, checks and cash



SAVE THE DATES:

*** PRO-LIFE EVENTS:**

Illinois March for Life, 03.25.2025
Capitol, Springfield IL 12P

40 Days for Life, 03.05—04.13.2025

Sign up to pray: 618.520.1255 or
email at fvh40days@yahoo.com
Pray at the Fairview Heights
Planned Parenthood fence

United for Life

WATERLOO 3rd Saturday each
month, 10-11A, Rt 3 & Moore St.
(Barb 618.578.8697)

RED BUD 2nd Saturday each month
10-11A, 4-way Stop
(Robin 618.792.1051)

Member of
CARE NET



/lifenetnetworksoill

LifeNetworkSouthernIL