

# LIFE NETWORK of Southern Illinois

A Pregnancy Resource Center

Summer 2024

## From Executive Director, Debbie Geist

Trying to capture the essence of a ministry like Life Network can be difficult because there are so many layers and so many important people that make the ministry successful. Unfortunately, there continues to be much falsehood when it comes to the work done at pregnancy care centers, so I thought I would take a few minutes to address a couple of questions and share some pertinent information with you regarding our organization.

**WHY DO WE EXIST?** In short, pregnancy resource centers exist to be a voice for the pre-born and to provide a safe nonjudgemental place for men and women who are facing an unplanned or unexpected pregnancy. Contrary to some media and social outlets, we are not here to coerce, scare or force anyone into a decision, but to provide TRUTH and necessary resources so they can determine what is best regarding their future and the future of their baby. We do NOT refer for abortion, but always strive to treat everyone with the utmost respect – including the life of the pre-born.

**ARE ALL CLIENTS THE SAME?** Absolutely not! I can say, without hesitation, that each day brings its own set of challenges and every client that walks through our doors is unique. Whether we see one client or five clients in a day – each situation is different. We offer a wide variety of services, therefore enabling us to not only assist them with their immediate need, but to INVEST in their long-term well-being. Regardless of their need - parenting classes, professional counseling, baby resources, pregnancy options counseling/assistance or just needing someone to talk with, we are here to help.

**DO WE EVER GET DISCOURAGED?** Unfortunately, the answer to this question is YES! Ministry can be difficult and trying to find the right balance between TRUTH and NON-JUDGEMENT is not always easy. When clients come in with preconceived ideas regarding the termination of their pregnancy and no matter what we say or resources we offer, they choose to end the life of their baby, our hearts break. Today's culture has done an excellent job of confusing and deceiving when it comes to life in the womb. Mail order abortion pill access (RU486) has become the norm and fairly easy to obtain, therefore making it difficult to counteract. Thankfully, on average approximately 98% of our clients choose LIFE and for that we are grateful.

We also see clients that have been court ordered to participate in our parenting classes because of drug/alcohol addiction or other issues. We do our best to give them the education and encouragement they need to change their path and regain custody of their children, however addiction can be a challenge without on-going intervention. We are always thrilled when they are successful, but saddened at those that are not.

**WHERE DO WE GET OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT?** Of all the questions I get asked, this is the one that amazes people the most. Life Network receives absolutely NO government funding and depends solely on the generosity of God's people. When I think back on how this ministry has not only existed but thrived for OVER 30 years, I cannot help but be in awe of God's power and provision. There has never been a need that has gone unmet or a time when we feared not being able to keep our doors open because of financial difficulty. You, our donors, have given faithfully and sacrificially, and are the reason we have been able to help so many in this community. THANK YOU!

**WHAT ABOUT MEDICAL SERVICES?** See Medical update on next page.

**HOW IS LIFE NETWORK GOVERNED?** Life Network is affiliated with two large pro-life organizations – Care Net and Heartbeat International as well as a legal organization called NIFLA. These organizations support the world's largest network of crises pregnancy centers, with over two thousand affiliates in fifty countries. These organizations assist pregnancy care centers like Life Network with policies, procedures, guidelines, and legal recommendations to ensure legitimate and ethical oversight of all the services provided via our ministry.

Locally, Life Network is governed by a 7-to-10-member Board of Directors which consists of both men and women - from various occupational and faith backgrounds. This group of volunteers is the "silent backbone" of our ministry and is committed to the purposes and objectives of the center. They set policy, create and implement the bylaws of the corporation, represent the center in legal matters and oversee finances and properties of the center. They also hire and evaluate the Executive Director. As Executive Director of this ministry for over 14 years I can tell you that they have been my greatest support, and I am eternally grateful for them.

**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN YOUR MISSION?** Besides our office volunteers (which are always welcome) our prayer warriors are invaluable to us and an essential part of our ministry. Anytime we have an urgent prayer request or a crisis regarding one of our clients, all we need to do is send out an e-mail and they have us covered. It's amazing to watch God work through His people!

We also have three major fundraisers throughout the year – Baby Bottle Campaign, Spring Banquet, and Trivia. Attending or participating in these events is essential to the success of the ministry. Of course, your financial support is vital, but our fundraisers are also a wonderful way for us to introduce new people to our ministry. Please go to our social media sites to stay updated on all our events.

## MISSION STATEMENT

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>

### 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

I don't remember having such complicated client cases ten years ago. Maybe I'm getting older, (there's no MAYBE to that) or perhaps it's just that life is in general getting more complicated. Clients are getting younger, are in more dire financial circumstances, and battling mental illness in greater numbers than I've ever seen. It's daunting, it's exhausting, and it can be extremely frustrating! But it is also HUGELY rewarding when a client comes in excited to tell us about a new job or about moving into a new place of their own.

A client that we've worked with now for over two years, recently moved out of state. Although we hated to see her go, we were excited for the opportunity she had to make a fresh start. It made our day a few weeks ago when she called and gave us an update. We talked with her for a bit and heard her little one jabbering some of their first words. That phone call proved to us that Life Network had made an impression on her and that she missed us as much as we missed her. It was just the shot it in the arm we needed that day.

Another client visited recently who we hadn't seen for years. She is now married, graduated from college and has a new baby. She came by just to say hello and drop off a donation. This is what we're here for and why we do what we do each day. It's about success stories. It's about babies saved. It's about lives impacted. God is GOOD!

***So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.***  
***Galatians 6:9***

## Center Needs

360 Sippy Cups	Baby Wipes
Booster High Chairs	NON-FLOURIDE Toothpaste
Pull-Ups, 4T-5T & 5T-6T (Girl Only)	Baby Car Sun Shades
Baby Juice (all flavors)	Walmart Gift Cards (used to purchase special formula/needs for clients)
A&D Ointment	
Infant Socks	

## MEDICAL UPDATE

Julie Stuart, RN, Nurse Manager

It is summertime and that generally means it is a bit quieter at Life Network. This is the time of year I go through the Medical Policy and Procedure Manual. I do this to make sure all policies and procedures are current and up-to-date with our affiliates, NIFLA (National Institute of Family and Life Advocates), Heartbeat International, and Care Net, standards.

I am not going to lie, it is tedious work, but it is necessary to ensure that each client is cared for in the best way possible and provides continuity of care among all of us. Policies and procedures give us guidelines for decision making, streamlining procedures, and promoting efficiency. They also work to protect Life Network and its staff. And, let's face it, pregnancy resource centers are maligned as "not really medical clinics."

Our policies and procedures add legitimacy to what we do, as they are also agreed on by our Medical Director, Dr. Joseph Cangas.

## What's Happening in Red Bud?

Peggy Buettner, Satellite Manager

We continue to serve our clients in the Red Bud office. The needs are many and we are thankful we are here to be the hands and feet of Jesus. A simple pack of diapers and wipes can be a big help to our moms. Having someone to talk with about what's going on in their lives and knowing someone cares can make a huge difference.

It's always a pleasure to speak about what we do at Life Network and in the Randolph County area. If you would like me to come and speak to your group about what we do to help our clients, please give us a call. We have also done a little office update in our Red Bud Office. Stop in for a visit anytime – we would love to show you around. We are in the Kaskaskia Port District building at 327 N. Main. If you know of someone who needs our services, please send them in.



Gifts have been received  
In Honor of  
Carlene Baumheuter



JOIN US FOR THE MOST FUN TRIVIA AROUND!!  
LIFE NETWORK OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS'

# LIFE TRIVIA NIGHT

September 21, 2024

Doors Open at 5pm | Start Time 6pm sharp

WATERLOO HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
505 E. BULLDOG BLVD., WATERLOO IL



**\$200 TABLE FEE**  
MULLIGANS INCLUDED

**MAXIMUM 10 PEOPLE  
PER TABLE**

**RAFFLE AUCTION  
50/50**

**PRIZE WHEEL  
ATTENDANCE PRIZES**

**TABLES LIMITED - RESERVE TODAY!  
618.939.4224**

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD & DRINK  
SODA & WATER WILL BE SOLD  
NO ALCOHOL, SMOKING/VAPING  
ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT LIFE NETWORK

# UPDATES...

## 2024 BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

(Runs from January 1—December 31)



**RAISED TO DATE: \$31,852.82**  
**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.

## 2024 BANQUET

Many thanks to those who supported Life Network of Southern Illinois at our annual fundraising banquet April 11, 2024. 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 wonderful success! Together we raised over \$210,000 for the ministry! We give God all the thanks and glory for His continued faithfulness.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Kelly Lester, our keynote speaker. She shared how God can clean all the dirty parts of a painful life story and make it brand new. She is a true testament of His grace, hope and forgiveness.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**2025 SPRING BANQUET, APRIL 3, 2025**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. William Lile, Jr., *The ProLife Doc***

We would like to introduce you to our newest Volunteer, Nancy Ballew. Nancy has been with us since February, attends Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia and we are blessed to have her assistance and cheerfulness every Tuesday morning.



Please say hello and goodbye to our Summer Intern, Valerie Queen. Valerie has been working on a variety of projects since mid-May. Her enthusiasm for learning about the ministry, and her help has been a true blessing. We will miss her, but wish her all the best as she graduates college in December!



# 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.



**SPEAK UP**  
FOR THOSE WHO  
**CANNOT SPEAK FOR**  
**THEMSELVES**  
**PROVERBS 31:8**

## Our Babies

- |         |         |           |
|---------|---------|-----------|
| Bentley | Brynley | Evelyn    |
| Dustin  | Nolan   | Willa     |
| Delila  | Dillon  | Briggs    |
| Otto    | Josiah  | Elizabeth |
| Levi    | Sol     | Brayden   |
| Kayson  | Samuel  | Emma      |
| Rowen   | Sophia  |           |

*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, Wayne Collmeyer, Helena Fausz,  
Glennon and Elaine Goetting, Jim and Jeanette Scheibe, Billie Jean Taylor



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  
Mary Asselmeier, Vice Chair  
Jennifer Roscow, Secretary  
Andrew Wetzler, Treasurer  
Bill Holtgrieve  
Jessa Pauline  
Father Carl Scherrer

**Medical Director**

Joseph 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, Red Bud

**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

**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!



Member of  
**CARE NET**  
  
**Heartbeat**  
INTERNATIONAL  
  
**National Fatherhood Initiative**  
  
**NIFLA**  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE of FAMILY & LIFE ADVOCATES

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**\* LIFE TRIVIA NIGHT**

Saturday, 09.21.2024  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

**\* LOCAL PRO-LIFE EVENTS**

United for Life:  
WATERLOO 3rd Saturday of each month from 10-11A  
Meet at Rt. 3 & Moore St.  
Contact Barb, 618.578.8697

RED BUD 2nd Saturday of each month from 10-11A  
Meet at 4-way Stop  
Contact Robin, 618.792.1051