

Roland Warren ([00:10](#)):

Hello everybody and welcome to this episode of CareNet TV and I've got a wonderful opportunity today to talk to Marissa Moya. She is the Executive Director at Heartbeat Hope Medical Pregnancy Center in Ohio. Good to be with you Marisa. Thanks for joining us.

Marisa Moya ([00:27](#)):

Thanks. Glad to be here.

Roland Warren ([00:29](#)):

So what city in Ohio are you located near or in?

Marisa Moya ([00:32](#)):

So we are located in Fremont, Ohio. And just give you a quick tidbit. We have squirrel doors here.

Roland Warren ([00:42](#)):

Oh my gosh.

Marisa Moya ([00:43](#)):

We have the president, Rutherford B. Hayes. He is the oldest presidential library in Ohio, and on the grounds they just put up squirrel doors so you can go and tour if you're ever in the area. Come on down. I know how much you love squirrels.

Roland Warren ([00:58](#)):

I do love squirrels. I don't know if people can see behind me. I'm surrounded by squirrels. They provide me so much comfort. Anybody who knows me knows that that's my thing. So I got to get there and I grew up in

Marisa Moya ([01:12](#)):

Toledo. Oh, nice. Right around corner

Roland Warren ([01:15](#)):

Government if I've ever been to Fremont.

Marisa Moya ([01:17](#)):

Okay. We're about 50 miles away.

Roland Warren ([01:20](#)):

Yeah, I think I've been to Fremont before, so yeah. So that's very cool.

Marisa Moya ([01:24](#)):

Little rural area there.

Roland Warren ([01:26](#)):

So what brought you to the area?

Marisa Moya ([01:29](#)):

Okay, so born and raised in Fremont and how I actually ended up here with the organization was I found myself in an unplanned pregnancy when I was 16 years old in high school.

Roland Warren ([01:44](#)):

Gotcha.

Marisa Moya ([01:45](#)):

Obviously, choices that we make lead us in circumstances that sometimes it's not where we want to be, but that's where we end up. And I was raised, went to church every Sunday, knew right from wrong, but find myself in that situation. And when I told my parents, because my first thought was I am going to have an abortion. I was involved with extracurricular activities, I was in sports. My boyfriend at that time was going to University of Toledo. There was no way I wanted this, didn't want to bring the shame to my family. So the big old Toledo phone book back in 1992 and looked up the abortion clinic, even though I knew at that time that really was not what I wanted to do, I felt it was the only choice.

Roland Warren ([02:36](#)):

Thankfully,

Marisa Moya ([02:37](#)):

I had a loving and supporting family who believed that all life mattered. So I did choose life. Fast forward to when I was in my late twenties, I wanted to give back to the community and see if I could help other women who may have been in that situation, maybe teenagers who I could of give them some advice and some guidance. And I had the support of my family, my church, my community, and I knew there were many other young ladies who did not. So I wanted to be able to offer that to these young women. So I started volunteering at our local pregnancy center, and it's going on about 19 years now that I've been involved with our pregnancy center as a peer advocate, as a mentor. I then went on and became a board member, and then they asked me to come on staff.

([03:34](#)):

I was working corporate job 14 years there. I had everything the world said we needed. I had a good salary, 401k, employee stock ownership, but I felt the Holy Spirit was leading me to something more. And I'd always tell my husband, I'm like, I just want to work at Heartbeat the rest of my life. I don't want to just volunteer. I want to be there every day. And an opportunity came and we prayed about it and not once have I missed any of those benefits, any of that. There's just something more rewarding about being able to serve. So here I am now the executive director. I've been on staff for about eight years now.

Roland Warren ([04:15](#)):

Wow. That is a fantastic story and just amazing how God used that. So many people that I've talked to have gone through a situation similar to yours. I mean, frankly, that's part of my story as well. We were facing an unplanned pregnancy when I was in college. I was 20, she was 19, so it was a little bit different than 16.

Marisa Moya ([04:33](#)):

But

Roland Warren ([04:34](#)):

Really understand the pressures that you're on that you're facing. You think that your future is gone and all of those things that are kind of swirling around in your head, uncertainty around that. So that's fantastic. So did you have a son or a

Marisa Moya ([04:48](#)):

Daughter? I had a daughter, Lexi, she's 32 years old now. And that's another thing that I share with our clients because a lot of 'em think, well, the statistics are going to prove my child's going to fail. They're going to do this and this. She was a gifted child. She went on and got a degree in marine biology. She got her RN degree. She's a health and wellness coach now. So both of us together, we've beat the odds and thankfully we had a tribe around us that was able to help us achieve it. Yeah,

Roland Warren ([05:20](#)):

No, I know. That's the same kind of narrative that I communicate about what happened with us. My wife was encouraged to abort because we were undergraduates at Princeton. She was a sophomore. I was a junior. How are you going to graduate from Princeton with a baby? How are you going to become a doctor with a baby? Which is what she's been for 30 plus years.

Marisa Moya ([05:39](#)):

Amazing.

Roland Warren ([05:39](#)):

And I have this amazing picture of her holding one of our granddaughters and this granddaughters the daughter of the son that we were supposed to abort.

Marisa Moya ([05:49](#)):

Oh wow.

Roland Warren ([05:51](#)):

I always tell people with that picture when she was a 19-year-old sitting there, and I'm sure you have the same experience too, when you were 16, you couldn't see that moment. And I'm sure you've had a lot of amazingly moments with your daughter. You couldn't see those moments when you were sitting there at 16. She couldn't see that at 19. But God did. But God did. And so fantastic when you make that decision because the narrative is that nothing good can come from you having this child. This is a negative for your life. It's a net negative for family, it's a negative for culture. Nothing good can come from this child as you abort. And when I see this picture, I'm just reminded of how wrong that is and how that lie from the enemy is so pervasive and so wrong and so destructive. So

Marisa Moya ([06:37](#)):

Thank

Roland Warren ([06:37](#)):

You for having the courage to do that and following the plan that God laid out when he

Marisa Moya ([06:42](#)):

Likewise

Roland Warren ([06:42](#)):

Get filed in the womb. Like wow, that's just fantastic. So tell me a little bit about Heartbeat Hope Medical. Tell me a little about the ministry that you have. What's the demographic of the community that you face?

Marisa Moya ([06:58](#)):

Okay, so Grassroots organization started back in 1973. So this is our 52nd year that we'll be serving in the community. It was a group that got together right after the Roe v Wade decision, looking for ways to help young women who may be wanting to choose that route, but offering them the support. So they created Heartbeat Hope Medical in 1973. Fast forward to December of 2013, we opened another center in Tiffin, Ohio,

Roland Warren ([07:37](#)):

And

Marisa Moya ([07:37](#)):

These are both rural areas and Tiffin and Fremont. There we have two colleges, Tiffin University University and Heidelberg. So we were able to serve that community of college students. And we were also brought on a campus ministry called Sole Purpose, which that originated at the University of Toledo.

([08:02](#)):

They wanted to see if they could spread their wings and go further. So we were their Guinea pig to see how it would work at Tiffin University. So we brought Soul Purpose there and it just blew up. We have a lot of young women who joined to, what we do is we teach 'em their value worth and identity through Christ. And now Sole Purpose is a national organization nationwide. And then August of last year, we opened up another center in Fostoria, Ohio, which is again a rural area. And that's both about 20, 25 miles from Fremont each way. So we have three centers now. Wow. Yes.

Roland Warren ([08:48](#)):

So you have got your hands full?

Marisa Moya ([08:50](#)):

Yes, we do. And we offer different programs. We do sexual risk avoidance, we offer post supportive healing parenting classes. And then most recently our infant miscarriage loss support program.

Roland Warren ([09:03](#)):

Yes. Let's talk a little bit about that. I know you talked about that at conference last year. Tell me a little bit about that program. What was the inspiration behind it and what is that, that ministry that you're doing there?

Marisa Moya ([09:13](#)):

Yes. So that is, it's Juniper Glory and Juniper Glory. We had a staff, Aubrey Decker, who was our client advocate, and for many years she would see young women coming through the doors, maybe here for other reasons, but through their stories we're hearing about their loss through miscarriage or sis, just different ways on how they were losing their children. And there was nowhere in our area really to send them that specifically dealt with infant and miscarriage loss support. So Aubrey created a curriculum named Juniper Glory. She herself has experienced three miscarriages. So she knew what these women

were going through, where they were sitting and nowhere to send them through many, many months, years of prayer. Her curriculum was finally completed. And what it is, it's biblically based program, and you walk alongside a woman through her grief and helping them to grieve in a healthy way, the loss of their child.

Roland Warren ([10:27](#)):

Wow, that's fantastic. So do you have a post-abortion component of what you do as well? It seems like that program's very, the situation is the same. Maybe the woman when she has the abortion initially doesn't really have regret, but then over time, as you know, that's the way that that works.

Marisa Moya ([10:42](#)):

Yes, we do. We have post abor, we do weekend retreats. We do one-on-one as well. So they go hand in hand. We've had some pregnancy centers that have wanting to implement this, take it to their board or their board has mentioned maybe this is mission drift, not really something we should bring on. But after thinking about it, we are a pregnancy resource center. We are a abundant life. When the world tells us we can't grieve children because abortion is so, it's accepted in so many ways, then these women also think, well then I can't also grieve my child who I unintentionally lost. So we're able to biblically teach them the correct way to grieve and that our God is not a cruel of God and he's there and we'll be able to meet these children again one day in heaven.

Roland Warren ([11:40](#)):

No, I think that's really fantastic seeing the synergy between those two ministry platforms that God is using you to bring that hope and healing to your community. That's pretty amazing. So talk to me a little bit about your clients and what types of clients are you having? What's the demographics, black, white, Hispanic, or in the community that you serve. And then the second thing I wanted you to talk to me about maybe a specific client that you've had over the recent years that really impacted you and just inspired you or maybe even challenged you in terms of the work that you do.

Marisa Moya ([12:12](#)):

Okay. Yeah. So in each of our cities that we serve, it's completely different, even though there are so much similar cities and towns. Like here in Fremont, this is our main headquarters office. We see a lot of late twenties, early thirties that we are serving here. Recently we've been seeing a lot of abortion minded clients for being a small rural area. We had six appointments on Monday ultrasounds, and I can just see that growing with the abortion pill. We've been getting calls on clients who aren't sure that their abortion has been completed and they don't know if they're still pregnant. So I'm just seeing a lot of different scenarios. In Tiffin, we see more of the early twenties, I would say more of the college aged clients there. And then at our new location in Fostoria, that is more of a, I would say poor area, poorer area, more of the Hispanic community, minority community there. And again, we're probably seeing age 2020 somes and right now we are not medical there. And I can explain to you in a little bit and how we took over that foster. So we're doing a lot of parenting classes, material assistance, and just getting the word out of who we are over there.

Roland Warren ([13:42](#)):

Gotcha. Gotcha. That's fantastic. And talk to me a little bit about a client maybe recently that you've

Marisa Moya ([13:50](#)):

Been working with

Roland Warren ([13:50](#)):

Or balanced you or inspired you, whichever way you want to take back.

Marisa Moya ([13:53](#)):

Okay. Yeah, actually we had a client, I'll call her Anna for confidentiality reasons back in, this was going back five years ago, 2020, she came into our Tiffin center needing material assistance, diapers, helped her out there. Fast forward two years later, she wanted to come in needing assistance with a car seat. So watch car seat video helped her out there. She remembered us two years later then. And so fast forward then to 2024. She comes to our doors two years later, we're thinking she must need more assistance. She is 25 weeks pregnant.

Roland Warren ([14:39](#)):

Her

Marisa Moya ([14:39](#)):

Boyfriend had sent her to the abortion clinic. She came to our center instead told us she was in a domestic violence relationship and did not want to raise that child in that situation. She wasn't sure what she wanted do when she left. So she came back 30 weeks pregnant and still contemplating abortion. We explained how that would play out. At the end of the conversation, she decided she wanted to make an adoption plan.

([15:17](#)):

So we were able to be the middleman for caseworkers attorneys to meet at our center. She chose a family. We were able to get her out of that domestic situation, put her in a shelter for her and her children to become safe. She was also in our embrace grace program as well. So she went through that and delivered the baby. We have actually had visits from the baby, the adoptive parents and the baby. And our client has continued. She's continuing to take parenting classes at our newest center now. And so even though five years she came for diapers, we made that impact in that, built those relationships and those connections as a trustworthy place for her to come. And so throughout those last five years, she was able to come to us in a time of need.

Roland Warren ([16:16](#)):

Yeah, I think it's just so amazing that you create that relationship. And you're right. You never know how God's going to use that relationship in the future

Marisa Moya ([16:25](#)):

And

Roland Warren ([16:25](#)):

That your caring place, obviously she couldn't go to an abortion clinic to get the kinds of things that you guys are doing. So that's

Marisa Moya ([16:32](#)):

Just

Roland Warren ([16:33](#)):

Amazing that you were able to do that. And again, it just speaks to also on the life affirming framework,

Marisa Moya ([16:39](#)):

Just

Roland Warren ([16:39](#)):

Having the baby is a life affirming, but also having the baby and putting the child up for adoption is also life-affirming.

Marisa Moya ([16:46](#)):

Absolutely.

Roland Warren ([16:48](#)):

Obviously that's one of the more difficult things to get women to do sometimes, but that's just amazing that you guys were able to play a part in that child. Being able to go into a family that would love them and have a mother, frankly, who loved them enough through this family that's going to love them as well. So that's just fantastic.

([17:04](#)):

Well, listen, it's been just a blessing and a pleasure to talk to you and just to learn more about amazing work that you're doing. Thank you. I hope those of you who are out there here, Marissa's story and understand what she's doing, are inspired by that. And certainly you heard a couple of things that she's doing that may be a little different from what you're doing, so they're things for you, you to consider. So again, I appreciate you taking the time to do this and thank you. I guess I'd be remiss as an Ohio person that would not go bucks, right? I mean, you've

Marisa Moya ([17:36](#)):

Got to, that's right. Absolutely. Go bucks. You

Roland Warren ([17:38](#)):

Got go Bucks. Come on now. Come on. Anyway. Anyway, blessings to you. Thanks so much for being

Marisa Moya ([17:44](#)):

With, thank you, Rowan.

Roland Warren ([17:45](#)):

And for those of you out there in CareNet Land, thank you for watching this episode of CareNet tv. And be on the lookout. We might be coming to your center. Next. Blessings to you all be God bless you daily as you serve him faithfully in all you do. Thank

Marisa Moya ([17:59](#)):

You.