

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

Hello everyone and welcome to this edition of CareNet tv. I'm Roland Warren, president and CEO of Care Net, and I'm delighted today that we have Dayna Holmes, who's executive director of Care Pregnancy Resource Center in Tulare, California. Welcome, Dayna.

Dayna Holmes ([00:28](#)):

Hi. Thank you. It's great to be here.

Roland Warren ([00:30](#)):

Yes, yes. And you were the Guy Condan award winner last year. For those of you who may remember that and some of you don't. That's a recognition that we give to exceptional pregnancy centers over the last couple of years or so that are just doing amazing work. And so we were just delighted and honored to be able to give you that award at the national conference. So fantastic work and it's a blessing to co-labor with you. So here's what I want to do to start, Dan, if you could just tell us a little bit about your center, and particularly as you and I were talking about before we started filming, you're in California and that's kind of the tip of the spear in terms of the life issue in a lot of ways. I know that there's a lot of darkness there in terms of what you're up against. Let me talk to me a little bit about the light that you're bringing into that area, and then also just a little bit about your center and how it got started and how you got started there as well.

Dayna Holmes ([01:26](#)):

Yes, these are definitely unique times, even for California. I know that we have neighboring states as well that are feeling pressure, just a different kind of pressure in California, but we are excited to be a part of this time and the space that God has created for us to shine in so brightly, we know that where there's darkness that we can shine even brighter. So that's what we're focusing on in California. We basically started 40 years ago, care pregnancy centers of Tulare County started 40 years ago as a 24 hour hotline by three brave women who had adopted babies and had one conversation around the coffee table about what they could do to give back out of gratitude, out of thankfulness for what God had blessed them with. They understood that since we were living at the time in one of the highest counties for teenage pregnancy rates, that they needed to do something. So these three brave women took the first step. They just took a step of faith. So what came out of just a casual conversation with women turned into care, pregnancy centers that we have two now, one in Tulare, one in Visalia, a neighboring cities, and we support a county of about 475,000 people. So we are growing rapidly and gracefully by the grace of God. And

Roland Warren ([03:00](#)):

What part of California, I'm sorry, and what part of California are you in? Are you northern? Where are you located?

Dayna Holmes ([03:06](#)):

So we're right in the heartbeat area. We're in the center of California and the Central Valley. Gotcha. So yeah, we are in between Fresno and Bakersfield and further out. We're in between Italy and San Francisco. So we're right in the middle and we feel like we're here again for a reason. Right in the center of things. Our small county is doing big things in the area of growth. We are definitely growing, our churches are growing, the gospel is being spread. So we are definitely in a new time and a new season. I've lived here my whole life. I lived in a even smaller town bordering this city and small town girl of about 5,000 people. And I didn't get too far. I got about 10 miles away and that's as far as God took me and I'm here now to stay. So I understand the climate here.

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I understand the people, and I understand too the need for the gospel and just planet wide, the lies and the messages that are being told to women and men about family. So I'm excited to be here. I have my own background with abortion, with an abortion decision. When I was 16 years old, there was not that I knew of anyone who was going through what I was. I felt very isolated and alone, a bit naive about what was happening. Did not know that there was such a thing as a pregnancy center or a hotline back then, it would've been a hotline in my area. But I know that if I had a chance to sit down and really think about what was going on, just had a moment to really understand and someone to ask me what I believe about life, I know that I would've changed my mind.

(05:03):

So like many women who have those stories, Jesus Christ is actually, he's the hero of my story. It's not even my story. I believe it's turned into his story because he has transformed my life and I want others to feel the same way. I want them to be rescued and restored and turned around and saved someone else because that's what Christ did for us on the cross. So that's kind of my connection with care Pregnancy. I had no idea I would be a director one day. I've only been sitting in this position for three years in the pregnancy center world for almost six. But loving every minute of it, watching women change their mind, watching Jesus transform their life is just such a blessing.

Roland Warren (05:56):

That's fantastic. And it's interesting, I've been with CareNet now, it'll be 12 years this coming October. And one of the things that just struck me when I first started in the work was just how many women and men, frankly that I met, but it was mostly women when I started that had an abortion story and how they were really motivated to get involved in this work because of their abortion story. And God's really put on my heart stories like yours, Dana, and just the others that I hear that we have all these folks sitting in pews, I'm not many sitting in PS that have abortion decisions in their past. And how the evil one will try to use that as a reason for not being engaged. How could you tell someone not to do something that you did? You hypocrite. But as you know, you're not a hypocrite if you're telling someone not to do something that you once did and God's way, just any more than sort of a blind person who receives their sight and is leading along other blind people and tells 'em, listen, you need to avoid this ditch.

(07:06):

Right? You're not a hypocrite, you're a hero. And so I really want to call you a hero as well, how you're using what happened. I mean, God doesn't waste any of it, as I'm sure. And I'm sure your story's been very powerful as you engaged some of your clients and things of that nature. So tell me a little bit about just the demographic of where you serve. You were saying it's a smaller community in a lot of ways, but from a race perspective, economic perspective, industry perspective, what are the clients that you're serving? I mean, what demographics are they coming from and the issues that they're bringing with them to the pregnancy center?

Dayna Holmes (07:42):

So back when I started in 2018, in 2018, the demographic was different. Six years ago, very different. Just the messaging that young women and men were coming in with. Most of that I could relate to because it was the same story I had. I was afraid that my parents who were in ministry, my father was an evangelist and I was terrified that I would spot his name, basically put a blemish on their reputation. So I think that a lot of young women and men come in with that fear of who finds out that you've had sex or that you've been active and that too that led to a pregnancy now, especially outside of marriage. So I think that message has changed and shifted so much in the last few years. We're hearing so many different reasons as you know why people are choosing abortion. So because we live in a small community, 475,000 is still small.

(08:42):

It's spread out over probably it looks like about 54% to 60% now are Hispanic. A lot of migrant communities. We still have a vast majority of teenage pregnancies that occur across our county every year, although the number has decreased, we're not sure if that's an accurate number because our reporting isn't mandatory. So the demographic looks just probably like the landscape of a lot of other demographics. The message is what seems to be consistent. And I think that that's consistent across the globe from what I'm understanding, that people, they have a false idea of life and the value of family has gone down. So we were starting to see that happen in our own communities with just language that the clients would come in with, I can't have a baby right now because it would be irresponsible. My friends think that it's irresponsible to have a child that the responsible thing is to have an abortion, not only to save a carbon footprint on the planet, but because this antinatalism spirit that we're dealing with right now and anti-family, I think is at the root. And that's what we're hearing from most of our clients. So the reason the message has changed, the enemy's the same, but he's shifting a little. He's attacking more brutally the family and Yeah, and life.

Roland Warren ([10:23](#)):

Yeah, it's interesting that you say that. My wife's the physician and we were talking about abortion some months ago, and one of the points that she made I thought was really very insightful was that the way that people are thinking about the child in the womb is the way that some of her patients think about cancer, that you've got to remove it immediately. Nothing good can come from this cancer, so remove it immediately. And it's just interesting from your perspective, you're seeing that play out with your clients, that they're walking in with that same kind of perspective that the child in the womb, nothing good can come from this and I'm going to have this abortion in order to have something good come from this. And of course, as you know, and we know from doing this work that you're killing an innocent human life.

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But also that so often that someone who has that abortion decision, when they do come to their senses, if you will, like the prodigal son, that they realize that there's a tremendous relief when I had that abortion. But then regret starts to grow and at points you're done. You have no more relief, and all you have is regret and you have this crisis period that can lead to a lot of different issues, and the other side doesn't want to talk about that. So I really appreciate that, and I've seen that in so many other folks that are talking about what's going on here, that the dynamic is changing quite a bit. So you've got to be more flexible in terms of how you're engaging those. So talk to me a little bit about, given that that's sort of a client mindset that you're seeing more, how have you shifted what you do in order to sort of respond to the new kind of framework that you're seeing in the culture around you?

Dayna Holmes ([12:03](#)):

Yeah, absolutely. So our median age in our county is 31, and our demographic has shifted from 19 and under. Our highest demographic is 20 somethings to 30 somethings. And even married couples coming in considering abortion. So we knew we had to change what we were doing in our center. So we, we've started from, we removed a wall in one of our rooms and it was like a domino effect once we removed the wall and decided to make the room bigger and a little bit more approachable for men and for anyone in any situation to come into that room. So we eliminated all the triggers that someone post-abortive or considering abortion would be facing. And also men, we want men to feel comfortable and welcome in that pregnancy decision especially. So we started to kind of redecorate, I know it sounds really elementary, but we started redecorate as soon as we did that, it was like a light bulb just went on.

([13:10](#)):

It was like, wow, we need to look at our programs. We need to look at how we're speaking, what our intention is. And the enemy did help us with this because the more attacks that came through 2019 to 2022 and still ongoing, it's made us better. We've taken note of what people are saying and what the

enemy is saying, and we've decided to become excellent. We've asked God to help us in creativity and just being thinkers outside the box thinkers. And so in doing so, we decided to change our programs and to try to offer resources to those in our community who would be a client possibly at some point in time to try to get ahead of it. That's where the concept of True Up came from is we want to get in front of this issue of pregnancy, outside of marriage for one, because we know that creates the panic and the unplanned pregnancy for the most part.

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And we wanted to get this next generation a chance to have these conversations that are so difficult and maybe not appropriate for a Sunday morning service. So we have an outreach program. This will be our third year that we partner with the church in the area and we bring in speakers, music, food, trucks. And basically the tagline for this event is we want kids to know what they believe and why they believe it. We want young adults to know what they believe and why they believe it, especially in the college arena. So this has been very effective. Now it's growing in our county. It's actually going to be a Tula County event for the countywide population of churches. So we have two churches this year partnering together. That was the dream the whole time is to actually come up with something that the church would grab onto. So we don't fly the big care pregnancy sign really high at these events. What we do is we let the church and the population of these young adults, we let them guide. We encourage worship from 20, 30-year-old demographics. We just kind of encourage speakers to come in from all ages because we know that their peer group is so influential to them. So it's been a great success and this is really, I think this is God's project. He's the one that dropped it into our brain, so I know that there's more to come with this.

Roland Warren (15:52):

That's just fantastic. I know we were talking a little bit about your short program before we started the taping and really reaching teens and those younger adults. Again, this is, I can see the heart of your situation that you dealt with when you were that age. I mean, putting together an initiative that's really focused on reaching people who were like you were once and again, that's why I always think of how God, he doesn't waste anything. He doesn't waste any pain, any experience. If you set it the free of the cross, he'll tell you how to use that. He lets us go through these different situations and then he uses them for our good and for his glory. So that's fantastic to hear. Well, as we close, I'd love to just hear you talk a little bit about a recent client that has just blessed you in terms of being able to engage. And I'd love you to talk about one and share one with your fellow peer Eds and others who are listening to this just as a word of encouragement of someone maybe recently that you've had to engage in the work that you do.

Dayna Holmes (16:54):

Right? Yeah. We have several that we're just in love with. We're just in love with these young women and men and families. But the one most recent, that just really stands out just because she's such a brave mama. She is 17, and she had great pressure and duress from the boyfriend's family. They actually put her in a car and told her they were going somewhere else and they took her to a clinic to have an abortion. She is so brave. She told the nurse when she went in, and this would've been a second trimester abortion, and she walked in and the nurse said, are you okay? And she was crying, and this was a pretty big medical organization in the LA area. They're used to doing second trimester abortions. And the nurse was just a godsend. She said, are you being forced to have this abortion?

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And she said, yes. And she said, then we can't do it. We can't do it. So that's her story. She was fighting for this little guy from minute of conception. We had them both in the center. We actually had part of the family in the center, and she had such pressure to abort at the age of 17. And I can't even say that we did everything that we could have for her because we had such limited time. We did give her an ultrasound and that did help her. It helped her stick to her decision. But at the same time, I really think that God just

hurt our prayers over this client. And I tell staff all the time that don't lose hope and heart when they walk away undecided or it's undetermined because he's still working. God pursued her here. It's a miracle. She came in the door and she has a miracle inside of her that God is protecting.

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And what is just so sweet about this story is that she named her baby Zelle, which I'm not sure what interpretation we're looking up, or we could be totally off in our interpretation. I don't know if it's Greek, I don't know if it's who it is, but this baby name basically means that God is moving like he is moving. And so it's just so interesting that we lost contact with her for a little while, but God was still moving in her story. And this baby Zelle, what a gorgeous young man, this little guy is. We all love this client. We've half adopted her, but she ended up being our spokesperson basically for our banquet. So she was featured in our video, she was present at our banquet. We have people coming alongside her to love her, and she tells her story so bravely, so we know it's not us.

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We understand that this is the magnificent God that we serve, that he pursued this one 17-year-old mama, and he gave her courage to hold tight when her whole family and her boyfriend were against her. Like I said, I would like us to be able to say we could take more credit for it, but we can't. I really think we're part of this. Absolutely. And there's a great need for pregnancy centers because I'm hoping that somewhere in there we gave her courage to make that decision. But now I can tell you definitely we are coming alongside her. She understands that she has six great aunties that love her baby and love her, and she's growing in the Lord and she's getting connected with the church through a liaison there. So that's always our goal. Connect them with someone at the church. So it's working. God's doing it.

Roland Warren (20:34):

Praise God. Well, listen, thank you so much, Dana, for all that you're doing. Your team, just again, I love how you started when you talked about the darkness. And it is a thing light that when it's dark, you can't make it more dark. And it doesn't matter how small the light, you could have pitch black darkness. And if there's a light, the light just can't be put out. It cannot be put out by the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. And so I just praise God for you and for your team. Just be in that light in California. And I just pray that you'll continue just to do that and be encouraged. And these stories, like the ones you just shared, I mean, these are little nuggets that God gives us daily to tell us. Just keep going, keep going, keep pressing on. And we take care of the effort.

(21:26):

He takes care of the result. And I know that you've got that heart with your team. So again, thank you so much, Dana, for all that you do, and I pray that you will continue to be blessed and your territory expanded and you will continue to have favor and protection in the name of Jesus. Same. Amen. And for the rest of you out there, thank you for watching this episode of CareNet tv. Never know when we might be coming your way. May God bless you daily as you serve him faithfully in all you do. Amen.