

Caring TOGETHER

SHARING LIFE STORIES OF COMPASSION, HOPE, & HELP

DECEMBER 2024

CARE-NET.ORG

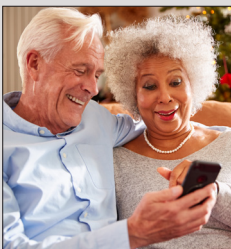
CARE NET



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Alone & Afraid

How Your Support Helped Keisha Choose Life

Your generosity means parents facing an unplanned pregnancy—maybe one in your hometown—have a chance to embrace the abundant life God wants them and their children to experience. But just like the Holy Family, sometimes embracing that responsibility is hard. **Keisha* found this out firsthand when she discovered she was pregnant.**

Still in college, she turned to her boyfriend, Donny*, first. He made it clear he wasn't happy. It was even harder when she told her dad about it. He and Donny weren't really on speaking terms, but they agreed on one thing. Without even asking Keisha what she wanted, they both told her it would be best for everyone if she got an abortion.

Assuring Young Moms They Don't Need to Be Afraid

Keisha—who already wasn't handling the morning sickness well—felt even worse when it seemed like no one was on

her side. *She didn't want to give up on her baby, but what could she do without support?* Desperate, she got on her phone and turned to the internet to try to brainstorm options. **That's when she found Care Net's Pregnancy Decision Line—a national hotline funded entirely by your donations.**

The hotline coach who answered the phone, Carly*, told Keisha there was a pregnancy center nearby ready to help her. Best of all, Carly said she didn't have to drop out of college—something her dad was worried about—because they partnered with a local church offering child care.

Keisha felt better but was still worried. While she'd made up her mind about keeping her baby, Keisha still had to convince Donny and her dad. Keisha asked for prayer, then rehearsed what she would say in her head. Those conversations were even harder than she imagined—she even had to restate things a few times. She braced herself for the pushback from Donny and her dad.

But the pushback never came.

Courage You Inspired Saved a Life

When they heard how important keeping this baby was to her, they changed their minds. More than that, Keisha's dad was interested in finding out more about the pregnancy center. Better still, Donny

Praying Through Advent

Care Net's Advent devotional will focus your heart and direct your prayers during this wonderful Advent season when we reflect on Christ's birth and the abundant life it brings to the world.

Download your free copy today! care-net.org/advent



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The Nativity Narrative and the Life Issue

Have you ever considered how our Christian faith is centered around what seemed like an unplanned pregnancy from Mary and Joseph's perspective?

I call it the Nativity Narrative—the story of Christ's birth that we love to hear every Christmas season. The shepherds, the crowded inn, the manger, the Three Kings . . . That imagery always helps me get in the Christmas spirit.

But, as I've reflected on Care Net's work over the last several years, this story has taken on an even deeper meaning for me. Indeed, the story of Christ's birth is a big part of what it means for Care Net to be a Pro Abundant Life ministry.

You see, when God told Mary that she was to give birth to the Christ child, she bravely chose life when she said, "May it be done to me according to your Word."

But the story didn't stop there. God then sent the same angel to Joseph, who also chose life . . . and ABUNDANT life for this family by becoming a husband to Mary and a father to the child growing inside her womb.

As a father who once faced an unplanned pregnancy, I can relate to what Joseph must have been feeling when that angel visited him with some surprising news. While in college, I got my then-girlfriend (now wife of more than 4 decades) pregnant. We had a choice to make. By the grace of God, we chose life for our baby and abundant life for our family by choosing to get married and follow God.

We hope and pray that women and men will choose life for the same reason that Mary and Joseph (and my wife and I for that matter) chose life—to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to make disciples for Him. **The life issue is not a "side issue" in our faith—it is at its very heart.**

I hope this makes your celebration of the coming of Jesus this Christmas even more meaningful.

You can explore this more in my new book, *The Alternative to Abortion: Why We Must be Pro Abundant Life*, which is available at rolandwarren.com.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Blessings,



Roland C. Warren
Care Net President & CEO



Learn more about Roland's new book!
rolandwarren.com



Keisha Felt Alone and Afraid

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was interested in their Doctor Dad® program. In the end, what started out as a bleak month turned into a wonderful Christmas.

God's plan for raising children involves the whole family—father, mother, and child. Christmas is a time where we remember the Holy Family that was wholly family. But just like then, there are challenges to bringing a baby into the world. Planned Parenthood wants to sell the idea that abortion is the best option—hiding the truth about what it really costs. But thanks to you, moms and dads making pregnancy decisions have a place of refuge where they can get the help they need.

Please pray for moms and dads like Keisha and Donny to find the support they need, and for conversations like the one she had with Carly. Thank you for being there for Keisha, Donny, and Keisha's dad. You played a part in bringing her new family together this Christmas. Thank you!

There's Still Time!

Save **EVEN MORE** unborn lives through our
Year End Matching Challenge!



Friends of Care Net have given a generous gift and challenged YOU to help match it!

Your best gift right now will reach **EVEN MORE** mothers and fathers considering abortion and save **EVEN MORE** babies' lives through your support of our national hotline, 1,200 affiliated pregnancy centers, and churches we've equipped for vibrant pro-life ministry!

How many lives will you help save today?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

OUR CARING PARTNERS: HEROES SAVING LIVES 365 DAYS A YEAR!

Every single day, parents considering abortion find Care Net's national hotline, one of our affiliated pregnancy centers, or a church equipped for vibrant pro-life ministry through our church curriculum. You can help ensure they are able to find compassion, hope, and help 365 days a year by donating monthly as a *Caring Partner*!

As a *Caring Partner*, you will also receive special benefits, including: invitations to special partner events, updates on how your monthly support saves lives, and an exclusive monthly prayer devotional.

3 EASY WAYS TO ENROLL AS A CARING PARTNER:

1. Select "Make My Gift Monthly" on the enclosed reply device and return it with your first monthly gift
2. Visit us online at: care-net.org/give-monthly
3. Call us at 1-800-518-7909



Questions?

EMAIL US AT
CARINGPARTNERS@CARE-NET.ORG

Her First Thought Was Abortion But You Helped Michelle Choose Life!

When Michelle* discovered that she was pregnant, her first thought was abortion. Being a mom at this time in her life was not part of her plan.

She called a local abortion clinic and made an appointment. The clinic told her that she would need an ultrasound before the procedure to confirm her pregnancy. Michelle didn't have the money she needed for that, so she went to the local pregnancy center because their ad online offered free ultrasounds. **All the while she still intended to have an abortion.**

At her appointment, the sonographer confirmed what Michelle already knew. She was pregnant. In addition to providing her free ultrasound, however, the ladies at the pregnancy center also discussed all of Michelle's options with her.

The abortion clinic hadn't mentioned any other alternatives. Only abortion. Michelle began to have doubts about whether abortion was the right thing to do.

You Helped Flip the Script

The wonderful women at the pregnancy center prayed with her and God began to work in her heart. She was now really having second thoughts about getting an abortion. The Holy Spirit was opening her eyes to the truth.

Michelle could not deny the conviction of the Holy Spirit. The day before the abortion appointment, Michelle told her boyfriend she



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You can connect a parent with an unexpected or unexpectedly complicated pregnancy with the compassion, hope, and help they need to choose LIFE for the unborn child and ABUNDANT LIFE for their family!

Steps to Help Save a Life

1. Cut out PDL cards
2. Carry with you
3. Share with someone facing a pregnancy decision



**pregnancy
DECISION
LINE**

pregnancydecisionline.org
877.791.5475

**ANSWERS.
BEFORE
YOU
DECIDE.**

- Caring
- Confidential
- Nonjudgmental

ANSWERS. BEFORE YOU DECIDE.

Pregnancy Decision Line (PDL) is a national hotline providing caring, confidential, and immediate support to women and men facing tough pregnancy decisions.

**ARE YOU READY TO
START A CONVERSATION?**

We are here for you at **877.791.5475**
or pregnancydecisionline.org.





Her First Thought Was Abortion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

would not go through with it. She was going to keep their baby!

Unexpectedly, he was very excited and supported her decision. **He told her that he really wanted to keep their baby all along, but he didn't know how to tell her.** We know that the father of the baby is the most influential person in a woman's decision to choose life or have an abortion. Praise God that he brought a godly, life affirming man into Michelle's life!

Michelle eagerly shared this wonderful news with the local pregnancy center that she visited. The ladies at the center were ecstatic! They told Michelle that they would walk right along with her on this new journey.

A few months later, Michelle gave birth to a beautiful little girl, named Annalise, which means "grace of God." What a fitting name. God showered Michelle with so much grace through the ladies at the center.

None of this would be possible without God's hand and your generous support for Care Net, where we are able to help our more than 1,200 affiliated pregnancy centers with training and resources, to be able to help clients like Michelle choose life and churches to walk alongside them for long-term care and discipleship.

Are You 73?

Did you know that you can make a difference today and get some tax benefits at the same time?

You can when you give to Care Net through your traditional IRA. Since Care net is a qualified charity according to the IRS, this is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

BENEFITS OF A QCD GIFT

Any amount given through a QCD gift counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) but will not count toward your income.

In the year that you turn 73, you must begin to draw your RMD. You can give a gift to Care Net to satisfy all or part of the RMD. You will not receive a charitable tax deduction, but you don't claim the gift amount as income which could mean lower Medicare premiums. It could also lower your taxable Social Security amount!

For more information, you can reach Bob Milton at 205-914-4812 or bmilton@care-net.org.

Learn more about all of your planned giving options at carenet.plannedgiving.org



CALLING ALL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES!

Care Net is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign



CFC# 10983



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1.800.518.7909



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