

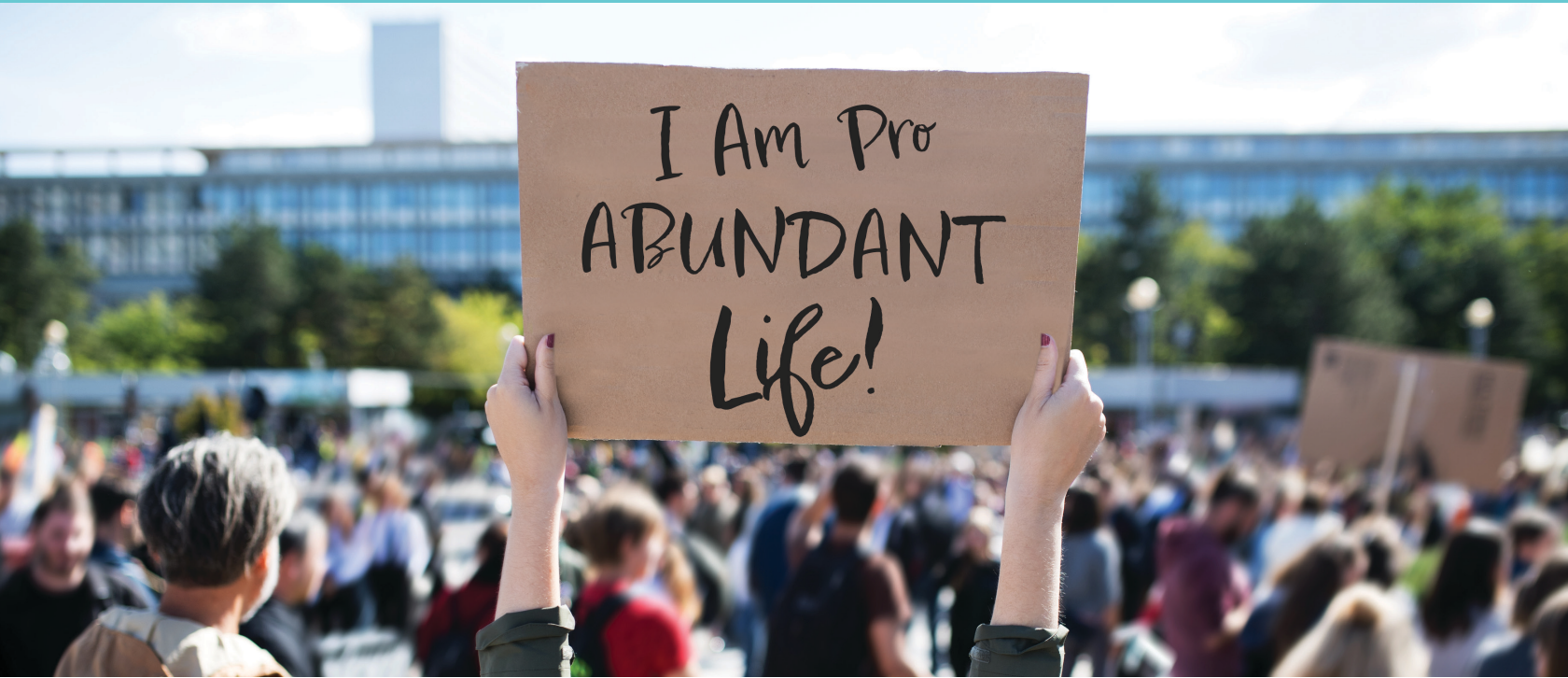
THE TRUTH ABOUT

“Crisis Pregnancy Centers”



A REPORT PRESENTED BY

CARE  NET®



In June of 2022, the Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade* in its decision on the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case. While this was an important and historic legal victory for the pro-life movement, the aftermath of the decision created a challenging environment for life-affirming organizations, especially pregnancy centers.

Indeed, in the several years leading up to the overturning of *Roe*, pregnancy centers have faced a number of legal challenges. For example, in June of 2016, the Supreme Court overturned important pro-life legislation in the *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* case. In August of that year, Illinois' governor signed SB 1564 into law, requiring pregnancy centers to refer for abortions. A pro-life victory came in 2018 when the Supreme Court ruled in favor of life-affirming organization National Institute for Family and Life Advocates in the case of *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra*. This ruling held that California's FACT Act, which would have required pregnancy centers to post information in their centers about how to obtain abortions, was a violation of their free speech.

In this environment, the work of "crisis pregnancy centers" has received far more attention than usual. However, pregnancy centers have been working in communities since the 1970s. But despite their long standing work in thousands of communities across North America, there is a great deal of misinformation and misunderstanding about what pregnancy centers actually do. Indeed, much of the information the public sees about pregnancy centers is produced by entities whose very goal is to misinform the public about them.

This report seeks to provide factual information, understanding, and context so that the public can exercise its right to make fully informed choices about the types of services and support pregnancy centers provide for their communities.



SO, WHAT IS A PREGNANCY CENTER?



Pregnancy centers are community based, nonprofit organizations that provide support to women and men faced with pregnancy decisions. Care Net, the producer of this report, supports a network of over 1,200 pregnancy centers across North America.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL CARE NET AFFILIATED CENTERS MAY INCLUDE:

- ✓ Pregnancy decision coaching by trained coaches
- ✓ Free pregnancy tests
- ✓ Information about pregnancy options, including parenting, adoption, and abortion
- ✓ Material resources
- ✓ Post-decision support (including parenting education and abortion recovery care groups)
- ✓ Parenting Skill Training
- ✓ Relationship and Marriage Support

Approximately 60% of Care Net's centers are licensed to offer such medical services.

And as stated in item 12 of Care Net's Commitment to Care and Competence (page 5) — which Care Net requires all affiliates to adhere to — they provide these services "in accordance with all applicable laws, and in accordance with pertinent medical standards, under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician."

Importantly, all of the above-mentioned services are provided for free to clients, 100% of the time (see item 4 in Care Net's Standards of Affiliation on page 6). In 2020 alone, Care Net pregnancy centers provided over \$74 million in free services to communities across the country. The expanded information on page 4 illustrates the extent of this significant support of women, men, and families in need.

Many pregnancy centers also have a religious affiliation. Care Net-affiliated centers, for example, operate under a Christian statement of faith, which, as a consequence, gives an added dimension to



CENTER SERVICE REPORT

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES TO

456,588

WOMEN, MEN AND FAMILIES

in 2020

SOME CENTERS OFFER SPECIFIC MEDICAL SERVICES, INCLUDING:

- ✓ Consultation with a licensed medical professional
- ✓ Limited diagnostic ultrasound for confirmation of a viable pregnancy
- ✓ Testing for sexually transmitted infections and diseases

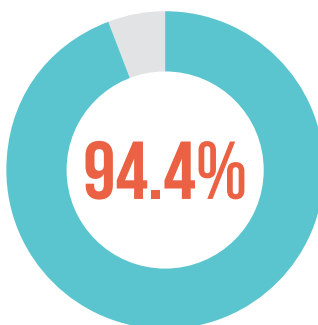
their work. Specifically, the care the staff at the center provide is motivated by their faith, and, where appropriate and welcomed, they share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their clients. These spiritual conversations can be key to helping a client truly transform their lives for the better. However, it is critical to note that in these centers, clients are served without regard to age, sex, race, income, nationality, religious affiliation, disability, or other circumstances.

While opponents of the work of pregnancy centers see the religious affiliation of some pregnancy centers as a defacto negative, there is no rational or concrete reason to question or discriminate against these centers simply because of the beliefs of their workers. For example, many hospitals and non-profit charities (such as Catholic Charities, World Vision, the Salvation Army) have religious affiliations, but few question the quality of the care they provide based simply on their religious affiliation.



Care Net's Health & Social Services in 2021 Were Made Possible by

13,294 Volunteers & 546,262 Donors

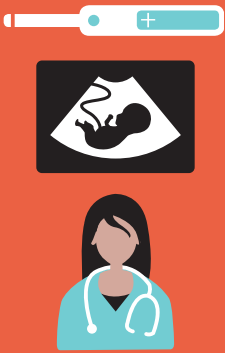


94.4% of Center Clients Report Having an Overall Positive Experience at a Care Net Affiliated Center

HELPING COMMUNITIES FLOURISH CARE NET CENTERS SAVED COMMUNITIES

HEALTH SERVICES

\$39,590,635



EMOTIONAL/SOCIAL

\$9,815,533



MATERIALS

\$12,112,387



EDUCATIONAL

\$12,982,070



OPPORTUNITY

\$47,400

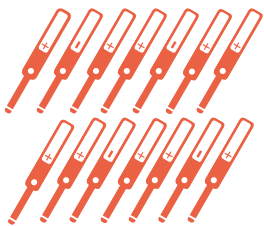


\$74,548,025

in 2020

195,443

PREGNANCY TESTS



162,778 POSITIVE
TEST CLIENTS

127,056

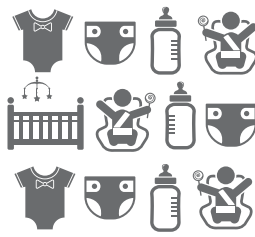
ULTRASOUNDS



114,041 ULTRASOUND
CLIENTS

137,588

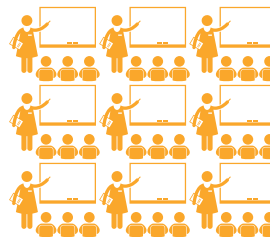
CLIENTS RECEIVING



BABY & MATERNAL
SUPPLIES

186,325

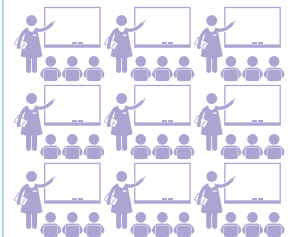
STUDENTS RECEIVING



SEXUAL HEALTH
EDUCATION

66,917

CLIENTS RECEIVING

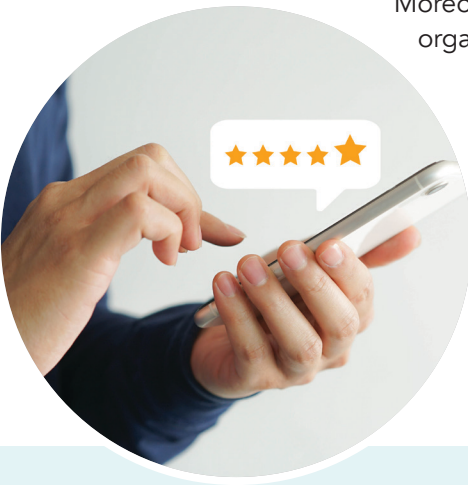


PARENTING
EDUCATION

WHAT IS THE QUALITY OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY PREGNANCY CENTERS?

Care Net-affiliated centers adhere to Standards of Affiliation and a Commitment of Care and Competence that produce consistent, quality services. Other affiliation networks have similar policies to govern the behavior of their affiliates.

Moreover, Care Net's standards are no secret; they are posted publicly on the organization's website and can be viewed below and on the next page.



Critics of pregnancy centers paint a picture that depicts centers as unregulated, unprofessional, and uninformed. But the below standards provide legal, medical, and professional frameworks that enable centers to operate at a high standard.

With these standards and commitments in mind, we will explore some specifics in the below documents to highlight some key aspects of how pregnancy centers operate.

CARE NET'S COMMITMENT OF CARE & COMPETENCE

1. Clients are served without regard to sex, age, race, income, nationality, religious affiliation, disability or other arbitrary circumstances.
2. Clients are treated with kindness, compassion and in a caring manner.
3. Clients always receive honest and open answers.
4. Client pregnancy tests are distributed and administered in accordance with all applicable laws.
5. Client information is held in strict and absolute confidence. Releases and permissions are obtained appropriately. Client information is only disclosed as required by law and when necessary to protect the client or others against imminent harm.
6. Clients receive accurate information about pregnancy, fetal development, lifestyle issues, and related concerns.
7. We do not offer, recommend, or refer for abortions, abortifacients, or contraceptives.
8. We are committed to offering accurate information about related risks and procedures.
9. All of our advertising and communication are truthful and honest and accurately describe the services we offer.
10. We provide a safe environment by screening all volunteers and staff interacting with clients.
11. We are governed by a board of directors and operate in accordance with our articles of incorporation, by-laws, and stated purpose and mission.
12. We comply with applicable legal and regulatory requirements regarding employment, fundraising, financial management, taxation, and public disclosure, including the filing of all applicable government reports in a timely manner.
13. Medical services are provided in accordance with all applicable laws, and in accordance with pertinent medical standards, under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician.*
14. All of our staff, board members, and volunteers receive appropriate training to uphold these standards.

CARE NET'S STANDARDS OF AFFILIATION

1

The primary mission of the pregnancy center is to share the compassion, hope, and help of Jesus Christ—both in word and deed—with those facing pregnancy decisions. The pregnancy center is equally committed to sharing the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ with those it serves. Commensurate with these purposes, all board, staff, and regular volunteers (and any nonregular volunteers who interact with clients) of the pregnancy center have made a profession of faith to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

2

The governing board of the pregnancy center, according to the voting rules of its organizational bylaws, annually acknowledges and affirms:

- A. Care Net's Statement of Faith
- B. Care Net's Vision and Mission

3

All board members, staff, and volunteers uphold all of the principles and requirements set forth in Care Net's Commitment of Care and Competence.

4

The pregnancy center does not perform or refer for abortion and provides a written disclaimer to this effect to clients requesting services.

5

The pregnancy center offers its services free of charge at all times.

6

The pregnancy center does not recommend, provide, or refer single people for contraceptives. (Married women and men seeking contraceptive information should be urged to seek counsel, along with their spouses, from their pastor and/or physician.)

7

All client materials containing medical content are approved by a physician prior to use by the center.

NOTE: Care Net's medical resources have been approved by its Medical Advisory Board and need no further approval.

8

The pregnancy center adopts policies and procedures to ensure that all abortion education is presented in a caring and compassionate manner with due respect for the emotional sensibilities and desires of each client. The use of explicit abortion images is generally discouraged; however, center personnel will always give specific content warnings and obtain written client permission prior to showing any graphic depictions of abortion or its results. No client will ever be pressured or coerced to view abortion education materials.

9

All pregnancy centers offering medical services shall:

- A. Function under the authority and direction of a licensed physician who is in good standing with the physician's state licensing board;
- B. Only utilize trained and licensed medical professionals to perform medical procedures, including ultrasounds;
- C. Carry sufficient medical liability coverage for the center and all medical personnel (unless they have their own coverage).

10

The pregnancy center recognizes the validity of adoption as an alternative to abortion, but is not biased toward adoption when compared to the other lifesaving alternatives. Pregnancy centers interacting with independent adoption agencies shall assure that referrals are made in a manner that fully protects the interests of clients, avoids any conflicts of interest, and meets the standards set forth in

Care Net's Standards for Pregnancy Centers Regarding Adoption Referrals. Adoption agencies may only be established under the auspices of centers if they meet the strict standards set forth in Care Net's Standards for Pregnancy Centers Providing Adoption Services to assure that pregnancy clients shall be served without any conflicts of interest.

11

The center's board oversees a director who implements board policy and manages center operations.

12

Any paid staff are compensated according to applicable local, state, and federal labor laws.

13

While affiliated with Care Net, the center will annually submit the following documents to Care Net by the deadlines established by Care Net: Certificate of Compliance, Pregnancy Center Statistical Report, and applicable affiliation fee.

14

As a Care Net affiliate, the center has been granted a limited license to use the Care Net logo. If the center uses the Care Net logo, its usage is in accordance with all requirements set forth in the current version of the Care Net Identity and Logo Usage Guide.

15

Centers may not incorporate under the Care Net name; however, centers may apply to Care Net for a limited license to use the Care Net name as a DBA (Doing Business As). If the center has Care Net in its name, the center has applied to Care Net for use of this name.

HOW DO PREGNANCY CENTERS OPERATE?



The information presented to clients at Care Net-affiliated centers on any medically-related topic is approved by licensed medical professionals before it is presented (see items 6 and 8 in the Standards of Affiliation and item 6 in the Commitment of Care and Competence on pages 5 & 6).



For example, in the Care Net-produced resource *Before You Decide*, which is available to clients at many pregnancy centers, each piece of information about pregnancy, fetal development, and abortion procedures and risks is taken from medical and academic journals and studies, medical and science textbooks, and other peer-reviewed sources, and are fully cited in the references section of the resource. Each of these references was also reviewed and approved by a practicing physician before the resource was distributed. All of these references can be accessed on a public website, beforeyoudecide.info/references.

Despite the rigor of these methods, many articles are published each year claiming that pregnancy centers routinely provide false information to women. For example, an article from AOL.com dated March 1, 2016 quoted critics who accused pregnancy centers of “incorrectly” telling women that fetuses at 14 weeks have fingernails. However, this information is perfectly accurate.

In fact, as early as 12 weeks after a pregnant woman’s last menstrual period, the fetus’s fingernails and toenails have begun to develop.*

FURTHERMORE, AS OUTLINED IN ITEM 8 OF THE STANDARDS OF AFFILIATION ON PAGE 6, ALL PREGNANCY CENTERS OFFERING MEDICAL SERVICES:

- ✓ Function under the authority and direction of a licensed physician who is in good standing with the physician’s state licensing board;

- ✓ Only utilize trained and licensed medical professionals to perform medical procedures, including ultrasounds;

- ✓ Carry sufficient medical liability coverage for the center and all medical personnel (unless they have their own coverage).

In addition to information about fetal development, critics also falsely accuse pregnancy centers of giving false or misleading information about the risks of abortion. The risks of abortion have been well-documented in a diversity of academic journals. Critics of pregnancy centers mislead the public into thinking that pregnancy centers operate without any government oversight. This is untrue. Where licenses are required by the state, Care Net affiliated centers have them. They also claim that centers provide false or misleading information to clients, especially in the areas of pregnancy, fetal development, and abortion. As outlined above, this could not be further from the truth.

*O’Rahilly R, Müller F. 2001. *Human embryology and teratology*. 3rd ed. New York: Wiley-Liss.



LOCATION

When it comes to where pregnancy centers choose to locate, critics claim that pregnancy centers are deceiving women by choosing locations in close proximity to abortion clinics or in spaces formerly occupied by abortion clinics that have shut down. The argument is that women might confuse these life affirming facilities with an abortion clinic. The implication of this accusation is quite troubling as it implies, (1) that centers would willfully deceive women, and (2) that women are easily deceived.

Third, it implies that abortion clinics should be able to operate wherever they choose, and then, after they have chosen their location, pregnancy centers should operate under some sort of limitation on where they should locate. This would imply a government "preference" for abortion clinics over organizations that provide abortion alternatives. Clearly, the government must, and does, maintain neutrality on such issues.

Consider the following analogy. Imagine if the government expressed a preference for ophthalmologists (eye doctors) over podiatrists (foot doctors) by allowing ophthalmologists to locate wherever they felt they would be able to optimize their business, and then prevented podiatrists from locating anywhere near those ophthalmologists to prevent the podiatrists from "deceiving" the public about their services. Such rules would be absurd.

In the context of services for women and men facing pregnancy decisions, both abortion clinics and pregnancy centers, as private enterprises, are able to locate wherever they believe their services are needed. Common sense dictates that demand for abortions and abortion alternatives are likely to be found in the same areas, thus the locations of such organizations can be in close proximity to one another.

ADVERTISING & SIGNAGE

As stated in item 3 of Care Net's Standards of Affiliation on page 6, Care Net-affiliated centers are required to notify clients in writing that they do not provide or refer for abortions. Critics of pregnancy centers claim that this is not enough. They claim that in order to meet some arbitrary standard of "non-deception" (a standard that only those critics themselves have created), pregnancy centers should have large, publicly visible signs on their buildings stating that they do not perform or refer for abortions. Returning to the analogy about podiatrists and ophthalmologists, does the state require ophthalmologists to post public notices about the types of services they do not provide? In almost no context does the state require private enterprises to proclaim publicly what types of goods and services they do not provide. Why should this standard be applied to organizations providing services to women and men seeking information about pregnancy decisions? Regardless, several states and localities, by way of persistent lobbying from abortion organizations, have attempted to enforce such rules on pregnancy centers.



This issue went all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States in the *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra* case. Decided in 2018, the Court ruled in favor of NIFLA, stating that the rules created by California's FACT Act, which would require pregnancy centers to post information about how to access abortions, would violate the free speech of the centers. The ruling was based largely on the law's specific targeting of life-affirming organizations and no one else.

In advertising their services, Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers are trained to use advertising strategies that are in line with Federal Trade Commission standards that are truthful and not misleading according, for example, to the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. 45.

Therefore, Care Net's affiliated network of pregnancy centers ensure that the wording of their Internet ads is carefully constructed to ensure that there are no implied claims that abortion services are being offered. For example a pregnancy center ad may say, "Considering Abortion?" Simply asking that question does not imply that the advertiser conducts abortion procedures. Furthermore, according to Google's standards (the leading provider of online advertising space), the website being advertised must contain information that is in line with the content of the ad that directs the visitor to the site. Centers in Care Net's network do not have websites claiming that they perform abortions, and furthermore, they are advised by Care Net to post disclaimers that indicate that they do not perform or refer for abortions on their website if the website has information about abortion. Returning once again to the doctor analogy, when you visit a ophthalmologist's website, do you expect them to post disclaimers listing all of the types of medical services they do not provide?



Recently, much of the criticism of pregnancy centers has been directed to their use of online, pay-per-click advertising. Critics have claimed that pregnancy center ads on search engines like Google are deceiving women into thinking that the centers provide abortions. Some claimed that Google was removing a significant number of pregnancy center ads. However, this claim was never substantiated and the vast majority of pregnancy centers have continued advertising exactly as they were.

When it comes to accusations of deceptive advertising, critics of pregnancy centers once again desire to apply a standard to pregnancy centers that they would consider absurd in every other context.



ANSWERING PHONES

These same principles of being truthful and not misleading apply to the manner in which pregnancy centers answer phone calls. Care Net affiliated pregnancy centers' standard of care includes always being up front with callers seeking abortion information by first telling anyone who asks about abortion that the pregnancy center does not perform or refer for abortion.

If pregnancy centers were being deceptive, clients of pregnancy centers themselves would be reporting such deception in significant numbers. However, this has never happened. In fact, the opposite has occurred. **Over the last three years, the percentages of Care Net-affiliated pregnancy center clients who completed a written exit survey and indicated that their overall experience at the center was positive were 99% in 2019, 99% in 2020, and 94% in 2021.** Client satisfaction ratings that high are difficult to find in any industry. This data flies in the face of criticisms about the "deception" and "intimidation" that pregnancy centers allegedly engage in. Finding the random and rare unsatisfied client, which is all that critics of pregnancy centers have ever been able to do, is not proof or even substantial evidence that pregnancy centers are deceptive.

In the Client Feedback section (pages 13–19), you will be able to read testimonials from pregnancy center clients about their highly positive experiences with centers. These are the people who make up the 94+ percent of satisfied clients.

UNAFFILIATED PREGNANCY CENTERS

It is important to note that there are some pregnancy centers that do not operate under any of the standards or supervision that an organization like Care Net provides, and some centers choose to ignore such guidelines even when they are expected to operate under them.

In rare cases, these unaffiliated or noncompliant centers may engage in practices that organizations like Care Net publicly condemn. Moreover, if a Care Net-affiliated center chooses to ignore our standards, they are disaffiliated. However, to use that minority as an example of how most pregnancy centers operate is false and misleading. For example, it would not be fair to use imprisoned abortion provider Dr. Kermit Gosnell, who murdered newborn infants, as the example of how all abortion providers operate. Therefore, in the name of fairness, it is appropriate to judge the work of pregnancy centers based on the practices of the vast majority of them, which operate under the professional standards of national networks such as Care Net's.





URSULA & ARIELLE
Martinsville, VA



JEANNETTE & STEVEN
Hawthorne, NJ

CLIENT FEEDBACK

A thorough review of feedback from actual Care Net pregnancy center clients* reveals an overwhelmingly positive response from the women and men that pregnancy centers serve. Since 2008, Care Net-affiliated centers have served over 3 million women and men. We survey those women and men about the service they receive. As stated on page 10, at 99% of clients at Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers indicated that their overall experience at the center was positive. Satisfaction ratings that high are hard to find in any industry. And behind these numbers are real people whose lives have been transformed by the compassionate care they have received at pregnancy centers. On the following pages are stories about what those clients themselves have said about their experiences at Care Net's pregnancy centers:



RACHEL & ALORA
Sierra Vista, AZ



TIMILY'S STORY
San Angelo, TX



TIA'S STORY
Rocky Mountain, NC



SARAH'S STORY
Liberty, MO

Critics of pregnancy centers will often quote women who had negative experiences at pregnancy centers as evidence of their low-quality service. It is inevitable in any service industry to have some clients who are not satisfied with the service they received.

But as the above statistics and stories reveal, the vast majority of pregnancy center clients have a positive experience at a center.



URSULA + ARIELLE

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER OF MHC, MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

At age 21, Ursula had just ended a bad relationship and was hoping to get her life back on the right track. Instead, she found herself pregnant.

“I felt like I lost everything I had,” Ursula says. “I lost hope. This was not the way life was supposed to be happening for me. I was scared of being rejected. I was upset. I was depressed. I was a mess...”

Too often, women and men facing unplanned pregnancies are making the most crucial decision of their lives—whether or not to choose life for their unborn son or daughter—and they feel utterly alone.

Then Ursula turned to Care Net for help. She called her local Care Net pregnancy center and they welcomed her with open arms.

“They called me back and asked if I would come in and talk,” she remembers. “And I’ve been in love ever since.”

With support from the staff and resources of her local pregnancy center, Ursula chose life for her daughter Arielle.

“She has propelled my life into a whole other dimension,” Ursula says.

Ursula’s relationship with Care Net’s pregnancy center didn’t end with Arielle’s birth.

The team at the Pregnancy Care Center of MHC in Martinsville, VA also helped Ursula apply for and receive a four-year scholarship through Care Net to Regent University to further her education. The excited mother says she’s “never been happier in her church home” and cannot wait to begin making a better future for her daughter.

Ursula said, “The scholarship is an amazing blessing! I used to say things like ‘this only happens on television.’ However, now I know that things like this can happen to anyone and God can do even greater things.”





JEANNETTE, MIGUEL + STEVEN MICHAEL

LIGHTHOUSE PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER, HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY

“Miguel and I were working as counselors at a summer camp when I began to suspect that I was pregnant. There was no way for us to know for sure, so we kept it a secret for the rest of the summer. As soon as we got home, I took a pregnancy test, and it came back positive. We knew we couldn’t put it off anymore, but neither of us felt ready to tell our parents.

“I looked for someone that we could talk to about pregnancy and options. I found an ad for Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center that said, ‘Pregnant & Scared?’ This was, in fact, exactly how I felt. At that time, I was strongly considering the possibility of abortion. I was so ashamed that I was thinking about taking the easy way out that Miguel had to make the call. He called and we ended up speaking with a woman for an hour. She then gave us an appointment to come in and talk to counselors.

“When we arrived we were greeted with warmth and understanding. I was given the opportunity to speak with a female peer counselor and Miguel talked with a male counselor. I felt so comfortable there, all of these emotions just came pouring out. I was able to honestly express my fears and concerns. My peer counselor walked me through all of my options. She gave me lots of information and pamphlets on each of my options. She also told me about a nearby center that offered free ultrasounds. I knew that I wanted to see the ultrasound.

“We went together, and the moment we saw our baby on the screen, we knew that we had to consider what was best for our unborn child, as well as ourselves. We called our counselors at Lighthouse, told them that we were going to keep the baby, and asked for their help and guidance.

“Lighthouse became a source of strength as well as information. They helped us make a hospital appointment, sign up for Medicaid, and even helped us through the process of telling our parents. In addition, Miguel’s counselor was really mentoring him and helping him prepare to become a dad, while my counselor was helping me prepare for motherhood.

“Soon after, our son, Steven Michael was born. We will always be thankful for our local Care Net center. Lighthouse helped us become the people we have always wanted to be.”

Miguel added, “I would simply like to say that without the guidance of the Lighthouse family we would not be the strong, confident and loving new parents we are now going to be. Thank you for being our light and helping us step out of the darkness. Thank you.”



RACHEL + ALORA

CARE NET PREGNANCY CENTER OF COCHISE COUNTY, SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

“My boyfriend said there was only one option: abortion. After all, what would our parents say? What would the people at our church think?”

“I obediently scheduled an appointment, but before the date arrived, I was overwhelmed with doubts. I knew I couldn’t do it. Desperate for help and options, I found the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Cochise County.

“I scheduled an appointment to meet with a peer counselor. They sat down with me and helped me go over all of my options, and they really listened to my needs. I didn’t feel judged; I just felt cared for.

“After meeting with my counselor, I knew that I wanted to keep this baby. I still had fears about how this decision was going to affect my future, but the staff from the pregnancy center was there for me throughout my pregnancy. They offered me parenting classes as well as ears to talk to, shoulders to cry on, and ready prayers.

“And now, I have a beautiful little daughter, Alora. When I look at my daughter, I still cannot believe that I almost considered abortion. Life as a single mother is not bed of roses, but the love that I have for my daughter and the love that she gives to me makes it all worthwhile.

“I am so thankful for the love and support I received at the Care Net center and for their continuing friendship and prayers!”



TIA'S STORY

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

“When I found I out I was pregnant, I had no idea what I was going to do. I thought there was no way I could provide for a child and decided that abortion was my only option. I went to the City Health Department looking for an abortion referral, but they suggested I go to the Pregnancy Care Center, a local Care Net center in Rocky Mountain, North Carolina.

“At first I was scared they were going to judge me because of my situation, but when I walked through the doors I was accepted with open arms. My peer counselor offered me hope and assurance and told me that God has a plan for everyone, and that included me and my child. She told me that God would take care of both of us if I would let Him. That day, I gave my life to Jesus Christ and chose life for my child.

“The center arranged for me to have an ultrasound, which revealed that I was having twins! Excited but a little anxious, this news motivated me to begin parenting classes at the center as well as to attend a Bible Study. Through the parenting classes, I learned how to take care of myself, as well as my children. Through the Bible Study, I learned how to draw closer to God and how to make positive decisions for my future. I realized that I'm worth waiting for and have made a new commitment to remain abstinent until marriage.

“Today, I am the proud mother of twins, a boy and girl, who I named Ma'chi and Ma'chiya. I plan on completing a degree in nursing and will soon begin classes.”



TIMILY'S STORY

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER OF CONCHO VALLEY, SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

"I was 14 years old when I found out that I was pregnant. I knew that if I told my mom, she would be extremely mad at me, so I decided not to tell her. Then I got a bad ear infection and I had to be taken to the emergency room. They did a blood test, which revealed that I was pregnant. My mother was angry, partly because of my bad decisions, but also because I hadn't told her the truth.

"Immediately, she told me that I was going to have an abortion. I know she just wanted the best for me. She was 15 when I was born, and she told me she did not want me to go through the things that she did, so I did not question her decision.

"My mom took me to an abortion clinic." They did not ask questions; they just told us how to schedule an appointment and how much it would cost. A little intimidated by the price, my mom thought we should look around. She had seen another advertisement for a local Care Net center called Pregnancy Help Center of Concho Valley. She thought maybe this place could help us find another abortion clinic that would be less expensive.

"As we drove up to the center, no lights were on, but there were cars in the parking lot. My mother left me and my dad in the car and went up to the door. My mom talked to one of the women inside, asking them if they did abortions or where she could find another abortion clinic.

After some time, my mom came back to the car with a bunch of brochures. She told us that the woman wanted to talk to me as well, but my mom thought that it was not good idea. My mom called and made an appointment for me at another abortion clinic.

"The ride home was pretty tense. My mom seemed really upset. She turned on the radio really loud. The craziest thing was that every station she turned it to was playing Christian music. This seemed to make her even more upset.

"A few days later, my mom took me to the abortion clinic and paid the \$470 fee for the abortion. She was not allowed to come to the

back room with me, so I walked through the doors with strangers. I felt scared and completely alone. They did a quick orientation to tell me what they were going to do and then did an ultrasound. They kept the machine turned away so I could not see what was on the screen. Then the doctor came in. He had a long beard and long gray hair, just like someone from ZZ Top. But before they started the procedure, one of the women from the clinic came in, spoke with the doctor, and then instructed me to put my clothes back on. They told me that the ultrasound had showed that I was five months along, further than they originally thought, and that they would need more money to perform the necessary procedure.

"When I got back to the waiting room, I told my mom what had happened. She went up to the registration desk to talk to someone, but a few seconds later she turned around and told me that we were leaving and that I could not have an abortion.

"I was so relieved! She did not get her money back; she just grabbed my hand and we left. She kept telling me how sorry she was. Later she told me that she had seen my ultrasound picture in my file on the desk. She had heard the words of one of the women for the Pregnancy Help Center telling her that God was in control, and she knew we could not go through with it.

"The following week we went back to the Pregnancy Help Center to thank them for their love and their prayers. They told us they had been praying for us the whole time. They were anxious to help us in any way they could. They offered maternity clothes, a crib and clothes for the baby, and lots of referrals to other local agencies. I am so thankful for everything they did for us.

"A few months later, I gave birth to Damien Rose. He was two months premature and weighed only two pounds at birth. But God saw us through it, and today, he is six months old and completely healthy, receiving all of the love and attention that God had planned for his life.



SARAH'S STORY

LIBERTY WOMEN'S CENTER, LIBERTY, MISSOURI

"I was like any normal college freshman, just enjoying being young and carefree. That is, until the night that would change my life. I was raped at a party and a few weeks later I found out that I was pregnant. I felt completely numb; I couldn't believe this was happening, I had no idea what I was going to do. My roommate told me about Liberty Women's Clinic, a nearby Care Net-affiliated center that she said could help me.

"At the center, they sat down with me, they listened to me, and they helped me think through all of my available options. I was so thankful for how much information they had to offer. They did not rush me; they really took the time to help me go over everything. After learning about abortion, I did not think that I could do that, but I was still scared and unsure of what to do. I went ahead and looked into a couple of local abortion clinics, but I could not shake the feeling that I was meant to have this baby.

"A few days later, I went back to the pregnancy center to have an ultrasound and, when I saw my baby on that screen, I knew that in spite of my circumstances, abortion just was not an option for me. After that, I began the process of deciding whether I would parent the baby or make an adoption plan. After receiving counsel from the women at the center as well as family and friends, I decided that the best thing for me and for my baby was adoption.

"After giving birth to a beautiful baby girl, I was able to place her in the arms of a loving couple who I knew would adore her and provide for her as their own. I am so thankful for Liberty Women's Clinic and the love and support they offered me. Bringing that beautiful baby girl into the world was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I discovered that I am stronger than I ever knew. And I got to see the faces of that couple. Knowing how much they were going to love her was the best part!"

IMPACT OF PREGNANCY CENTERS

Pregnancy centers provide needed and worthy services to their communities. As organizations providing alternatives to abortion, they play a critical role. If it were not for the presence of pregnancy centers, pregnant women would have few places to turn if they were seeking services other than abortions to assist them in their pregnancies.

In addition to the information on page 4, which illustrates the \$74 million in free services centers provided to communities in 2020, the below data shows the impact that Care Net-affiliated centers alone (which comprise about one-half of all pregnancy centers in the country) have had since 2008.

Furthermore, dozens of state legislatures have passed resolutions over the years recognizing the important contributions that pregnancy centers make in their communities.

IN THE PAST
14 YEARS
940,173
LIVES SAVED!

This Impact is Among Clients Visiting A Care Net Center Who Are at Risk For Abortion
(2008 - 2021)



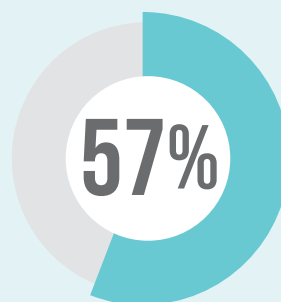
3 OUT OF 4 WOMEN

Who Are Considering Abortion When They Visit a Care Net Pregnancy Center

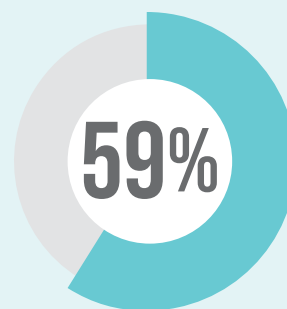
CHOOSE LIFE

For Their Unborn Children

HIGHEST AGE RISK: 20'S



Of Pregnancy Center Clients are ages 20-29¹



Of abortions are performed on women ages 20-29²

| |
|---|
| More than 1.5 million free ultrasound scans |
| More than 1.4 million received parenting support & education |
| More than 2 million people heard the Gospel |
| More than 2.1 million people received material resources |
| More than 5 million free pregnancy tests |

1. Statistics come from internal data collection and the 2008-2021 Annual Statistics from Care Net affiliated pregnancy centers. Number is based on the "last stated intent" of women at risk for abortion who visit a center.
2. Jatlaoui, T.C., Ewing, A, Mandel, M.G., et al. (2016) Abortion Surveillance—United States, 2013. MMWR Surveill Summ 2016;65 (No. SS-12):1-44. DOI: retrieved December 1, 2016 <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6512a1>

CONCLUSION

As evidenced by Care Net's Commitment of Care and Competence (which is similar to documents used by other pregnancy center networks) and its Standards of Affiliation, it is clear that pregnancy centers, as a whole operate under standards and rules that result in consistent, professional services. And, where applicable, such as when delivering medical services, centers operate under all of the appropriate licensing required by the state in which they operate. Such practices are a far cry from the false picture that critics of pregnancy centers have attempted to paint of centers operating without any sort of supervision, standards, or legal oversight.

Furthermore, the benefits that pregnancy centers offer create significant value and goodwill in thousands of communities across the country. The millions of clients served, the of hundreds of dollars in free services offered, and the personal testimonials of clients provide compelling evidence that women, men, and families continue to seek out the services provided by pregnancy centers. Therefore, it is critical that fair and accurate information about these centers is presented to the public. We are hopeful that this report is a positive step in that direction.

Through Care Net Since 2008

940,173
UNBORN LIVES
SAVED



SAVE LIVES BY DONATING TODAY
[Care-Net.org/Donate](https://www.Care-Net.org/Donate)

COMPASSION + HOPE + HELP
FOR WOMEN & MEN CONSIDERING ABORTION

CARE  NET

©2022, second edition Care Net. The Truth About “Crisis Pregnancy Centers.” All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other — except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher. Available for free download at: care-net.org

Care Net
44180 Riverside Parkway, Suite 200
Lansdowne, VA 20176
Phone: 703-554-8734
Fax: 703-554-8735
Email: info@care-net.org

Best practice advice provided in this ebook is intended solely for educational purposes. The authors and the publisher are not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional advice or service. Professional advice regarding specific facts and circumstances should be sought from an accountant, attorney, or other appropriate professional.