



Blessings

Winter 2013/2014

Volume 8, Issue 2

Receiving the Lord's Message

Guests at the Silent Auction in November gave generously to support our cause. They in turn *received a gift beyond measure* in the honest, inspirational story they heard from Jeffersonville Director Kate Chetta.

Kate's association with ABB began a couple of years ago when she and husband Gaetano made a donation to honor the birth of their first daughter, Sophia. A lifelong pro-Life supporter, Kate first became a Baby's Breath Advocate, working with clients as they coped with past mistakes, bad advice from family and friends, abuse, and despair. Eventually, Kate's commitment led her to step up as a Director.

Kate and Gaetano were blessed as Kate became pregnant with another daughter. However; during her third trimester, the baby was diagnosed with a virus that would leave her severely disabled were she to survive delivery. In spite of recommendations that they "interrupt" the pregnancy,

Kate's daughter stayed safe and loved in her mother's womb until the Lord called her.

"The story doesn't end there," Kate continued. "It was through this experience that God gave me an incredible insight. I now understood the fear, the desperation, the hopelessness that many of our clients feel when they are forced to make a choice between what the experts tell them and what their heart reveals."

"This mission helps us to see that God's plan for our lives may be different than what we would have expected or even wanted for ourselves, and that this path may be painful," she related. "That suffering is part of the human condition. But it is our response to suffering that gives meaning to our lives. It is the choice we make in the midst of our pain that truly matters."



Kate and Gaetano

Giving Thanks

We are so thankful for the loyal volunteers and supporters of A Baby's Breath – we couldn't do this without you. We are also thankful that Planned Parenthood, our neighbors in the Colledgeville Center, have moved out! In the next year - God willing, our organization will be starting to offer housing directly to our crisis clients. Please keep our mission in your prayers as we continue to do God's work.

Karen Patota
Founder & President



The Colledgeville sign with leaders last summer (left); the Colledgeville sign now (above)

A Baby's Breath Briefs

Collegeville Center

78 Second Ave, Collegeville, PA 19426
610.489.0083

By Susan Grant, Director

I joined A Baby's Breath as a volunteer last November after finding a posting online on Volunteermatch.org. After meeting Mary Ann McDonnell and a couple of the Collegeville volunteers, I quickly realized I'd found a talented, caring and committed group of people who were dedicated to their mission. Over the past year, I've become an Advocate at the Collegeville Center, attended the leadership conference in the spring and as of September, have taken on the Director's role. Mary Ann McDonnell, former director, remains a key support as I'm still learning that role.

We don't always know how much of a difference we make unless our clients come right out and tell us. But there are few instances that stand out to me as clear successes. One is a former client who worked hard to move beyond her crisis situation and who now has offered to "give back" with her time as a volunteer.

We have also had a couple of situations when the ultrasound machine was an added factor that



Cathy Mote

helped tip the balance for life. In one particular case, Cathy Mote (Warminster) initiated a conversation with a client who'd been scheduled for an abortion at the Planned Parenthood next door and then referred her to Susan McInerney for an ultrasound at Collegeville. Seeing their unborn baby on the screen seemed to reinforce a change of mind for the young mom-to-be and her partner.

One of the first tasks I had starting as Director this fall was to arrange coverage for the "second

collection" at St. Eleanor's Church. Monsignor Sweeney allows the proceeds of the second collection at each Mass one weekend to go to A Baby's Breath. About a week later, we held an Open House at the Collegeville Center, and had several people drop in to find out how they could help us.

From the open house and also from postings on volunteermatch.org, we now have two new advocates in training and two assistant coordinators, Laura Piekara and Melissa Sinner, to support Donations Coordinator Sandra Dounce.

In December, we held our annual client Christmas party. We gave wrapped presents to the clients' children - St. Eleanor's, St. Philip Neri Parish in Pennsburg and the Kinder Works daycare in Limerick donated gifts.

Heading into 2014, our focus will be on building community awareness of A Baby's Breath in Collegeville and creating strategies to grow our fundraising efforts. I am in awe of the way all the Collegeville volunteers work together for our clients, whether for small issues or bigger events – I feel very blessed to be part of such a wonderful team.

Jeffersonville Center

2118 W. Main Street, Jeffersonville, PA 19403
610.630.9630

By Kate Chetta, Director

We had a very successful open adoption with one of our clients over the summer. This was her second child and she knew she could not support the baby. She selflessly chose to work with the Open Arms Adoption Agency and selected a family from Lancaster County that she felt was best for her son. After the birth of her little boy, she knew she made the right choice for him and is looking forward to watching him grow with his new family.

The Norristown Run for Life raised about \$6,000 for the Center this past year. We are hoping to improve on this next year by finding new sponsors for the race.

We will be holding a Spirit Night at Chic-Fil-A on Trooper Rd. on Thursday, March 13th, from 5-8 pm. We'll be promoting the 2014 RFL (to be held April 12, 2014) and we'll also be running a 50/50. The Jeffersonville Center will also be getting a portion of the sales for that evening.

Warminster Center

600 Louis Dr., Suite 206B Warminster, PA 18974;
267.275.4097

By Anne Ruegner, General Manager

In the excitement of our third year in Warminster, we are happy to announce the arrival of our new ultrasound machine. This was made possible through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus, Regina Mundi Council #4052. Our dedicated team of nurses and ultrasound technicians has been trained and are available whenever needed. Our new ultrasound room has been blessed with a relic of St. Gianna, donated by the St. Gianna Society, marking another major milestone for the Warminster Center.

In February, we began our parenting classes which are held at our center once every month. Our prenatal classes began for our pregnant clients.

October 5th marked our third Run for Life 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run. We had about 150 participants and the weather was absolutely beautiful. We are so thankful for our participants, sponsors and volunteers for helping us raise \$10,000. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our volunteers from Holy Family

University and the Men's and Women's groups from St. Robert of Bellarmine.

Wayne Center

121 N. Wayne Ave, Suite 102,
Wayne, PA 19087; 267.275.7712

By Director Karen Navarette

I have been the director at the Wayne Center since June. I am a full-time teacher at a private Catholic school in Downingtown. I am eager for the chance to help pregnant women choose life.

Since the summer, the Wayne Center has continued to offer support to young mothers. We have offered career and housing counseling, as well as adoption counseling.

Keep an eye out in the New Year for an Open House, as well as monthly parenting classes!



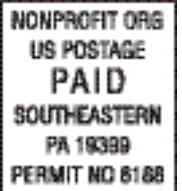
Our 5K run in honor of Johnny Williamson back in October was hugely successful, and we are eternally grateful to our race coordinator, Marianne Stutzman, for all her hard work!

ABB thanks our Silent Auction sponsors

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2118 W. Main Street Jeffersonville, PA 19403



***A Baby's Breath
The Leadership Conference
March 22, 2014
Villanova University***

***For more information,
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