

Words Of Life

April 2018

She was well into her years of raising children when she realized she might be pregnant again. It wasn't in her plans to have another baby. She thought she was nearing the finish line of raising children. However, pregnancy symptoms led her to get online, find our clinic & make an appointment.

She didn't know if she wanted to have an abortion or parent her baby. When asked what decision she was facing, she told us, "I don't know yet." Nobody knew about the pregnancy, not even the birth father. If she aborted then no one would have to know but abortion went against her beliefs. She told us, "You shouldn't get rid of a baby God put in you". But she was torn. Christian beliefs, financial stress, her reputation, and an older child finding out she had aborted... what should she do?

She was open to learning more about the abortion procedures. We discussed information on the abortion pill and surgical abortions, so she would be empowered to make an informed choice. During our discussion, she became concerned with how she might feel after the abortion. We discussed the option of adoption. This choice would not be going against her Christian beliefs and she wouldn't have to face what she was worried about in raising another child. She said it was a good option because the baby would get to live but she feared she couldn't let go once she carried her baby throughout the pregnancy.

The ultrasound revealed a tiny heartbeat and her baby was clearly seen moving around.

We armed her with truth about all of her options along with booklets to help her learn more. She even allowed us to pray with her. She cried throughout her appointment and we could see she was struggling with her decision.

When she returned the next week for her ultrasound & STD results, she had discussed her pregnancy "secret" with her mother and her oldest child. After telling her oldest about her pregnancy, they discussed the options and that sweet child accompanied her to her next appointment with us.

We discussed the booklets given to her at her first appointment and asked if she had made a final decision yet. She said she had decided to keep her baby because "babies and life are God's greatest gift and abortion goes against all I believe in". We encouraged her to have a daily time with the Lord and she accepted a Bible we offered her.

The "odds" were stacked against her that first day when she came to our clinic, but we knew God could overcome them all. She is walking by faith in Him that she made the right decision. We know she did. To God be the glory!

From a Director's Heart

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From a Director's Heart

Greetings from Agape House!

Wow! What an awesome 2018 Spring Fund Raising Event with Kevin & Sam Sorbo! I am most pleased to report we have received over **\$107,000** in cash and pledges. It was truly the gathering of an "army" RISING UP for LIFE! Be sure to read our client's testimony in this newsletter. This brave, young lady exemplifies first hand what gets us up in the morning to do what we get to do through Agape House.

As many of you know, I have been away from Agape House quite a bit this year due to the illness, hospitalization and recent home going of my son in law, Randall Ricketts. Randall loved Agape House and faithfully volunteered helping with the Spring Event and our Volunteer Christmas party. I want to express a deep and sincere thank you to all of you who have called, texted, sent cards and gifts, attended the visitation or funeral, and prayed for my family and me. Special heartfelt thanks to my staff that have gone above and beyond to cover us in prayer and take care of the details of ministry in my absence. We rejoice in knowing Randall is with our LORD in heaven and we will see him again some day. John 14:2-3

I often say one of the hardest things in ministry is when God leads a fellow servant to relocate. Such is the case as we say goodbye to Tia and Jim Barnhouse. Tia has served faithfully on staff as our Receptionist for the past 5 ½ years. We along with our patients will greatly miss her sweet voice and caring spirit. Bro. Jim Barnhouse has volunteered as our Men's Ministry Coordinator for over 7 years. Numerous potential birth fathers have been the recipient of his care and compassion. We will miss his humorous stories, practical jokes, and numerous acts of kindness. We wish them the best as they relocate in Hendersonville, Tennessee and look forward to seeing what God has in store for them in the days ahead!

It is an honor to serve alongside all of you.

Yours for LIFE.
Linda DeBoard, CEO

*As water reflects the face,
so one's life reflects the heart.*
Pro. 27:19

WHY I SERVE.

Meet **Mariallie Smithson**, Agape House Patient Coordinator! Mariallie's family consists of her husband, Gary Smithson pastor of Big Sandy Church of Christ, four daughters, and nine grandchildren. They live in Greenfield, the town she has come to love and is where you don't get lost in the shuffle. She loves to garden and is happiest with a paintbrush in her hand.



Mariallie has always had a heart for missions and been on several short-term trips but that didn't really scratch the itch. After attending a spring event she decided to attend volunteer orientation and become a patient coordinator. In the beginning she didn't realize that God had provided a mission field for her right here in Northwest Tennessee. "Little did I know what was in store for me. I didn't know that as I was serving, I would be served." As Mariallie ministers to the women who come seeking help she has seen her courage, wisdom, and faith all grow. Recently she has taken to heart the words in 2 Peter 4: 10-11 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies-in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever." Her prayer is to remember this always, not just at Agape House, but in her daily life and is so thankful for the opportunity to serve.



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Amazing Love

This year the Women's Sidonia Community Christmas Program provided guest speakers Linda DeBoard and Autumn Rain Smith with the opportunity to educate and share with women representing six area churches. Having the opportunity to explain the ministry's mission and share the works being done is always a joy. After speaking, the women blessed the ministry with these much needed items and a monetary donation. This truly is an act of God's amazing love. We would like to say on behalf of everyone at Agape House. THANK YOU!



You are invited and encouraged to prayerfully consider attending our up coming Volunteer Orientation scheduled for

August 24th & 25th

Who knows what God has in store for you? We look forward to meeting you!

For more information or to register contact

Barbara Mullins at 731-588-0339 or
barbara@agapehousefriend.com



Great News!

We are now offering an electronic version of our newsletter **Words of Life!** To register you may visit www.agapehousefriend.com/media/index.html. You may also call the office at 731-588-0339 to register!



Dave & Shari Reinhard

Pastor's Corner

First Assembly
of God
Martin, TN

What is your favorite part of being a pastor?

I love connecting with people and helping them draw closer to God.

Why do you make it a priority to support Agape House?

We support AH because we believe that every life is precious to God. We're thankful that we have this valuable resource in our community.

What does Sanctity of Human Life mean to you?

Sanctity of Human Life means that, from conception to the grave, every life is valuable to God and in His hands. Every person needs to be treated with dignity and respect because each person is made in the image of God.

Do you have any advice for individuals or organizations thinking of partnering with Agape House?

If you are wanting to partner with Agape House, they have a place for you to serve. This is an outstanding ministry with dedicated staff who value each life. Simply call and let them know you are interested in helping them.

Is there anything about you or your life you would like to share?

Shari and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary back in July. We love being with our family! We have 2 sons, Nathan and Adam and we have 2 grandkids: Emma, 4 and her brother Jack, 10 months. I also enjoy reading and officiating soccer.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9.

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21



Wow! These verses bring so much comfort to me as I say "Goodbye" to my family at Agape House. The Lord is leading my husband and me to Hendersonville, TN. Over these past 9 or so years, I have come to know and love so many of you! It has been my privilege and joy to serve alongside you. You will forever be in my heart and prayers!

In His Service,
Tia Barnhouse

"May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the Lord grant all your requests." Ps. 20:4-5.

Alexis & Aiden

Actual Client



At the age of just 17 years old, during my last semester of my junior year, I began to have suspicions I was pregnant. What began as extreme fatigue suddenly turned into vomiting at all times of the day. After one negative pregnancy test, I knew just where to go for clear answers.

During middle school, staff from the education team would come to our Wellness class to inform and teach us about sex and all the other things that come along with it. I remember how they told us about their free S.T.D. and pregnancy testing, and being in a financially unstable situation, I wasn't able to pay \$20 for a pregnancy test. So, I went to the medical clinic and knew the second I walked in the door that I was in good hands.

The environment was very calm and the staff immediately treated me so kindly as if I were family. Once I was checked in and I had filled out some paper work, I was taken to a room to discuss what my visit was for. I was then given a plastic cup and sent to the bathroom. Less than 10 minutes later, my biggest fear was confirmed: I was pregnant. My ultimate feelings were regret, shame, and as if I had let everyone down. I couldn't help but think, "How could this happen?" Although I knew good and well how it happened.

I was given a moment to take in what I had just been told. The staff then made sure I knew that everything was going to be okay and they would help me every way they could. They discussed my options with me. This is where I realized abortion was not sitting well with me.

They gave me an ultrasound where I was able to see my little bean and hear his rapid little heart-beat. I wanted to take care of this baby. Throughout my pregnancy they helped me prepare for parenthood and helped me get an idea of what to expect.

I know that pregnancy is a very scary thing, and it is even scarier for people who feel like they have no one to confide in. With this medical clinic, being judged and put down are things you will NEVER have to worry about. The clinic helped me in tremendous ways during my pregnancy. They never once made me feel ashamed for being a young parent and always made me feel welcomed and loved. By the end of my journey I felt as if they were my own family. The staff and volunteers helped me in unimaginable ways, and never will I be able to thank them for helping me become the parent I am today.

“I loved taking this class because I learned that I am in control of my future and I understand that my body is my treasure and I should set boundaries to protect it.” - Actual Student 2017

Our educational program serves as a point of prevention. We want to reach these students before they need the medical clinic. In 2017, our educational program reached over 3500 students in 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th grades.

So, how do we do it? We have an education team that presents information that will empower and encourage students to make sound decisions and avoid the risks of sexual activity before marriage. At the beginning of the week each student is given a workbook. Students are then assigned homework which must be signed by their parent or guardians in order to be complete. This is a tool that is used to begin a crucial conversation between students and their parents or guardians about relationships, sexual activity, and boundaries. To motivate student participation the students who complete a week's worth of assignments are given a snack! We recently surveyed students and found that an average of over 70% said they were motivated by the snack reward to complete their assignments. It may be just the trigger that's needed to start a meaningful conversation.

To keep the students engaged we offer a review on their last day of class. While the snack reward is only given to students who earn it by completing the assigned work, the candy bag is given to every student. The candy carries a specific saying that reinforces what they have learned in class.

This school year we will be in 2 states, 6 counties, 10 school districts, and 29 schools.

Thanks to all our donors, volunteers and staff that help make our educational program a success!

EDUCATION TEAM NEEDS



BABY BOTTLE UPDATE



With the help of our church partners and individuals this year, we were able to raise over **\$27,500** with our annual baby bottle fundraiser!

Praise and glory be to God!

Thank you so much for your support this year!

Adams Chapel Baptist Church
Alamo Baptist Church
Baptist Temple
Beech Springs Baptist Church
Bethel Baptist Church
Bethlehem Baptist Church
Bible Union Baptist Church
Cayce Baptist Church
Calvary Baptist Church
Central Baptist Church
Corinth Baptist Church

Cowboy Church
Cypress Creek Baptist Church
Eastside Baptist Church
Exchange St. Church of Christ
First Baptist Church - Dresden
First Baptist Church - Fulton
First Baptist Church - Gleason
First Baptist Church - Greenfield
First Baptist Church - Martin
First Baptist Church - Troy
First Baptist Church - Union City
First Assembly of God - Martin
First Christian Church
First Church of God - Union City
First Presbyterian Church - Greenfield
First United Methodist Church -

Martin
Gardner United Methodist Church
Grace Community Church
Healing Faith Family Worship Center
Hodges Chapel Baptist Church
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Laneview Baptist Church
Long Heights Baptist Church
Mack's Grove Baptist Church
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
Mt. Pelia Baptist Church
New Concord Baptist Church
New Home Baptist Church
New Salem Baptist Church
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church - Martin

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church - Rives
Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church
Public Wells Baptist Church
Ralston Baptist Church
Ruthville Baptist Church
The Mission
Second Baptist Church
Sidonia Baptist Church
South Fulton Baptist Church
St. Edwards Catholic Church
St. Jude Catholic Church
Tumbling Creek Baptist Church
West Union Baptist Church

Thank You

Quarterly Volunteer

Spotlight

We are thankful for your service to the ministry!

1st Quarter

Reta Hancock
Serving 9 years!

2nd Quarter

Becky Lister
Serving 6 years!



Mission Statement

Agape House is a Christ-centered ministry committed to upholding the sanctity of human life through education, medical services, and spiritual restoration.



Agape House, P.O. Box 473, Martin 38237 ~ 731-588-0339 ~ www.AgapeHouseFriend.com

Current Needs

Highlighter - Yellow
 Sharpies
 Toilet Paper
 Zip-Lock Bags - Sandwich Size
 13 Gallon Trash Bags
 4 Gallon Trash Bags
 Copy Paper
 #6^{3/4} Size Envelopes
 #10 Envelopes

January - April 2018 Statistics

Initial Patient / Ongoing Client Visits	76
Pregnancy Test Given 21 (+) ; 6 (-)	27
Abortion Risk Patients with (+) test	7
Abortion Risk Patients with final state intentions to carry	4
Abortion Risk Patients who aborted	2
Abortion Risk Patients with unknown outcomes	1
Patients Receiving STI Testing	26
Purity Commitment	0
Spiritual Discussion	16
Bibles Given	1
Students Attending Abstinence Education Program	1374

Financial Gifts

In Memory of:

Mr. Abel Stafford James	Anonymous
Mrs. Margo Villar	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kimsey
Mr. Turner Hancock	Exchange St. Church of Christ
Mr. Turner Hancock	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Boe
Mr. Turner Hancock	Mr. and Mrs. Danny Hinson
Mrs. Mary Boyd	Mrs. Linda Wright
Mrs. Annette S. Ferguson	Mr. Scott Ferguson
Mrs. Mary Wright	Anonymous
Ms. Virginia Moore	Anonymous
Ms. Kathy Reynolds	Mr. & Mrs. Farris Cole
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gray
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Ms. Karen Parker
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Ms. Jane Ingram
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Cavin
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Keller
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ferrell
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Dr. & Mrs. Donald Wright
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Ms. Carolyn Gore
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Ms. Ruth Shirley
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Ms. Linda Breeden
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Mr. & Mrs. George Zervos
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Brouillette
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Mr. & Mrs. Emery Gathers
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Mr. and Mrs. Keith Fowler
Mr. Randall Ricketts	Enlisted Association of National Guard of TN

In Honor of:

Mrs. Pat Harmon	Anonymous
Mr. Jeff Lannon	Anonymous

Medical Director

Dr. Karen Davidson, MD

Clinic Staff

Linda DeBoard - CEO
 Amanda Hicks, RDMS - Clinic Services Director
 Barbara Mullins, RT (R) - Client Services Director
 Autumn Rain Smith - Director of Development
 Maci Reaves - Director of Finance
 John Hamrick - Education Team Director
 Donna Middlebrook - Education Presenter

Board of Directors

Mark Dowdy - Chairman
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 James Burdette - Member
 Linda DeBoard - CEO



Medical Volunteers

Lauren Jackson, PharmD
Morgan Stone, NP

Office Support

Pat Harmon
Denise Burdette

Patient Coordinators

Jane Ogg
Becky Lister
Lois Sylvia
Mariallie Smithson
Penny Petty

Resource Coordinator

Paula Garner

Renew Coordinators

Angela Hughes
Martha Hopper

S.T.E.P.S. Coordinators

Halina Brown
Reta Hancock
Lois Blackwell

Prayer Coordinators

Jane Ogg

Support Services

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Marvin Downing
Sherry Hatchel
Chad Jimerson
Betsy Duckworth