

Words Of Life

October 2018

“Oh what a tangled web we weave..”

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You’ve heard the old saying and it is true. One bad decision upon another and before one knows it, their life is spiraling downward. That’s where we count it a blessing to provide education and medical services in a nonjudgmental environment.

This young woman had been to our clinic before when she was experiencing a crisis pregnancy. She had chosen to go through with the abortion and now she found herself staring at another positive home pregnancy test. She told us she decided to come back to our clinic because she could trust us.

Her circumstances seemed insurmountable. Her boyfriend wanted her to have the baby and they were feuding over this decision. She didn’t know who the baby’s father was and said she just could not be a mom. She only saw herself as a career person.

An ultrasound revealed the baby’s measurements different than we expected indicating the pregnancy could be earlier than she thought. This was important and she was happy to know she wasn’t very far along because that made the difference in whether she would abort the baby or not.

A week later, we repeated her ultrasound and gave her the STD results of her previous testing. We were able to confirm a viable pregnancy with a baby; she was just earlier in the pregnancy than expected. She made the decision to parent. She told her family as well as her boyfriend’s family and everyone was happy.

They continue to work on their relationship and plan to raise their baby together. They are talking about marriage but no plans have been made at this time.

When she aborted her last baby, we could have taken that as a failure on our part or given up on her, but God brought her back to us. We hope to be able to meet her baby this time and continue to grow this young woman through truth and love.

Yes, life can really get complicated. What an honor to invest in the lives of others!

From a Director’s Heart

Mark Dowdy

Walk for LIFE

Volunteer Orientation

Junior Event

Pastor’s Corner

Why I Serve

Current Needs

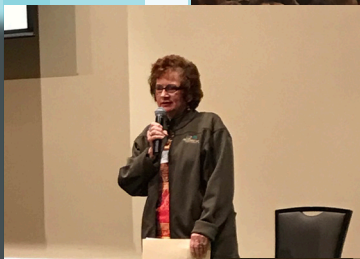
Financial Gifts

2018 Statistics





JUNIOR EVENT



“Risky Business!”

The Center for Disease Control’s 2017 *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance* reports that nationwide, 39.5% of high school students have had sexual intercourse and 9.7% have had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life.

Welcome to the market place we serve! As shocking as these statistics are, there are plenty more that could take their place. So what do we do?

We share *truth* with the youth in our community.

The educational team organized three high-energy, informative, and fun-filled days. Each day the students participated in conversations about making healthy and responsible choices. Students were able to interact through skits, personal stories, and an anonymous text line. Questions submitted anonymously covered a wide range of topics including sexual activity, abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, mental illness, and pregnancy. The questions were then answered by our panel of professionals including a law enforcement officer, a nurse, and counselor.

Something that stood out to many of the volunteers were the students who stood in front of their peers and spoke up about the importance of making good, sound decisions regarding their futures.

Over the three days we were able to reach 9 high schools with a total of 587 students and hopefully shine light on healthy goals for their future.

May all the glory go to God for allowing us to serve in this way!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE! ALSO, THANK YOU TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN’S HOME FOR HELPING SPONSOR THIS EVENT!



Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes



WALK FOR LIFE 2018



Rain, Rain, GO AWAY... We are Walking for **LIFE** anyway!

Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to everyone for RISING UP and raising funds for our 2018 Walk for Life. We are excited to share with you that we had **38** sponsored walkers representing **22** churches who walked for LIFE. With local dedicated walkers, community sponsors, and church partnerships we were able to raise over **\$11,000!** Glory and praise are given to God for providing these much needed resources to the ministry.

Thank You to all of our Walk For Life community sponsors!

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
BB'S FURNITURE & MATTRESS GALLERY
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BRADLEY HILL APARTMENTS
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VINCENT OUTFITTERS
WEAKLEY COUNTY MOTORS
WOODMEN LIFE- WENDELL VERDELL
FIRST COMMUNITY BANK (WATER)
WALMART (WATER)

Volunteer Orientation

You are invited and encouraged to prayerfully consider attending our Volunteer Orientation.

For more information contact

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

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!

3^d Quarter

Mariallie Smithson
Serving 2 years!

4th Quarter

Halina Brown
Serving 3 years!

Thank You

From a Director's Heart



Greetings from Agape House!

I hope you are all enjoying these early days of Fall and the cooler temperatures.

It's a busy place around Agape House. The educational team event held last week on the UTM campus for high school juniors was a huge success! There is nothing that compares with the joy of serving alongside our volunteers who make this event second to none! They are simply the best!

Later that week on Saturday we met with more precious volunteers who were determined to walk in the Walk for Life regardless of the weather. It's been a long time since I had so much fun walking in the rain!

Special thanks to Bro. Mark Dowdy for his faithful service on the Agape House Board of Directors for the past twelve years. We will forever be grateful for the priceless memories and numerous deposits he has made into our lives as we served together. He is truly a dedicated brother with a servant's heart and I am blessed to call him friend.

Board member Pam Adams has been elected to serve as the Board Chair for the remainder of this year and board member James Burdette has been elected to serve as the Vice Chair for the remainder of this year. Agape House is blessed to have a sincere group of Believers committed to the mission of Agape House and I am blessed beyond measure to serve alongside them.

Yours for LIFE,
Linda DeBoard, CEO

... All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. PS 139: 16



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Bro. Mark Dowdy

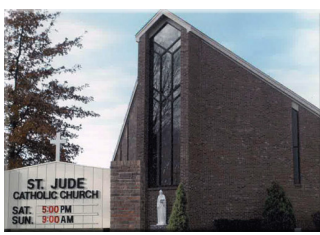
As the Lord provides seasons for us to enjoy, there are times of transition also. I have been blessed in this season of service at Agape House. It does not seem real that this journey started twelve years ago. I am a better person today because of the many people God has put in my path during this time. I am thankful for the staff, volunteers,

and friends of Agape House that has weathered many seasons together. I know God still has many seasons for Agape House to go through and God is equipping each one to walk in these times. My prayers are for Agape House as God has provided a season for my transition to leave this ministry. I leave you with words of Solomon found in Ecclesiastes 3:14, "I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him."

In Christ's Service,
Mark Dowdy



Rev. David Orsak



St. Jude Catholic Church Martin, TN

Pastor's Corner

What is your favorite part of being a pastor?

This is my first pastoral assignment. I would have to say that you will need to check back with me in a year or so to see how things are going.

How long have you been a pastor?

Our Bishop Martin D. Holley D. D. for the Diocese of Memphis in Tennessee had assigned me to the parish of St. Jude the Apostle on July 1st of 2018. That gives me an experience of three months now with the hopes and prayers of pastoring our church for many years to come.

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

Agape House is providing a most needed service for both the woman and her child leading up to and following the birth of the child. It is so important to cherish and dignify the lives of both the child and the birth mother.

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

I was blessed to find that our partnering was set up by my preceding pastors. We have found it to be a fruitful alliance and hope to continue as needed. I have offered my personal participation in counseling for those with questions regarding their faith.

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

I am what you would call a second vocational priest at the age of 65. I had been an Architectural Engineer, for the past 30 years, working in the design and construction of buildings and conveyor systems. I was ordained as a Catholic Priest, in June of 2014, and was assigned as an Associate Pastor at St. Ann Catholic Church in Bartlett, TN. I truly feel that Christ called me to be a priest; it just took me a little time to say YES! Aside from the joys of bringing the Sacraments to our people at St. Jude, I have a deep heart and passion towards the poor and the imprisoned of our society.

What does Sanctity of Human Life mean to you?

It means just that: All life, from conception to natural death, is a life given by God and is to be cherished, dignified and supported by us for it is truly sanctified by God. The Holy Spirit dwells within each of us and we should all be treated with love and respected as the temples that we are.



WHY I SERVE.

Hi everyone. My name is Paula Myers. I have lived in Hickman County, KY my entire life. I am married to my husband Danny and we have two sons. Evan, who is married to Rachel, they have one son. (our first grandchild). And Luke, who graduated from high school this year. I was saved at the age of 11 and have always loved to help people. We attend New Harmony Baptist Church in Clinton, KY.



I worked at Hickman County Elementary School as a sub for 10 years, then as Alternative Room Monitor for 7 years. I had been helping the Special Ed Secretary, when I did not have students scheduled, and so when she retired, the school offered me the job for the next school year. However, that summer God revealed to me that I needed to quit my job at the school. I was a little apprehensive, because this meant having no health insurance, but I knew God had a plan. I already had a few places that I cleaned on the weekends, so I began praying about more clients and God provided. I started building my cleaning business. This opened up a lot more time to volunteer.

I was already familiar with Agape House through Amanda Hicks, and had wanted to volunteer, but never would commit to the two day training. But finally in the spring of this year I went and by the end of the orientation, I knew God was calling me to serve at Agape House. I signed up and by the time my interview came around, God had already put us all in agreement of what I was to do. I currently serve as Resource Room Coordinator. It is perfect for me because it combines my love of organizing, cleaning, putting things in order, and getting to help others at the same time. I love the little room full of things that will hopefully make a new momma feel loved and to know that she is not alone. I feel blessed to serve at Agape House with so many people who have hearts to serve and love unconditionally, just as our Lord and Savior does.

Much love and blessings.

Paula

Mission Statement

Agape House provides sexual health services through educational and medical services.



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

Current Needs

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sharpies | #10 Envelopes |
| Toilet Paper | 60 Watt Light Bulbs |
| Glue Sticks | Individually Wrapped Snacks for Clinic Lobby |
| 13 Gallon Trash Bags | Gender Neutral Onesies |
| 4 Gallon Trash Bags | Gender Neutral Receiving Blankets |
| Copy Paper | Comb/Brush Sets |
| #6^{3/4} Size Envelopes | |

January - July 2018 Statistics

Initial Patient / Ongoing Patient Visits	231
Pregnancy Test Given 64 (+); 22 (-)	86
Abortion Risk Patients with (+) test	25
Abortion Risk Patients with final state intentions to carry	15
Abortion Risk Patients who aborted	4
Abortion Risk Patients who miscarried	3
Abortion Risk Patients with unknown outcomes	3
Patients Receiving STI Testing	68
Spiritual Discussion	142
Bibles Given	17
Students Attending Abstinence Education Program	2451

Financial Gifts

In Memory of:

<i>Mrs. Nell Turner</i>	<i>By Anonymous</i>
<i>Ms. Diane Meek</i>	<i>By Anonymous</i>
<i>Mr. Harry Sutton Sr.</i>	<i>By Mr. & Mrs. David Stone</i>
<i>Mr. Randall Ricketts</i>	<i>By Mr. & Mrs. Joe Taylor</i>
<i>Mr. Randall Ricketts</i>	<i>By Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Bowlin</i>
<i>Mr. Randall Ricketts</i>	<i>By Mrs. Kay Jackson</i>
<i>Mr. Jodie Gowan</i>	<i>By Mrs. Kay Jackson</i>
<i>Mrs. Louise Gowan</i>	<i>By Mrs. Kay Jackson</i>
<i>Ms. Corrine Stewart</i>	<i>By Mrs. Kay Jackson</i>

In Honor of:

Mrs. Christie Ricketts *By Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Bowlin*

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!

Medical Director

Dr. Karen Davidson, MD

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

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 Fred Hancock - Member
 Gary Smithson - Member
 Linda DeBoard - CEO



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Medical Volunteers

Dr. John Howard, MD
 Lauren Jackson, PharmD
 Emilee Ray - PharmD
 Morgan Stone, NP

Office Support

Pat Harmon
 Wanda Mullins
 Fay Parham

Patient Coordinators

Jane Ogg
 Becky Lister
 Lois Sylvia
 Mariallie Smithson
 Penny Petty
 Brian Larson Wells (Men's)

Resource Coordinator

Paula Myers

Renew Coordinators

Angela Hughes
 Martha Hopper

S.T.E.P.S. Coordinators

Halina Brown
 Reta Hancock
 Lois Blackwell

Handyman

Larry Mullins

Prayer Coordinators

Jane Ogg

Support Services

Judy Mehan
 Marvin Downing
 Sherry Hatchel
 Chad Jimerson
 Betsy Duckworth
 Denise Burdette
 Thurman Penick