

Words Of Life

March 2020

“A Major Decision”

What to do when facing a crisis pregnancy is a major decision. It isn't easy. It requires time and thought. There are so many details to consider. Such was the case with one of our patients who was living with her boyfriend but didn't feel their relationship was stable enough to bring a baby into the mix.

She told us she was a Christian but wasn't really certain that abortion was entirely wrong. She wanted to confirm that she was indeed pregnant and how far along she was with her pregnancy. She wanted to make a quick decision because waiting was too hard for her.

After confirming the viability age of her pregnancy, which was well advanced, she planned to discuss the decision with a few close family members and her boyfriend. Her boyfriend actually wanted her to have the baby, because he didn't want to, once again, lose a child to abortion as he had with a previous girlfriend.

We discussed the physical, emotional, and spiritual risks. We explained that abortion is a permanent decision and advised her to slow down. We discussed adoption as a wonderful option, but she said if she gave birth, she would want to keep her baby. We then discussed what made her think abortion would be a better choice than parenting or adoption.

She was emotional and confused, because her heart was telling her one thing while her circumstances were telling her something different. We encouraged her to get all the facts about each option, discuss this matter with trusted people who would support her, including the father of her baby, and listen to what her heart was saying.

She left that day stating that although she had received a lot of information, she felt we really cared and that when we prayed for her, it really helped. We made a follow-up appointment, but she never showed.

Sometime later, we tried following up with her by phone but without success. Without being able to have a follow-up discussion, we could only trust that God was in control.

After months of wondering, we got an answer. She gave birth to a big, healthy baby! Family is also there, supporting and loving them all!

Special thanks to all of you who partner with us in sharing the truth with those who are making a major and permanent decision with lasting consequences.

Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.

Matthew 25:45

From a Director's Heart

Why I Serve

Baby Bottles

Current Needs

Financial Gifts

Statistics





Greetings from Agape House!

One of the things I have always admired about the Agape House Board of Directors is their ability and willingness to seek God's direction even when it deters from the "norm" and requires faith.

After much prayer and numerous attempts to secure a speaker for our 2020 Spring Event the board has concluded it is in the best interest of the ministry to temporarily postpone this event. We believe God will honor our faith and continue to meet the needs of His ministry as we seek to serve Him.

The bottles
date.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in our 2020 Baby Bottle Campaign! (See related article.) The bottles are coming back to Agape House now, and this just may be our largest number of participants to date.

Volunteer Training is right around the corner, April 24 & 25, 2020. Maybe this is the time for you to get involved inside the ministries of Agape House. We would love the opportunity to share more with you. Should you have any questions, please contact Barbara at 731-588-0339.

On a personal note, words are inadequate to fully express the deep gratitude in my heart for all of your prayers, love and concern for my family, especially Christie. This is a part of our journey we would not have chosen, but we have learned that God is always faithful to meet us where we are and to go before us. He is already there in every circumstance and He gives us peace and joy in the midst of it all. There is true JOY in the journey because we know Jesus.

It is an honor to serve alongside you. Thank you for all you do to protect the sanctity of human LIFE.
Yours for LIFE,

Linda DeBoard, CEO

WHY I SERVE

Why I serve. . .

My name is Debra Stringer. I have been married to my husband, Rick, for 42 years. We have three children and eight grandchildren. I am a retired Math teacher - Martin Middle, Dresden High School and OCCHS. I am the owner of Little Raven Clothing and am a member of Central Baptist Church in Martin. I also volunteer at WeCare.

I used to help at Agape House in the old building stuffing envelopes, putting labels on candy, straightening up the Blessing Bin, etc. I loved visiting with Miss Corrine. I have participated in the Walk for Life, Spring Events and baby bottle campaigns for years. When I retired from teaching in May 2018, I wanted to serve Jesus and I know every life is precious to Him.



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Baby Oh Baby Bottles

Thank you so much for participating in our 2020 Baby Bottle Campaign! The campaign ended February 27, but if you still have bottles keep bringing them! We will have a total in the next newsletter. A huge "Thank You" to the 61 churches who participated this year:

Adams Chapel Baptist Church
Beech Springs Baptist Church
Bethel Baptist Church
Bible Union Baptist Church
Calvary Baptist Church
Central Baptist Church
Eastside Baptist Church
Faith Lutheran Church
FBC Fulton
FBC Gleason
FBC Troy
First Assembly of God Martin
First Presbyterian Church Greenfield
First United Methodist Martin
Harris Station Baptist Church
Hodges Chapel
Johnson Grove Baptist Church
Macks Grove Baptist Church
McConnell Baptist Church
New Concord Baptist Church
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Martin
Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church
Public Wells Baptist Church
Ruthville Baptist Church
Second Baptist Church
South Fulton Baptist Church
St. Edward Catholic Church
Sunswept Baptist Church
Thompson Creek Baptist Church
Union City Baptist Temple

Alamo Baptist Church
Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church UC
Bethlehem Baptist Church
Beulah Baptist Association
Cayce Baptist Church
Corinth Baptist Church
Exchange St Church of Christ
FBC Dresden
FBC Greenfield
FBC Martin
FBC Union City
First Church of God UC
First United Methodist Gleason
Gardner United Methodist Church
Healing Faith Family Worship Center
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Long Heights Baptist Church
Martin Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Mt. Pelia Baptist Church
New Home Baptist Church
Palmersville Baptist Church
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Rives
Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church
Ralston Baptist Church
Sandhill Baptist Church
Sidonia Baptist Church
Stanley's Chapel United Methodist Church
St. Jude Catholic Church
The Mission
Tumbling Creek Baptist Church



2020 Volunteer of the Quarter:
Jane Ogg
We are thankful for your service to the
ministry!

Mission Statement

**Agape House provides evidence-based
medical and sexual health
services.**



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

Current Needs

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| *Dishwasher Detergent | *Bottled Water |
| *#6 3/4 Size Envelopes | *Copy Paper |
| *Dum Dum Suckers | *Blow Pops |
| *Airheads | *Smarties |
| *Lifesavers Hard Candy | *Standard Staples |
| *Frito Lay Classic Variety Chips | *Scotch Tape Refills |
| *K cups: Coffee & Cappuccino mix | *Hooded Towels |
| *Clear Sandwich Ziploc Bags | (gender neutral) |
| *Mints (Lifesavers or Peppermint) | *Baby Nail Clippers |
| *Lance Variety Sandwich Crackers | *Baby Comb/Brush |
| *Winter Baby Boy Outfits (any size) | *Bulb Syringes |
| *Baby Gender Neutral Outfits (any size) | |
| *Individually Wrapped Snacks for Lobby | |

Jan. - Dec. 2019 Statistics

Initial Patient/ Ongoing Client Visits	313
Pregnancy Tests Given 77 (+); 29 (-)	106
Abortion-Risk Patients Reached (pos. & neg)	50
Abortion-Risk Patients (with positive test)	37
Abortion-Risk Patients with Final Stated Intentions to Carry	19
Abortion-Risk Patients who Aborted	4
Abortion-Risk Patients who Miscarried	6
Abortion-Risk Patients with Unknown Outcomes	8
Patients Receiving STI Testing	93
Spiritual Discussions with Patients	213
Bibles Given	14
Students Attending Abstinence Education Program	3841

Interested in Volunteering?

If you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities contact

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

Financial Gifts

In Memory of:

Mrs. Margaret Gill

**By Ms. Carol Dolouch,
Alma Aldridge, &
Lib McCormick**

**Mrs. Margaret Maness
Coach Jim Graves**

**By Anonymous
By Anonymous**

In Honor of:

**Ms. Sharon Ferguson
Mrs. Christie Ricketts**

**By Mr. Scott Ferguson
By Mr. & Mrs. John Moseley**



Medical Director

Dr. Karen Davidson, MD

Clinic Staff

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

Board of Directors

Pamela Adams - Chairman
Denise Mathis - Secretary
Beverly Carr, RN - Treasurer
Gary Smithson - Member
Christy Stubblefield, RN - Member
Kay Wilkes, RN - Member
Linda DeBoard - CEO

Medical Volunteers

Dr. John Howard, MD
Lauren Jackson, PharmD
Emilee Ray - PharmD
Morgan Stone, NP
Kelly Morgan, NP
Jorgianna Morton, RN

Prayer Coordinator

Jamie Revell

Resource Coordinator

Paula Myers

Office Support

Wanda Mullins

S.T.E.P.S. Coordinators

Lois Blackwell
Halina Brown
Debra Stringer

Support Services

Mark Dowdy
Marvin Downing
Betsy Duckworth
Sherry Hatchel
Judy Mehan

Patient Coordinators

Becky Lister
Jane Ogg
Penny Petty
Mariallie Smithson
Candace Sumner
Shirley Towater
Jimmy Carmichael (Men's)

Handy Man

Larry Mullins
Randy Potts

Renew Coordinators

Angela Hughes