

Life Notes

Connecting the MPS/Best Options family

1319 Peck St., PO Box 1703, Muskegon, MI 49443 231-726-2677 www.bestoptions.org

Changing lives 2011

Total Service Ops:
1897

- Pregnancy tests: 304
- Ultrasounds: 165
- Women vulnerable to abortion that decided to carry after ultrasound: 68
- LifePlan (weekly one to one) Visits: 1000
- Post abortion healing visits: 36
- Daddy counseling: 161
- Material needs met for: 230 (non-LifePlan)
- Diapers: 398 dozen
- Cribs earned: 15
- Bassinets earned: 16
- Car Seats earned: 15
- Other earned items: 62
- Layettees given: 72

(Life Plan clients earn points for items by weekly attendance, bringing their partner for counseling, extra classes, and taking notes in church)

Visit our website at:
www.bestoptions.org

Touching hearts and saving lives, one (or two) at a time

A cup of coffee with Priscilla Hinze

The subtle power of the enemy

All the way back to the Garden of Eden, the enemy shows his subtleness. Instead of arguing with Eve, Satan asked a seemingly innocuous question, "Did God really say . . .?"

Today he does the same thing. And in many cases, the result is tragedy.

To women and men facing unplanned pregnancies—many of them Christians—he asks a simple question: "God will forgive you if you go to the abortion clinic, won't He?"

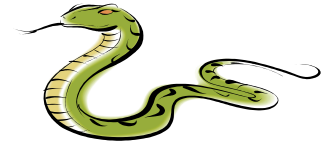
The enemy won't necessarily fight the battle of right and wrong. Instead, he wants to simply distract us from the truth. Yes, God does forgive all sins. So Satan delights in using that truth to his advantage—especially with

believers. Rationalization is his weapon, and it's effective.

If the enemy can win that battle and lead a confused couple to the abortion clinic, he then turns and shows his true face, telling that same couple, "God will never totally forgive what you have done. You have no hope. You may be Christians, but you can never walk freely with Jesus again."

Here at Muskegon Pregnancy Services/Best Options, we witness the enemy in his subtle lies. And each day, we are here to reach out to those who have been the victims of those words, offering truth—and healing.

To those in the valley of decision regarding a pregnancy, we offer hope, truth and life. God *will* forgive, and there is joy in following His plan of life. Embrace it.



To those who have made a decision to abort that they regret, we offer the hope of healing and wholeness. Make no mistake: the road is not easy. But healing is a destination that is reachable. And we know that God can take the most tragic of circumstances and bring victory. Restoration.

Many reading this newsletter may need that healing. Our **Surrendering the Secret** ministry is here for you. We've found that those most in need are those in our churches, battling a decision made years ago. We're here for you. Call 726-2677 for a private conversation that could lead toward your healing journey - or go to www.bestoptions.org and click on "After abortion" and follow the prompts to begin healing now. Defeat Satan today by accepting the love and restoration of Christ.

LifeWalk 2011 results

Finally, the results you may have been waiting for! With all but a handful of pledges collected our total for LifeWalk 2011 is: **\$21,587.29!** We had fewer walkers this year but those who came were dedicated!

Prince of Peace walkers took home the prize for "Church of the Year once again this year fielding 20 walkers.

The walker with the most in donations was **Victoria Tanzi** who brought in \$620. She was closely followed by several walkers at \$500+.

Though they were unable to

send walkers, **St. Michael's Catholic Church** collected donations amounting to **\$1,738.50.**

This year we walked in the neighborhood surrounding the Center, culminating in a tour of the Center at 1319 Peck St., Muskegon.

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LifeWalk 2011 cont.

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Thanks for walking to support Life!

This was the first opportunity many of the walkers had to see the facility and to talk with staff members who manned the tour. Many expressed how much of a blessing it was to see and hear what their support was affecting. The ultrasound machine was a big hit, especially as our nurse Kathy Monroe explained to our friends the many ways it has been used to save lives. Many walkers were surprised and impressed by the warmth and cozy atmosphere of the Center, designed to put the most fearful heart at rest.

We thank St. Mary's Catholic Church for allowing us to begin the Walk at their church and giving us the gathering space for our celebration.

We also want to thank the businesses that helped us by underwriting expenses, for door prizes and providing supplies:

Plumb's—provided all the refreshments
Abspure provided water bottles

Underwriters:

Country Dairy
Martin J. Nolan Insurance
Lakeside Warehouse Inc.
Wilde Signs
MC Marine
Stepping Stones Ed. Systems

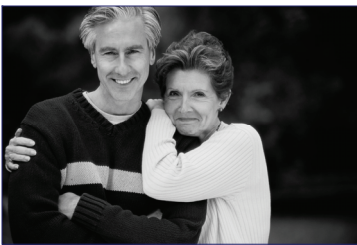
Door Prize donors:

Sheri Rose Candles
E&A Grocery
Sharps Cuts & Design
Gonyon's Gym
The Ultimate Salon & Spa
The Blue Ladybug Boutique
Pilgrim's Run Golf Club
Scentsy—Honi Buchner
Double JJ Golf
Double JJ Waterpark
Midnight Sun & Cruise
Dollar General
Country Dairy
Asian Buffet
Red Tomato Pizza Buffet

Golden Corral
Hage's
Dimensions Salon
Toast N Jams
The Station Grill
Olive Garden
Cars for Keeps (repair)
Turk's Restaurant
Groenink's Grain & Hardware
Culver's—Grand Haven
Flower's by Ray & Sharon
Russ' Restaurant
Desserts by Design
The Omni

If you were with us that day—thank you, you gave of your time to secure support and to show your commitment for Life. If you were unable to be with us but supported a walker, thank you—your donation makes a difference, especially when added to the donations of many others that were gathered by our walkers.

Put the month of September on your mental calendar to join us for LifeWalk 2012—you will be glad you did!



Your monthly gift makes all the difference

Your financial support leaves a legacy

All of us want to protect the sanctity of human life and now—after more than 39 years of Roe v. Wade—we realize that we must take a dedicated approach.

After all, we know that even if Roe were overturned tomorrow, the need for our Center—and others like ours—will not go away.

For Muskegon Pregnancy Services/ Best Options, this means we must meet today's needs while also considering how we can build a solid future for this ministry.

One way to build that solid future is for each of us to consider placing this ministry on the list of ministries we support with a monthly sustaining gift. No matter what the amount, committed monthly gifts allow the Board of Directors to make plans for growth based on the support we can count on.

It's easy to do—you don't even have to remember to write a check. We are able to receive your support by electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings account or from your credit card. You can call and change or stop the transfer at any time—or leave it as a lasting commitment month to month.

Our monthly ministry supporters are automatically members of our Guardian's Circle. Your partnership is sustenance to this life saving ministry.

Whether you can commit to \$20 a month, \$50, \$100 or more—the stability of our Guardian Circle gifts allows us to concentrate more on ministry and less on fundraising.

You can make your first monthly gift today on our website www.bestoptions.org—click on “join” and follow the donation path. Or send us your first check with a note telling us it's a monthly commitment, we will send you your next envelope.

Thank you!

Any time is perfect for a stock gift to MPS

If you are watching your stock portfolio (as many of us are again, now that we can stop shielding our eyes from the red ink!), you'll find better news than we've seen in the last few years.

Stocks are rebounding, moving in the right direction.

For some of us, it means we need to take a close look at

stocks that are appreciating again and consider whether a gift of stock might be appropriate.

A simple gift

Giving a gift of stock is cost-effective and can have great tax advantages.

By giving stock, you receive a charitable deduction for the full market value of the stock and you avoid capital gains taxes you would have incurred by

selling the stock in the marketplace.

That's the key to giving appreciated stock: always give the stock outright. By selling it before giving, you must pay taxes on the appreciation.

If this is an option you would like to investigate, call Priscilla at 231-726-2677 and we see that you get in information you need to proceed.



Stock gifts save lives, too!

A smile can make quite a difference

First impressions—we realize—many times have a lasting impact. We are told from a young age to “put our best foot forward” and that we have “only one chance to make a good first impression.”

So it is with the volunteer advocates at MPS/Best Options. When a young woman is scared she might be pregnant, the first thing she needs is to know when she walks in our door is that someone cares—for her.

The worst thing

Think about it; if a young woman is nervous, feeling guilty and is afraid, what would it be like to see an unwelcoming face when she enters our door?

Or what would it be like for her to pick up the phone, call our number and have someone on the other end simply bark out facts and information?

Our clients tell us that we're

different— could it be Christ they see?

“Impact” is a word ministries use to express effectiveness. Having an impact here means that our volunteers can be key influencers in the lives of their clients—even to the extent of saving lives! Imagine, if your willingness to serve led to a baby's life being saved... Imagine also that by building a trusting relationship with that frightened young woman you first greeted with a smile, you may have the opportunity to be the one who introduces her to the hope found only in her Savior...

Can you do it?

Nope, not without the leading and equipping of the Lord! We know that if God calls us, He will provide the equipping. Under our own power we can do nothing good.

Volunteering at MPS/Best Options is not a job of defending a pro-life cause—there are won-

derful places where you can get involved with that work. Volunteering here is a calling for those who have a ready smile, a willing ear, a sensitive heart and the ability to give it all to God—even when we face the anguish of hearing that the young mom we loved on chose abortion anyway.

So if you have a desire to serve call us. You're already equipped—we'll train you in the rest and God will bless you for willingly saying “Here I am, send me”. Call 726-2677, do it now before doubts and excuses get in your way. You won't be sorry you did.



A smile makes the perfect first impression.