

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



LIVING COURAGEOUSLY



*“Be strong and courageous, and do the work. **Do not be afraid or discouraged**, for the Lord God is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. He will see to it that all the work is finished correctly.” These were the wise words spoken by King David to his son as he prepared to take on a daunting task; words so applicable for all of us today.*

As the chaos of a lost world has been further complicated in recent months with the viral pandemic of COVID-19 and increased national tensions, we have the choice to either seize the opportunity to **courageously share hope**, or cave into fear. Barbara DeAngelis says, “We don’t develop courage by being happy every day. We develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity.”

The essential services provided by LifeChoices have had to pivot and adapt to meet new challenges this year. For the medical team, learning new protocols and purchasing expensive protective gear and cleaning supplies have been the weekly norm during this unprecedented season. Our school programming team created new worksheets and lessons that were sent to area school districts to be utilized in their online schooling efforts. We prepared resources to help parents implement healthy boundaries for their students’ increased time on digital devices. Our new care coordination team began utilizing online services to provide one-on-one support to our clients, and they implemented new online parenting classes. **It is with courage that our team has served the community without hesitation during this pandemic.**

When comparing with 2019, the number of **abortion-determined patients served by LifeChoices has increased by 27%**, thus also increasing our spiritual discussions exponentially! Our online education classes have soared **over 448%** from the beginning of the year, and parents have been more connected than ever before with the resources that we have created for their students.

For over 30 years, LifeChoices has courageously stood as a beacon of hope, a safe space to unpack the unplanned, and a place to prepare to face the challenges ahead. What incredible Kingdom-expansion opportunities we have been given, and largely due to your support!

We know that so many of you have also courageously faced the unknown of 2020. We are honored that area churches, businesses, and families have walked in faith to continue their partnership with us. While our world seems to be spinning out of control, your generosity has allowed us to bring hope and peace to those who need it the most. Thank you!



Executive Director



OVERCOMING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC THROUGH NEW ONLINE EDUCATION RESOURCES!

Jessica* had two previous abortions, the father of her unborn baby had left her, and she did not believe in God. That was all I knew about her before we met.

The woman I saw before me was gentle, soft-spoken, and unafraid to admit she was hurting. As Jessica relayed the many hardships in her life to me, I praised her decision to parent her baby. We visited about how God would never leave her, and that she could find loving support from a local church. Although she still was not sure what she thought about God, she shared that she was more open to considering church now that she had a baby on the way.

Jessica was determined to raise her baby the best she could, but due to her work schedule, she could not attend our traditional parenting classes. I encouraged her to sign up for our newly-launched online education classes, and since then she has completed our entire online curriculum! **Someone who was once scared and unsure about parenting is now cheerfully awaiting the arrival of her baby girl.**

Individuals like Jessica are the very reason we began offering online educational resources, but when we first implemented this new program, we had no idea a global pandemic would cause our in-house classes to be temporarily suspended. Since the launch, **over 200 people in our community have signed up for our online classes!** We have also been able to educate a wider audience than our traditional classes would allow. Many individuals in our community have accessed classes about basic life skills, budgeting, parenting, and so much more.

One couple completed our in-house classes several months ago but wanted to continue their education through our online resources. After watching several lessons, they told us, *“We have learned so much more than we already knew. We just love these videos!”*

Your support allows us to think creatively about the best ways to serve our community, including through online education resources during a global pandemic! Thank you!

*Names have been changed to protect the confidentiality of our clients.

By: Cassidy Thomason, Care Coordinator

you're invited!

2020 has given us all unforeseen challenges to overcome, and yet, the essential services provided by LifeChoices have never skipped a beat. We need you to help us ensure that the important work being done by LifeChoices continues into 2021 and beyond!

join us

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH AT 7:00 PM

From the safety and comfort of your own home, we will invite you into the LifeChoices office and we will share a little piece of our heart with you. In this short 1-hour virtual event we will highlight the lives that have been touched by LifeChoices in 2020, and we will share incredibly exciting plans for the future!

While we will miss seeing you at our annual banquet this fall, we are excited to see how you will creatively share this special event with your family and friends. Perhaps you will host a watch-party in your home or church, or maybe new friends and family members can now learn about the work of LifeChoices alongside you. The possibilities are endless!

For more information and to reserve your spot for this special event, please visit www.lifechoices.org/banquet or call Jordynn at 417.623.0131.

We are forever grateful for your faithful support of LifeChoices. We could not serve 14,000+ people each year without you!

SPECIAL
virtual event
AVAIL

LifeChoices' 2020

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE

Mischa Long, Director of Nursing

COVID-19 shutdowns were in full swing when Angie* walked through our clinic doors. She was quiet and looked like the weight of the world rested on her shoulders. Angie was here for a pregnancy test, which was the last thing she wanted. **She already had so much to worry about – how was she even going to comprehend another pregnancy?**

Angie and her husband had recently moved to Missouri from the East Coast for a new and better job. They had five kids, with the youngest at just six months old. They had high hopes that this move would give them a fresh start and better opportunities, but just a few weeks after landing in southwest Missouri, the COVID layoffs eliminated her husband's position. Angie was able to find a job to pay the majority of their bills, but they were unable to afford housing and were forced to stay with a friend. **Their family of seven was suddenly living out of one bedroom.**

When the pregnancy test results came back as positive, Angie strongly considered abortion. She shared that she was a Christian and never thought she would entertain this option, but she felt helpless. Our team gave her resources for possible housing options, financial support, and a church referral. The ultrasound showed that the pregnancy was still extremely early, so Angie agreed to look into the resources available to her and to return the following week to visit further.

When Angie returned to the clinic, she was still unsure what she would do with the pregnancy, but she had reviewed the resources we had given her and she was feeling more optimistic about her situation.

During her second ultrasound, Angie was quiet as the screen revealed a baby with a heartbeat. Angie shared that she was still unsure about the choice she would make, but she took photos of the ultrasound home with her and she was quick to accept the nurse's offer to pray with her before leaving.

A few weeks went by and we were unable to connect with Angie again. We worried that she had made a decision that she now struggled with...

Then, one month later, we received a text on the clinic helpline. Angie and her family had decided to move back to the East Coast for better job opportunities, **and they had decided to keep the baby!** They were extremely excited to have another addition coming to their family, even in the midst of such chaotic circumstances. **Angie thanked the clinic staff for their services and she expressed how important these moments were to her decision.**

We don't know what the future looks like for Angie and her family, but we are thankful and honored by the opportunity to speak into their most desperate situation. **Thank you for making this possible.**



'20 LINKS FOR LIFE

WAS A HOLE-IN-ONE!

For the first time ever, we had a full field of 26 teams with **over 100 men and women** playing golf for LifeChoices! **Over \$13,000** was raised for continued services in Carthage, Joplin, and the surrounding areas. We are thankful for the many new friends who joined us at this year's tournament, as well as the many teams that have played in every tournament since we began eight years ago.

We are also excited to announce that Jimmy Snyder won the hole-in-one contest sponsored by Roper Honda! What an incredible day it was!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make Links for Life such a success, and a special thank you to our event underwriters. **Because of their partnership, every registration fee went directly to client services!**

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on the links again on Friday, April 9th, 2021!



Title Sponsor:
Troy & Jenny Richards



CORPORATE

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Did you know that LifeChoices has a new Corporate Sponsorship Program? This partnership opportunity allows local businesses to connect with LifeChoices' many different programs and events with a more intentional focus. These special partners help to sustain the work of LifeChoices year-round! We are excited to highlight our 2020 Corporate Sponsors for you below.

Clear Creek specializes in golf cars and utility vehicles. They have dealerships in Lamar, Springfield, and Osage Beach in Missouri. They also have a dealership in Rogers, Arkansas. The owners of Clear Creek have been longtime friends of LifeChoices and we are thankful for their faithful and generous support. For more information about Clear Creek Vehicles, you can check them out on Facebook or visit their website, www.clearcreekgolfcar.com.



Level Ride Mfg., Inc.

Level Ride is a family-owned business in Diamond, Missouri, and they have partnered with LifeChoices for over 20 years! Level Ride has served the utility industry for over four decades with suspension stabilizers that are safe, reliable, and of utmost quality. The Level Ride family is known for investing deeply into their community, and LifeChoices is thankful to be part of that legacy. To learn more about Level Ride, visit their website, www.levelride.com.

**We appreciate all of our important ministry partners.
Your generosity makes our work possible!**

If you would like to know more about our Corporate Sponsorship Program, please call Jordynn at 417.623.0131. Thank you for your support!

LIFECHOICES

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YOUR SUPPORT IS LIFE CHANGING!

Thank you for your support of this important program!

To view an update of this year's event, please visit www.lifevoices.org/changeforlife, or check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lifechoicesjoplin.