

# The Sanctity of Human Life

by Phil Gloyer

Much attention has been given of late to the appointment and confirmation of Chief Justice John Roberts, to the appointment and withdrawal of Harriet Miers, and now to the confirmation hearings of Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito. Clearly, the primary question that has been raised with regard to the nominees concerns their respective positions on Roe v. Wade. The focus of the Senate, the media, interest groups, and the public on this question has demonstrated, three times now, that abortion truly is the single most important and most divisive issue for Americans in our generation.

While the media characterizes the question as involving a given nominee's position on Roe v. Wade, "abortion rights," "privacy rights," or "women's rights," the conversation really reflects two more fundamental questions. The first question asks what is the value of unborn human life. The



second asks the extent to which the government is responsible for protecting those lives.

Although answers given to the first question might vary widely, in truth there is but one correct answer:

Every human life is created in the image of God, and is sacred at every stage of existence! On January 22nd, 2006, millions of Americans will make a stand observing

this truth on "**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.**" They will remind our nation that human life is a precious gift from God, and that this gift has been rejected over forty million times since Roe v. Wade was handed down by the Supreme Court on that same day in 1973.

The second question must be answered on both the state and the federal level. On the state level, each state should be able to restrict or prohibit the practice of abortion within its own jurisdiction, just as each state prohibits other actions that harm or take human lives.

**"Every human life is created in the image of God, and is sacred at every stage of existence!"**

In a step in the right direction, Missouri's Governor Matt Blunt recently signed SB1 (Senate Bill 1), and ceremonially re-signed it at LifeChoices on September 23rd. SB1 includes provisions supporting the Missouri's parental consent requirements and prohibits anyone who does not have clinical privileges in a hospital within thirty miles from performing an abortion.

On the federal level, as the federal ban on partial birth abortion demonstrates, there is an opportunity, and thus a responsibility, for our representatives in Washington to take steps to protect life as well. As the Supreme Court will likely consider the constitutionality of this ban in the near future, it is even possible that Roe v. Wade itself could be overturned.

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New Virtuous Reality Products! See Page 13!

## Tree Of Life

Have you noticed our Trees of Life in various spots around town? This wonderful ministry, formerly only in churches, has expanded this year to area businesses! Trees are decorated with ornaments from LifeChoices listing items we use to stock our baby baskets throughout the year. Whenever one of our clients chooses to carry her child, we provide as much support as possible, including a basket filled with diapers, bottles, clothes, toys, and other supplies. For many of these young women, these are the only new items they get. Help us celebrate the gift of life this year by participating in this vital ministry! ■

## Let Us Do The Wrapping

LifeChoices staff will be "Decking the Malls" this year by wrapping packages during the holiday season. You can help support LifeChoices by allowing us to wrap your holiday purchases. We will be stationed at the Northpark Mall Customer Service counter in front of the men's Famous-Barr from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13; from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday, December 18; and from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 24. For a small fee, your packages will be beautifully gift-wrapped, and a portion of the proceeds will go to LifeChoices. Incidentally, we do get to keep 100% of the tips! ■



## Needs List

- Stamps
- Copy Paper
- Industrial Paper Cutter
- Sticky Notes
- CD-RW's
- Laptop Computer (call for specs)
- File Folders (1/3 cut)
- Medical File Folders (call for specs)
- 4 Drawer Fire Proof File Cabinet
- Coin Counter
- Soft Drinks for Clients
- New Christmas Decorations for our Lobby (Silk Poinsettia)
- Disposable diapers

## Open For Business!

We are proud to announce the opening of our fourth Backdoor Boutique! Our clients are able to earn vouchers by attending parenting classes, which they can use to purchase clothing, diapers, and other baby supplies at any of our four locations. First Baptist Church of Joplin at 633 S. Pearl has graciously provided space for a much-needed downtown location. Phyllis Pim, who has worked at our in-house boutique, is doing a beautiful job managing our new facility, which is open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. every Tuesday. We are grateful to Pastor Steve Butler and the congregation of First Baptist Church for their vision to minister to the women in our community. ■



## Gifts of Love

We want to thank our faithful supporters for your gifts this year! Because of your generosity, we have been able to help well over 1500 clients this year at LifeChoices. You have impacted eternity because you chose to participate in ministry to men and women who needed hope and answers. From the entire LifeChoices staff, Happy Holidays, and may God continue to bless our ministry partners! ■

Supported in part by the Family and Youth Services Bureau (Consolidated Appropriations Act 2005, PL Public Law 108-447); Administration for Children, Youth and Families; Administration of Children and Families; Department of Health and Human Services.

## Babies Born in 2005

Abby	Gavin	Makiyah
Abigail	Girl*	Maleah
Adian	Hailey	Malikai
Adrianna	Hannah	Matthew
Aidan	Harley	Matthew
Aiden	Heisma	Mia
Alayah	Helayna	Michael
Alexandria	Isabella	Michael
Andrew	Isabella	Mikaila
Angel	Isaiah	Nashae
Ashlynn	Isaiah	Nathia
Aubrey	Isaiah	Nicholas
Aubrey	Ivy	Qianni
Avary	Jacob	Quentin
Avery	Jake	Raya
Ayden	Jamysen	Remington
Benjamin	Jason	Ruby
Bentley	Jasper	Rylee
Branden	Jaxson	Sadie
Brecklyn	Jayce	Samantha
Breydon	Jenette	Samara
Bria	Jolie	Serenity
Brooke	Jordan	Shelby
Brooklyn	Jordan	Shianne
Bruce	Jordan	Sierra
Carlos	Kaden	Skylar
Charles	Katie	Skyler
Cheyenne	Katlyn	Soren
Chloe	Kattie	Steven
Chrisjan	Kaydence	Steven
Christian	Kelson	Tammi
Constance	Killian	Taylor
Cruz	Krystin	Taylor
Dalisia	Landen	Terry
Dammon	Laydon	Tevon
Daniel	Leyna	Tieson
Devon	Logan	Tiffany
Eli	Logan	Tilly
Elijah	Lola	Tony
Elizabeth	Lucas	Tyler
Emily	MacKenzie	Victor
Emily	Madison	Victoria
Emma	Madison	Xandeah
Enoch	Madisyne	
Ethan	MaKinnley	



To everything  
there is a  
season...

...and the 2005 Annual Celebration Banquet held on September 10th at Hammons Center was the time to dance! Over 800 guests experienced the story of the most life-changing unplanned pregnancy of all time as missionaries in dance, Pax Fiat, presented straight from scripture, "The Magnificat." The articulated movements and the exquisite costumes left guests spellbound, as dancers performed their interpretation of the wonderful story of the virgin birth of our Savior. As a final climax to the performance, the guests were introduced to another miracle of birth that began on stage at the 2000 Banquet. At that event,

April allowed a live ultrasound of her unborn baby to be shared with all in attendance. The "dancing unborn baby" has blossomed into a beautiful "dancing child" who brought full circle the importance of life. A standing ovation followed, and the presence of the Almighty was undeniable. It was an evening like no other!

The inspirational entertainment had a positive impact in helping raise over \$110,000 in cash and pledges to further our ministry and services. In addition, this year, 10% of the giving has been designated to assist sister



pregnancy centers that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. What a wonderful blessing to be able to assist others affected by this devastation. Special thanks to our underwriters, who gave generously enough to cover all of our expenses and allow the funds raised at the Banquet to go directly to the ministry of LifeChoices. If you were unable to attend and would like to continue your monthly pledge or make a one time donation, please contact Melanie Ousley at 417-623-0131. ■

## The Sanctity of Human Life

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As exciting as these developments might be, however, we must be careful not to put our faith in the wrong place. Reading in Isaiah several weeks ago, I came upon this passage:

He it is who reduces rulers to nothing,  
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.  
Scarcely have they been planted,  
Scarcely have they been sown,  
Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,  
But He merely blows on them, and they wither,  
And the storm carries them away like stubble.  
(Isaiah 40:23-24, NASB)

Our faith cannot reside in judges or other rulers. Instead, our faith must be in God Himself, who has determined from the beginning that human life is sacred.

This is a truly compelling reason why we must approach issues concerning the sanctity of human life from a perspective of ministry, rather than merely politics. We must not forget that every human life is of immense value – including the lives of women who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy, and the fathers of those new babies, as well. We must show love to each in a way that brings glory and pleasure to our Creator.

Someday, perhaps not too far from now, abortion will be viewed not just by a bare majority, but by a true consensus in our nation, as a tragic mistake for which we are truly repentant. In the meantime, we must ensure that the truth is shared. This is the ministry of LifeChoices, acting on your behalf!

If you, your church, your business, or your civic organization would like to learn more about what LifeChoices can do for you, or how you can partner with us to make a more significant impact upon our culture, please let us know at your earliest convenience! Someone from our team of staff and volunteers would love to come out to meet you and share more with you about the sanctity of human life in the coming months! ■



information about abortion procedures and counseled her on the possible physical, emotional, and spiritual complications that may follow.

The next step in the process involves the medical services staff. With kindness and care, our nurses can then perform an ultrasound, along with STI testing if it is deemed necessary (The CDC maintains that a woman with an active STI when having an abortion will have a 25% chance of developing Pelvic Inflammatory Disease).

When Amber walked into the ultrasound room, she was in a state of panic. She was sure she couldn't be pregnant and upset at the untimely interruption in her life of chaos. The ultrasound revealed that she was actually 1/3 of the way through her pregnancy. A tiny little baby began reaching through the screen right to "Mom's" heart. As the acrobatic baby was tumbling, kicking and 'waving', tears streamed down Amber's face. With the ultrasound completed, the implications of facing an abortion with an STI were discussed further. Testing was done, and we set another appointment for test results, another ultrasound, and time with our Outreach Services Director to talk about ways we could support this family. Following prayer, Amber literally collapsed in tears in the nurse's



The term "Intervention Services" is well understood here at LifeChoices, but we're guessing you don't have a clue what that means! The number of abortion-vulnerable women coming into LifeChoices has increased, and at times, their circumstances are overwhelming. We have come to realize that a team approach to ministry is the key to helping these women see there are options other than abortion. The Intervention Services team is made up of client, medical, and outreach services.

To help you better understand this concept, we will tell you a story about "Amber", who came into LifeChoices one afternoon thirty minutes before closing time. Even though our schedule was full, our Clinic Assistant realized that Amber was very upset and needed to be seen. Amber, a single mother with two daughters, was dealing with extremely difficult circumstances. Still recovering from drug addiction, she had just lost a parent and was facing another possible illness which requires extensive testing. Using vulgar language to describe her unborn baby, Amber made it clear that she was definitely planning on an abortion. Activating the first step of Intervention Services, our Clinic Assistant provided her with

# Intervention Services: Working Together to Save Lives

lap – someone had actually cared enough about her and this child she carried to tell her the truth, then offer real help coupled with the comfort of God's redeeming love.

Amber returned for her second appointment with a family member. The tears were gone, and excitement replaced the panic. The little one came to view on the ultrasound screen, bounding from side to side on the monitor. Family hugs were exchanged, and a place in life was firmly secured for this beloved child!

Now it was time for the third step in the Intervention Services Process – Outreach Services. This department ensures that our clients have the resources, educational opportunities, and long-term arrangements they need to support their developing family.

Our Outreach Services Director's first encounter with Amber found her settled into her decision to carry, supported by a family member. She was open to attending a parenting class and her family member signed up to attend with her. After discussing and making a plan for her and her children's current situation, the director helped her focus on her future plans. Amber had always wanted to go back to college, and it appeared that the job she was going to apply for would allow her the freedom to pursue the dream she had since childhood. Our Outreach Services Director excels in determining immediate needs and finding ways to

Rita Lawson, Client Services Director  
Karolyn Schrage, RN BSF, Medical Services Director  
Tracey Kelly, Outreach Services Director

fulfill them; she was also able to help Amber understand that a crisis situation can sometimes be a blessing, as it can give us enough courage to take necessary risks.

Our three-step Intervention Services process turned Amber's potential crisis into a multiple blessing for so many people. We realize that we have an opportunity to change the world, one life at a time.....please pray for this team as they minister to families! ■



# Connection INSTITUTE UPDATE

youth purity empowerment

by: Lynne Roberts—with the help of all the CI Team

If you are a long-time LifeChoices supporter, you are aware that we are blessed to be the recipient of the Community-Based-Abstinence-Education grant provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families. We are now in our third (and final) year of this grant, which has enabled LifeChoices to expand the reach and effectiveness of the multi-day adolescent sexual health presentations offered for our community. These energetic and enlightening classes have educated students and adults since 1997 with the message that abstinence from all sexual activity until marriage is not only achievable, but it is the healthiest, best choice. The truth is scary enough—we always assure that the information we give is the latest most medically-accurate available.

One of the blessings (read: banes) of the grant world is the year-end compilation of all the data and then the reporting to the funders, letting them know what was accomplished with their money, what was learned from the experience and how to do a better job for the future. While this exercise is extremely time consuming, labor intensive and exhausting, it is very useful not only to the funders to determine if

they got a good return on their investment, but to the organization to see what was done and if it achieved the desired results. I would like to share the exciting results we compiled through this past year.

From July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005, we were able to send forty (40) fully-trained dynamic presenters into the classrooms of nine thousand nine hundred fifty four (9,954) 6th-12th grade students in three hundred eighty (380) different classes, in sixty-six (66) different school buildings, in twenty-seven (27) school districts, representing forty-one (41) cities/towns, in fourteen (14) counties, in four (4) states. We saw an additional six thousand six hundred fifty two (6,652) adults and students in one-time seminars and workshops. Seven thousand five hundred eighty two (7,582) students picked up Stronger, Smarter, Better buttons and six thousand nine hundred fifty five (6,955) students took abstinence pledge cards. The medical clinic saw two hundred twenty four (224) teens for STD testing. Forty-six percent (46%), one hundred three (103), of these sexually active teens left the clinic with a commitment to abstinence and a new healthy lifestyle. The clinic also saw two hundred eighty nine (289) unmarried pregnancy clients. In addition our collaborating partners,

Table 1—Client and Encounters by Program

	VR	Barceda	The Bridge	Community	B/G Club	Clinic	Totals
Clients	9,954	4,279*	720	6,652	317	513	22,435
Encounters	80,691	8,285*	17,883	6,652	13,759	677	127,947

\*Final numbers for Barceda Families are still pending.

Table 2—Posttest Results

Performance Measure	Year 1	Year 2
Proportion of adolescents who understand that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease	88.97%	88.79%
Proportion of adolescents who indicate an understanding of the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from premarital sexual activity.	68.72%	70.90%
Proportion of participants who report they have the refusal or assertiveness skills to resist sexual urges and advances.	73.61%	74.4%
Proportion of youth who commit to abstain from sexual activity until marriage.	73.39%	73.70%
Proportion of participants who intend to avoid situations and risk behaviors such as drug use and alcohol consumption, which make them more vulnerable to sexual advances and urges.	79.57%	78.60%

Barceda Families, The Boys and Girls Club, and The Bridge saw at least an additional five thousand three hundred and sixteen (5,316) students in classroom and youth development settings. We are awaiting final numbers from these partners. Table 1 shows clients and encounters by program.

More important than numbers is finding out if our presentations initiated a change in knowledge and attitude. Based on our posttests, results showed improvement over last year in almost all areas. Table 2 indicates the percentage of students who chose “strongly agree” or “agree” in response to the question.

One of the most exciting outcomes we were able to see from our post-test was the intention change in students planning not to wait until marriage to

have sex. 38.2% of those students moved in a positive direction with their answers. See Table 3.

The above information is only the highlights. Please feel free to request a copy of our Key Results Summary which shows questions with a comparison of pretest to posttest.

The investment of money entrusted to LifeChoices to run our effective and life-changing programs yields great returns monetarily in savings produced by preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. But more importantly, this money is an investment in our future...in our youth, who will become a nation of individuals empowered with the truth of how to make healthy choices for their lives. ■

Table 3—Posttest Results 2

4. I plan to wait until marriage to have sex.					
	Pre Test	% of TL	Post Test	% of TL	Positively Influenced
Agree	3032	68.6%	3394	76.8%	190 / 38.2%
Disagree	497	11.2%	307	6.9%	
Note Sure or No response	890	20.1%	718	16.2%	

This is a key result that indicates that our program influences intended sexual behavior. It is exciting to see that 68.6% of students state the intention to wait until marriage for sexual activity on the pretest. Those students were further encouraged in their good choice by our programming. Especially exciting to see is that 38.2% of students who had planned to initiate sexual activity prior to marriage changed their minds.

# BreakDown

## LifeChoices New Peer Program

LifeChoices is excited to announce the debut of a new peer program—BreakDown. BreakDown is the new generation of “Edutainment,” bringing the message of self-control and hope to a generation of young people looking for the REAL thing. BreakDown is made up of a vibrant team of young people who will bring the powerful message of integrity, character, and purity to their peers in an innovative, dynamic way. BreakDown’s explosive and inspirational message is created to “break down” the lies that our sexually saturated culture has been telling our youth for years.

Through music, hip-hop dance, drama, inspirational speaking, video, and more, teens are engaged and educated, as well as entertained. The music and hip-hop style dance grabs the attention of the audience and presents abstinence as a cool, and more importantly, realistic choice for young people. Too often our youth are told by the media that the decision to abstain from sex is not cool. In one hour’s time, we will break down that old stereotype and create a new one... that choosing not to have sex is cool, normal, and a decision that many of their peers are making. We are in the process of recruiting talented, committed teens to be a part of this life-changing program.

Our drama team will take any audience on an emotional roller coaster ride that ends with a challenge for teens to live a life without regrets. Using storylines that are based on realistic, true life situations, teens are able to witness the pain, heartache and regret that often accompany engaging in risky behavior



such as pre-marital sex. These scenarios are intended to encourage young people to make wise choices with regard to relationships, sex, and their futures, as well as encourage them to make better choices if they have already become sexually active.

The motivational speaking segments are directly tied to the drama, and the audience is hit hard with the truth and facts about life, love, and relationships. Since music, dance and drama cannot give all of the information that young people need in order to make educated decisions concerning sex, the speaker serves as a liaison between the audience and the performers. Having the freedom to speak directly to the audience and challenge them with factual, real life information, the presentation becomes educational and motivational, as well as entertaining and cool.

BreakDown has also integrated video segments of young people telling their real life stories into the presentation, encouraging audience members to learn from their mistakes. Having experienced the consequences of sexual activity, they encourage their



peers to think seriously about the consequences of sex and serve as positive examples of making better choices by turning their lives around!

Because we feel this message is so important, we believe it should be presented in such a way worthy of its importance. Professionalism is key, and a well-polished performance is crucial! All performances will involve state-of-the-art technology and retina-burning visual aids to ensure that the audience remains captivated throughout the entire performance. We are currently looking for technical people who would be willing to help us out with these performances. If God has gifted you with a passion for technical support (lighting, sounds, special effects, video, etc) and you would like to join this ministry, please call Sheyenne at 417-624-4470.

Our teens deserve to have a strong message of self-control and HOPE that will compare to and exceed the destructive messages they receive from the media and other sources. BreakDown will become a force to be reckoned with that will help to change our cultural values toward that of TRUE sexual freedom... sex without regrets, without worry of out-of-wedlock pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, or emotional heartbreak.

So how can you get involved? We need all kinds of people to help us out with this new program! We are looking for young people who are dedicated to living a lifestyle of integrity, purity, and having relationships without regrets. We want teens and college students who can act, dance, or who have a passion to learn! We will be holding several auditions and interview sessions later this month. If you are a teenager/college student, or if you know someone who you think would be a great BreakDown team member, please call Sheyenne at 417-624-4470. We would also like the opportunity to come and speak at your



church youth group about BreakDown. If you are a youth minister or a youth sponsor and think that you may have some students who would be interested in BreakDown, please contact Sheyenne as well.

BreakDown has incredible potential to impact not only the four-states, but the entire country and even the world. BreakDown is a national organization, and there are BreakDown teams starting in twelve cities across the country! On top of that, there are teams forming in Uganda, Sudan, the Congo, and Mexico! In fact, this summer, our BreakDown Joplin team has the incredible opportunity to join many other BreakDown team members from all over the country in a trip to Uganda, Africa. YOU have the opportunity to be a part of that trip! We will be accompanied by some of the United States’ best abstinence speakers, and we will even get to perform on stage with the BreakDown Uganda teens! God is doing some mighty works in the area of abstinence education, and we are so blessed to have this opportunity to be a part of it. We are also forming a National BreakDown team that will tour the US during the summers. This is another awesome opportunity to impact our nation and our world with the message of hope and restoration.

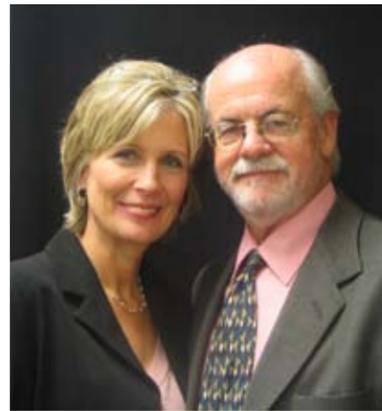
Everyone can be a part of BreakDown... we need teens and college students to be our performers, but we also need adults to support this ministry. We need the prayers of our churches and the prayers of parents who see the value in communicating the message of abstinence until marriage. Also, if you would like to financially support the BreakDown ministry specifically, or if you have questions about BreakDown, please don’t hesitate to contact Sheyenne Wilson at 417-624-4470. This is a great new program, and we hope that you, our LifeChoices supporters will get excited about it too! ■

# Additions to the LifeChoices Family

**Diane Higgins** has recently joined the staff of LifeChoices as Development Director. She will oversee fund development, public relations, church and business contacts, and the overall relationship between LifeChoices and the community.

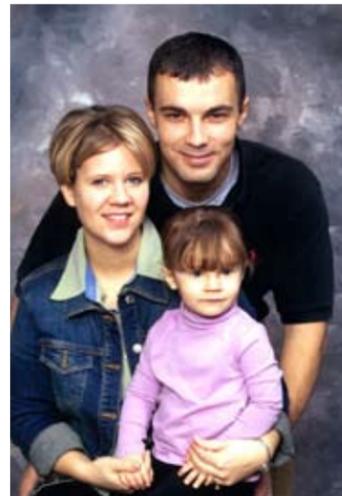
Diane and her husband Dick, a Joplin native, moved here four years ago with their teenage children, Mike and Rachel. The entire family loves the four-state area and considers it "home"!

Their first introduction to LifeChoices was at Diamond High School, where Mike and Rachel both participated in a Virtuous Reality course. They both say that it really helped them hold tightly to their belief in sexual purity before marriage and gave them a lot of new information and inspiration to live life without regrets.



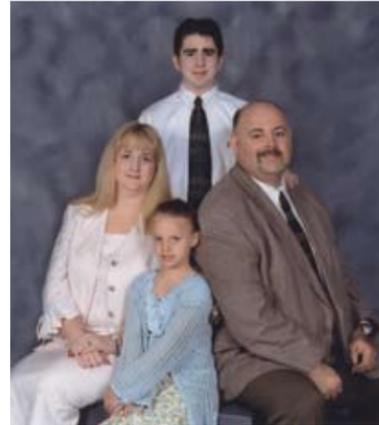
Diane & Dick Higgins

Ministry to families, in Diane's opinion, is among the most critical work in the kingdom of God. Diane directed both Women's and Children's ministries for eleven years at Lake Pointe Church near Dallas, and helped establish a Pregnancy Resource Center in her community during her time there. Here in Joplin, she has served as Church Manager at First Presbyterian Church, Children's Ministry Director at St. Paul's Methodist Church, and Development Director at Children's Center. She is so excited about this opportunity to serve on the amazing LifeChoices team!



Mischa & Josey Long and daughter, Alyssa

We are pleased to welcome **Melanie Ousley** to LifeChoices as our new Development Assistant. As a life long resident of Joplin, she and her family, husband Steve, and children Grant and Hailey, are members of First Baptist Church in Joplin. She helps out with the youth group and is the church's Activities Director. Melanie brings many years of experience to her new position at LifeChoices: she was a Financial Advisor for 7 ½ years, and before that, she worked in Human Resources for 9 years. Melanie loves the ministry of LifeChoices and is excited to be a part of this team!



Melanie & Steve Ousley and children, Grant & Hailey

**Mischa Long**, RN, BSN is from the Joplin area and a nursing graduate of Missouri Southern State University. Previously, she worked as a medical floor nurse at Lake Regional Hospital in Osage Beach, Missouri. When her husband Josey was deployed to Iraq in 2004, Mischa moved back to the Joplin area to be closer to family while he was overseas. During the eleven months he was deployed, Mischa focused on being a stay-at-home mom to their daughter Alyssa.

After several months, Mischa felt led to volunteer her time in community service a few hours a week. Because of their own unplanned pregnancy with Alyssa, she felt a connection with the pregnancy clients of LifeChoices and a call for her own involvement. She began volunteering at LifeChoices in May 2004, working one afternoon a week as a volunteer counselor and one afternoon as a volunteer nurse in the STD clinic.

In July 2005, Mischa accepted the position of LifeChoices Clinic Nurse. She now works full-time with the pregnancy and STD clients. She finds performing ultrasounds with abortion-minded clients the most rewarding part of her new job.

Mischa and her family moved to Neosho this summer. They are members of College Heights Christian Church in Joplin, but are currently looking for a church family closer to their new home. Josey works for the Missouri State Water Patrol and is a U.S. Marine Corps Reservist. They have a beautiful three year old daughter Alyssa and are looking forward to April 26 when they are expecting their second child.



Tiffany Bowland

Church, and has a strong passion for young people.

Tiffany's passion for abstinence began early in life when she experienced Virtuous Reality first-hand in sixth grade. Over the years, her passion for purity has grown not only for herself as an individual, but also in educating and encouraging today's youth to remain abstinent.

Tiffany has been a trained VR presenter since last year and has recently added to her contractual duties the task of grading and evaluating our pre and post tests. This will be a tremendous help, as it will allow us to speed up the process of returning results of the VR program to our schools. Tiffany will also volunteer her time as the new Assistant Director of BreakDown, Connection Institute's new peer program. We are excited to have Tiffany on board!

**Tiffany Bowland** has lived in the Joplin area for twelve years, and graduated from Carl Junction High School. She attended Ozark Christian College in the fall of 2004, and is now pursuing a public relations degree at Crowder Community College. Tiffany is extremely involved in the High School youth group at her church, College Heights Christian

This Fall, there have been several new additions to the extended LifeChoices family! **Mason Lee** was born to Ben and Amanda Hedger on September 14th at 5:10 p.m. Amanda served for several years as the Development Assistant. Amanda has resigned from that position to take on her new title as Full Time Mom; however, she assures us that she will bring Mason in for visits and even volunteer for us! Mason weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches long. Mom, dad, and baby are doing great!



Mason Lee Hedger

On October 13th, **Malachi James** joined the Winston family at 11:17 am. Mom, Melissa Winston, is the Virtuous Reality Program Director and Dad,

Erik is one of the Virtuous Reality Program Presenters. Melissa will return to LifeChoices after several weeks of maternity leave. Malachi weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. Malachi joins his big sister, Amanda, in the Winston family, and they are all doing great! ■



Malachi James Winston

## New Virtuous Reality Theme

This year's new theme for our Virtuous Reality abstinence education program is "The Choice is Yours, Choose to Know." Our new t-shirts are selling like crazy and we've switched from giving out pins to giving out carabineers. If you would like to purchase a t-shirt, they are available for \$12. Order one today by calling the Connection Institute at 417-624-4470. ■

# How Do You Say “Thanks”?

Since LifeChoices began, Sandi McReynolds has played a vital part in this God-centered ministry. First as a board member and past President, then as a part of the management team, Sandi has allowed God to use her expertise and love to bless countless souls throughout her many years of service.

Sandi, please know that in all that you do and whatever challenge you accept in the future, you are appreciated and thanked by the LifeChoices Board of Directors, Staff and team of Volunteers for all of your efforts and we wish you God's very best!

-- Gary Shaw, President ■

# Fill Them Up...

...and they did! What GREAT success we have had with the Baby Bottle Boomerang drive. We test marketed the drive during Sanctity of Human Life week 2005, and due to its success, the Baby Bottle Boomerang will be expanded into more churches for Sanctity of Human Life 2006. Special thanks to Seneca Christian Church, Life Church of Carthage, Oakton United Methodist, Racine Christian, and Wildwood Baptist Church for allowing us to distribute bottles in your churches – this started a new fundraising tradition which has raised \$ 3,497.42 to date. To participate in the Baby Bottle Boomerang in conjunction with Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 22nd, 2006, please contact Carla Hall at 417-623-0131. ■



# Handyman Jack



We are so grateful to our friend Jack Gainer from Miami, Oklahoma, for the many hours he spends here at LifeChoices fixing things! Jack and his wife Shirley will come to Joplin at a moment's notice whenever we need them, and they donate all this time as their ministry. Jack and Shirley are active members of Grace Bible Church in Joplin. ■

# Thanks Friend...

When I was interviewing in early 1992 with the Board of Directors for the position of Assistant Director, I was very impressed with each person's commitment to the Lord and to the ministry of the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Joplin, now known as LifeChoices. Little did I know at the time how much one of those board members would not only greatly impact the ministry, but my life as well. Sandi McReynolds was one of the individuals in the late 1980's who was concerned about the number of women in southwest Missouri who were obtaining abortions. Sandi joined with others who shared her concern to form a steering committee, and out of that committee, LifeChoices was born.

Sandi faithfully and actively served on the Board of Directors for many years. She spent many hours volunteering at LifeChoices working on special projects. She experienced on a first-hand basis volunteers working to save the lives of unborn children. She knew the ministry inside and out, and eventually accepted the position of Operations Director. Sandi's extensive background in human resources equipped her for this very special position at LifeChoices. Her office door was always open to the staff, and we took full advantage of that offer! We sought out her wisdom in policy and procedure issues, but more importantly she brought her love for the Lord and spiritual insights to us. If Sandi was involved in something, you could be assured that prayer was involved as well.

Sandi McReynolds was not only my supervisor, but is also my very dear friend. To me she is a mentor, confidant, and trusted advisor. Over the years, she has helped me bear many burdens, both personal and those related to ministry, by lifting my arms up when I lacked the strength to do so on my own. We have spent many hours in prayer together for this ministry, our clients, and our families. Because of her faithfulness to the Lord and this ministry, countless lives have been changed, including mine! So on behalf of all those lives you have touched: "Thanks, friend. You will be missed!"

-- Rita Lawson ■

# Town & Country Quilters



Thanks once again to the Town & Country Quilting Club for making and donating many beautiful baby quilts. The quilts will be included in a gift basket for mom and baby after birth. Rita Lawson and Tracey Kelley display two of the quilts. ■

# Connection Institute is Hitting the Prom!

We are pleased to announce our newest program called "Become", designed to help girls in the four-state area have the healthy and safe prom of their dreams. Girls referred to our program will receive a prom dress for a \$20 deposit (refundable on return), shoes, accessories, and complimentary hair and makeup services for the big day. Each girl will be matched with a "personal shopper" to help her find a dress and learn more about abstinence, self-respect, and healthy relationships. We are currently looking for donations of new or slightly used formal dresses (bridesmaid dresses ok!), shoes, strapless undergarments, hair and makeup services, storage space, and a place to have our "shop days"! We also need volunteers to act as personal shoppers, seamstresses, and organizational experts- if you'd like to make a difference to teen girls in the Joplin/ Four-State area, call Marley Pugh at 417-624-4470! ■

## Mission Statement

LifeChoices: Dedicated to upholding the dignity of life through medical services, education, and resources.



# LifeChoices4States.org gets a facelift

This month, LifeChoices is excited to announce the debut of our new website! With the internet increasing as the most important means of communication and information, we are excited about the new ways this great tool will reach our clients. We have updated the look and added a lot of great information that will be helpful to any man or woman who is looking for answers. We also have a “Get Involved” section that has great ideas for ways that churches, businesses, and individuals alike can be involved in the ministry at LifeChoices. Be sure to check to it out at [www.lifechoices4states.org](http://www.lifechoices4states.org)! ■

### STATISTICS - JANUARY-OCTOBER 2005

As you consider the statistics below, please remember that every number represents a life - please take a moment to pray for them.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENT VISITS	1,501	Negative Results	227
CLIENT RELATED TELEPHONE CALLS	2,605	Abstinence Counseling	604
		Abstinence Commitments	134
		STD testing and treatment	239
<b>INTERVENTION SERVICES</b>			
Pregnancy related counseling visits	679	<b>OUTREACH ACTIVITIES</b>	
New Clients	441	Parenting Classes - Adults	169
Repeat Clients	238	Video Instruction Visits	36
Pregnancy Tests	719	Children's Programs	50
Positive Results	435	Case Management/Material Assessments	41
Clients at risk for abortion	120	Boutique Visits	245
Ultrasounds	139	<b>SPIRITUAL RESULTS</b>	
Changed mind/Will carry	82	Spiritual Discussions	731
Undecided/Unknown	24	Clients praying to receive Christ	6
Aborted	8	Rededications	12
Miscarried	6	<b>CONNECTION INSTITUTE</b>	
Babies Born	144	Total number of individuals - all programs	11,195
Babies placed for adoption	1	Students in Virtuous Reality - 10-day prog.	7,136
Baby Gift Baskets	97		