“Fighting for Our Faith”

Brad and Jesi Smith

Though their pro-life views were developed long before their marriage and children, Brad and Jesi Smith’s fifth child, Faith, tested and ultimately strengthened those views. Faith was diagnosed in the womb with “fatal fetal anomalies” and after birth was genetically tested and found to have Trisomy 18 and Monosomy 21. Trisomy 18 is the grave medical condition that also afflicts Bella Santorum, daughter of pro-life Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum. After enduring pressure to abort Faith prior to birth and to not treat Faith throughout her childhood, the Smith’s have battled to get proper medical treatment for her. When doctors were withdrawing and withholding care from Faith, the Smith’s received critical advice from Rick Santorum that saved Faith’s life. Brad and Jesi will be sharing their family’s story at this year’s Banquet.

Brad and Jesi Smith and their children have been friends of our family for many years. Both our families have five children, so we understandably kept crossing paths at various church and social functions. Our families also shared a common struggle: we both faced the challenges of having a child diagnosed with a serious genetic disorder. Many of the babies like our daughter Cassie and the Smith’s daughter Faith are aborted. As we discussed the pressures we both encountered to withhold treatment from our little girls, a natural bond formed between us.

Brad became a founding board member of Save The 1 (www.savethe1.com), an organization I envisioned to protect children society calls “the hard cases” but Jesus calls “the least of these.” Brad and Jesi joined us as national speakers and bloggers. Many of their blogs went viral when Lifenews and Lifesitenews posted them. The Smiths have also spoken extensively not only at pro-life events but also at hospitals and medical schools regarding ethics and care for Trisomy patients.

In 2013, Brad and Jesi were instrumental in getting a law passed in Michigan known as the Medical Good-Faith Provisions Act. This law requires hospitals and doctors to provide their medical futility policies to parents like the Smiths allowing them to make more informed decisions regarding their children’s medical treatment and to find doctors who are likeminded.

Please join us at the 31st Annual Benefit Banquet for Crossroads Pregnancy Center on Friday, March 6, 2015, featuring Brad and Jesi Smith. This wonderful event is the most important fundraiser of the year for Crossroads. Seating is limited, so be sure to reserve your seat(s) by February 19th. Adults only please.

By Rebecca Kiessling, Founder of Save The 1

RSVP at www.crossroadspregnancy.org, contact Charlotte at cpccharlotte@gmail.com, or call 248-293-0070 x107. We hope to see you there.
Many times I get asked about what we are doing to prevent lawsuits, being picketed, or having undercover videos taken at the center. The answer is NOTHING. We don’t do anything because we are afraid these things might happen, but because we do all things to better represent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We bathe ourselves in prayer daily and are constantly in God’s Word, studying to know Him more. We take classes to further understand our laws, and learn what we should and should not say to our clients. We do in-services for our volunteers so they are better educated as pro-life representatives and witnesses for God. We are all called to be truth-tellers. We answer our clients’ questions, truthfully, accurately, and factually, not offering our own opinions. We don’t add things to what we tell people for shock value or to impress.

When we answer the phones and are asked a tough question, we answer. We do not evade or delay or try to avoid answering because that is lying by omission. We let everyone know that we are here to help, really help. God brings us the calls and the clients, and He expects us to represent Him in a way that brings honor and glory to His name, not ours.

As willing slaves of the King, we are called to love our neighbor, love our enemies, and love even those who slander us. We want to be able to show Christ’s love in even greater ways, through more teaching in the schools and more services for our clients. Our desire is to help hurting men and women because we have the answer, Christ. We are exploring offering STI/STD testing and treatment in order to further help our clients.

Please pray with us that God may make clear His will in all that we do. Pray also that we may stand firm on the Rock, our Christ, and bring glory to His name through this ministry.

Tim Stickel

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13)*

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11)*

from the volunteers

“I began volunteering at Crossroads 22 years ago, yes....seems impossible! I started as a receptionist, but quickly realized the need for counselors, so I began the training. I’ve counseled many young women who were pregnant. The one that sticks out in my mind was pregnant, had an 8 month old son and was feeling pressure to have an abortion. She ended up going to an abortion clinic where she realized through an ultrasound that she was carrying twins. She got up off the table and left! Those twin girls are around 20 now. Through it all, God has blessed the work we do here at Crossroads. We do the best we can and trust God for the results. He has richly blessed and grown this ministry, and I am honored to be a part of it.”

Mary Lou Temple, RN – volunteer counselor

“Volunteering is a joy in a ministry that lets me do what I love. Greeting clients, answering the phone, and assisting the staff are opportunities to share the journey in glorifying God in words and deeds.”

Ruth Anderson – volunteer receptionist
CPC Top Needs

Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.
1 Corinthians 10:24

Prayers
- Of gratitude for how God has blessed this ministry
- That our clients come to know Christ as their Savior and choose life for their unborn babies
- For healing for those impacted by abortion
- For all CPC clients, support groups, donors, volunteers, board of directors, staff, and fundraising events

Mom and Baby Care Program
- Baby diapers, wipes, wash cloths, hooded towels, receiving blankets, diaper bags, and toiletries
- Car seats, swings, bounce seats, and Pack ’n Plays
- Enfamil powdered formula and baby food
- New or gently used baby clothes, sleepers, sleep sacks, and outfits size newborn-18 months

Volunteers (Training Provided)
- Counselors
- Receptionists
- Hispanic translators
- Prayer team members
- Ultrasonographers
- Nurses to teach childbirth classes and SHARE program
- Church liaisons
- Team to obtain underwriters and sponsors
- Team to help with fundraising events

Donations
- Underwriters and sponsors for fundraising events
- Ongoing financial support (www.crossroadspregnancy.org)

Crossroads is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). Your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated.

Golf “Fore” Life
Golfers, this is your chance to play the private R&S Sharf course at Oakland University. Our Golf “Fore” Life charity outing is scheduled for Monday, May 11th. Sign-in begins at 8:00 a.m. with a shot-gun start at 9:30 a.m. Space is limited to 120 golfers. Register your foursome today. To sponsor this event, contact Charlotte by email at cpccharlotte@gmail.com or call 248-293-0070 ext. 107.

2014 Fundraising Events Recap
In 2014, Crossroads’ five fundraising events (Banquet, Golf, Garden Party, Bike for Life, and Swim 4 Life) raised over $170,500 for our ministry needs. If you attended our events, THANK YOU for helping us give the gift of life to so many in 2014. You are essential to our ministry, and your support makes everything we do possible. We hope to see you at our 2015 fundraising events (and we hope you invite a friend).
“Let’s talk about sex, baby.” Songs, TV shows, movies – our culture is talking, singing, and engaging in this topic in ways we have never seen before. Preteens and teens are talking about sex, and it’s important we are engaged in the conversation. One SHARE instructor noted, “The statistics on teen sexual health are alarming, and I feel it’s my duty to teach this information so that the next generation cannot say, ‘no one told me.’ Teaching in the middle and junior high schools has taught me to depend on Christ more because it’s a spiritual battle to spread this ‘light’ in a dark world. Through teaching, I’m taught to completely surrender everything to Christ.” – Deborah Leiendecker, RN

The SHARE program is making a difference! We are so thankful that the classroom presentations are informing students about healthy choices within 50 schools in Oakland County, reaching more than 9,000 students per year.

Middle school students are learning about the importance of guarding their hearts, how STIs are transmitted, the importance of setting goals, and how to be discerning in their media and entertainment choices. High school students are challenged by the statistic that 1 in 4 teens is dealing with an STI today.

Students are provided with teaching on teen pregnancy and fetal development. They see models of babies at various stages of fetal development and are shown the intrinsic value of life at all stages. One of the highlights is teaching on healthy relationships and why casual sex and hookups don’t bring fulfillment. Students are encouraged to see their value, to recognize signs of healthy and unhealthy behavior patterns, and to learn how to resist sexual pressure.
Comments from students:

“I loved the way you talked about how we all have value.”

“Loved everything but especially about how to have a good relationship.”

“It was a helpful reminder to not make regretful decisions and to remember the consequences.”

“I didn’t know waiting for sex was such a great option.”

“Learning to wait and resist the pressure.”

“I loved this one thing that the instructor said and it stayed with me...She said to decide what you’re worth. If you’re worth a prom ticket, a movie ticket or a wedding ring. Ah, that got me. I’m even quoting her now!” (A followup conversation indicated that the student thought sex was no big deal, and she couldn’t wait to lose her virginity. The presentation changed her entire view of sex. She now sees sex and abstinence in a totally different way.)

Congratulations to SHARE instructors who have completed and received Sexual Risk Avoidance Specialist certification this past year through the National Abstinence Education Association!

Did You Know?

➢ SHARE provides each student equal opportunity to receive information that provides optimal sexual health

➢ Parent workshops are available

➢ SHARE uses a risk avoidance technique rather than risk reduction

➢ SHARE uses medically accurate information in all presentations

➢ SHARE is an interactive teaching program which allows young people to make decisions for their sexual health based on informed choices

➢ SHARE presentations reflect a respect for the inherent dignity and worth of every person

➢ Arbor Vitae, a pregnancy center in Ann Arbor, has been trained to teach SHARE program for middle school
So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

For the past fifteen years, Ron Daggett has been a member of the Board of Directors at Crossroads Pregnancy Center. Throughout the last twelve years, he has been an officer on the board, and for the majority of those twelve years, he has been the board chairman. He was a driving force in moving the center from Rochester to Auburn Hills so that we had a building suitable for providing ultrasounds to our clients. He helped oversee all the renovations necessary to prepare the new building, including planning the new layout and preparing the drawings for construction.

Ron has mentored three of Crossroads’ executive directors, guiding them to aim the center toward God and nothing else. He prayed with them, corrected them, and became like a father to them. He helped them to see God’s vision for the center and the need to preach Christ to all who came through our doors. Even though the clients never knew it, Ron was helping make possible all the services that we now offer.

During Ron’s tenure as chairman, God has seen fit to bless Crossroads more than we could have ever imagined. Our client numbers have increased fourfold, the SHARE (Sexual Health and Relationship Education) program has increased twenty-five-fold, and the staff has increased from a few part-time employees, to seven part-time, one full-time, and a dozen teachers in the SHARE program. We have expanded the material portion of our services to its own building where we provide our clients with tens of thousands of clothing items every year, as well as diapers, car seats, books, toys, and more.

Just to be clear, Ron did not do all this by himself. God opened the doors to allow these blessings, and Ron’s wife Judy stood with him all the way. Ron would be the first to tell you that Judy is as much a guiding force at Crossroads as he is. No, as he was. As of December 31, 2014, Ron stepped down from all his duties here and will be sorely missed. There are very few individuals associated with the center who have not been impacted by him. He has been one of God’s faithful servants working on behalf of Crossroads, seeking to do all to the glory of God. SO, PLEASE THANK HIM WHEN YOU SEE HIM.

THANK YOU to all who gave generously to Crossroads. Each gift is an expression of your values, priorities, and gratitude for God’s blessings in your life. Giving is a way to worship God and strengthen our community, as every gift blesses others. We are blessed to count you as one of our supporters.
2014 Memorial Gifts

May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 115:15

In Memory of Andy Anderson
   Ruth Anderson

In Memory of Charlene Cusick
   Thomas Cusick

In Memory of Richard Lindner
   Michael & Marchann Simon

In Memory of Joan Pistonetti
   Tina Persha
   Michael & Karen Somerville

In Memory of Baby C
   Anonymous

In Honor of Mary Berckley
   Steven Gallegos, Sr.

In Honor of Beth Collison
   Barry & Cheryl Doherty

In Honor of Carol Reimann
   Christopher Reimann
   John & Gerriann Reimann

In Honor of 40th Wedding Anniversary
   Alton & Deborah Hayes

Memorial donations are a life-affirming way to honor deceased loved ones, celebrate important events and recognize special people. Thank you for these precious gifts.

Planned Giving

by Jill Vandermuelen, Board of Directors Member

There are many essential components to Crossroads keeping our doors open. The most important is your prayers. Another important component is your treasure. We are so blessed with the countless prayers and treasures, and the numerous other ways our donors contribute to allow us to do God’s work. We are thankful for your generous contributions.

CPC would like to ask you to consider an option that would allow us to have the resources needed to continue to carry out our ministry in the many years to come through planned giving, something that may be beneficial to both you and CPC. Through a will, trust, IRA, 401(k), life insurance, charitable gift annuity, or charitable trust, you may be able make a gift to CPC and save on your taxes.

Planned giving does not have to be complicated. In order to assess the options most beneficial to you, we suggest you consult your attorney or financial advisor.

If you have any questions about CPC, our mission, our ministry, or our goals for the future, please contact Tim Stickel, Executive Director, at cpctim@gmail.com or 248-293-0070 x 109. Please remember CPC staff and volunteers cannot provide legal or financial advice. May God bless you as you prayerfully consider a planned gift to Crossroads.
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Your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated by our clients who have chosen life for their babies.
Help us by sponsoring a 2015 fundraising event!
Contact Charlotte at cpccharlotte@gmail.com or call 248-293-0070 x107.