

Crossroads Connection

Publication of Crossroads Care Center
January 2019

From the Director's Desk

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16b

Lately, I have been looking at examples from Christian history concerning prayer. I really don't know why I started this, but what I found confirmed what Scripture tells us. Throughout history, in every denomination, it has been the prayers of believers that have gone before any successful ministry. This is just as true now as it was 100, 200, 300, or 2000 years ago; it is also just as necessary for the success of any ministry as it ever was. Crossroads is no exception! As you read the articles in this newsletter, seeing our needs and all that is going on, please pray. (In my family, we call that knee time.) Pray and ask God for direction and wisdom for you and for us as we impact more and more people for Christ.

Tim Stickel

2019 Events

- February 21 & 22 - Wild Game Dinner @ Lakeside Assembly of God
- March 1 - Benefit Events
- March 23 - Mom2Mom Sale @ Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
- July 13 - Detroit Zoo Walk
- September 21 - Bike for Life
- October/November - Prayer Breakfast

Sponsorships

All sponsorship packages are tax-deductible. To be one of our sponsors, please contact Alex at alex.p@CrossroadsCareCenter.org or 248.293.0070 x107.

2019 Crossroads' Benefit Events

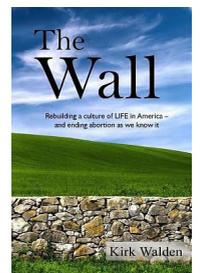
Again this year, Crossroads Care Center is excited to announce we will be hosting **two** wonderful benefit events, a luncheon and dinner, at the beautiful Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester on **Friday, March 1st**. You may attend the luncheon from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (seating begins at 10:45 a.m.) or the dinner from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (seating begins at 6:15 p.m.). Crossroads would love you to consider being an event or table sponsor for either our luncheon or dinner. You can find more information about sponsorship and the banquet on our website www.CrossroadsCareCenter.org.

Our 2019 guest speaker will be Kirk Walden. A message from Kirk Walden is certain to be filled with humor, challenge, vision, and hope. Kirk's journey into pregnancy help ministry, where he has served for more than 20 years, lead him through life as a sports writer, professional golfer, and even nine years as a single dad.

Kirk is also author of *The Wall*, a book sweeping through the pro-life community with a powerful message which outlines a path to ending abortion as we know it. In addition to his speaking and writing, Kirk serves as an Advancement Specialist for Heartbeat International, the world's largest affiliate organization for the pregnancy help community.

These are our most important fundraising events of the year. There is no charge to attend, but reservations are required for each attendee. Ages 18 and up are welcome. Reserve your complimentary tickets for a lovely luncheon or dinner and program by visiting our website at www.CrossroadsCareCenter.org or by calling Alex at 248.293.0070 x107. All reservations for seating are on a first come, first served basis. Seats will be filling fast, so reserve your spot today. **The deadline to RSVP is February 16th.**

We are looking forward to seeing you there!



STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) Clinic

Our STD testing at Crossroads could not happen without the prayers and financial support from our donors. Providing STD testing gives us an opportunity to not only educate clients, but also speak truth into their lives, and show them grace (when they often expect judgment). People come in feeling vulnerable, afraid, and often ashamed. The first visit is spent educating them (what STDs are, how they're transmitted, how they can impact us, and the alarming rates of disease in our communities), getting to know more about them personally, evaluating their sexual risk, performing an exam, and collecting specimens.

During the second visit, results are shared and medications are provided if needed (all free of charge). We spend time counseling clients about risk avoidance and/or reduction. We guide them through the process of discovering what choices they need to make differently going forward, what behaviors and attitudes might need changing, and what needs to happen to accomplish these goals. We often hear the experience of STD testing with Crossroads described as a "wake up call".... an opportunity to see truths exposed and make better choices moving forward. We end every visit with the offer of prayer. Clients are universally grateful for our services, and often remark, "I don't know what I would have done without you guys."

Kirstie Almy, *Medical Services* - MS, PA-C

2017 Stats

- 2,299 Client Visits
- 168 Pregnancy Tests
- 163 Ultrasounds Performed
- 211 STD Testing & Treatment Visits
- ≈ 90,000 Material Aid Items Distributed
- ≈ 62,000 Diapers & Wipes Distributed
- ≈ \$160.53 Cost per Client (in Center + Medical)
- 54 New Gospel Presentations
- 1,043 Classroom Presentations
- 10 School Districts

Join our prayer team?

We would love you to pray for us and become a prayer warrior for Crossroads.

For more information about our prayer team, please contact Ladonna Even at 248.652.9312 or ladonna.even@gmail.com.



Thoughts from the Board and Staff

The State of Crossroads Care Center

Throughout 2018 Crossroads staff, volunteers, and donors have worked together to successfully carry out our mission. What is our mission? *We are a non-profit, Christian organization dedicated to assisting abortion-vulnerable women and men involved in an unplanned pregnancy, to choose life for their unborn children. Toward that end, we are committed to encouraging godly sexual attitudes and practices in our community.*

Every human is created in the image of God and, therefore, has value, meaning, and purpose. At Crossroads, we know this is true. This year, we served hundreds of women who came to us for pregnancy tests and ultrasounds. Ultrasounds provided the opportunity for moms and dads to see their little babies and their beating hearts. Our Mom and Baby Care program served hundreds of families by providing many of the practical necessities a new baby needs, as well as providing emotional support and spiritual guidance for the mother. Many pregnant mothers attended our childbirth classes to be prepared for their special day. Why so many client services? To demonstrate the love of God and proclaim the reality that their babies have value, that they themselves have value, that we care, that God cares. In this environment of care, clients are supported to choose life.

The number of sexually transmitted disease (STD) cases continues to increase in our country with half of all the new cases in young people aged 15-24 (CDC, 2018). In 2018, our SHARE (Sexual Health and Relationship Education) program teachers taught almost 8,000 middle and high school students the consequences of sexual activity in over 50 local public schools. Armed with the truth, students can make healthy sexual choices. The truth is if you wait to have sex until you are in a lifetime, committed, faithful, monogamous relationship, you will not be at risk for an STD. Does this sound familiar? Marriage is the God-ordained relationship for sex. This year, we served hundreds of men and women at Crossroads with our STD testing and treatment. This medical care includes education, emotional support, and spiritual guidance. We know the vital truth, that every human is created in His image, has value, purpose, and meaning. We at Crossroads strive to glorify Jesus Christ in every facet of our ministry as we demonstrate this truth to everyone we serve.

Victoria Mendler, *Board President* - APRN, MSN, WHNP-BC

Living Legacies

We've all heard much talk about legacies. Politicians are concerned about their legacies. Currently, there is even a song by a popular Christian artist disclaiming any desire for a legacy. But like it or not, we leave legacies. Over and over, we are instructed to remember those that have gone before us and what God has done in the past to help guide us now and in the future.

At Crossroads we have living legacies, thousands of changed and saved lives. Please consider joining your legacy to Crossroads with prayer and financial support. There are numerous ways of adding Crossroads to your legacy. Crossroads can be added as a beneficiary in your will or trust. You can also set up a Charitable Remainder Trust which would give you the income while living and a current charitable contribution deduction now for the amount put into the trust.

Please contact us or your financial advisor with any questions. Martin Schmitt, *Board of Directors* - ABA, EA



APR- Abortion Pill Reversal

In early 2018, we were researching the idea of extending our services to provide Abortion Pill Reversal (APR). APR provides a supportive alternative to women who have initiated a chemical abortion (taken the abortifacient drug, mifepristone) but have decided they would like to continue their pregnancy. It involves the use of a long-standing obstetrical medication (progesterone) for stopping the effects of mifepristone. Progesterone has been used in pregnancy for over 40 years, and it's a natural hormone necessary to sustain a pregnancy. Mifepristone blocks the progesterone receptors in the uterus and placenta, causing placental failure, thereby inhibiting the oxygen and nutrition to the developing embryo. In APR, giving extra progesterone attempts to outnumber and out-compete the mifepristone in order to keep the pregnancy viable. We worked along with Dr. Catherine Stark to determine facility, medication, staff, insurance and other components needed to accomplish this service. Through our research, we determined we could provide the necessary components, except for one - malpractice insurance coverage. At this time, we will continue to provide APR referral services as we have been doing. Unfortunately though, we will not be a provider of such services.

Tracey Fish, *Medical Services Director* - MS, PA-C



A Glimpse Into SHARE

In 1 Chronicles 4:10, we read a prayer for God to bless the work of Jabez' hands and enlarge his territory and keep him from harm. This is a common prayer theme for the work that SHARE is doing in the schools. God has enlarged the scope of the teaching done and expanded it beyond middle and high school to an elementary program that has reached into Pontiac schools. We praise God for bringing in a teaching staff that is managing to cover all the classes scheduled.

Each morning, we pray a prayer of protection over our instructors and the students we will be meeting with – extending over Oakland County and a few schools beyond. Prayers for God to put a hedge of protection around the instructors and to keep them safe. Prayers for the young people to respond to the message presented with healthy decision-making for today and for their future.

Decisions carry consequences – either positive or negative. We live in a culture that surrounds us with a “do it your way” mentality and no mention of the positives of making choices which protect from harm and help to avoid risk. We are so thankful for opportunities to speak truth into young people’s lives – not only regarding sexual choices but also to their inherent value and worth and to empower them with skills to make healthy decisions. Thank you for your support and prayers as we go forward into this year, trusting in God’s provisions for the outcomes.

Evelyn Van Sloten, *SHARE Program Director*

Mary Lou Temple, Volunteer and Board Member

I have volunteered at Crossroads for 25+ years. I was interested in helping at a pro-life pregnancy center, but it really began as a challenge from a friend of mine, “Mary Lou, if you’re so pro-life, why don’t you do something about it?” I saw an ad in my church bulletin in the summer asking for monetary help for Crossroads’ Walk for Life. One of our members was the Development Director and spoke very highly about Crossroads.



I filled out volunteer paperwork and drove to Crossroads for an interview. I was a few minutes late, and the director put me at ease by starting with prayer. I started to train as a receptionist, and after a year, I felt called to be a counselor. I felt this call because sometimes clients came in and there was no counselor to talk with them.

I’ve had many interesting experiences over the years...just think, some of the babies who were born would be in their 20s by now. One client had an 8 month-old son and was pregnant. Her boyfriend didn’t want the baby, and she was torn about her decision. I showed her a video of an ultrasound of a preborn baby. After we discussed her options and prayed, she did go to an abortion clinic and found out she was pregnant with twins. She got off the table and left! Praise God!

Working at Crossroads has been a blessing and growth experience for me. I’ve learned to feel comfortable praying out loud and have met many wonderful, caring Christian volunteers and staff. I have taught abstinence in the Troy middle schools and am serving as a counselor and a board member and help out at fundraising events.

I remind our clients that all life is precious to God, and when we choose to follow His will for us, He will guide and bless us. Life may not be easy, but God promises never to leave us.

Mary Lou Temple - RN, MS, Nursing

2018 Honors & Memorial Gifts

*“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.”
Psalm 9:1 (ESV)*

In Honor of Advent Women

Brian & Tracey Fish

In Honor of James Boldt

Arnold & Kate Viohl

In Honor of Chuck Cameron

Mark & Susan Aulie

P.N. & K.M. Bedard

Frances Bozeman

Maria Cameron

Matthew & Dolores Hunter

Steven & Kit Ilenich

Wayne & Denise Mead

Roger & Dona Orteca

Paul Reile

Vickie Schrauger

Carol Shelton

In Honor of New Granddaughter, Sylvia Maria

Stephen & Laurie Miller

In Memory of Frank and Betty Grasl

Anonymous

In Memory of Joseph Reimann

Jeffrey G. Reimann

In Memory of Joan Pistonetti

Jean Lanfear

Tina Persha

Michael & Karen Somerville

In Memory of Marjorie Pulk

Meadowbrook Woman’s Club

Michael & Marchann Simon

In Memory of Judy Rhoads

Gary Rhoads

In Memory of Cecily Rosebriar Rubino

Kimberly Stetson

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.

Donate to Crossroads

Bring cash to the center, mail a check made payable to “Crossroads,” or donate online at www.CrossroadsCareCenter.org.

Your donations bless the women, babies, and families that we serve. Thank you for your support and may God bless you.

Our Proudly Pro-Life Event Sponsors

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Benson's Building Supply

A Final Thought from a Board Member

When I was asked to write on how God answers prayers in support of Crossroads, I can honestly say that after 10 years on the board....I'm not really sure how He does. What I am sure of is that He does answer prayers and that He hears the prayers of His people. We know from His Word that He loves us, and He will be good to us, and Crossroads has seen His faithfulness firsthand over the past 30 years. We are commanded to pray with thanksgiving, without anxious thoughts, letting our requests be made known. So, I would encourage you to pray even now for our clients, the staff, the board, and the many volunteers. I'll ask you to pray for finances, material assistance, and money to pay the bills. He will answer and will provide!

I would like to thank the many supporters of Crossroads for years of encouragement and faithfulness. You are a gift to us, and we thank God for you. May God bless you.

Alan Van Sloten, *Board of Directors* - P. ENG., MBA, CMA, CGA

Mark Your Calendars for a New 2019 Event: Zoo Walk for Life

Join us on Saturday, July 13, 2019, for a Zoo Walk for Life. Crossroads is teaming up with Care Net Berkley for a fantastic walk at the Detroit Zoo with other pro-life warriors.

Watch your email or visit our website for additional information about this new 2019 event.



Crossroads Mission Statement: We are a non-profit, Christian organization dedicated to assisting abortion-vulnerable women and men involved in an unplanned pregnancy, to choose life for their unborn children. Toward that end, we are committed to encouraging godly sexual attitudes and practices in our community.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Mail a check payable to "Crossroads" or donate online at www.CrossroadsCareCenter.org.

Help us by sponsoring a 2019 fundraising event!

Contact Alex Peterson at alex.p@CrossroadsCareCenter.org or call 248.293.0070 x107