Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to explore our annual report. Each year we give you snapshots of how Care Net Pregnancy Centers of the Albuquerque area are impacting lives in our communities. This issue contains stories from all of our centers and ministries. I wish we had the time and space to share all the precious stories. As partners with this ministry, you helped to make these life-changing stories possible.

The guest speaker for the 2018 fundraising banquet is Melissa Ohden, whom God miraculously spared as an infant following a late term abortion. This year we have seen an increase in the number of women who, like Melissa’s mother, were scheduled for an abortion. In Albuquerque, we interact with women considering abortion late in pregnancy. The impact of late term abortion is a painful reality for our community. I met this year’s speaker when she shared her story at a conference. She calls women like herself “Survivors.” I introduced myself because I am also the survivor of an abortion attempt. Perhaps, we, the survivors, have a unique perspective because our lives were so nearly lost while we were still in the womb. That close call has given me gratitude in Melissa’s voice as well. God’s intervention in my personal pathway to life. Thank you for caring enough to invest in the work of this ministry.

As I wrap up the last year of my Board term, I recall the amazing trajectory that Care Net has been on since the day I arrived: low times, high times, sorrows and joys. What a pleasure to serve with so many great individuals and I am honored to have spent this time with such a fantastic team. This truly has been a life-changing experience and I am excited and hopeful for the next individual who will take the helm of the Board and lead Care Net forward. Our Board has some great talent, wisdom and ability. I have confidence that they will continue to govern in a visionary, meaningful and wise manner.

I want to thank all of the staff, board members, volunteers and donors who have given of themselves to make this organization a shining success. I want to encourage everyone to avoid the temptations that litter the roadway of the cause for life. Instead, remember that we support life because we are created in the Image of God. We have a purpose and a destiny even before we were knit together in our mother’s womb. Life is a cause that should unite us in common purpose and passion, driven by love and respect for others. There is no place for hate or judgment of motivations in what we do. We are the image bearers of the Most High God and have an obligation to steward that responsibility with humility, love and tenderness. We truly have a part to play in the lives and destiny of those who will follow after us. We are winning the battle and the war! Those who stay the course will receive their reward in full. All in Jesus’ Name, Jeremy Ortiz
MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKER
Melissa Ohden

Melissa is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Despite the initial concerns regarding Melissa’s future after surviving the attempt to end her life at approximately seven months gestation, she has not only survived but thrived. With a Master’s Degree in Social Work, she has worked in the fields of substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence and sexual assault counseling, and child welfare.

Melissa was formerly a College Outreach Speaker with Feminists for Life and is the former Patron of Real Choices Australia. She has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, and the Australian Parliament. Melissa is on the Board of Directors for the Vitae Foundation, a national organization which uses media to advance a culture of life.

In 2012, Melissa founded The Abortion Survivors Network (ASN). ASN seeks to educate the public about failed abortions and survivors while providing emotional, mental and spiritual support to abortion survivors. Since ASN’s inception, Melissa has been in contact with over 209 survivors.

Melissa has been featured on television and radio programs including: The 700 Club, EWTN’s Life on the Rock and Defending Life, Fox News, Focus on the Family, American Family Radio, the Mike Huckabee show, and the Teresa Tomeo show. Her life and ministry is featured in the award winning pro-life documentary, A Voice for Life.

After years of searching for her biological family and offering them forgiveness for the decision that was made to end her life, Melissa’s story, and her life, is so much more than one of survival. It’s evidence of the intergenerational impact of abortion on all of our lives. More importantly, it’s a testament to the beauty of God’s grace in our lives, the power of love, and the transformational power of forgiveness and in answering God’s call for your life.

Fulfilling the purpose that she believes God set out for her when He saved her from the certain death of the abortion attempt, Melissa is truly a voice for the voiceless.

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Turning the Corner

The room was quiet and somber when I walked into the counseling room to meet with Skylar. I felt her sadness, confusion and fear all wrapped into one big question mark. Where do I go from here? I introduced myself and glanced over to see Skylar staring at the wall. No eye contact was made. Not a very good sign when trying to talk with someone you just met a few minutes ago.

I broke the awkward silence by offering my client water. She accepted and for the first time looked at me. This contact was made. Not a very good sign when trying to help save lives.

“We all love you and I know the volunteers will be happy to pray for a new job for you.” He said, “Thanks, but I just don’t really know if it will get anywhere.” I said, “I am sure God will help you find a job.” I reminded him that God loved him very much, and I felt confident that he would find a job soon. So much so that I said, “Saul, do me a favor when you get your job. Please come back and tell me where you are working.” He looked at his feet and said, “Sure, IF I get a job I will.” I gave him a hug and again reminded him of God’s Love and he said, “We will see.” Fast forward six days. Saul came in through the front door and told the receptionist, “I have to see Paulette!” Then he walked to my office and with tears in his eyes he said, “I just wanted to tell you thank-you for praying, I didn’t really think it would happen, but I got a job in Santa Fe that pays better than Albuquerque. Now I can provide for my family and new baby.” He asked me to tell all the volunteers that God listened, and to thank them. We think his “thank-you” should extend to all the supporters who pray and contribute to Care Net centers.

*For the sake of confidentiality, the name has been changed

God Listened

On a cool November morning just before Thanksgiving, I helped the husband of one of our clients. He came in for diapers for his new baby. He looked very sad. I said, “Saul,” what is wrong?” He said that he had just lost his job and needed to find a new one before the holidays. I told him, “We all love you and I know the volunteers will be happy to pray for a new job for you.” He said, “Thanks, but I just don’t really know if it will get anywhere.” I said, “I am sure God will help you find a job.” I reminded him that God loved him very much, and I felt confident that he would find a job soon. So much so that I said, “Saul, do me a favor when you get your job. Please come back and tell me where you are working.” He looked at his feet and said, “Sure, IF I get a job I will.” I gave him a hug and again reminded him of God’s Love and he said, “We will see.” Fast forward six days. Saul came in through the front door and told the receptionist, “I have to see Paulette!” Then he walked to my office and with tears in his eyes he said, “I just wanted to tell you thank-you for praying, I didn’t really think it would happen, but I got a job in Santa Fe that pays better than Albuquerque. Now I can provide for my family and new baby.” He asked me to tell all the volunteers that God listened, and to thank them. We think his “thank-you” should extend to all the supporters who pray and contribute to Care Net centers.

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A Better Life

The first thing I noticed was a beauty she was. Her smile filled up the room, young and energetic, but at the same time there was an underlying exhaustion. Renee had come to the Care Net Valencia County Center for a pregnancy test. That was her purpose, but God brought her for His purpose.

Renee followed me back to the testing area and right away we developed a rapport. She opened up about her past which was muddied with sorrow and confusion. She had worked at a strip club where her addiction to heroin spiraled out of control. As a result she ended up serving time in prison, losing her home and her children. Renee said, “Dena, I am so proud to be clean now and able to be a good momma to my kids.” She promised she would never go back to that life. Her pregnancy test came back positive.

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Renee’s changed life can inspire others. I can’t wait to see what the Lord has in store for this client and her children. Life was chosen that day: a spiritual life and a new earthly life. I can’t wait to see how He uses both.

Care Net is a witness to “how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” (Ephesians 3:18)

Kent and Betty Biringer

Valencia County Center // Los Lunas

No Longer Hidden

In January I had a walk-in pregnancy test with a 19 year old and her mom. Her mom came up to the window and did the talking and asked for a pregnancy test for her daughter. Laurie (our Client Advocate) noticed that the Mom sounded angry and asked me to meet with our new client while she visited separately with her mom. Crystal* wore a hat that she hid behind for the pregnancy test interview. She shared with me that she was a believer and knew better than to be physically intimate before marriage. She had taken a pregnancy test at home and it was positive. She had hidden the pregnancy from her parents for a couple of months. Crystal cried as she worried about what her dad was going to say and what the church people were going to think. Her boyfriend had suggested abortion. Her mom had made a statement that morning that she forgave her. I assured her that God would do the same. Crystal’s pregnancy test came back positive. She was fearful and did not want her mom to come back to the room. I let her know that our Client Advocate had been meeting with her mom in another room as we were talking. She agreed to have her mom come into the room with her. Her mom cried as we talked about our services and I prayed with both of them. I shared the promises in Jeremiah 29:11 with Crystal: that God has a hope and a future for her and her child.

We scheduled an ultrasound. On the day of the ultrasound appointment she came up to the reception window and I asked her how I could help her. She announced that she was here for her ultrasound. I did not recognize Crystal. She was no longer hidden behind a hat, her head held high with confidence. Since her mom was unable to come with her, I went into the ultrasound room with Crystal. She was all smiles as her baby waved for the duration of the scan. What a wonderful feeling to see her with her ultrasound pictures in hand and a peace about her. She told me that all was well with her parents and that she is working. As she left our Center she gave me a big hug. Initially this client weighed heavy on my heart, but what a blessing to be a part of a wonderful outcome!

*For the sake of confidentiality, the name has been changed

Women’s Cancer and Surgical Care, P.C.
Luis A. Padilla Paz, MD
4610 Jefferson Lane, NE
Tel: 505-559-4495 Fax: 505-842-8025
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God’s Increase

This has been a year of increase for Care Net. We’ve had an increase in client visits—setting records for many of our Centers. The greatest part of this news is that we have also seen record numbers of clients coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

We have established outstanding partnerships with other pro-life organizations such as Sidewalk Advocates who stand outside abortion clinics and encourage women and men to “take a look at their babies” in our Medical Mobile Unit. Many have been, chosen life and then headed to one of our centers for follow-up care.

Our Fatherhood Program was virtually nonexistent until our coordinator, Robert McLaughlin came on board. His passion for the men has been seen, chosen life and then in our Medical Mobile Unit. Many have been, chosen life and then headed to one of our centers for follow-up care.

Our Creating Positive Relationships (CPR) program is gaining some ground in educating our young people about abstinence and making better choices. Our goal is to empower them so they can have a bright and prosperous future. This is one of our most powerful programs because abstinence stops abortion…period.

Our volunteers…what can we say about our volunteers, except that without them our doors would not open. These precious people selfless-ly give of their resources, time and talent so that others may have an opportunity at life, and life abundantly. Their response is always yes to any task. They are the most dedicated servants of God and we are truly blessed that they answered the call. We continue to offer multiple training opportunities throughout the year for anyone wanting to be part of this great team.

In order to improve our reach, we have worked diligently to improve our website content with the goal to be the first place potential clients see when they are searching for answers concerning their unplanned pregnancy. We are also very active on social media, building our brand to reach those who have never heard of Care Net.

In 2017, we have worked to improve our mobile units allowing us to provide a variety of services, including pregnancy testing, material give of their resources, time and talent so that others may have an opportunity at life, and life abundantly. Their response is always yes to any task. They are the most dedicated servants of God and we are truly blessed that they answered the call. We continue to offer multiple training opportunities throughout the year for anyone wanting to be part of this great team.

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Game-Changers

Every once in a while a pivotal change occurs which causes us to leap forward toward our goals. Getting the new Medical Mobile Unit (aka. The Stork Bus) was one of those game-changers for Care Net. This newer, high tech vehicle has allowed us to meet the goal of going to the people, “because people matter.” We are able to take services throughout New Mexico with this medical office on wheels, providing ultrasound and other medical services to pregnancy resource centers in smaller towns. By collaborating with other pregnancy centers and pro-life organizations we expand their ability to save lives. The Medical Mobile Unit provided for several profound game-changers in 2017. Several days a week our MMU Team supports the work of the Sidewalk Advocates for Life (SAFL) near abortion clinics in Albuquerque. This is slow, often discouraging work as sidewalk advocates encourage women (and their families) to turn from their abortion intention and consider life for their child. Having the bright green bus with a professional medical team helps the sidewalk advocates direct uncertain women to free life-affirming ultrasound only yards away. Interestingly, since the beginning of our relationship with SAFL, we have seen a significant increase in clients coming from the abortion clinics, even on days when the MMU is not at the abortion clinic. These are lives snatched right from the edge of extinction.

These true stories demonstrate how close to abortion these situations really are.

A young man stopped to talk to the sidewalk advocates while his girlfriend went into the clinic. Within a few minutes his girlfriend came outside and joined him. She had completed her blood work and had her clinic wristband on; she was all set for her procedure to begin. The two young people never went back inside the abortion clinic. Sidewalk Advocates directed them to the Care Net Know Now Medical Mobile Unit nearby. Our staff members were waiting and praying for the opportunity to perform an ultrasound. The couple boarded the bus and received an ultrasound of their eight week old baby. The young lady tore off her wristband and the two headed to our Northeast Heights Care Net office.

On another occasion, a woman, her teenage daughter and a friend were pulling into the parking lot of an abortion clinic when a clinic worker tried to stop them from talking to the sidewalk advocate who was giving them information. The abortion worker was so aggressive, it frightened the women and they pulled around to where they could talk to the sidewalk advocates without being harassed. Because in contrast the advocates were so kind, the ladies took their advice and drove to Care Net where they were able to get a free ultrasound and other services. In spite of many life challenges, this older mom chose life for her unborn child.

The Know Now MMU has already seen more clients in the first three months of 2018 than in its first full year of operation. Please pray for our clients. Their situations are hard. These young people face many challenges as they carry their child to term and plan for their future. Pray that a visit to the Medical Mobile Unit is a game-changer for life.
Adoption – A Divine Plan

I never thought we would adopt. I didn't oppose adoption and I certainly valued the rich, deep, theological implications. But we already had four kids. We were beyond the baby phase. However, God had a different plan.

In early 2016 Jesus began to put adoption in front of us in a variety of ways, from the friends we knew, people we met or just random encounters. It was constantly in front of us. One evening I told my wife, “I think we need to pray about adoption.” That statement launched a journey that was one of our most demanding, gut-wrenching, God-glorying, reason-defying and utterly joyous journeys.

After praying as a family and deciding Jesus was leading us, we began the tedious legal process of adoption. Once the home study approval came we signed up with agencies and began to see various cases. While waiting for a child, we experienced the roller coaster of excitement, angst, waiting and disappointment. We began to wonder if we had what it took.

One Sunday, we learned of a local girl who was pregnant, on the streets and struggling through life. We were asked to meet with her. I'll never forget that Sunday afternoon, inside the Flying Star with this mom-to-be, just getting to know each other. At the end of our time together, we drove her back to where she was staying. We had a tentative agreement to adopt her baby. We had no idea what we were doing, but God knew exactly what He was doing.

Shortly after that, my wife took this mom-to-be to Care Net for her first ultrasound. Mary LeQuieu helped guide us through the various hurdles and issues. I could write a book about what the next six months entailed. Every day we had to fight the fear and anxiety that the mom would walk away or something would happen to stop the adoption.

On August 15, Eliana Elyse Natasha McDonald was born. My wife was present for the delivery and we had a hospital room to ourselves. The next thirty-six hours were some of the sweetest and most challenging hours as we watched this mom make the final choice to release her baby to our family. I’d be lying to say that I didn’t wonder if I could love her the way that I loved my other kids. I don’t wonder anymore. My wife and kids don’t either. What’s crazy is she looks like the rest of the family. My wife and I just smile at each other when people tell us that she looks like her mom or has her mom’s smile. Truth is, she does.

I look back on our adoption journey and marvel. I marvel at how little we knew and how gracious God was. I marvel at all the pitfalls we avoided, and wonder what other ones we missed. I marvel at the many people who supported, counseled, cared for, prayed with and walked along side us through this journey. I marvel at this beautiful little girl that I get to call my daughter. Most of all, I marvel at the incredible gift of adoption that God gives to His people.

I never thought I’d be someone who would adopt. But I’m infinitely grateful that God had a different plan.

Mike & Becky McDonald & Family

Making Care Net Known

“I’ve never heard of Care Net before.” Those simple words can cause me to cringe. Why? Because they are often followed with, “If I’d known a place like Care Net existed, I would have made a different decision about my pregnancy number of years ago.” You fill in the blank. After nearly thirty-five years, it is critical that people know who we are.

This year, Care Net was able to try something new thanks to a generous donor who had a heart for marketing. ABQ Ride Transit Marketing became a reality and the face of Care Net traveled around the Metro area daily, sharing the offer of help and hope in the form of free pregnancy related services. And it led clients to our centers. We hope to be able to keep this type of advertising active as well as to branch out into some other highly visible ad campaigns. Maybe billboards, radio and television spots, enhanced online presence; the possibilities are endless. However, the funds are not! Would you like to help? Call the office at 880-8373 to find out how.
**2017 Financial Report**

Welcome to the 2017 financial year. It was truly a year of possibilities as we utilized the gifts given by our faithful donors and pursued new avenues of ministry to young men and women in the greater Albuquerque area. When you take a look at the lower numbers in 2017 compared to 2016 it may at first glance seem an alarming figure. In 2016, Care Net was involved in a Capital Campaign to generate funding for the newest Medical Mobile Unit (MMU). Donations throughout the year generated $131,685 dollars and we now own a vehicle that has had a profound impact on the ministry to young men and women who are faced with an unplanned pregnancy—especially those actively seeking the option of abortion. Care Net states in its Vision Statement that “We are a Christ-centered outreach, dedicated to saving the unborn and loving those impacted by unplanned pregnancies.” The MMU has allowed us to do that in a greater way than even we expected in the desert of Albuquerque. The number of clients seen in 2017 who were intent on choosing abortion rose dramatically compared to previous years. It’s a game-changer.

Every year we depend on the consistent support of people from very diverse backgrounds. Efforts are made to generate funding through events such as the Walk for Life, Laugh for Life, and the Annual Fundraising Banquet. We are so grateful for all of these opportunities not only generate funding, but they raise awareness in the community about who Care Net is and what Care Net does. Efforts are made (or sponsorships) for our events. This way the expenses of the event are completely covered.

Consider Giving a Gift of Stock from Your Portfolio. We have an account through National Christian Foundation that provides a safe, secure transfer of funds to Care Net. To receive all of the information necessary to make a gift in this way, just send Laurie Duffy an email at: lduffy@carenetabq.org.

**One-Time Gifts.** There are times that special conditions exist to allow for disbursements from retirement accounts or savings. Why not take advantage of this opportunity and give to a ministry that you fully support and love with your resources? Check with your accountant or tax specialist.

**What about Special Projects?** You may have a particular passion for one or more area of Care Net’s ministry. How about the Fatherhood Program? Or the Earn While You Learn Program? Mourning to Joy? Ultrasound? How about Marketing or Advertising? (Please take a look at our Transit Marketing on page 15.) These funds are used to fulfill your intended purpose. (Please take a look at our Transit Marketing on page 15.)

**Help Underwrite an Event.** Because we want all of our fundraising efforts throughout the year to produce funds that go directly to providing for the work of Care Net, many individuals, businesses, churches, and organizations partner with us to provide the underwriting (or sponsorships) for our events. This way the expenses of the event are completely covered.

**Text to Give.** In 2017, we added “text to give” as a convenient giving option. Text the amount of your donation and the words “Care Net” to 505-207-0339 and follow the prompts. For Example: $100 Care Net

Ways to give are as varied as the individuals who have taken the time to read through this article. It is still my prayerful goal to pursue the elimination of “hills and valleys” throughout the calendar year for Care Net Pregnancy Center. Let’s do this together.

**Walk for Life News**

In a sea of “Pursue the Possibilities—Walk for Life” t-shirts, sunscreen, water bottles, hats, sunglasses, walking shoes, and strollers, people of all ages—nearly 600 of them—in every age, shape and size showed up on August 26—day 238 of 2017—to participate in the Walk for Life. East Mountains, Northeast Albuquerque, and Rio Rancho walked in the morning and Valencia County hosted a late afternoon walk to celebrate life and to make a difference for life. Once again, we were blessed with beautiful weather (for most of the day), wonderful volunteers, safety, and caring communities full of committed supporters of Care Net. Lives continue to be impacted because of your involvement. We hope to see you on Saturday, August 25 as we will, “Make a Way in the Desert” and Walk for Life.

“Lives continue to be impacted because of your involvement.”

**2017 Walk for Life**

And these words...shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children. Deut 6:6-7
You made all the delicate inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Psalm 139:13

**To the Glory of God**
Creating Positive Relationships
Empowering people to make healthier choices, producing a positive ripple effect in their life and those they touch...because people matter!
cpr4teens.org

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love Ephesians 1:4 (NIV)

Who Am I?
I am valuable, unique and I have purpose...

Drop the Baggage
The beginning of most journeys requires packing the luggage before leaving home. In the Mourning to Joy journey we are meeting women that need to unpack and eventually leave the baggage behind. These women have been dragging bags of guilt, shame, and regret for years. I know because I was one of those women. Choosing an abortion can leave a heart wounded and continue to damage so many areas of life. We offer a Scripture based, loving and confidential program to women seeking healing. Only Jesus can heal us completely and turn our Mourning into Joy!

If you or someone you love would benefit from our Mourning to Joy program, please contact Cindy Rose at 505-715-0504 or the Care Net office at 505-880-8373.

Cindy Rose
Mourning to Joy Coordinator

Who is my neighbor? A parable
Jesus told this parable of forgiveness: A man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among robbers who beat him and stole his clothes and then left him half dead. A priest saw him and walked by and went on. So did a Levite. But a Samaritan, a hated race in the eyes of the Jews, saw him and stopped. He poured oil and wine on his wounds and took him to an inn and cared for him. Jesus asked: Who was the neighbor of the injured man?

The Samaritan. He was the neighbor.

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The Kulp children in their 2017 WFL T-shirts

Laugh for Life 2017
For the second year, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Albuquerque held a Laugh for Life comedy event to benefit the Medical Mobile Unit Ministry of Care Net Pregnancy Center. On Friday evening, September 29, over 350 people filled the auditorium of Legacy East Campus Church for an enjoyable time with pro-life comedian, Dan Kulp. Over $5,500 was raised the night of the event through donations and through the purchase of raffle tickets for the spectacular prizes that were donated by local merchants and individuals. Albuquerque native Bryan Valencia shared his unique and creative brand of comedy to open the event, followed by our headliner Dan Kulp. He shared his comedy, mixed with inspiring adoption stories about the family he grew up in as well as the adoptions that have taken place in his home.

This year, Comedian Nazareth will be featured at our Laugh for Life on Friday, September 28. Visit the carenetabq.org website in September for more details. Come join the laughter!

Desert Hills Animal Clinic
(505) 821-4990
Jennifer Vigil Smith, DVM
www.desertHillsvet.com

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love Ephesians 1:4 (NIV)
Capture the Vision
A guest editorial by Dan and Laura Rosecrans

When we heard about Making Life Disciples (MLD) we believed it would be a valuable tool to fight abortion in the Church. Being personally affected by abortion and hearing the statistics that 70% of women choosing abortion claimed a Christian affiliation—we knew this curriculum was crucial for churches.

The numbers of people within the church who are participating in abortion is staggering. So much so that we saw the need to fight the rising tide of those having abortion within the Body of Christ. Education is key, but churches do not have the personnel or budget to develop a curriculum to address abortion. Making Life Disciples is the answer. Congregations can capture the vision to be the first point of contact to hurting people in their own walls; having someone in church who cares and can help steer people in “crisis” in the right direction.

Isn’t this the role of the Church to help those of the “household of faith”? A sermon preached on the Sanctity of Life is valuable. A sermon lived is invaluable. Imagine the power of a trained individual coming alongside brothers and sisters in Christ during a time of crisis. We do this in situations of poor health, bereavement or job loss. Certainly helping to literally save a life is a vital calling of the Church.

In 2017, with Care Net training we were able to deliver the MLD message to churches in the State of New Mexico. It was rewarding to see the enthusiastic response to MLD as they saw their role in reaching out to those considering abortion. Making Life Disciples is a God-send to a congregation that is seeking to become active in life issues but is uncertain how to go about it. Many church members do not know the truth about abortion or the abortion climate in the state of New Mexico. Making Life Disciples serves many purposes. It educates the church about life issues and the prevalence of abortion advocates’ dishonest agenda.

Another purpose is to aid those concerned about the truth of abortion and put boots to action when it comes to giving counsel and resources for those that find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy. Using this informative and loving curriculum to teach members of the congregation, a church can find itself fully equipped and prepared to show the love and grace of Christ to someone who is scared and desperate. If not the church, then who?

GET THE CURRICULUM
If you would like more information about this pro-abundant life tool, please contact the Care Net office at 505-880-8373.

Family Wholeness

It was a Thursday morning when I looked into the waiting room to see a man and a woman sitting together, back packs at their side. I went into the waiting room, introduced myself and started a conversation with the man. When I realized he was comfortable talking to me I sat down and dug a little deeper. He was happy with his partner’s pregnancy and the reality of becoming a father. He was excited to hear we had programs to help teach him to be a great father. His name was Demitri and he wanted to participate in the Fatherhood program.

On our next scheduled meeting we went through a “Getting Acquainted” form. This allowed us to get to know each other better and gave me insight into his life. Demitri and his girlfriend were homeless and living in a van. They parked in different locations every night, often encountering hostile property owners. Although the rough life showed on his face, his heart was soft and sweet. They had come clean from drug use and were trying to straighten out their lives. His girlfriend had three other children that had been removed from her custody by CYFD.

Now they found themselves homeless and pregnant… yet Happy! Yes HAPPY…free from drugs. At Care Net they found a place where everyone treated them with love and respect, without judgment. Everyone wanted to help, love, and pray for them. We gave them a referral to a group that could help them find a place to live.

As the weeks and months passed, Demitri and I met weekly. We talked about how things were going in his life; his hopes, dreams and prayers. We watched the next DVD session of “Practical Fatherhood.” We discussed what the lesson talked about and its application. Each week we concluded our time together in prayer. He always gave me a big hug and said, “See ya next week.”

It’s been over a year now. Demitri is always on time and it is always a joy and a blessing to see and talk with him. What a pleasure to see him grow and to hear what God is doing in his life.

I’m so excited to tell you everything God has done for them! They now have a home, his girlfriend has regained custody of her children and they have a new baby boy. They both have jobs and God is in their life working on them every day. Demitri will not hesitate to tell you it was a blessing to have found Care Net and it was a blessing to talk with a man. He is applying the lessons he learned from Practical Fatherhood, both as a new dad and a stepdad.

His seven month old baby boy looks just like him! They still come every week to do a new parenting lesson together and they bring the baby and the children with them. God’s grace has replaced the pain that previously occupied their faces with joy. Their life is so different; it’s not easy, but God isn’t through with them! Please pray for them and the men who visit the Care Net centers.

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Sixteen AT SIXTEEN

Sixteen-year-old Cathy* came into Care Net scared, confused and thinking abortion was her only choice. Unlike many of her peers, she had a family and a boyfriend who loved and supported her. Cathy assumed that it would be more logical to abort the pregnancy at eleven weeks than to raise a baby. She did not think adoption was an option for her, and she didn’t see any signs pointing her toward parenting the child.

God gave her exactly what she needed.

Cathy was nervous and wanted her sister to be in the exam room for the entire ultrasound. Her sister stood right by her side—giving hugs and words of encouragement. To their surprise, this baby was not “gummy bear” size, but a sixteen week kicking, jumping, and flipping baby. They giggled. They laughed. And they marveled at the live images on the monitor.

It starts with a DIAMOND on a Ring

The Sidewalk Advocate called us on a windy Thursday morning. A young lady was about to enter one of the local abortion clinics and had stopped to talk to them. She agreed to let them bring her to Care Net to meet with our client advocate and perhaps have an ultrasound.

She wasn’t one of our “typical” clients: She was twenty-two years old and happily married. A miscarriage a couple of years prior led her to believe that she wasn’t supposed to be a mother. She hadn’t told her husband because she was scared he wouldn’t be happy with the news. On her way to Care Net, she decided to call her husband and have him meet her at our center. Her mood started to shift from scared to happy and hopeful.

We offered her an ultrasound. We prayed that we would see indications of life. She was six weeks gestational age. At that age, we don’t always see a baby with a clear heartbeat. God was good and let her see that tiny life with the diamond on a ring. If you look carefully you will see the 31mm baby is sitting directly on the yolk sac. I looked at her and said, “Well, it looks like you got your diamond.”

As she was getting ready to leave, her husband arrived. They spoke in Spanish. Their body language told us that both were happy, and he gave her a big hug. They will be coming back to get another ultrasound in a few weeks.

God had that baby put on quite a show. But Cathy was still sixteen at sixteen weeks and wasn’t convinced yet.

All the measurements were completed and there was nothing else to say that would help her decide to parent this child. But as always, God is good. We told Cathy the baby’s estimated due date and her jaw dropped. Then she blurted out that the due date was her boyfriend’s birthday. But as always, God is good. We told Cathy the baby would be in the Greater Albuquerque area.

Note: The use of our Know Now Medical Mobile Unit to support the efforts of local Sidewalk Advocates has increased the number of women referred to us from the abortion clinic sidewalks, even on days when the MMU is not present. Partnering with like-minded organizations saves lives!

*Lena McCown, 4–6pm
Care Net Staff and Volunteers wish to express our thanks to our faithful donors.
35 Years
OF
COMPASSION • HOPE • HELP
IN ALBUQUERQUE!

Our first clients are now grandparents.
The infants they chose to carry are about to turn 35.
These children have jobs, pay taxes, have families of their own.
They attend church, go to the store and drive past you on the street.

Care Net changed their lives and ours.

Thank you.