

Central Michigan Pregnancy Services

Summer 2007

JOYFUL BEGINNINGS

Our "baby store" offers clients the opportunity to "buy" baby items and maternity clothes. Clients actually use Baby Bucks which they earn while attending classes in our **Earn While You Learn** program. **Earn While You Learn** teaches clients about parenting and life skills. Thanks to your contributions, we are a free source for young women to meet their family's needs.

Most current needs:

Diapers— Size 3, 4, 5
Disposable diaper wipes
Toiletries—baby powder, bath wash, shampoo etc.
Car seats—new only
Formula—powder and liquid
Baby food
Baby monitors
Bottles
Sippy cups
Boys' and Girls' clothing (size preemie to 3T)
Onesies
Shoes, booties, socks
Towels, washcloths and bibs
Diaper Genies and refills
Dressers—new and gently used
We do not need blankets at this time.

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

Happy Endings From the desk of Mary Barz

Almost two years ago, I shared a story with you at our fall banquet about a young woman who came into the center 6 weeks after having an abortion. As a result of her choice, her world had been turned upside down and she was becoming extremely depressed. Her journey from sorrow to joy came as a result of her participating in a **Post Abortion Support Group** which included a Bible Study entitled "Forgiven and Set Free." This young woman, whom I refer to as "Beth", experienced healing and found comfort in a verse from Romans 8:28 "*And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*"

Beth later married and is currently teaching in an elementary school. Recently I received the wonderful news that Beth and her husband are the proud parents of a beautiful six pound baby girl! I can not tell you how happy I am for her! God took her from the depths of despair, healed her, and entrusted her with His most sacred creation, a baby!

Sadly, not every story has a happy ending. More often, we do not know the outcome a client may experience when she leaves our center. CMPS volunteers can become discouraged because they may feel ineffective and wonder whether their efforts are really making a difference. What we are encouraged to



remember is that our success is not based upon results, but upon our faithfulness. It is the motivation of our hearts and our faith that keeps us working toward the greater good. Our prayer is that one day we will again meet these young women we served and realize the impact our work at CMPS had upon their lives. After all, without Jesus' work on the cross, all humanity would be lost.

CareNet Training Coming This Fall!

Have you ever considered becoming a volunteer peer counselor, parenting instructor, receptionist or Joyful Beginnings staff? We would love to have you join the team. We are so excited to have a representative from CareNet come to our center this fall. She will be traveling from Florida and bringing a bit of sunshine with her as she dynamically presents training material. Call Marcie to sign-up at 773-0379 or e-mail to Marcie@partnerforlife.org.

Who:	New Volunteers
What:	CareNet Training
Where:	312 W. Broomfield
When:	NOV. 5—10, 2007
Why:	You love people!

"Every miracle in scripture started out as a problem. If you have a problem you can't handle, you're a candidate for a miracle." John Maxwell

Client Quotes

When asked what they like best about the center some clients stated:

I was comfortable. I didn't feel like I was being judged.

My counselor is a great person. Thank God for this place. It is going to help a lot of people. It has helped me a ton!

The privacy of it all. I felt comfortable; not embarrassed.



A lot of available information that I didn't have to go searching for.

The confidentiality. They are so helpful and aware of your needs.

The patience and kindness of my counselor — especially since I am under tremendous stress.

Willing to Wait *An Abstinence Program!*

CMPS has an opportunity to begin an exciting new program this fall entitled **Willing to Wait**. The program is designed to take relevant and engaging abstinence education to the youth of Central Michigan. We seek to work with area schools and youth groups providing an accurate and appealing curriculum. Along with interesting media, creative drama and real life application, we encourage critical thinking among young people regarding sexual activity and choices.

Willing to Wait is a proactive program that we believe will have a positive impact upon our community and youth. Through this exciting program we focus on educating young people to make the right choice when it comes to being sexually active. We endeavor to teach with lessons that help them achieve positive and realistic lifestyles promoting self-control, respect, responsibility and good health.

Willing to Wait is a dynamic program that is currently taught in 42 public and private schools in the greater Grand Rapids area.

In order to provide a program such as **Willing to Wait** to our community, it is essential that I appeal to you, our faithful donors, for your financial support and prayer partnership. For those of you who know us and what we do, you understand how critical we feel it is to reach out to our youth with truth. The facts as stated below speak for themselves.

- Approximately 850,000 teens each year experience an unplanned pregnancy.
- 750 teen pregnancies are aborted each day.
- 48% of teenagers are sexually active.
- 78% of teens regret becoming sexually active.
- 1 in 3 sexually active teens has a venereal disease.
- 1 in 5 sexually active teens has herpes.

- 87% of college age students are sexually active.
- There are 28 different Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs).
- Girls are more susceptible to STDs than boys.
- 75% of girls with Chlamydia have no symptoms.

I could go on, but I think you get the picture.

Would you be willing to partner with us on this mission? Start up for this program is being provided by an anonymous donor; however, we need your help to maintain it and help it grow. It is a big challenge and may require a miracle, but I feel strongly that with God it can be accomplished!

Please return the donation envelope enclosed in this newsletter along with your tax deductible donation. We are committed to using your donation to reach out into the community with truth.

Together we can make a difference!

Church Challenge *Joining Together!*

The new Grace Church has very generously donated \$5000.00 toward our new **Willing to Wait** program. We are so grateful that this church is willing to partner with us in bringing an abstinence program to the community. They would like to

challenge other area churches to make a donation in support of CMPS and **Willing to Wait**. While we understand that not every church is capable of a donation in this amount, please know that any donation will be appreciated and

used to reach out to our youth with a message of truth. Thank you Grace Church!!!!!! May you see a miraculous return on your investment!

Walk For Life

On Saturday, May 19th our annual **Walk for Life** raised over \$16,000 for CMPS.

We have so much to be thankful for! God provided a beautiful day and an opportunity for wonderful fellowship. There were children enjoying games, activities and even an inflatable caterpillar! The live music was amazing and added so much to the festivities of the day. Thank you to all who attended and helped make this day a success!

We are grateful to the many businesses, churches and individuals who made the walk a success. Some of those who supported us during the **Walk for Life** include:

Grace Church
Isabella Bank & Trust
Witbeck's Family Foods
Clare Church of the Nazarene
Ric's Food Center
Yuncker Kids Inflated Play Structures
Josh Vadja
P.E.A.K.



New Life

Congratulations!

Chad and Kim Warner are the proud parents of a brand new baby girl. The Warners, along with son Joshua and daughter Ariel, are happy to welcome home Gracie Joy, born on June 7, 2007! Kim is a former volunteer and most recently serves on our cookie committee.

☪

"Behold, children are a gift of the LORD. The fruit of the womb is a reward." Psalm 127:3

☪



CMPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Special Thank You We Appreciate You!

The Clare Church of the Nazarene raised \$640 during their week of Vacation Bible School for CMPS. Our very own Kim Denton is the VBS Director, and along with an amazing team of volunteers reached out to over 150 children with the creation story from Genesis. Way to go Kim and thank you Clare Church of the Nazarene.

His House Christian Church hosted a talent competition in honor of CMPS. The evening at Plachta Auditorium raised over \$700 for our ministry. It was an incredibly fun event and the talent was amazing!

Look out American Idol fans! Pastor Matt may be in the running!!



Congratulations to Edie MacPherson and Margie Robbins. They were our top fundraisers at the **2007 Walk for Life!** Together they raised over \$4,000.00 in pledges!

We are grateful for their commitment to CMPS and their willingness to serve in His name. May God bless you both.

CMPS STAFF

Mary Barz
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♦♦♦
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♦♦♦
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And the beat goes on!

21 days after conception, a baby's heart begins to beat!

Join us at the Fall Banquet



Our annual **Fall Fundraising Banquet** will be held once again at the **Comfort Inn**. Join us on **Thursday, October 25, 2007**. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. so that you may preview silent auction items. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. including a lovely meal.

We are excited to announce that **Jay Laffoon**, author, comedian and entrepreneur will be our speaker this year. Jay will inspire you and entertain you with his laugh-out-loud humor and powerful delivery of biblical insights and story telling. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend our 6th annual fundraising banquet!

If you would like to be a table sponsor, a table host, or need more information, please contact Mary, Marcie or Kim at CMPS at 773-0379.

Christmas Cookies

Our popular Christmas cookie trays will be available again this year on December 1st and December 15th.

Whether you enjoy baking, selling or EATING the cookies, we sure do appreciate your involvement. Please see the insert for more information.

YUMMY AND SO FESTIVE!



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