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Changing Hearts.
 Changing Lives.
 Changing Generations.

Volunteer Corner

An Alpha Client Advocate for the Hispanic Community



Cristina Herrera's mother was abandoned in Mexico by her husband and left with five children when Cristina was two. They had no money, no job, no home and no hope. Tearfully her mother brought the children to Wyman and Cathy Pylant and begged them to care for them at a new residence for homeless, abandoned and unwanted children.

When she arrived at the home Cristina's body was malnourished and she was so sick that the Pylant family took her into their own home and raised her at their own. It is because of God's care for her own life that Cristina reaches out to Hispanic women and children in Grand Rapids who visit Alpha.

Alpha needs a minimum of nine volunteers like Cristina each day: six to serve as volunteer advocates (bilingual and English speaking), two to provide administrative support and one to keep the store supplied. Call Ruth at 616-459-9955 for an interview.

Helping women choose life.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." Jeremiah 1:5



Please Join Us for 2009 Events!

For information regarding any of these events please contact the office at 616-742-0242 or visit our website at www.alphawc.org.

Sanctity of Life Sunday (SOHL)

January 18

Baby Bottle Bounce Back/ Business Bottle Drop

January

World's Biggest Baby Shower and Family Expo

January 30-31

Teddy Bear Tea Party

February 9

Dinner with Friends

April 23

Pam Stenzel School Assemblies

April 24

Life Walk 2009

June 13

Alpha Cup Golf Outing

August 24

Sing For Life

Fall 2009

Administrative Office:

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Client Center:

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1055 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids MI 49503-3650

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WE'RE ON THE WEB! WWW.ALPHAWC.ORG

Offering love and compassion to families in crisis. Seeking justice and mercy for the unborn.



FIRST CALL

Fall 2008



Carla Barnhill editor of the Teen Devotional Bible for Zondervan recently shared the following question posed by a teen and typical of questions asked at Alpha. "Not long ago, I had sex for the first time. It was a mistake, and I've asked God for forgiveness. I'm not pregnant, but I'm afraid I might have a sexually transmitted disease. I don't want to get tested, because I'd rather not know. And I don't want to tell my mom. We're just starting to get along again for the first time in a while. Since God knows I'm trying to live right and start over, do you think he would cleanse me of any infection? What should I do?" Alpha is often the FIRST CALL for teens in trouble. Our commitment is to provide all of our clients with direction and support and to expose them to a God who loves and forgives. In turn we teach them that despite God's forgiveness the human consequences of irresponsible behavior exist, often for the remainder of their lives.

The Bible clearly teaches that sex outside of marriage is not God's will for us. It not only alienates us from God but it also puts us at risk physically and emotionally. Our local pastors as well as parents of teens are keenly aware of this fact. When teens go against their values and beliefs they may experience guilt and depression. Alpha believes that by bringing about awareness of God's expectation of sex for His creation and by providing resources for our community that we will see changes in behaviors of our teens.

This year Alpha will focus energy and resources to address the implications of teen sexuality and the importance of abstinence. Teens having sex has become a health issue that negatively affects our local community as well as the state of Michigan. Of all infections reported to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the most common types are STDs. There are over 15 million STDs reported per year; 4 million of those STDs reported are in teens ages 15-19. One out of four teens has at least one sexually transmitted disease.

New Teen GED Life Planning Programming



Alpha's new Step Up program available on Tuesday evenings at our Center addresses the growing needs of teens 15-18 years old, either pregnant or already with children who face challenges of unplanned pregnancy, teen parenting, STDs and unemployment. Teens are mentored to value abstinence, to continue education by means of GED completion and to develop life and job skill training. If you know of young women meeting this description who are willing to commit to change their future, please call Carolyn at 616.742.0242.

Pam Stenzel to Speak on "Sex Has a Price Tag"



On April 23 Pam Stenzel will be the guest speaker at this year's Dinner with Friends to be held at Calvary Church on East Beltline. She

speaks to 20,000 teens and college students each month about the values of personal responsibility, self discipline and character. She states, "They need straight talk about sex, about the consequences, about life and death choices that they meet every single day." Please consider hosting a table and bring your teens, high school and college youth groups and school leadership teams.

A Musical Battle for Life

"Sing for Life" is a Christian battle of the bands, including solo and group vocal competition for teens and college students. "Sing for Life" will be held in the fall of 2009 and introduces the community to Christian pregnancy resources, adoption assistance and health screening services, etc. Look for information on our website or contact Carolyn at 616-742-0242.





West Catholic High



Calvin's Street Fest



Freedom Baptist High

This year Alpha was blessed along with our regular volunteers with groups from high schools, churches, colleges, federated agencies, businesses and individuals who stepped out of their daily routines to provide relief for the staff and facility needs at Alpha. There is not doubt that the sacrifice of time and energy offered by community groups on behalf of Alpha makes a great difference. Their names and actions are carved on our hearts.

2007-08 Annual Report



"Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 10:19. The board and staff of Alpha greatly appreciate the individual donors, our supporting churches and the businesses and foundations that provided the resources that allowed us to care for the needy and the stranger at Alpha's door.

Volunteers:

Tammy Belt	Ginny Knapp	Shelly Werner
Lori Charron	Jessica Koter	Donna Wood
Jessica Cihon	Amy Lemon	Sharon Zolnierrek
Adrienne Crain	Laurie Pickard	
Beulah Davis	Rachel Prince	
Lisa Ellison	Chrisi Playford	
Dawn Fennema	Amanda Sabados	
Diane Ferwerda	Sharon Sabados	
Sandy Fleming	Katie Sanders	
Biddy Green	Judy Siekman	
Wendy Hadersbeck	Jennifer Sheckler	
Krystie Hague	Cindy Sonnenberg	
Bonnie Haveman	Susan Suuta	
Cristina Herrera	Mary Van Nus	
Starr Keller	Grace Wagen	

Interns

Dawn Kruis
Sarah Lindemulder
Tyler Michael
Carmen Perdomo
Alicia Postema
Tracy Ware

Giving in 2007-2008

Number of Donors: 1,400
Individuals: \$222,625
Churches: \$10,500
Foundations: \$29,525
Businesses: \$9,615

Total Gifts: \$294,523
Supporting Churches: 30
Resources: 300 families

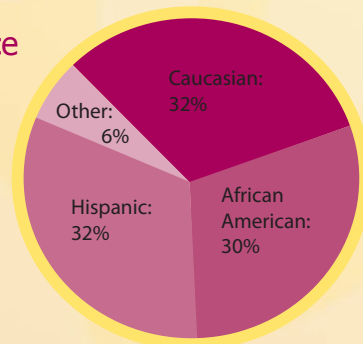
Center Stats

1900 client visits
240 pregnancy tests provided
12 ultrasounds
808 requests for resources
123 of clients presented the Gospel

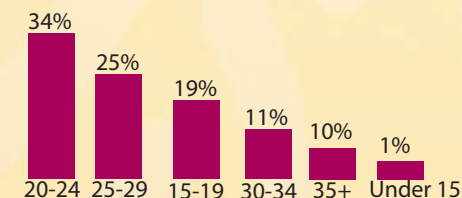
Alpha Women's Center Board of Directors

Dave Pasquale
Michael Bartels
Dan Carrel
Deb Crater
Lisa Posthumus Lyons
Christy Malone
Mark Malone

Race



Age:



"Being a living sacrifice starts with just being sensitive to those God brings to your attention." - C. Thomas Davis

Alpha Women's Center is a non-profit pregnancy care center that affirms the value of human life. Alpha offers love, compassion, hope, safety and resources to women, children (and men who are primary caregivers).

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHL)

Alpha delivered over 5,000 church inserts to 20 churches and other organizations for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Call and ask for inserts for January 18, 2009.

Baby Bottle Bounce Back

Alpha provided 450 empty baby bottles to 11 churches, schools, families or groups in our community. Over \$2,873 was raised for Alpha's programming. Large bottles are available year-round to organizations or businesses as fundraisers for Alpha.

"Won by Love" with Norma McCorvey

More than 1,400 community friends welcomed Miss Norma McCorvey (Jane Roe of Roe v Wade) to West Michigan by joining Alpha and seven other collaborating agencies on March 27 for "Won by Love." Preceding the city-wide event 500 attended Alpha's annual Dinner with Friends. Thank you to all who sponsored, attended and/or volunteered for these events.



Life Walk 2008

On Saturday, June 14 Alpha Women's Center welcomed more than 200 guests to Chapel Pointe in Hudsonville who hosted this year's Life Walk. Pledge registrations and underwriting raised more than \$27,000 for Life Walk 2008. If your church is interested in hosting Life Walk in 2009, please contact the office at 616-742.0242. Visit the website at www.alphawc.org for a recap of this year's walk.

Neighborhood Picnic

On August 1 Alpha invited those living or working within a quarter mile of the center for a parking lot neighborhood picnic. The Salvation Army provided 200 hotdogs and we served popcorn, cookies and popsicles to the neighborhood. Local children and their families enjoyed the food, the bounce house and games hosted by Alpha's board members and volunteers. Today, Alpha realizes new clients from this simple investment in our own community.



A Note From the Staff...

God truly places a special blessing on Alpha everyday because there are women who walk through our doors that may never walk through the doors of a church. Recently, one such young lady came to Alpha for a pregnancy test. We had the opportunity to provide the test at no charge to her and to tell her that God loved her and that he had a special plan for her and for her baby. What a privilege and an honor to share the love of Jesus with women facing unplanned pregnancy and other life events that make them abortion vulnerable. It is a blessing to embrace the brokenhearted. It is Alpha's desire that every woman visiting the Center hears or receives the message of life through Christ. Those who volunteer at Alpha say that it is one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. Perhaps God has placed it on your heart to get involved. Please consider volunteering your time. Use your skills or gifts to benefit our clients. God may challenge others to share their financial blessings. Please contact us for more information at 616-742-0242. Visit our website at www.alphawc.org

Ruth Gillesse, Client Services Manager
Carmen Hodge, Program Manager
Ron Kersey, Bookkeeper
Carolyn Koole, Executive Director
Nancy Lothamer, Gifting

Wish List:

Alpha Organization

- Underwrite training manuals for new volunteers - \$25 each/40 yearly
- Underwrite pregnancy tests/\$500 yearly
- Television with DVD player
- Fan for upstairs sorters, space heaters
- Card table and chairs to have multiple uses
- Tool chest
- Staples gift cards
- Office Max gift cards

Wish List: Alpha Store

- Seasonal baby clothes sizes newborn to 2 toddler
- Diapers in sizes, newborn, 3's, 5's, 7's and pull-ups
- Toddler training pants and regular underwear
- Baby wipes
- Formula- Enfamil Lipil with Iron, milk based in powder 8 or 12.9 oz. size
- Target gift cards
- Meijer gift cards

Diaper Drive

Alpha will minister to over 2,500 clients with the currency of 30,000 diapers in 2008-09. Please be a drop off center for Alpha.

