

Summer 2008

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Our Mission

Hope Pregnancy Center's mission is to help men and women have hope and choose life in the midst of an unplanned pregnancy.

Beauty for Ashes

By Kathy Gibson, Development Representative

At Hope Pregnancy Centers we are not only concerned about the clients we see who are trying to make a decision about their pregnancy but we are also concerned about the women and men who made the wrong decision with a prior pregnancy.

This was the case for 4 "clients" who are actually new volunteers at Hope. All four of these ladies came to the pregnancy center wanting to help young women choose life. Each of these women made a different choice in their lives and have experienced an abortion. They were required to go through the abortion recovery Bible study before they could counsel. Each of these women said "I have dealt with my abortion and God has forgiven me but if this is what I need to do to be a volunteer I will do it."

In January classes started and they quickly realized what they thought they had "dealt" with had just been pushed down and buried. These ladies knew God had forgiven them, but through the study they each voiced feelings that God couldn't love them because of what they had done. They knew in their heads God had forgiven them but didn't believe in their hearts that He really did.

During the course of the study these ladies went places they didn't want to go. They let God into a place of their lives they had tried to hide from Him for years. They allowed themselves to grieve the baby they would never hold and, most importantly, they finally accepted God's

forgiveness and His love. God did miraculous things in the lives of these women as their chains of bondage began to fall away.

It was my privilege to facilitate these classes and see the life changing effects of God's healing. In May these women came together for a "Celebration" service and we celebrated the freedom they found in Christ. We celebrated the change in their lives and the calling of the ministry of restoration God has placed on each of their lives.



Their stories are different, their abortion experiences were different and their healing experiences were different. But each of them now understand Isaiah 63:3 in a new way. "To all who mourn in Israel, He will give **beauty for ashes**, joy instead of

mourning, praise instead of despair. For the Lord has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for His own glory." He truly has given them beauty, joy and praise. And they are strong and graceful and already serving Him in this ministry.

Many women and men believe, like these four ladies, that they have dealt with a past abortion but they have simply buried it for 10, 20, even 30 years hoping it will never come up. There are new "Beauty for Ashes" classes starting all of the time. You don't have to be a client or volunteer...we are here to help. If you, or someone you know, has had an abortion and would like more information about the Bible study call 755-5433 or 688-8700 and ask for Kathy.

What our clients are saying:

"I came in feeling down. I'm leaving feeling very positive."



Candy's Corner

by Candy Hines—State Director and South Center Director



With Father's Day this month I would like to share with you some of the features of a father figure. Sadly, today 8.3 million American households with children under 18 don't have a father. We know that good fathers reflect God's love toward His children. If we could assemble the perfect father figure, what would we see?

Big Heart—All children need affection and love from a father. This love looks different than motherly love. Male love is active and physical with a son but gentle and caring with a daughter. A son needs to understand the important trait of a good father—to protect those you love. A daughter needs to see that she will be protected by her father and in turn will accept the same protection from her husband when the time comes.

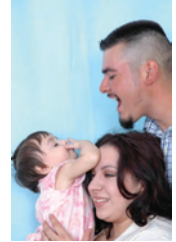
Open Arms—Nothing bolsters a child's self-worth like spending time with a father who enjoys their company. While sports and other activities are great, sometimes children just need time to hang out with their dad.

Gentle, firm voice—Children need clear boundaries. They learn best how to be good disciplinarians when fathers demonstrate self-control as they dole out punishment. Children see how their dad handles anger when correcting them. They clearly communicate the limits.



Laugh Lines—Dads are notorious for being silly and fun. Boys need someone to have burping contests with and to show them the lighter side of male life. Girls need someone to teach them it's okay to joke and have fun. But children also need to learn that jokes should never come at someone else's expense.

Devoted eyes—One of the most significant things a father figure can model is love for his wife. Boys need a man to show them what being a loving and committed husband really means. Doing this also shows girls what they deserve in a husband.



So what does this have to do with the mission of Hope Pregnancy Centers? Well, we frequently see young men who have not had a Godly father figure in their lives and don't know how they are to do this job called "fatherhood." We are looking for male volunteers who are willing to share their hearts and time with those God brings to us. Sometimes just talking about sports or listening to their joys and fears can be more than any man has ever done for them. It could make the difference in a couple choosing life for their baby.

Help us model the Father's heart to young men in our community.

Heart of the Matter

by Vicki Miller, Nurse Manager



Jane came to Hope Pregnancy Center for a pregnancy test. She said she already had one young child and was not financially able to have another child at this time so she had decided if she had a positive test she would have an abortion.

Jane's test was positive. The volunteer provided information about abortion, the procedure, and the physical, emotional and spiritual risks. She also provided information regarding adoption and parenting. The volunteer told Jane that one of our nurses could provide a limited ultrasound and encouraged her to bring the father of the baby with her to that appointment. Jane scheduled an appointment for the following week.

When Jane arrived for the ultrasound,

she said that the father of the baby had brought her to the appointment but he wouldn't come in. He still wanted her to have an abortion. She said that she thought she wanted to parent but she just wasn't sure what to do.

Jane watched as the nurse performed the ultrasound. She saw her eight week old baby on the screen and clearly saw the baby's heart beating. She said "I know he wants me to have an abortion, but I'm not going to. I can't. Look at how fast it's heart is beating at eight weeks."

Jane was given information on fetal development and was shown models of babies from nine to twelve weeks depicting their ac-



tual size to help her understand what development would occur with her own child over the next four weeks. She was also given referral information to help her obtain insurance coverage and begin receiving prenatal care as soon as possible. When she left she said she plans to begin attending Earn While You Learn classes.

When Jane came for her ultrasound appointment she was already feeling like abortion might not be the answer for her. After seeing her baby and it's beating heart she was sure abortion wasn't the answer. We know that God is the one who changes the hearts of our clients and we feel very grateful that sometimes He chooses to do it through the use of an ultrasound machine.

*Not client's real name

"I was reminded how a little being inside one's body is exactly like a real person"



Customer Service in a ministry

by Peggy Duncan—North Center Director

The words “Customer Service” certainly apply to the business sector; and all of us look for excellence in customer service wherever we shop or do business.

When we go to a fast food restaurant, we’re pleasantly surprised when the representative behind the counter smiles at us or makes light conversation.

At retail stores we appreciate the helpful sales associates who aren’t pushy—just friendly. We’re happy to go back because we remember a good experience. A kind disposition makes all the difference, doesn’t it?

At a ministry, “customer service” may be even more vital. Here we do not represent a company or even an organization. We represent the Lord. We’ve heard the phrase “our lives may be the only Bible some people ever read,” and there is some truth to that. Even more true, however, is that many receive their first introduction to true Christianity when they are greeted after walking in our door.

Perhaps they have never been to church and never been around a group of Christians. In today’s world, this is more common than ever. And unfortunately, one can sit in many

churches for years and never hear of the hope of Jesus.

To us customer service is not only important—it is vital. A smile means the world to a nervous client. Friendly conversation is an ice breaker that opens hearts and builds relationships that lead to changed lives.

This is why we are always looking for those with a heart for the Lord and a joy that radiates to others. A smile, a kind word, a desire to lift others—those are the characteristics that make the difference in this ministry.

Interesting, isn’t it? We can make serving here quite complicated, when in truth it comes down to loving God, a willing heart and a desire to serve.

Is this you? Is so—and if you are willing to part with a piece of your time (not too much, family comes first here) - we have a place for you. Call us if you are interested. We would love for you to join our family of volunteers, where “customer service” counts.



All I’ve got is a smile— And that’s enough

When clients come in our door one of the first things they need is the assurance that they—regardless of the outcome of the pregnancy test—are going to be okay.

Sometimes all it takes to communicate that message is a smile.

If you like to smile, if you enjoy sharing hope with others, we have a place for you at Hope Pregnancy Centers. We’re looking for new volunteers to join our ministry, and we’re just a phone call (and a smile) away.

**Hope—North
10327 N. May Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
405-755-5433**

**Hope—South
1624 SW 82nd
Oklahoma City, OK 73159
405-688-8700**



“They treated me with respect and helped me feel safe.”

Hope Delivered

2008 First Quarter Ministry Report

- Hope Pregnancy Centers had 759 client visits.
- Volunteers and staff shared their testimonies or the Gospel with 220 clients.
- We prayed with 514 clients.
- Our medical staff provided ultrasounds to 119 clients. 105 of those clients chose life.
- Volunteers gave 2008.5 hours of service.



Changing Hearts ~ Saving Lives

The annual

*“Changing Hearts ~ Saving Lives”
fundraising banquet is quickly approaching.*

Save the date on your calendar:

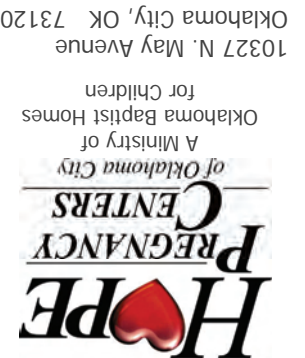
September 30, 2008

*At the National Cowboy
and Western Heritage Museum*

*If you are interested in being a table host please call
Kathy Gibson at 405-755-5433.*



**For more information on Hope
Pregnancy Centers call:
Hope North—755-5433
Hope South—688-8700**



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