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NEWS OF HOPE

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Empowering women to choose life since 1971

OFFICE HOURS

MWF: 10:00am - 5:00pm
T: 11:00am - 7:00pm
Thur: 9:00am - 5:00pm
SAT: 8:00am - 1:00pm
SUN: Closed

MISSION STATEMENT

Hope's mission is to provide empowering education that equips our clients to embrace God's design for their reproductive health.

2021 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

NEWS OF HOPE

Photo by Bethany Lackey Photography



"IT'S OKAY TO BE EXCITED ABOUT THIS BABY."

Like so many who come to Hope, Carmen* and her boyfriend Anthony* did not know if it was the right time to bring a child into the world.

The two had known each other since they were kids and were high school sweethearts, but they had already known their share of trials. Carmen was raised by a single mom. They bounced around from living with their parents before finally getting their own place, right before the COVID lockdowns. "We were in trouble financially. We both just finally got an apartment together." Carmen elaborated, "We did not know what we really wanted to do [with this pregnancy]. We wanted to see what our options were, and we found out about Hope."

They sent a message to Hope's text line on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend asking to come in that week. When asked what the appointment would be regarding, they replied "abortion options."

Like with any client who expresses interest in abortion, we first explained to Carmen the procedure and what to expect. We stressed the importance of having an ultrasound to determine age and viability before making any decisions. Our volunteer shared her own testimony with the client and how you never really feel ready to be a parent, but it is about being

faithful when God gives you a baby. Carmen suffers from polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), and was shocked she was even able to get pregnant. "I told [the Hope volunteer] that I wanted to lean toward keeping the baby, but I also did not know what to do because everything was just chaos. We were stressed about finances, stressed about what the future was going to look like," Carmen recalled, "I did not know what it would be like to have a child in the middle of a pandemic, especially at this age. I felt like I needed to know what all my options were."

After meeting with Carmen, our volunteer went downstairs to speak with Anthony and Carmen together. Both of Asian descent, Carmen discussed the stigma they would face regarding an unplanned pregnancy. However, they both spoke about the pregnancy cautiously and seemed open to the idea of parenting. Upon hearing the news, Carmen's sister told her, "I don't know if I should say congratulations." Our volunteer recalled saying to them, "It's okay to be excited about this baby." The couple spent a few hours at the center, and when they left we knew we had planted seeds and it was up to the Lord to bring them to fruition.

In a survey of post-abortive women, 79% of women said they would have chosen differently if

just one person had encouraged them to choose life. Thankfully, after meeting at Hope and sharing the news with their family, the couple received more affirmation from the reactions of their parents.

They kept reflecting on the miracle of life, particularly in light of Carmen's diagnosis. "I just kept going back to, what if this is our only chance? What if we do not get this chance again? If I were to end our only chance, I do not think I could forgive myself."

The high school sweethearts were married in December of 2020. One month later they had another reason to celebrate; their daughter arrived January 5th at six pounds and eighteen inches. What started off as something scary had a wonderful result -- a happy family of three. Carmen joyfully summarized, "Everybody just loves her to death."

*names changed for privacy



Photo by Bethany Lackey Photography

EARLY CONNECTIONS SAVE LIVES

Women, particularly younger women, have an abortion plan even before they become sexually active. In other words, if we do not reach them before they become pregnant, it is often too late to encourage them to choose life for their children. Women no longer see a connection between sexual activity and committed relationships, and yet they still hold aspirations for marriage.¹

This is the culture we are up against at Hope. We want to be in the business of shaping our clients' values toward relationships before they adopt these destructive cultural norms that destroy not only their hopes for the future, but the lives of their unborn children.

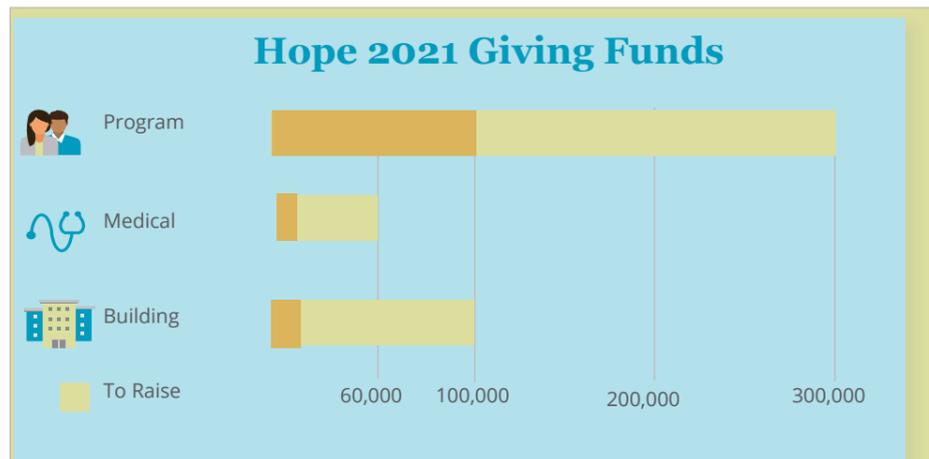
Tragically, we have witnessed these trends firsthand at Hope. It is now overwhelmingly apparent that we cannot separate the sexual crises from our mission to save women, men, and their children from abortion. We cannot distinguish the hurt these reproductive choices inflict on the child from the hurt it is causing these women. And we

cannot encourage these women in a decision to save their children if they make the decision to abort before they are even pregnant.

Therefore, we have made the strategic decision to adopt a new mission, "to provide Christ-centered empowering education that equips our clients to embrace God's design for their reproductive health." If we can help a woman to start seeing the value of her own life, we have a much better opportunity to enable her to see the value of her unborn child's.

It is because of you that we are able to carry out this mission. We invite you to learn about our new mission and vision for Hope by emailing board@hopeinnova.org to schedule a meeting or a call with a board member. We thank you for your prayers, pledges, and encouragement as we labor to end the reproductive crises in our community.

¹ Jacobson, Lisa. The Abortion-Minded Woman. www.heartbeatservices.org/pdf/Abortion_Minded_Women.pdf.



GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in giving to a particular area of our work? There are many ways to give, including gifts of stock!

Contact Haley Limo today at:
haley@hopeinnova.org
 703-536-2020



Will you donate to help us give Hope?
bit.ly/givehopenova

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LOOKING BACK

"I first experienced Hope in Northern Virginia in 1987, when I was 20 years old. I suspected I was pregnant, and was very worried. I was worried what my family would think, and worried about my future. I had been attending a community college and had just received acceptance at a university to continue my education.

I was not planning on a baby. When I went to Hope they were so kind and supportive. They confirmed for me that I was indeed pregnant, and immediately set to work helping me figure things out. I received counseling and help with telling my family. My boyfriend was involved and we continued to figure things out together.

The family counselor that Hope provided helped me understand so much about myself and my family, and really took an active role helping me consider options to continue my education

and provide the best future possible for myself and my baby.

When my little girl Paula was born, my Hope friends brought a bassinet full of clothes and diapers and helped welcome her into the world. I always felt so grateful to Hope, who continued to be available for support.

I had the normal struggles of being a mom, working, and continuing with my own goals. I married the father of my baby, and we grew together into a happy family. We had four more children together after that! Tragically, my husband died in 2000 when I was pregnant with our 5th daughter. How grateful I am that we had the help of Hope to keep our little Paula, and then grow as a family with her in it, not knowing at the time how short life can be.

Paula is 33 years old, and she is now a mom. Her little boy William (named for my late

husband and pictured below) is the joy of the family. Words cannot express how grateful I am to Hope for the help they provided. Thanks to them, I am sure many children and families are given help and hope and God willing, it will continue for another 50 years and beyond!"

- Elizabeth Matthews, former Hope client.



SPRING UPDATES

Our donors and volunteers have been faithfully praying outside the abortion clinic this spring - both for the March for Life and for our first annual Pledge to Pray event!



Molly and Justin met as volunteers at Hope several years ago and soon after got married. They just welcomed their first child, Olivia, into their family!



Our Healthy Relationships class returned this past month! This five week course taught our clients the basics of learning to communicate with their partners.



Luke 1:15 He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

