



Aid for Women

Empowering Women to Choose Life Since 1978

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Our New Executive Director

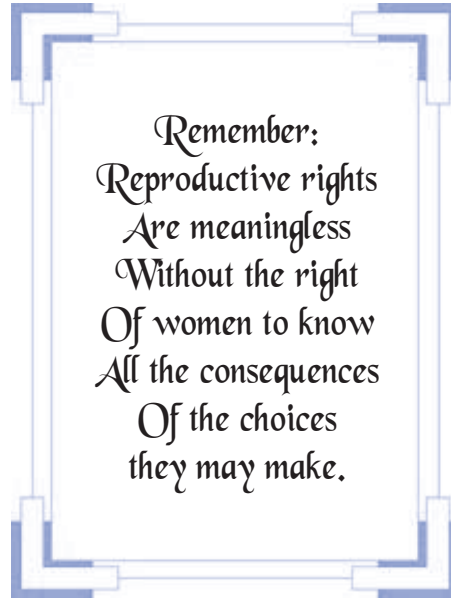
Aid for Women is pleased to announce the appointment of Elaine M. Kindler to the position of Executive Director, effective immediately. Ms. Kindler will succeed Sandy Hildebrand, who ably served as interim Executive Director during the past year.

In addition to many years of experience with corporate marketing firms, Ms. Kindler also has a long history of service to the pro-life movement. For the last five years she has worked as director of development for Americans United for Life, a nonprofit, public interest law firm and educational organization based in Chicago. Other pro-life positions held by Ms. Kindler include director of finance for the Pro-Life Education Foundation of Maryland and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Greater Baltimore Crisis Pregnancy Center.

"Elaine Kindler's dedication and commitment to the unborn and their mothers, as well as her vision and enthusiasm, will help our organization to grow and thrive," said **Aid for Women** Board Chairman Mary Anne Goldberg. "With Elaine at the helm, we know that **Aid for Women** has a very promising future."

Ms. Kindler received her B.A. from Valparaiso University in 1973 and spent the next twelve years living in England, where she directed public relations and fund raising efforts at Coventry Cathedral and ran her own public relations firm.

Please help us to extend a warm **Aid for Women** welcome to Elaine!



Video (via mail) Proves Value

Tina called on a Monday morning asking for abortion prices. She readily admitted that she knew nothing about abortion procedures or risks and that she needed to "take care of it" quickly because she would be starting a new job the following week. A single mother of two older children, Tina believed that her pregnancy was "just a big mistake." A visit to the Center was out of the question, but she agreed to watch a video in her own home if **Aid for Women** would mail it right away. And so, our counselor placed a video about abortion procedures, a brief but encouraging note, and a few brochures depicting stages of fetal development into the mail. Exactly four days later, Tina called again "I'm so glad you sent that video," she said, "I had no idea, I wouldn't think of doing it! The film was amazing."

Thanks to our generous donors,

Wish List #2 Resource Library

Without question, the videos and brochures we use as part of our counseling can profoundly impact a woman's final decision.

So valuable are such materials that we need to invest in them, quality-wise and quantity-wise. Adequate, describes the supply of resource materials we have at **Aid for Women** now. Ideal, is what it should be.

A complete **Resource Library** will also include the most up-to-date counselor training videos, tapes and books.

Aid for Women is able to reach women who might not otherwise have access to life-saving information. The medically accurate, computer-animated video depiction of two common abortion procedures is a remarkably powerful tool. Some women visit our Center on a lunch hour and are, therefore, very short on time, while others are simply unable or unwilling to visit. We provide this video free to such women and at a cost to us of just around two dollars each. Moreover, women affected by the video will be sure to share it with friends who may themselves be considering abortion.

A follow-up call to Tina found her to have a very positive attitude about her situation and the child in her womb. "God allowed this to happen for whatever reason. . . I believe it's a boy. I'm going to send pictures."

What a Gift!

The Center was closed that wintry day, but Mary Anne, one of our counselors, decided it would be a good opportunity to accomplish some uninterrupted deskwork. A knock on the door brought those intentions to a halt, as she welcomed Rose and Jimmy, a deeply concerned but obviously devoted young couple.

The test results, as they feared, were positive. Fortunately, the Center's quiet, homelike atmosphere lent itself

to a time of real dialogue between them and the counselor. Rose and Jimmy, needing more time to process this new development in their lives, shared the viewing of important videos that provided solid information about abortion and the positive alternatives which included adoption.

Mary Anne was uncertain as to the eventual outcome of their session at **Aid For Women** that day, but a Christmas card with an enclosed note brought

tears of rejoicing as she read: "Thank you! If it wasn't for you, I think I probably would have made the worst mistake of my life. Thanks to your warm words and all of your services, I chose to keep my baby. . . and Jimmy and I are closer than ever before. . . We can't thank you enough. . ." What a Christmas gift for Mary Anne and the staff and volunteers at **Aid For Women!** Truly, the Center, an available volunteer, and a holiday had been used to change the course of three lives.

SPEAK OUT ILLINOIS 2000

by Mary Zdunek, R.N., J.D.

As a new counselor at **Aid for Women**, I had the great opportunity to attend *Speak Out Illinois 2000*. It was a very rewarding experience. I had never attended any pro-life event before, so I was not quite sure what to expect. I came away from the event feeling invigorated and so proud to be a part of this great movement.

The day started out with Francis

Cardinal George making some wonderful opening comments and then blessing a beautiful statue of Mother Teresa, which was recently donated to the Chicago Archdiocesan Respect Life Office. It truly felt like Mother Teresa was there with us.

Dr. Joel Brind then spoke on his research in the last decade regarding the link between abortion and breast can-

cer. The findings were astonishing, yet what was more astounding was the coverup of this research by the pro-abortion faction. It was quite troubling to realize how women are being denied access to all the information they need to make a decision that will affect the rest of their lives.

I then attended some worships, one of which was put on by Concerned Women for America regarding the myth of overpopulation. I was just riveted by the information about the gross abuses by many world family planning associations of women in third world countries.

After lunch, Congressman Henry Hyde received an award for his dedication to the pro-life movement. I was so touched when a young girl who had been placed for adoption by her birth mother and adopted into a wonderful family presented the award to Congressman Hyde. I sat there with tears in my eyes as I really appreciated the importance of our work in pregnancy counseling. The afternoon ended with a beautiful prayer service in which we lit up the darkened room with our candles and our songs. It was a very special day and I was thrilled I could be part of it.



Margaret Harmon (left) and Mary Zdunek (center), Aid for Women volunteer counselors, present our display for Speak Out Illinois 2000. Margaret, who has been a counselor for four years, directs and schedules counselors at our Center on Saturdays.



A Real Choice



Jenny was diagnosed with a lymphatic cancer the same week she tested positive for her second pregnancy. Shocked, distressed, and vulnerable, she was advised by her doctors that one option was to abort the child in order to promptly begin cancer treatment that would insure her own survival.

Strong in faith, and with the conviction that abortion was a decision they could not accept, Jenny and her husband chose to work with her obstetri-

cian and the oncologist to monitor the pregnancy and the cancer closely throughout the remainder of gestation with the objective of saving both lives. With prayer support from a wide circle of family and friends, as well as with personal courage, the young parents recently welcomed their son, William, a healthy baby boy.

Subsequent tests proved that the cancer had not spread beyond what was present in the original diagnosis,

and Jenny's chemotherapy began within two weeks of the baby's delivery. Of course she has a difficult course of treatment to endure, but she also has the daily joy of William's presence to give her confidence and renewed courage in the outcome. What a tragedy had she succumbed to the pressures and not chosen life for this precious child! **Aid for Women** affirms this young couple's real choice, and prays for her healing.

Madonna High School Respects Life

by Leigh Keyser

On January 18th, Sandy Hildebrand, Mary Zdunek and I had the pleasure of representing **Aid for Women** at Madonna High School in Chicago. We were invited to participate in their Respect Life Week Seminars organized by the school's Respect Life Club. We had the opportunity to speak to a group of twenty juniors for a full hour.

Sandy introduced our organization and described her personal experience with the pro-life movement. It was then my turn to discuss the benefits of abstinence, the myth of "safe sex," and the possibility of establishing a "secondary virginity." Mary concluded our lecture by discussing the physical, psychological and emotional repercussions of abortion and the importance of care and support during a pregnancy.

Afterwards, we were able to answer and distribute pamphlets to each student. Among these young women, we witnessed a very positive response to our organization and the emergence of a new appreciation for life within the womb.

We are very grateful to the Respect Life Club at Madonna High School for including us in their program. Laurie Becker, the club moderator, did a wonderful job of organizing the event, and each young lady we encountered was more than impressive. We hope to maintain our connection at Madonna, and we are seeking similar opportunities for involvement at other high schools around Chicago.



Ninfa Sanchez, Madonna High School student hostess (left) and Leigh Keyser, Aid for Women volunteer counselor (right).



8 South Michigan Avenue
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— Empowering Women to Choose Life Since 1978 —

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The link between abortion and breast cancer:



*What every woman in the
world has a right to know!*



In 1970 the World Health Organization published the results of its study on reproductive experience in relation to the incidence of breast cancer. This study of more than 17,000 women in seven locations on four continents gained knowledge which is still undisputed almost 30 years later.

Women who begin bearing children at a young age are less likely to get breast cancer than those who have children later, or those who have no children at all.

How much protection against breast cancer do they get? Based on their findings, the W.H.O. concluded:

“It is estimated that women having their first child when aged under 18 years have only about one-third the breast cancer risk of those whose first birth is delayed until the age of 35 years or more.”

Does this mean that a young woman who gets pregnant lowers her risk of getting breast cancer, even if she has an abortion? In relation to abortion the W.H.O. scientists said their results:

“suggested increased risk associated with abortion — contrary to the reduction in risk associated with full-term births.”

Research published in respected medical journals has since confirmed these findings and the hormonal basis for them:

Twenty-five out of 31 epidemiologic studies worldwide — studies on women of African, Asian and European ancestry — have found that even one abortion increases the risk of getting breast cancer later in life.

Importantly, the increased risk from abortion is in addition to the increased risk from delaying a woman's first childbirth, so ***abortion increases breast cancer risk in two ways!***

*This article was reproduced with permission of the Abortion-Breast Cancer
Quarterly Update, Joel Brind, Ph.D., Editor and Publisher.*