



Aid for Women

Empowering Women to Choose Life Since 1978

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November 2001

A Year of Favor from the Lord (Isaiah 61:2)

In mid-December of last year, Emily faced the stark reality of her situation—she was pregnant, had a full scholarship at a prestigious school, the college counselors were advising her to have an abortion because a baby would interfere with her studies and might jeopardize her scholarship, and her boyfriend wasn't sure about assuming a father's responsibilities. Not yet 20 herself, her baby was due in August 2001. Her parents would be angry and disappointed. How would she support herself and a child?

Any one of these reasons might be enough to nudge some women towards choosing abortion. But something inside kept telling Emily that abortion was not the solution.

She trusted her instincts. Emily came to Aid for Women to confirm her pregnancy and ask questions. "I knew in my heart that I could never choose abortion," Emily says now. "I'm the fifth of eleven children and my mom used to be the director of a pregnancy center in Michigan.

"I knew what abortion is and what it does. But I was scared and not sure

how I was going to get through the pregnancy and stay in school. One of the biggest hurdles was how do I tell my parents?"

Debbie Wells, an Aid for Women volunteer counselor, helped to give Emily the affirmation she needed to continue her pregnancy despite any difficulties that lay ahead. They also discussed what Emily could say to her parents. Debbie invited her to come back in the fifth month of her pregnancy to select a layette of baby items for her child.

Emily's trust in her instincts, her faith and her strength of character bore incredible fruit. Despite her advancing pregnancy, she was able to complete all of her classes in the spring semester. Emily also retained her scholarship and will be completing her studies to earn her degree.

She did come back in April to pick out a layette for her baby. "The layettes were so lovely," Emily reflects, "and it

was great to have something for my baby just as I was starting to stick out a little bit. It meant a lot to me that people had given these beautiful things for mothers and children that they didn't even know."

Leo Isaiah was born five weeks early on July 24,

2001. For her and her family, Emily's son has brought great joy out of a painful situation.

"Year of Favor" page two



Mary Anne Goldberg (far left), Kathleen Grubb (center) and Emily share the wonder of Leo's birth.

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Congratulations to Teresa Tario and the Friends of Aid for Women Auxiliary for a successful Boutique for All Seasons in October. On behalf of Aid for Women clients, sincere thanks go to our many guests, vendors and volunteers for our best Boutique yet.




Leo is named after his grandfather. His middle name was chosen because of God’s promise, given through the prophet Isaiah, to bring “beauty from ashes” to those who trust in God.

Aid for Women doesn’t always know how our clients’ pregnancies turn out. We are very glad that Emily, Leo and Emily’s mother, Kathleen, stopped by at the end of August to say thank you for the help Emily received with her decision making and pregnancy. Kathleen, visiting from Tennessee, is so grateful for the help Emily received that she’s knitting infant caps for other clients.

This has been a year of much favor from the Lord, for Emily and Leo and their family, for our dedicated counselors, and for the hundreds of other clients who came to Aid for Women in search of answers.

Emily Grubb and her son, Leo Isaiah.



<i>Dear Friends of Life,</i>
<i>Since September 11, our nation has begun again to learn about the preciousness of human life. On bended knee, America has implored the Author and Giver of life for His intervention.</i>
<i>Aid for Women has been consistent about exactly that for 23 years. Our board, volunteer counselors, staff, friends and donors proclaim unceasingly that all human life is of inestimable value—that the death of even one person, through abortion or any act of brutality, diminishes us all.</i>
<i>As the celebration of Christ’s birth approaches, there will be an element of deep sorrow for those who lost loved ones this year. Yet we have not been given a spirit of fear. Once again, the birth of the Christ Child offers hope, as no other event ever will.</i>
<i>We intend to come alive around that manger! We are going to rejoice in the eternal plan for humankind which God set in motion that wondrous night! Never, never are we going to allow anyone to rob us of the joy of life and hope centered on the baby Jesus, Son of God, Redeemer, Lord.</i>
<i>I invite you to choose life with us in a spirit of unity and to affirm what you know is truth—that life is precious and we must protect it through this ministry, faithfully and unequivocally, with our talent, our time and our treasure.</i>
<i>I send my prayers for a blessed and holy season to you and yours.</i>
<i>For Life,</i>

Mary Anne Goldberg
Chairman, Board of Directors

Changing Lives for Life

It has long been part of the vision of Aid for Women to nurture women so that they will make wholesome choices regarding their future sexual activity while choosing life for their children. We count it as a success when our clients’ daughters have no need to come back to Aid for Women. This shows that there have been life-affirming changes.

Volunteer counselors have succeeded in nurturing this lifelong change in many clients. There has never been a formal process in place for a sustained effort until this year when two generous donors gave gifts to launch a pilot Mentor Angel Program. Sandra C. Hildebrand (Sandy), former Aid for Women executive director, was the natural choice to direct this effort.

Sandy spent the first part of the year researching existing programs in Illinois and other states. She developed policies and procedures to guide volunteer counselors and mentors in providing ongoing support to Aid for Women clients.

Girls and women with serious needs will now have continuing one-on-one assistance as they face difficult circumstances related to pregnancy, parenting or lifestyle. As director of the mentor program, Sandy will match mentors to clients based on the clients’ needs. Mentors will work primarily from their homes, encouraging clients by telephone and connecting them to the resources that they need. Face-to-face visits will take place at the Aid for Women center in Chicago’s Loop.

Aid for Women mentors will reflect the beautiful image of an angel for our struggling clients. If you would like to know more about volunteering for the Mentor Angel Program, please leave a message for Sandy Hildebrand at (312) 621-1100.

National Abstinence Education

Erika Gleeson and Kristina Maker, Volunteer Counselors

It was inspirational to see over 500 people, including teenagers, excited about chastity at this year's National Abstinence Clearing House Convention.

One very important session offered a critical look at Kinseyian-based comprehensive sex education. Alfred Kinsey, a zoologist at Indiana University, propelled the sexual revolution with his two books on sexual behavior: *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* (1948), and *Sexual Behavior of the Human Female* (1953). He had two basic assertions: People are sexual from birth, and there is no moral context to which sexual behavior may be limited. These assertions are based on false data but have been taught to generations of children and educators.

Another session pointed out that no one ever died from not having sex, but many people have died by having so-called safe sex.

John R. Diggs, Jr., M.D., gave a dynamic talk on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). After the proliferation of AIDS, sex education became geared toward AIDS prevention, while yet advocating carnal pleasure at full tilt. We also learned that condoms don't protect women against a disease that kills more of them each year: human papilloma virus (genital herpes or HPV).

Ninety-nine percent of all incidents of cervical cancer are caused by HPV. About 80 percent of carriers do not have outward signs or symptoms. The latest information available confirms that every year, four million teenagers get an STD, and that one in five Americans age 12 years and older has genital herpes. Chlamydia is the most common bacterial STD (gonorrhea is second) and is a common cause of female infertility.

Teaching the lie of safe sex in the context of avoiding both STDs and pregnancies also devalues human life. In-

deed, Planned Parenthood implies that aborting an unplanned pregnancy is like curing an STD.

At Aid for Women we counsel many clients who have a negative pregnancy result. We learned how to really listen to each woman's needs and feelings, how to help her articulate her goals and values, and how to find real solutions that increase her self-worth and dignity. For example, "secondary virginity" is a positive lifestyle change. Reserving sex until marriage helps weed out those would-be partners who seek only a physical relationship without commitment.

Additional workshops were on the importance of the father as a role model, which is essential for the healthy development of children, and on the imperative of raising children in a loving, stable, committed marriage. The message at the conference was clear: Sex is a beautiful expression of love between a married man and woman, and it is an expression of love that is open to God's gift of life.

As counselors, we have the privilege of meeting wonderful and unique women and hearing their stories. At the same time, we plant seeds of knowledge, hope and life in their lives. Our prayer is that the knowledge and inspiration gained from this conference will bear fruit and positively affect the lives of these women. Thanks to all Aid for Women benefactors who made our trip to this conference possible, and to our supporters who pray for us.

Helpful web sites—on STDs: medinstitute.org; on Kinsey: rsvpamerica.org; on abstinence: abstinence.com, aimforsuccess.org, or abstinededu.com.



Erika (left) and Kristina

**Choose
Life**

**Mark your calendars for Speak Out Illinois 2002
Saturday, January 26, 2002 8:30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
For registration form please call (312) 422-9300 or speakoutillinois.com**

New Members of the Team

These Saturday volunteers have many talents: Nancy brings dynamism from her New York marketing days, Kevia contributes a calmness befitting one who plays classical guitar, and Erin quickly excelled at telephone counseling.



Nancy Koprowski



Kevia Smith



Erin Neese



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Beauty from ashes . . . all life is precious.

Stewardship of Your Treasure

Here are some ideas (not legal advice—you need to discuss your options with your professional advisors) to help you be a good steward of your year-end treasure.

- Calculate your federal income tax liability for the calendar year. A December gift to a 501(c)(3), such as Aid for Women, may reduce your tax liability.
- Review your assets. Some may have appreciated more than you think. Aid for Women accepts donations of any appreciated asset (stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.).
- Don't wait until the last minute. If you're transferring assets, your broker will need time to complete the transaction. If you're sending a check, your gift must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2001.

Please consider Aid for Women in your year-end giving plans. We need your help. You can call Elaine M. Kindler, Aid for Women executive director, at (312) 621-1100 to discuss your options.

We make a commitment to you to be trustworthy stewards of any donation that you send to us to fulfill our mission to empower women to choose life.

In Gratitude

It is with deep gratitude that we remember the life of Guy Condon, tragically cut short one year ago in a fatal car accident.

Aid for Women and hundreds of other pregnancy resource centers owe much to Guy for his vision, his diligence and his passion in furthering the cause for life.

*The Lord is my light
and my salvation;
whom do I fear?*

Psalm 27

The New American Bible

Our Response to Death

Elaine M. Kindler, Executive Director

For ministries so focused on the sanctity of human life, as Aid for Women is, there has been profound grief as we weep with those who lost innocent loved ones in the senseless acts of terrorism on September 11, 2001.

But a small few have responded to death very differently from the majority of Americans. In a September 18 news release, Planned Parenthood of New York City (PPNYC) said:

To provide for the many New York women who have been displaced or may otherwise be in need due to the World Trade Center tragedy, PPNYC will be offering complete reproductive health care from September 18th through September 22nd free of cost.

They subsequently extended free services to September 29th. Their "compassion" offers a mother the death of her child through an abortion as "consolation" for the loss of the child's father.

The tragic loss of 6,000+ lives has heightened our awareness that between 3,500 and 4,000 innocent lives are brutally ended by an abortion every day. The terrorism gives urgency to our counseling: "You're pregnant—you carry the future inside of you!" We celebrate more intensely the grace-filled news of a client's decision to give life to her baby and at the joyous news of every birth.

Our grief compels us to love more deeply and to serve more willingly. Our tears remind us to revere life more passionately. Our response to death is the truth and the hope that is found in the Gospel of Life.