



Aid for Women

Empowering Women to Choose Life Since 1978

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November-December 2003

The Grace to Know . . . The Courage to Try

**25th Anniversary Gala Dinner
Thursday, September 25, 2003
Chicago Hilton & Towers**

Nearly 600 people attended Aid for Women's celebration, including many in the Bresler family, seen opposite.

Everyone who was there will agree that it was a wonderful event. Congratulations to Florence Sorensen and her team.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this exceptional occasion for the benefit of Aid for Women clients.

Aid for Women Board of Directors

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Courage in Action – 25 Years

Tom Bresler, Barbara Berens, Joella Cramblit and Mary Anne Goldberg

In January 1973, abortion on demand became legal in the United States, and the death of thousands of pre-born children followed. Many found this appalling and realized something had to be done.

One who acted decisively was Thomas W. Bresler, a recently ordained Deacon at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Deerfield, Illinois. He accepted this challenge as his mission and, in 1977, he placed notices in local church bulletins. This attracted a small group who met in the living room of Tom and his wife, Heather, all eager to join in an effort to do "something" to defend the lives of these children.

Those who responded were totally dedicated to Aid for Women's mission. Nancy Corbett had recently moved to Illinois from Virginia, where she had been a pregnancy center director of volunteers, and assumed the leadership role of chairman of the board of directors. Mona Lucas, a registered nurse and active in Nurses for Life, provided the education about fetal development and abortion. Penny Crowley served as the secretary/treasurer of the board, and Mary Kraychy, a parish Respect Life coordinator, generated interest within the local churches.



*Carolyn McMahon, Heather and Tom Bresler, Connie Spolar
and Anne Namm at the Gala (left to right).*

and opened Birthright of Illinois, a pregnancy counseling service in suburban Deerfield to serve the needs of women in the area and to offer alternatives to abortion. The Immaculate Heart of Mary Knights of Columbus Council No. 438 gave the first \$500 to support these efforts.

To attract clients, speakers went to schools and church groups. Notices were put in church bulletins and an advertisement offering free pregnancy tests was placed in the suburban Yellow Pages. Each volunteer counselor was trained to offer abortion counseling and abstinence counseling. Clothing, furniture and food were also provided to those in need.

Loretta Brady soon joined them to educate the volunteers in counseling skills. Sherrill Albion and Barbara Berens were the first volunteer counselors.

On October 6, 1978, this core group formed a board of directors

"Courage," page two

Courage

The board soon realized that there was a need in Chicago for this pro-life work to counteract the number of abortion facilities opening throughout the city. In July 1981, under the new name of Aid for Women, a second office was opened at 8 South Michigan Avenue. Within a few years, as many as 400 women a month came seeking the help that was being offered.

Aid for Women quickly outgrew that first office and with the help of a pro-life realtor found a larger office in the same building. Volunteers did the building and decorating, while others donated furniture, transforming an indifferent office into one that was friendly and inviting. When the pro-abortionists began picketing in front of the building on Saturday mornings, Aid for Women knew their presence was being felt.

All of this was costly. Meeting the budget became a constant challenge. The board undertook several fund-raising initiatives. A newsletter was published and mailing lists assembled to develop a donor base. A Sunday night bingo game was run by Aid for Women volunteers at the Elks Club in Highland Park. Shop and Share benefit days were set up with Jewel and Dominick's grocery stores.

In the early 1990's, an auxiliary, Friends of Aid for Women, was founded. In addition to assisting with various areas of the ministry, the auxiliary annually mounts a fund-raising event for the organization. Their annual Boutique remains an important function.

With an increase of clients and a desire to provide optimal services, Aid for Women hired its first full-time employee in 1991. By September 2003, the staff consists of three full-time and one part-time employee who support the work of approximately 26 volunteer counselors and mentors, a working board of 12 members, and the auxiliary of 30 to 40 Friends of Aid for Women.

In 1999, Aid for Women leased additional space on the 11th Floor of 8 S. Michigan Avenue in order to serve clients more effectively. Kathleen Bindley masterminded the renovation and transformation of the center, driven by a deep respect for the dignity of the clients. From the moment a client walks through the door, she knows that she is safe and the people at Aid for Women will take care of her.

Hundreds of people through churches, schools and neighborhoods contribute items for layettes, which are offered free of charge to pregnant clients. Extended Hotline hours, a one-to-one mentoring program, Baby Basics classes and abstinence support became available to Aid for Women clients in 2002 and 2003.

Four dedicated chairmen of the board of directors guided all of these bold efforts. Nancy Corbett was chairman from 1978 to 1988. Joella Cramblit followed her ably from 1989 to 1996. Mary Ann Goldberg then assumed leadership, serv-

ing from 1997 to 2001. Pat Daily is the current board chair, beginning her term in 2002.

The board of directors continues to seek effective ways to assist pregnant mothers of all ages—assistance that will encourage them to respect themselves and the pre-born life entrusted to them.

Ultrasound technology became a valuable tool for client education and a critical component for effective counseling. Aid for Women provides non-diagnostic ultrasound exams free of charge to those clients for whom this is appropriate. Clients interested in adoption are referred to five professional agencies in the area. Aid for Women also has a relationship with two major Chicago hospitals, St. Joseph and St. Anthony, which serve and treat our clients regardless of their need or financial circumstances.

In 1998 Aid for Women celebrated 20 years of helping teens and women. Several hundred people gathered at a gala dinner featuring Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, Mary Cunningham Agee, founder and president of the Nurturing Network, and Congressman Henry Hyde.

This history would not be complete without noting the many volunteers who have unselfishly offered their time, talents and treasure these 25 years—pregnancy counselors, mentors, clerical and other behind-the-scenes volunteers, board members, Friends of Aid for Women, and the thousands of individuals who have given the financial support needed to sustain this mission. Their generosity and skills have helped Aid for Women build the fruitful organization it has become today.

Above all, Aid for Women acknowledges the guiding presence of the Lord, who has been with us from our simple beginnings in the Breslers' living room. With His loving hand leading us, we will continue to maintain our strong pro-life presence in Chicago so that women will always know that they can find the help, guidance and unconditional love they need at Aid for Women.

We have courage to try because we are inspired by God's intervention in the lives of our clients.

Crystal Matthews and her daughter, Sydney, were guests of honor at the Gala. Crystal's story is retold in the new Aid for Women video and was in the May-June 2003 issue of our newsletter.



The Grace to Know ... The Courage to Try



The St. Joseph Choristers from Summit, Illinois, begin the evening's entertainment directed by Sister Maria-Paulina Sterling, H.N.



Guests enjoy silent auction bidding and the cocktail reception.



John Morales, Relevant Radio, as Gala Master of Ceremonies.



Florence Sorensen, chairman of the 25th anniversary dinner committee, welcomes our guests.



Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, offers inspiring remarks and an invocation.



Reverend Christopher M. Gustafson presents the first Eileen Gustafson Mother of the Year Award to Teri Goudie.



Joseph A. Morris, chairman of the B'Nai Brith Midwest Center for Public Policy, eloquently offers a Jewish perspective on the sanctity of human life.



Florence Sorensen (right) and Elaine Kindler share a moment of deep gratitude for Aid for Women's new video, The Choice of a Lifetime.

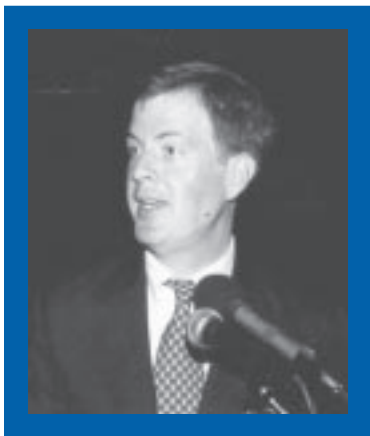
The Grace to Know ... The Courage to Try



Pat Daily introduces Aid for Women's Praesidium Vitae Award and announces the 2003 recipient, President George W. Bush.



Tim Goeglein, White House Deputy Director of Public Liaison, accepts an original portrait from artist Robert Dewar Bentley on behalf of President Bush.



Tim Goeglein presents keynote remarks on behalf of President Bush.



The Honorable Dana Rosemary Scallon, MEP, entertained guests with songs and stories.



Sharnina Starling, director of client and volunteer services, is assisted by Buz Sorensen as she draws the winning raffle tickets.



Elder Johnny R.C. Tyler summarized the many profound thoughts from the evening and concluded with a powerful benediction.



Founder Tom Bresler gets special thanks from Pat Daily, chairman of the board of directors (left), and Elaine Kindler (right) at the Gala.



The Gala was full of excellent entertainment, remarks, silent auction items, conversations, reunions, food and celebration—all in the cause for life and the benefit of Aid for Women clients and their children.

It's Your Call

LifeLine is a full-service, Christian-owned telecommunications company that supports organizations that preserve the sanctity of life.

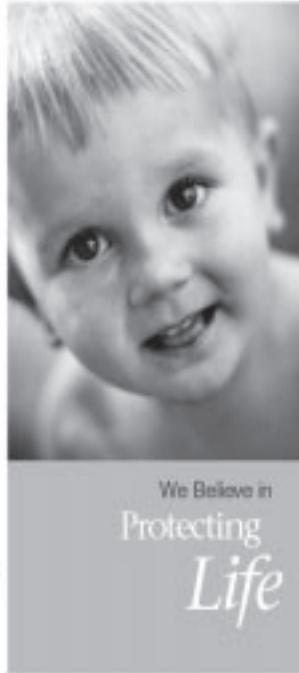
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Support Aid for Women
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Other Ways You Can Help

Aid for Women is pleased to offer you three outstanding products.

First is the new Aid for Women video, *The Choice of a Lifetime*, featuring client Crystal Williams' story. The cost is \$15.00 (including shipping and handling) for a 12-minute VHS video. Proceeds from each purchase will go towards enhancing our client services.

Second is the 2004 edition of the inspirational journal, *Listen to the Spirit—He Will Lead You*, for only \$15.00 (including shipping and handling). You will receive a high-quality, 12-month, spiral-bound journal with world-class photography. Aid for Women will receive \$5.50 from the sale of each book.

Third is a 20" x 20" Giclée print on canvas of the Robert Dewar Bentley portrait (see top of page four) of President and First Lady George W. Bush and Laura Bush. This is a limited edition of 100 prints and will come with a certificate of authenticity. The print costs \$400 with shipping and handling at \$30, for a total cost of \$430. Aid for Women will receive \$200 from the sale of each print.

Please see the special insert for more details on ordering each of these outstanding offers.

COMING SOON: donating to Aid For Women online using PayPal. Watch for details on our web site: www.aidforwomen.org

Save money on your holiday shopping and support Aid for Women at the same time!

Aid for Women has registered with onecause.com to set up an Internet shopping mall that is incredibly easy to use. When you do your holiday shopping, just click to our mall, then click on one of the over 300 top Internet merchants.

You are sure to find great gift ideas from these quality merchants. No registration is required. In addition to supporting Aid for Women, shopping this way can also save you money through merchant special offers (free shipping, 15 percent off, etc.). This is a safe, secure and family-friendly shopping mall. Much of your Christmas shopping can be done from the comfort of your own home. You pay the same price as you would otherwise, and up to 25 percent of your purchase will come to Aid for Women—year round! Please remember this whenever you do your online shopping.

Visit our mall at: www.aidforwomen.onecause.com. With a few simple mouse clicks, you can make one meaningful show of support in the cause for life.

Prayer

Check "I will pray" on the reply form, and please pray right now for more clients, volunteers and resources.

Volunteer

Aid for Women has no outreach without the volunteers who counsel our clients or help us behind the scenes. Explore the many opportunities for you to make a difference in the life of a mother and her child.

Fundraising

The reply form offers different ways to give to Aid for Women, including gifts charged to Visa or MasterCard credit cards.

Education

Experienced Aid for Women speakers are available for presentations to all age groups. Please schedule a speaker for your school, place of worship, Scout troop—any gathering at which people might be open to learning how to nurture human life.

Stewardship

We seek to be good stewards of our resources. We want to keep you informed, but if you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please let us know.

Thank you for your support.

Praesidium Vitae Award

Excerpts from remarks by Pat Daily, chairman, board of directors, from her Defender of Life Award presentation

It is my privilege to serve as the chairman of the board of directors of Aid for Women. I joined the Aid for Women family in 1982, and it has been a labor of love for 21 years.

I mean it when I say it has been my privilege to serve, because to work on behalf of the cause of life is one of the greatest gifts I have ever been given. The pro-life movement is a large and varied one, with some working to change the law, others to bring the pro-life message to television, some to educate the public, and still others to counsel women and men who have been wounded by abortion.

All of these roles are necessary and important. Aid for Women, like some 3400 pregnancy resource centers in our nation, provides assistance and hope to pregnant women in difficult situations, and helps them to welcome their children into the world. The efforts you support make a real difference for women who are afraid and think they have nowhere to turn.

As someone who has been active in the pro-life movement for decades, it is encouraging to see our nation beginning to come to grips with abortion.

And now, after eight long years, we have a friend in the White House, President George W. Bush. President Bush is a man of great faith who expresses his evolution to the Lord in these words: "Life takes its own turns, writes its own story and along the way we start to realize that we are not the author."

As Governor of Texas, President Bush's resolve to be a credible voice for the sanctity of all life began to emerge. In 1999, then Governor Bush stated, "Good people on both sides of this issue can work to reduce the number of abortions. Passing parental notification. Promoting adoption. Praising the quiet goodness of crisis pregnancy centers. Opposing public funding of abortion. Teaching abstinence to children. Ending partial-birth abortion. Building a culture of life, brick by brick. We are

a society with enough compassion and wealth and love to care for children both before and after birth; to seek the promise and potential in every life."

As a presidential candidate in 2000, candidate Bush stated that: "the next President of the United States should set the goal for America. Every child, born and unborn, should be protected by law and welcomed into life."

In his speech to the Republican National Convention, candidate Bush stated, "I will lead our nation toward a culture that values life—the life of the elderly, and the sick, the life of the young and the life of the unborn."

Two days after taking the oath of office, President Bush reinstated the Mexico City Policy. This policy prohibits U.S. aid to family-planning organizations that provide or facilitate abortions in foreign countries. He stated, "It is my conviction that taxpayer funds should not be used to pay for abortions or advocate or actively promote abortion either here or abroad."

When the Congressional bill to ban partial-birth abortion is approved by both houses, as he has promised, President Bush will sign the bill.

President Bush is a courageous and consistent voice for the sanctity of life. His dedication and commitment can be summed up in this statement, "I believe that life is valuable, even when it is unwanted, even when it is physically imperfect. I believe our society has a responsibility to defend the vulnerable and the weak. And I believe our nation should set a goal: that unborn children should be welcomed in life and protected in law. This is the ideal: a generous society that values every life."

It is for this commitment that Aid for Women presents the *Praesidium Vitae* (Defender of Life) award to President George W. Bush. Accepting the award on the President's behalf is White House Deputy Director of Public Liaison, Tim Goeglein.

SAVE THE DATE:

Speak Out Illinois Statewide Conference *Understanding Choice* January 25, 2004
Call (312) 422-9300 for details and to register.

Perspective

Elaine M. Kindler, Executive Director

Aid for Women volunteers and staff are agents of God's grace as they pour themselves out for those most vulnerable to abortion's relentless reach. They pray ceaselessly, they counsel and love unconditionally, they give their time—all to serve preborn children and abortion-vulnerable teens and women.

Hundreds of people—like you—support this critical effort with financial gifts, often sacrificially. This generosity is humbling and a sign of God's provision.

More than 60,000 women have received Aid for Women's care since we first opened our doors in 1978. Not one of them

is forgotten. Not one child saved from abortion is forgotten. We carry them in our hearts.

We have thousands more to serve. Our Hotline hours are being extended to reach more abortion-vulnerable women. *Sexual Integrity*, a six-week program, will be introduced in 2004 to better meet the needs of the negative-test-result client.

Your selfless service, your generosity, your purity of motivation are all needed as instruments of God's grace. You can build a culture of life by helping one woman—one child—at a time choose life. Welcome to Aid for Women's next 25 years!

Aid for Women is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization funded by tax-deductible gifts from private contributors.

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