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Winchester, VA 22601

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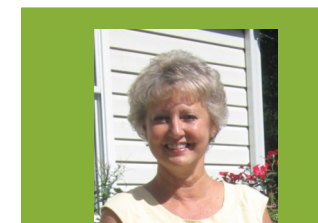
PERMIT NO. 108
WINCHESTER, VA

December 2011



A LONGING FULFILLED IS SWEET TO THE SOUL

Proverbs 13:19



Bonnie's Corner

Around this time of year we start thinking more of family, friends and those experiencing difficult challenges. Although the family structure has drastically changed since the Victorian era, what hasn't changed is our need for close ties to those who call us their own.

December's gifts of custom, ceremony and the celebration of Jesus' birth come to us wrapped up, not in tissue and ribbons, but in cherished memories. All those bright, pretty baubles creating havoc with our budgets are only symbols of the gifts we really long for.

Now's the time to give those we love the abundant, one-size-fits-all gift of our Holy Spirit – our undivided attention, enthusiasm, cheerfulness, thankfulness, forgiveness, beauty, communication, surprise, wonder, peaceful surroundings and joy. I believe these gifts won't be forgotten. We'll receive back gifts we won't forget – happy smiles and contented hearts. And we won't want to exchange them!

So let's choose to let only what we love best about Christmas to remain. Let's cross out two more "musts." Now there's time to gaze out the window at gently falling snow, delight in the sounds of joyful music, savor the sweet aroma of hot cider and roast turkey, sip hot chocolate and eggnog, read the Biblical account of kings from the east traveling many hot, dusty miles following a bright star in search of a royal birth, bask before a fire crackling on a hearth, and re-creating cherished customs that care for our souls as well as the souls of those we love.

I do pray your Christmas and New Year have the touch of Eternity among the rush.

AbbaCare, Inc. is a Christ-centered organization which exists to encourage sexual integrity, empower life-affirming pregnancy and parenting decisions, and strengthen relationships, through limited medical services, education and resources.

Find us online at

AbbaCare.org
AbbaCarePartners.org

Download our monthly prayer calendar on the home page of AbbaCarePartners.org.

View our Financial Report, completed by Yount, Hyde & Barbour at AbbaCarePartners.org/About

Prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail or want to remove your address from the list? Send your request to Lauren@abbacare.org.

Be Involved

Check out our new registry at Target! First name Abba, Last name Care. These are the items we give to clients most often. Use the item type and quantity as a guideline. Thank you for your help in meeting the physical needs of AbbaCare clients.

Volunteer applications are available online at www.AbbaCarePartners.org/Involved or come by the center.

Current Material Need: We're building winter layettes for clients and need NEW bottles, pacifiers, teethingers, baby lotions, shampoos and washes, winter infant boy and girl outfits, bibs, caps, towels, and washcloths. We also need maternity clothes.

Consider partnering with us as a monthly giver. No matter the dollar amount, the faithfulness of an AbbaCare sustaining partner allows us to focus on ministry...not fundraising. Your monthly gift saves AbbaCare money, helps us plan more effectively, and reach men & women with the love and hope of Jesus.

AbbaCare is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (www.ecfa.org).

Visit www.AbbaCarePartners.org to sign up.

Special Event

A Candlelight Tour and Open House

December 26, 5-8pm

\$10 Adults, \$5 Students (through college). Now open to the public, Rosemont was the home of Virginia Governor Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Come tour one of the most prestigious estates in the Shenandoah Valley.

Proceeds from this event benefit AbbaCare and Healthy Families.





From a Client– an Encouraged Mom

I'll begin by sharing with you a little about myself and background. I am 41 and have struggled with a severe diagnosis of both anorexia and bulimia from the ages of 25 to 39. I was told in 1996 that it was not probable that I would ever conceive a child due to the effects of my eating disorder history.

I came to AbbaCare because I had a positive test result at home, and a friend told me AbbaCare could confirm the result and administer an ultrasound to determine if the pregnancy was viable. At the time I first learned I was indeed pregnant, I wasn't sure if I would be able to keep and care for a child. The father and I were not together any longer and I had no intention of remaining in a bad relationship because I was pregnant.

At AbbaCare, I met truly compassionate and educated volunteer staff. The fact that so many men and women give their time and expertise moved me beyond words. I learned that I could, in fact, be a good mother regardless of my past. What is important is the here and now– who I am and how far I came to ensure the health and safety of my child. I keep that in the forefront of my mind every day.

I am a better mother because AbbaCare educates me in all aspects of parenting. This is of utmost importance for me as a single parent. I am all my son has, and I have to arm myself with as much knowledge as is available to me. If I had not come to AbbaCare, I am honestly not sure what my life would be like. I can say, though that I would not have nearly enough understanding to parent a child.

AbbaCare supports all women no matter what choices they make. I never felt "pushed," and that's invaluable. Now, I have never been happier and wouldn't change a single decision. The love I have for my son is incomprehensible, and I don't remember what life was like without him. It is difficult at times but I feel whole for the first time in my life.

~ Jennifer

A special thank you to our volunteers who do so much...

For their work with clients

- Donna Day** teaches a class for clients on Baby Sign Language one Thursday each quarter.
- Betty DeHaven** gives 2 days/week to peer counsel with clients and help with classes and administrative tasks.
- Irene Frye** teaches the 4-part Childbirth Class several times each year.
- Rosemary Hamel** gives 2 days/week to peer counsel with clients and share the love of Jesus Christ.
- Debbie Pizzola** teaches the What to Expect class for clients as they prepare for their time at the hospital.
- Marti Schmeller** spends an afternoon each week to peer counsel clients and encourage their choice for life.
- Katrina Trago** peer counsels with clients one day a week and cleans around the center.

In the Fatherhood Program

- Pastor Tim Board** will instruct the 8-part For Men Only classes, teaching essential parenting skills.
- David Brown** is a mentor in the Fatherhood Program. He meets with guys 4 hours a week and facilitates the once a month couples class.
- Mike Duffy** mentors in the Fatherhood Program– meeting with guys and facilitating discussion in the once a month couples class.
- Andrew Fusaro** is a mentor in the Fatherhood Program. He meets with guys 2 hours a week and facilitates discussion in the couples class.
- Peter O'Hare** mentors in the Fatherhood Program 4 hours each week, challenging them in their role as a dad and directing them to Jesus Christ.
- Bryan Patrick** mentors in the Fatherhood Program a couple hours each month to encourage the guys in their choice for life for their unborn baby.



For their administrative help

- Karyn Bentley** gives a morning each week to keep the Maternity Shoppe organized and looking wonderfully for clients as they shop after class.

Carolyn Berghaus gives a morning each week to help answer the phone and organize the library and layette closet.

Sarah Burke gives time as a receptionist to schedule appointments, help with client check-in, receive donations or help with data entry.

Nicole Caraher gives time as needed for special projects.

Debbie Dellinger volunteers as needed for special projects.

Alice Donahue helps with client check-in for the Childbirth Class each Tuesday

evening.

Kathy Eberly gives her time to sort and organization donations.

Melody Garrett gives a morning each week to complete inventory of donations and keep the Baby Boutique organized.

Robert Hotchkiss helps each Thursday evening with client check -in/ check-out for the maternity, parenting or couples classes.

Kelly Hyre comes a morning each week to complete donation inventory and keep the Baby Boutique displays ready for clients' shopping times.

Sarah Hyre comes periodically to help in whatever way is needed around the center– projects or cleaning.

Thad Kibler gives his time when needed for handyman projects.

Esther Layman assists 2 times a month with parenting classes.

Janet Ludwig provides graduation certificates for clients as they complete the HELP program.

Jeannine Miner gives her time one day a month to take photos of clients who are graduating from the HELP program.

Ginny Noble peer counsels clients and helps with administrative tasks a morning each week.

Katie Rinker gives time on weekly basis to help with accounting tasks.

For their work in PACE (Post-Abortion Counseling Education)

Chris Dalton leads an 11-week Bible study, *Forgiven and Set Free* twice a year for women who need to heal from a past abortion.

Ruth Justus helps facilitate the Bible study for post-abortive women.

For their help in the BuildingBlocks Program

Mary Cornwell will challenge teens to walk in integrity through WorthWaiting4.

Sarah Kite gives a morning each week to check donated baby items for recalls and help with inventory. She will also present to teens in WorthWaiting4.

Connie Nutter assists in the WorthWaiting4 presentations or Building Family Connections courses for parents.

Jessica Van Meter helps administratively with God, Mom and Me teas and will challenge teens in WorthWaiting4 presentations.

Lisa Williams presents in WorthWaiting4 to give teens the BEST message regarding wise relationship decisions.



Numerous other individuals give their time as needed for special events and one-time projects. Area businesses also donate their services and material items throughout the year. To each of these people, we extend a thank you for their help behind- the- scenes at the center.

Center Hours

Monday 10-7

Medical 10-7

Tuesday 10-7

Medical 10-7

Wednesday 10-7

Medical 10-7

Thursday 10-5

Medical 1-5

Friday 10-3

Business 540.722.4844

Client 540.665.9660

www.AbbaCare.org

www.AbbaCarePartners.org

info@abbacare.org

200 Weems Lane

Winchester, VA 22601

Staff

Bonnie Johnson Broy

Executive Director

Diane Clawson

Administrative Coordinator

Di Brown

Client Services Director

Elisa Ruiz

Hispanic Services Coordinator

Mary Swindoll

Nurse Manager

Renee Godwin

BuildingBlocks Director

Lauren Van Drunen

Development Director

Board of Directors

Dave Ervin (Chair)

Dr. Jo Jones (Vice-Chair)

Craig Lewis (Treasurer)

Martha Parthemos (Secretary)

Jim Stanford

Janice Wehner

Margaret Richardson

Pastor John Sound

Pastor Martha de la Rosa

Medical Directors

Charles Hyre, M.D.

Sean O'Mara, M.D., J.D.

Advisory Board

Pastor Mark Carey

Bruce Downing

Pastor John Morrison

Fred Walk, M.D.