



Carolyn's Place
PREGNANCY CARE CENTER



Volume XXV, Issue 3

CAROLYN'S VOICE

Fall 2017

A SILVER CELEBRATION

25th Anniversary Annual Dinner to be held November 5, 2017

It has been a quarter of a century since Carolyn's Place opened our doors and we have much to celebrate. Through the grace of God, we have been blessed with selfless volunteers and generous donors who have supported us over these 25 years making it possible for us to fulfill our belief that "no woman should face pregnancy alone."

Now, more than two decades later, our founder, Fr. Robert Rousseau, has seen God's plans unfold through the ministry of Carolyn's Place.

We invite you to share in our special 25th celebration by joining us on Sunday, November 5th at La Bella Vista at the Pontelandolfo Club in Waterbury for our 25th Anniversary Annual Dinner. We are expecting over 300 guests to share in this very special evening.

At the dinner we will pay special tribute to several individuals for their pro-life advocacy and volunteer work. We are excited to announce that the prestigious Maureen Anne Donohoe Life Award will be presented to our founding parish - **St. John the Evangelist Parish**. Accepting the award will be the former pastors of the parish who kept the ministry alive in the parish with financial and spiritual support. We also will pay tribute to the many individuals from the parish who have been involved with Carolyn's Place in many capacities. We are grateful for the parish's continued faithfulness during the past two and a half decades.



The recipient of the Ministry Award is **Father John P. Gatzak**. As the Executive Director of the Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Radio and Television, and the General Manager of WJMJ-FM, Fr. John has spread the word about the importance of respect for all life from conception to natural death to thousands of listeners. The WJMJ *Crossroads* show has highlighted Carolyn's Place several times over our 25 year history.

The Walter J. Williams Volunteer Service Award will be presented to **M. Jane Teta, Dr.PH** of Middlebury. Jane has been involved with Carolyn's Place for over ten years. Joining the Board of Directors in 2008, she served as Chairperson for four years, and still remains an extremely active board member. Jane is a major financial contributor, and is responsible for organizing parts of our infrastructure. Most recently she has spearheaded the mobile van initiative.



Al Terzi, retired television journalist and news anchor, will emcee the evening. Often considered the "Dean of Connecticut news anchors," Al has anchored on stations such as WTIC, WFSB and currently serves as the co-host of Fox 61's Sunday morning political issues program, "The Real Story." He has shared in two Emmy awards.



The event will include a sumptuous five-course meal including stuffed filet of sole and New York strip steak served with white and red wine. Once again we will be entertained by the soft jazz music of the popular Gomez & Sadlon. We are delighted to bring back our extremely successful and highly anticipated silent auction. Be prepared to win exciting prizes - sports items, gift certificates for restaurants and stores, tools, theater tickets and much more!

We are extremely grateful to this year's sponsors (to-date): United Auto Sales and Services, Inc., J. Peck Construction Services, Inc., Waterbury Swiss Automatics, Inc., Kennedy Wealth Management, Inc., and Maureen Williams - In Memory of Walter J. Williams.

Join us as we celebrate our Silver Anniversary

Turn to page two for an invitation; enclosed is a response card and return envelope!



We would be honored by your presence

Carolyn's Place

Twenty-fifth Anniversary

Annual Dinner Celebration

Sunday, November 5, 2017 Four-Thirty in the Evening

\$55.00 per person Reservations are necessary

La Bella Vista at Pontelandolfo Club

380 Farmwood Road, Waterbury, CT

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE & HONOR

St. John the Evangelist Parish, Watertown, CT

Founding Parish of our Ministry

Rev. John P. Gatzak

Executive Director - Office of Radio and Television

General Manager - WJMJ-FM

M. Jane Teta, Dr.PH

Carolyn's Place Volunteer - Middlebury, CT

Silent Auction

Cash, Checks, Visa or MasterCard

Emcee Al Terzi - Television Journalist and News Anchor

Live, Soft Jazz Music by Gomez & Sadlon

*If you cannot join us, you can still be part of this celebration;
contribute the cost of a ticket and your name will be added to our event recognition list.*

Kindly respond by October 20, 2017

Use enclosed response card 203-597-9080 staff@carolynsplace.net

Some ways you can be a part of our 25th anniversary celebration:

Contact Ginny at 203-597-9080 or staff@carolynsplace.net

- ♣ Attend our dinner and celebrate with us (Invitation page 2, RSVP enclosed) or purchase a ticket for someone else to attend who is unable to afford it.
- ♣ Become a sponsor and receive special recognition and benefits. (Levels: \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$250)
- ♣ Purchase an ad as an individual, parish, or business to show your support, or send congratulations to our ministry and our honorees. (Ads are \$150, \$80 and \$50.)
- ♣ Families and individuals may send a personalized message in our dinner program book. (See below form)
- ♣ Be a part of our planning committee. Any amount of time will help with auction preparation, phone calls, soliciting, set up, clean up and much more.
- ♣ Donate an item for our Silent Auction. We are looking for: sports tickets, electronic or hi-tech items, get-away vacations, gift cards/certificates, business services, theme baskets, or any of your own creative ideas.
- ♣ Get your friends, family, parish or co-workers to create a basket for the auction. Choose a theme and have each person donate one item connected with the theme to put in the basket.
- ♣ Buy a full table (seats 10 or 12) for friends and family to join us at the dinner.

Please pray for the success of the evening.

**We are sincerely grateful for
all you can do to help make**

Our 25th Anniversary an extra special evening.



SEND A MESSAGE IN OUR DINNER PROGRAM BOOK

For \$25 (\$1 for each year of our ministry at work to save lives) you can send a two line message to go into our 25th Anniversary Annual Dinner program booklet.

SAMPLE: Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary.
 God bless you - Paula and Pete Moss, Woodbury, CT

Please return this completed form and payment no later than October 10, 2017

Name _____ Phone _____

Town _____ Email _____

Two line message you are sending (including name and town if desired). PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ I have paid online (www.carolynsplace.net)

Questions: Contact Ginny 203-597-9080 or staff@carolynsplace.net

From Ellen's Desk

Every once in a while, a book or movie so moves and inspires us, it needs to be shared. And so I share, *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* and the DVD, "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler."

"Life in a Jar" began as a National History Day project in September of 1999. Four high school students in Kansas were given a clipping their teacher had found in a 1994 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*. The students were amazed that this little known woman, a Polish, Catholic social worker, named Irena Sendler, was responsible for rescuing 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust. And so began their research and the telling of Irena's story.

Irena used her position to work in the Warsaw Ghetto. She established an underground network and together they smuggled Jewish children out of the Ghetto. She was in charge of the Children's Division of Zegota (a Polish underground group assisting Jewish people.)

Each time a child was smuggled out of the Ghetto, Irena would write down the child's family name and the name of the "adoptive" family. She put the names in glass jars and buried them all over the city, in hopes that after the war, the families could be reunited. Almost all the Jewish parents died at Treblinka death camp.

Irena was arrested on October 20, 1943, placed in the infamous Piawiak prison and tortured. She received a death sentence. Zegota bribed the German executioner and she escaped. She lived the remaining years of war hidden, much like the children she rescued.

When asked why she did what she did, Irena replied, "because it was the right thing to do." Amazing and simple, "because it was the right thing to do." What an inspiration for our times!

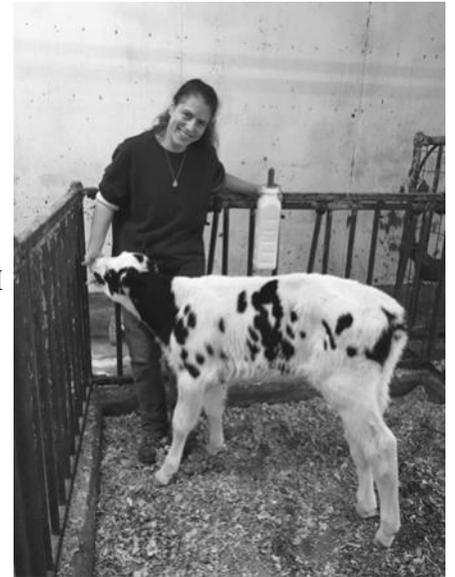
The Board of Directors and staff of Carolyn's Place want to extend a warm thank you to Katie Rose for the outstanding job she did over the past year as our Education Coordinator. Because of her love for life and dedication to youth, during her one year with Carolyn's Place, Katie Rose spoke to 95 classes, spreading our message to over 2,000 students. We are grateful for the time and enthusiasm you gave to this position and God bless you in your new endeavor.

From Katie Rose's Desk

I am thankful to have shared this year with Carolyn's Place and all with whom I have worked in our Education ministries. It has been a joy to witness the hope and gift of life in each person... the students in our schools and faith formation classes, the Tweens and HOPE Youth, Parents, Teachers, DREs, Administrators, Priests, Volunteers, Staff, and Board at

Carolyn's Place! I have appreciated the sincere desire for truth that enlivens our youth and brings a renewed hope and energy to all of us. I also have been impressed with Carolyn's Place offering a voice in our community to help navigate the conflicting views that we are

presented with in this world, and to share the truth and goodness that each life is valuable and precious... made for love. All of you, and the ministries of Carolyn's Place, will remain in my prayers as I spend the next year in dedicated prayer, working on a dairy farm in upstate New York. Thank you! God bless and keep you... you are loved and your life has great meaning and purpose!



FALL 2017 WISH LIST

If you can help with any of these items, new or used, please contact us at 203-597-9080 or staff@carolynsplace.net.

ITEMS NEEDED: An attractive 8' X 11' living room area rug, Girl's socks-size 18 mos.-2T, Larger diapers-sizes 4, 5 & 6, Auction Items (See page 3), Onesies-size NEWBORN, Forever stamps

HELP NEEDED: Help with weekly light housekeeping. Someone with electrical skills who can set up circuits so our air conditioners don't trip the circuits.

WISH LIST THANK YOU: We are grateful to the following people for donating items from our Wish List. Dayla Aita for the two cases of paper. Many thanks to the following people who came to our aid with size 18 mos. and 2T boy and girl summer clothes: Allison Guardia, Lois Fusco, Cindy Solomita, Jeff Gentes, an anonymous donor, Cindy S., and Roger and Kathy Theriault

KIDS 4 KIDS



At 5:30 p.m. one evening in August, the doorbell rang. I opened the door to the smiling faces of two ten year old girls. As they stepped inside they handed me a beautifully decorated sealed envelope with the words KIDS 4 KIDS written on it. **Rose Wolfgang and Ania Christie** proceeded to tell me about the organization they had just formed with the mission of raising money to donate to organizations that help kids. With items donated by their parents and grandmother, their first fundraiser was a tag sale. They raised \$20 which they proudly donated to Carolyn's Place as their first recipient. I am not sure which overwhelmed me more; the fact that such young girls were giving of themselves to help other kids, or the smiles and enthusiasm that exuded from them as they told me the story of their ministry. We are grateful to these young entrepreneurs for selecting us as their "charity of choice," for kids, and we applaud them for spending their summer doing good deeds for others. Thank you so very much!



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



This spring, senior **Matthew Buonomo** selected Carolyn's Place for his Eagle Scout Project. Matthew, along with his scout leader and fellow scouts, built an awning over our front door. This is a much needed addition for the safety of our clients. It will prevent ice from building up on the front stoop in the winter and will keep visitors dry as they load and unload babies from their stroller before entering our Center.

Matt's group constructed an attractive wooden structure that complements our brick building, and painted the front trim. Matthew raised much of the money needed for this project with a massive can drive. We are sincerely grateful for this much needed addition and congratulate Matt on becoming an Eagle Scout.

On August third the missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe blessed our Center. During the twenty-four hour visit of this patron saint of the unborn, volunteers, community members, and some of our clients came to pray before the image. It was a special opportunity to ask our Blessed Mother to intercede for our needs. (Photo on right side.)

JOB POSTING

Education Coordinator for Pro-life Ministry

Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center, providing services in the Greater Waterbury Area, has a full time leadership opportunity.

This important position is responsible for education programs fostering respect-for-life, chastity, Theology of the Body, and awareness of Carolyn's Place services.

The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication skills, strong knowledge of Catholic teachings, have education & program development experience and a BA/BS degree in education, social or medical services is preferred. Experience in respect-life programs is desirable. Some evening & weekend availability required. Salary range: \$30,000 to \$40,000. Medical benefits available.

To be considered, please email your resume to staff@carolynsplace.net or mail your information to:

Attention - Board of Directors

Carolyn's Place

137 Grandview Avenue

Waterbury, CT 06708.

To learn more about Carolyn's Place visit our website at www.carolynsplace.net.

Our Lady of Guadalupe



Thank

Holy Family Women's Group

Many thanks to the **Women's Group from Holy Family Parish in Enfield** for the collection of many baby items for us to distribute to our moms in need.



TIME AND TALENTS

We are grateful to all those who share their talents with us by donating homemade items. The TLC makes them a very special gift for our babies. A few of these gifted donors are:

- **Knitters Plus**, a group of women from Florida, knit two dozen hats in all sizes and colors and mailed them to us. These will be used as we move into our fall season. Thanks!
- Thank you to the **Yankee Quilters in Seymour** who once again made pillow cases with whimsical fabric. These cases included such patterns as eagles, bunnies, cartoon characters, and geometric designs.
- We are grateful to **Pat Pavlik** for sharing her gifts with the wonderful handmade crib blanket and bumper set. They will brighten up a baby's room.
- Under the leadership of Nancy Maier, the **CCD class at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Waterbury** made warm fleece blankets. The fabric was bright and colorful with jungle animals, zoo animals and other fun prints. Thanks for sharing your talents.
- Twin sisters, Dottie and Mary from **D&M Crafts** donated nine beautiful hand sewn quilts. The prints varied from pastel colored rocking horses to brightly colored police and fireman cartoon scenes. Thank you so very much for these fun quilts.

GO ST. PAUL'S

This Spring, the **St. Paul High School Cheerleading Squad** collected toiletry items for our moms. Thank you to Liz Zasso for coordinating this event and to all the cheerleaders for their generous support. GO ST. PAUL'S!

The Young Professionals

Thank you so much to the **Young Professional group from the Waterbury Regional Chamber** for including us in their sock collection. Over a period of weeks, the members collected socks of all sizes and colors, and we were selected as the recipients of the baby socks. A total of 1,233 pairs were gathered and 162 pairs were presented to us by Young Professional representative, James Higgins. Thank you so very much for this very useful donation.



Rotary Club

Many thanks to **The Rotary Club of Watertown, CT Foundation** for selecting us for a \$500 donation. The funds were presented to our Director at a special luncheon held at the Grand Oak Villa. We are truly grateful.

BABY NEEDS

We are always in need of baby items to keep up with the needs of many moms in the community. We are unable to list everyone in our newsletter but we are truly grateful and extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who donates diapers, wipes, clothes and other baby items. A few such donors over the past few months are:

- ◇The parishioners at **St. Francis Xavier Parish in New Milford** for their collection of diapers and formula for us. Thanks!
- ◇**Bunker Hill Pharmacy in Waterbury** for providing us with a box of various sized diapers. Thank you very much!
- ◇**Schekana Church in Waterbury** collected diapers and wipes for the babies. Thank you!
- ◇**Kate Holihan** for the diapers, blankets and infant health care kit. Thanks!
- ◇Each month the **Waterbury Senior Center** collects for different area agencies. Thank you for selecting us and collecting many diapers, wipes, infant clothes and small toys. We are grateful for your generosity.

◇Earlier this year **Gianna and Luke Pasqualli** had their birthday parties. In place of gifts for themselves, they asked guests to bring baby items which they shared with us. Thank you so much for your unselfish giving and thoughtfulness for those in need. Photo includes Olivia, Luke, Gianna, Paul and Chiara.



◇It was so thoughtful of **Dan and Marie Perelli** to donate diapers and a Costco gift card.

Gems, Jewels, and Jeans

In late May, the **Women's Fellowship from North Congregational Church in Woodbury** held a baby shower for Carolyn's Place with the theme of Gems, Jewels and Jeans. The event was held in the beautiful home of Beverly Carlone and consisted of delicious food and fun fellowship. Our Director, Ellen, spoke to the group about our ministry and the women all brought an overwhelming amount of baby items for our moms. Thank you so much for this outpouring of support!

MUSTARD SEED GRANT

In June, we were honored to be a recipient of one of the **Sacred Heart Parish in Southbury** Mustard Seed Grants. Ellen, our Director, attended a Mass during which our \$1500 grant was presented. Following Mass each of the recipient ministries had a table in the foyer to share their mission and answer questions. Thank you so much to the Mustard Seed Foundation for the generous grant, and to Bernadette McGarry and Susan Ellis for submitting our name.

Sunshine Club

We are grateful to the **Sunshine Club at Middlebury Senior Housing** for the monetary donation they gave to us.

Strolling Along

Many thanks to **Bill and Pat Charamut** for the brand new stroller/car seat combination. It will be a big help to one of our moms and her baby.

BOOMERANGS BENEFIT BABIES

We are truly thankful for the many BBB events that were held to support our ministry. We rely on the success of these events for one fourth of our income.



*For the eighth year, under the direction of Deacon Roland Miller, **St. Francis Xavier, New Milford** sponsored a successful BBB. This year they raised an outstanding \$3,912.17. Thank you to their former pastor, Fr. Joseph Lorenzo, OFM, to the generous parishioners and especially to Deacon Miller and his wife, Mary for all their hard work and continued dedication for life.

*Once again, under the leadership of Wes Wensek, the parish of **St. Teresa in Woodbury** sponsored a Boomerang raising an extraordinary \$3,746.09. We are so thankful for your years of support with this successful fundraiser and thank the parishioners, Fr. Gregory, and Wes for a marvelous job. You are a blessing to our ministry.

*The small parishes of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Washington Depot** and **St. Patrick's in Roxbury** held another Baby Bottle Boomerang raising the fabulous amount of \$954.34. We extend our sincere thanks to the parishioners and to Deacon George Streib and his wife, Joan for coordinating this event.

*Our founding parish, **St. John the Evangelist in Watertown**, hosted a boomerang which raised an incredible \$4,801.36. We are thankful for the generosity of all those who participated, Fr. Anthony Smith for allowing us to hold the event, the Respect-Life ministry for assisting with the boomerang, and the parish money counters for all the time and effort they put into tallying the funds. We are sincerely grateful for your 25 years of faithful support.

*Spearheaded by Colleen D'Amico, employees from **Waterbury Hospital** held their fourth Baby Bottle Boomerang for us this summer. They collected an awesome \$1,712.56. Thank you to all those who gave such unselfish gifts and especially to Colleen for all the effort she spent coordinating this event.

***St. Anthony Parish in Prospect** collected the tremendous amount of \$1,429.37 in their recent BBB. Thank you to all those who participated, and a special thanks to the organizer, Lisa White, and the pastor, Fr. Mark Suslenko. We are truly grateful for your years of support.

*Our friends at **St. Joseph Parish in Bristol** continue to host Boomerangs for us. This time they raised a fantastic \$3,132.21. We are truly thankful to Tom Dwyer for coordinating the event and the many parishioners who participated, and to the former pastor, Fr. Joseph DiSciacca.

*For over a decade, **St. Ann Parish in Bristol** has supported us with a BBB. This year they benevolently raised \$1,050.89. We offer our gratitude to all of the parishioners, the coordinator, Maryann Brayne, and their former pastor, Fr. LeBlanc.

*For another year, Nancy Betkowski organized a Boomerang at **St. Michael Parish in Beacon Falls**. Due to the overwhelming generosity of the parishioners they raised an incredible \$1,879.82! Thank you so much for your years of support.

*Many thanks to the parishioners of **St. John of the Cross Parish in Middlebury** for their generous donations to the Boomerang they held this summer. They raised an outstanding \$3,044.21. Thanks so much to Heidi Shea for organizing the fundraiser and to their former pastor, Fr. Dennis Vincenzo, for allowing the BBB to take place.

*The combined parishes of **St. Maria Goretti and St. Pius Parish in Wolcott** (now St. Basil the Great) held a successful BBB which raised a fabulous \$2,975.43. Thank you to the generous parishioners, the coordinator, Holly Leone, and the pastor, Fr. Kevin Donovan.

*Recently, the **General Philip Sheridan Columbiettes of Waterbury** had a Baby Bottle Boomerang for us. They selflessly raised \$500. We are truly grateful for your generosity.

IF YOUR PARISH OR ORGANIZATION WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG:

- Purchase, or borrow from us, a sufficient number of baby bottles for your parish or organization.
- Distribute a baby bottle to anyone interested in participating.
- Ask them to fill the bottle with spare change.
- Have everyone return the filled bottle at the end of a specified time period. (Usually about 3 to 4 weeks.)
- Total the donations, and send one check to Carolyn's Place, Inc.
- Return borrowed bottles to Carolyn's Place, or save your purchased bottles and reuse for a future boomerang.

For more information contact our BBB coordinator

Wes Wensek • 203-266-4282 • wwensek@att.net

*Carolyn's Place, Inc.
Pregnancy Care Center*

137 Grandview Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708

24/7 Hotline: 203-597-9050
TEXT: 203-695-1252
Business Office: 203-597-9080



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A SILVER CELEBRATION!!

Carolyn's Place 25th Anniversary

Our Anniversary Annual Dinner is Sunday, November 5, 2017

Honoring

St. John the Evangelist Parish - Our Founding Parish

Rev. John P. Gatzak - Executive Director - Office of Radio and Television

General Manager - WJMJ-FM

M. Jane Teta, Dr. PH - Carolyn's Place Volunteer, Middlebury, CT

EMCEE: Al Terzi - Television Journalist and News Anchor

Your Invitation and RSVP are enclosed