

## A New Beginning for Two



by Joy Savulak

Keisha\* was a terrified nineteen-year-old with the weight of the world on her shoulders.

The drug store pregnancy test she bought came out positive. Instead of feeling elated, Keisha's heart sank. Could she do it again, she thought? Could she justify yet another abortion?

It wasn't the decision she wanted to make, but then again, she could see no other alternative. She was too young to care for a child, she reasoned. Her own mother would probably press her to have an abortion, just as she did the last time. She also lived in fear of the baby's father who threatened to hurt her if she didn't terminate the pregnancy.

Before Keisha had the opportunity to call Planned Parenthood, a friend suggested that she contact Carolyn's Place to learn about her options. Reluctantly, Keisha agreed.

Director Ellen Cavallo recalled greeting Keisha during her first visit.

"When she sat down, it was clear that she was a broken young woman," she said. "The pain of the many disappointments she had already experienced in her short life was written all over her face."

Keisha soon opened up to Ellen. She'd had a difficult childhood, she said, with no father and an emotionally unavailable mother who spent more time with her ever-revolving cadre of boyfriends than with her daughter. Keisha would cling to the men her mother brought into their lives in hopes that one of them would lavish her with the fatherly attention she craved. Inevitably, each of the men she called "daddy" left abruptly, leaving her hurt and feeling worthless.

As she grew older, Keisha sought solace in her own boyfriends, none of whom stayed around for very long themselves. But what had hurt her the most, she revealed, was her abortion just a year before. Her life and her self-worth, she explained, were shattered from that point onwards.

Ellen knew that in order to help Keisha make an informed decision about the baby she was carrying, she first needed to heal emotionally.

"I knew that if she went through the post-abortion healing process that she'd probably have a different view of the baby she was carrying. I told her that we'd start with the hole in her heart and then work our way up."

\* "Keisha" has given her permission for this article, but the name has been changed for confidentiality.

### *Mission Statement*

**"Love one another"**  
**(John 13:34)**

*Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center is a ministry committed to empowering individuals, through education, comfort, and assistance, to make life choices related to their sexuality and child-bearing consistent with the sanctity of human life.*

For several months, Ellen and Keisha met one-on-one to talk and cry together.

“Moms who are trying to heal often want to do some kind of token act for their baby,” said Ellen. “Keisha named her baby and wrote a beautiful letter asking for the baby’s forgiveness. Keisha loved the ocean so she put the letter in a pretty bottle and the two of us drove to the beach and tossed it in the water. It was a very emotional day, but it was a huge step for her.”

Another important step in the healing process, Ellen explained, was for Keisha to ask God and herself for forgiveness. Keisha, a baptized Catholic, has since returned to the church and considers the baby she lost to be her own special angel.

“God changed Keisha’s heart and her mind and she became determined to carry that baby to term and raise it on her own,” Ellen explained.

Today, Keisha has a bright future ahead of her. She is excitedly preparing for the birth of her child and plans on returning to college.

“God truly saved two people. Not only did He save the baby, but He brought Keisha back to a better self, too. She has become so strong ... strong enough to make a decision and stick with it, no matter what kind of outside influences are working against her.”

“She’s an incredibly courageous young woman and we are so proud of her!”

## **ANNUAL MEETING YOU ARE INVITED...**

Come learn about our ministry by joining us at our ANNUAL MEETING. This year our meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, at Our Lady of Lebanon Church, (8 E. Mountain Rd., Waterbury, CT). The evening will begin at 6PM, with a Mass in celebration of life. Following the Mass we will have our annual meeting in the hall. During this session the Carolyn’s Place Board of Directors and staff will update you on the year’s activities and statistics, our plans for the future as well as our financial status. We also look forward to answering your questions and hearing your comments.

*Please join us, and bring a friend. Dessert buffet.*

## **LOOKING AHEAD...**

*We are honored to announce that this year Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, the new Archbishop of Hartford, will be our guest speaker at the Annual Dinner. Mark your calendar for Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014.*

## ***From Ellen’s Desk***

As I write this, days are a bit longer and there are only 51 days until spring! I’m sure we are all looking forward to the end of winter. Sometimes the dark and cold of winter can erode our joy. Those of us who are pro- life can lose our focus and forget why we fight this battle. There are several ways to refocus.

The first and most obvious way is to admit to ourselves that we are not in control. God does not expect us to win this battle...He will win it. He asks only that each of us do what He has asked. For some of us it will be to fight on the political front, for some it will mean sidewalk counseling and for others it may mean meeting with abortion vulnerable clients and helping to change their hearts. It means working together, supporting and praying for one another. It means going deeper into prayer and asking God what we should do.

Another way is to use the media in a positive way. For instance, when we see a headline that reads, “Forty one years and pro-lifers haven’t succeeded”. We can read it, “forty one years and we’re STILL here”!! And what the media may not know is, we are never giving up until every life is protected from “womb to tomb”. How awesome is that?

So, look forward to spring, to more “light” and what God will do in our own lives and in the pro-life movement. We are a people of life and only good can come of that.

“You are God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

## From Nicole's Desk

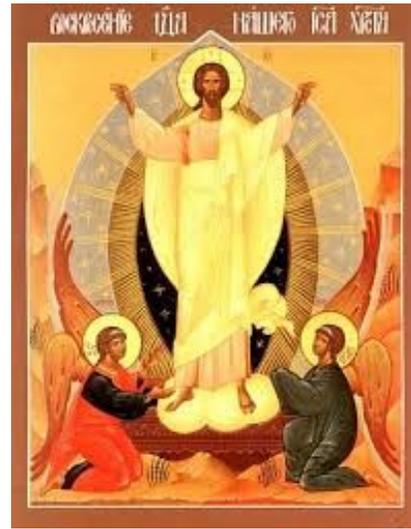
### My generation will end abortion.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, I participated in the 41<sup>st</sup> March for Life in Washington, DC. I joined an estimated 600,000 people, with some coming from as far as the U.S. Virgin Islands. Even more marchers were expected, but unfortunately, the wintry weather got in the way.

As I braved the cold, and walked with atheists, Jews, Protestants, and Catholics, I felt extremely confident in the future of the pro-life movement. Why? Because now more than ever, the majority of young people identify as being pro-life. In fact, "80 to 85 percent" of the March participants every year are 25 years old and younger.\* This is my generation - the future parents and leaders of the United States.

Aside from seeing the ultrasound images and other scientific evidence that proves a fetus is a human being, my generation is also painfully aware that the Abortion Holocaust, of which we are survivors, has stolen 1/3 of our potential friends and family members away from us. We are outraged by this, and it fuels our desire to create change. We will do so by raising our children to respect all life, and by entering politics, law, medicine, and journalism. We will spread truth, fight injustice, and protect the innocent. The Culture of Death will never have a hold on us, for we refuse to submit to its lies, nor believe its empty promises. My generation has truth, reason, science, and common sense on our side. And we will never stop fighting until we end abortion.

\*As stated by Jeanne Monahan, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, in a January 22<sup>nd</sup> interview with *The Christian Post*.



### AN EASTER PRAYER

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.

Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal.

Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,  
the will to want to do it,  
the courage to undertake it,  
the perseverance to continue to do it,  
and the strength to complete it.

### DID YOU KNOW?'



Amartya Sen, an economist and Nobel Prize winner, "estimated that as early as 1990, approximately 100 million women were demographically missing worldwide due to sex-selection abortion, female infanticide, and other such practices." Some current estimates now put that number at "200 million missing women and girls globally."

Source: [protectourgirls.com](http://protectourgirls.com)

### SPRING 2014 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](mailto:staff@carolynsplace.net)

**ITEMS NEEDED:** Digital camera, First class/Forever stamps, flowers for spring plantings, computer paper, NEW infant and toddler books to encourage reading.

**WISH LIST THANK YOU:** We are grateful to the following people for donating items from our Winter Wish List. Thank you for the stamps from Raymond (& Jessie) Donohoe, Mr. Robert Ratchford, and Ms. Florence Gaskill. Thank you for the copies of *What to Expect When You Are Expecting* books from Dayla & Dean Aita, and Pasquala & Deborah Pepe, Noreen Corsi, and the Wolcott Friends of the Library. Thanks to Donald and Kathy Arnauckas for the Home Depot gift card.

# Thank

## Countless Christmas Blessings

Our ministry is blessed with many individuals, parishes and organizations who donated to us abundantly, both financially and with "in kind" donations, over the Christmas Season. Since we do not take any state or federal funds or donations, we rely solely on the generosity of our supporters. This Christmas we were able to help dozens of moms and dads with gifts for their babies. Additionally, we were able to re-stock our shelves. Due to a shortage of space, we are unable to write an article about each donation, but we are sincerely grateful to everyone for each donation received- from the single handmade quilt by an elderly individual, to the truck loads and caravan of cars packed with countless baby items. We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted someone from this list, but please know that every item is appreciated. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR DONORS BELOW...

Alpha Delta Kappa Epsilon Chapter  
Bantam Quilters  
Beacon Falls Senior Center  
Blessed Sacrament Pre-K class, Waterbury  
IBM Employees, Southbury  
Newman Center at Post Univ., Waterbury  
Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine, Waterbury  
Shrine of St. Anne for Mothers, Waterbury  
Soroptimist of Greater Waterbury  
St. Ann Parish, Bristol  
St. Anthony Parish, Prospect  
St. Francis Xavier Parish, New Milford  
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Watertown  
St. Mary Parish, Naugatuck  
St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Oakville  
St. Matthew Parish, Forestville  
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Waterbury  
St. Stanislaus, Bristol  
St. Teresa Men's Club & Parish, Woodbury  
St. Thomas Becket Parish, Cheshire  
St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Naugatuck  
Tattoo Parlor, East Main St. - Waterbury  
Waterbury Masonic Temple  
YMCA, Waterbury

## SANTA'S ELVES

Nick Volkringer, Jim Duplese, Bob Razenberger, Frank Kovacs, and John Wolf from **St. Teresa Men's Club in Woodbury** delivered piles of diapers, a car seat, high chair, and other baby items donated from the Men's Club. The Club also collected funds from the entire parish to purchase seven new cribs for moms who complete our parenting program. We are sincerely grateful for the years of support and time that St. Teresa Men's Club has given in support of our ministry, and the special generosity of the entire parish for the donated cribs.



## BAGS AND BAGS OF GIFTS...

**St. Thomas Becket Parish in Cheshire** held an Advent Giving Tree for us which collected over 300 fabulous gifts for our moms, dads, and babies. Thank you so much to Sandra Hague for organizing this wonderful collection, to the CCD students and parishioners who sorted the items by size (which was a tremendous help to us), and to all those who donated to the Giving Tree.



## Sharing Their Time and Talents

◇ Many thanks to **Eleanor Sharp** for the beautiful handmade afghans and aprons she generously donated to us during the Christmas Season.

◇ We thank **Mrs. Barbara Hirschfield** from Southbury, for sharing her talents knitting baby cardigan sweaters and hats. Thank you so much for your generosity.

◇ We offer much thanks to the **Bantam Quilters** for sharing their creativity with us by donating amazing handmade quilts.

◇ Thank you to **Marie Savoyski and Annette Marcucio** for the pre-bagged gifts. Each contained a homemade blanket and a one piece outfit. We were able to give them to our moms for a Christmas gift for their babies.

## YMCA

This year, the **Greater Waterbury YMCA** chose to collect items for Carolyn's Place. Thank you to all those who donated, and especially to Tricia Brown for coordinating the Christmas collection. We received many baby items and toys to distribute to families in need.

## Books for Babies

We are grateful to the **Alpha Delta Kappa Epsilon Chapter** for the many baby items they donated at Christmas, and for their recent donation of baby and toddler books for us to distribute to our moms to promote reading to their children.

## Madison's Gift

We are thankful to eighth grader **Madison Burns**, who baked Christmas cookies and sold them, raising \$100 to donate to Carolyn's Place as her special gift to us. Thank you so much.

## DOUBLE SUPPORT

Mr. and Mrs. Sirois delivered diapers, quilts, toiletries and many other baby items collected from two small New Britain organizations. Thank you to **Catholic Financial Life Chapter N373, and St. Jean's Ladies Auxiliary** for your generosity.



# YOU

## *A League's Collection*

A special thank you to Pam Juliano for adopting a family and providing them with many gifts for them to have a wonderful Christmas. Thanks also for spearheading the gift card and cash collection from her **Watertown Golfers and Set Back League**. Thanks to all who donated.



### **An Annual Donation**

Once again, Marie DePalma and Lisa Parillo took a collection from **IBM employees and the Beacon Falls Senior Center** of blankets and baby items. The 30 blankets varied from quilts to afghans to fleece. They also brought many baby clothes. Thank you!

### **Dan's Donations**

We are truly grateful to **Mr. Dan Whitman** who contacted the headquarters of Subway and got us ten Subway gift cards to distribute to some of our moms in need. Dan also got his mechanic at Rich's Car Works, Inc. in Naugatuck to donate Dan's payment for his recent auto mechanic job to Carolyn's Place. Thank you Dan, Subway, and Rich Hertel.

### **Scouts Support Life**

**Middlebury Brownie Troop 64171** collected many baby items for us. They were each beautifully wrapped in colorful Christmas paper and delivered by their leader Rachel Pfeifer. Thank you all so very much!

Under the leadership of Mrs. Robin Sullivan, the **Watertown Girl Scout Troop 64636** collected Christmas stockings which they filled with baby items for us to share with our moms and babies as a special Christmas gift. Thanks so much!

### **SNOWY BOOMERANGS**

**St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Oakville** ended the 2013 year with another successful Boomerang. Spearheaded by Joan Gugliotti, the parish raised \$2,013.65. Thank you for your continued generosity!

This winter, the parish of **St. Maria Goretti in Wolcott**, held a Baby Bottle Boomerang for us. This small parish raised an amazing \$1,419.08 Thank you to the coordinator, Holly Leone, and the generous parishioners who continue to support our ministry!

Once again, Fr. Joseph Looney and the parishioners of **Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem**, held a Boomerang. Thanks to their faithful support, this tiny, rural parish donated \$1,258.39. Thank you so much!

## *Singing for Cribs*



"Away in a Manger, No crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus, lay down His sweet head."

Those words were sung by 14 year-old **Kaley Wagner**, to the parishioners at all 4 masses at **St. Francis Xavier Parish in New Milford**. When Deacon Roland Miller told the parish Life Teen group that Carolyn's Place was in need of cribs, Kaley took it to heart and went into action. Normally a quiet, shy teenager, she gathered up her courage and with the grace of God wrote a touching speech which she presented at all of the weekend masses, requesting that money be donated to be used for cribs to help our moms and dads in need, who complete our parenting program. Kaley reminded the listeners of the song's words which ask the Lord to... "Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care," and how this collection for cribs is an opportunity to help fulfill that prayer. This young teen raised enough money to purchase ten cribs and mattresses! We are sincerely grateful to all of the parishioners at St. Francis Xavier for their generous support, Deacon Miller for overseeing this very successful event, the Life Teen members for assisting with the mass collections, and most especially our heartfelt thanks goes out to Kaley Wagner for the awesome gift she is to Carolyn's Place !!



### **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 call our BBB coordinator

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

THANK YOU 2013 / 2014 Membership Drive (as of February 20, 2014)

<u>Cornerstone Circle</u>		<u>Patron</u>		<u>Guardian</u>		<u>Guardian</u>	
Mr. & Mrs. Michael	Basil Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. John	Fleckenstein	Anonymous	19	Ms. Henriette	Labrecque
Ms. Sandra	Hague	Ms. Joan	Gauthier	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas	Amodeo, Sr.	Mr. & Mrs. Frederick	Langhoff
Mr. & Mrs. Michael	Hoppes	Mr. & Mrs. Norman	Gelineau	Mr. & Mrs. Lee	Bailey	Mr. & Mrs. Richard	Lawlor
Mr. & Mrs. Michael	Moffatt	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel	Gibbons	Ms. Nancy	Betkoski	Mr. & Mrs. John	Lawson
Rev. Robert	Rousseau	Ms. Linda	Gilligan	Mr. & Mrs. Francis	Boilard	Mr. Samuel	Longo
Ms. Mary Jane	Teta	Mr. & Mrs. Philip	Gribbin	Ms. Evelyn	Boucher	Mr. & Mrs. Michael	Macioci
		Mr. & Mrs. Rodney	Hudson	Ms. Catherine	Boulay	Mr. & Mrs. Carmen	Marottolo
		Rev. Edward	Jaksina	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas	Brophy, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Steve	Mauro
		Ms. Margherita	Koneazny	Ms. Monique	Chicoine	Mr. & Mrs. Robert	McGarry
		Mr. & Mrs. Raymond	Kozlowski	Mr. & Mrs. Nicola	Corsi	Ms. Renee	McIntyre
		Mr. & Mrs. Richard	Kramer	Ms. Karen	Crisci	Ms. Patricia	McKinley
		Rev. Joseph	Looney	Dr. & Ms. John	Culotta	Ms. Mary	McMahon
		Mr. & Mrs. Mark	Malaspina	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony	D'Angelo	Mr. & Mrs. Victor	Mingrone
		Mr. & Mrs. Marcel	Massicotte	Mr. & Mrs. Allen	Desena	Mr. & Mrs. Martin	Morgado
		Mr. Ronald	May	Atty. & Mrs. Andre	Dorval	Mr. & Mrs. Robert	Muckle Sr.
		Ms. Margaret	Maynard	Ms. Kathy	Durgy-Concepcion	Mr. & Mrs. Brian	Murphy
		Frank Mirovsky &	Elizabeth Adler	Ms. Eileen	Durkin	Mr. & Mrs. Richard	Paoletto
		Mr. & Mrs. John	Moriarty, Jr.	Mr. Richard	Dutton	Mr. & Mrs. Pasquale	Pepe
		Ms. Laura	O'Brien	Mr. & Mrs. Patrick	Dwyer	Ms. Verna	Perreault
		Mayor Neil	O'Leary	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas	Dwyer	Mr. & Mrs. David	Poirier
		Mr. & Mrs. Vernon	Oliver	Mr. & Mrs. John	Ellis	Mr. Robert	Ratchford
		Mr. & Mrs. Raymond	Ouellette	Mr. & Mrs. Brian	Emerick	Ms. Jackie	Ritacco
		Mr. & Mrs. Ronald	Pearsall	Mr. Michael	Fappiano	Mr. & Mrs. John	Roberto
		Mr. & Mrs. Daniel	Picard	Ms. Marjorie	Farren	Mr. & Mrs. George	Roberts
		Mr. & Mrs. Louis	Pontillo, Jr.	Ms. Sandra	Ferraris	Ms. Mary Anne	Rockwell
		Mr. & Mrs. Douglas	Quaintance	Mr. Mark	Ferraro	Peter & Marie	Rook
		Mr. & Mrs. Luke	Rettler	Ms. Bernadette	Ferry	Ms. Linda	Rubino
		Mr. & Mrs. Bernhard	Roegele	Ms. Kathleen Shannon	Filan	Mr. & Mrs. Mark	Ryan
		Mr. & Mrs. John	Ryng	Mr. & Mrs. Jean Luc	Fortin	Ms. Lorraine	Sazama
		Ms. Bonnie	Schaff	Mr. & Mrs. Robert	Frazer	Ms. Judy	Schulze
		Mr. Steven	Shaker	Mr. & Mrs. Paul	Gagain	Mr. & Mrs. Vincent	Semeraro
		Ms. Geraldine	Slocum	Mr. & Mrs. Paul	Garber	Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Family	Shea
		Mr. Eric (Somma Tool Co, Inc.)	Somma	Mr. & Mrs. John	Goggin	Ms. Barbara	Shuckra
		Mr. & Mrs. George	Strobel	Mr. John	Golas	Mr. & Mrs. Murdo	Smith
		Mr. & Mrs. Dean	Tarsi	Ms. Kathleen	Grisgraber	Mr. & Mrs. Terry	Smith
		Mr. & Mrs. Plaridel	TeeKing	Mrs. Gisele	Guillette	Ms. Patricia	Sobocinski
		Ms. Joan	Tenedine	Mr. & Mrs. Douglas	Haddock	Carol & Valeri	Spatola
		Mr. & Mrs. John	Titely	Ms. Maryann	Kempa	Mr. & Mrs. Henry	Stefanczyk
		Deacon & Mrs. Michael	Walsh	Ms. Hazel	Kidulas	Ms. Adele	Strelchun
		Ms. Carol	Williams	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas	Kmetzo	Mr. & Mrs. Larry	Tiani
		St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church		Ms. Patricia	Kugeman	Mr. & Mrs. Frank	Trombetta
		St. Bridget's Church		Rev. Leonard	Kvedas		



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

137 Grandview Avenue  
Waterbury, CT 06708  
(203) 597-9050

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[www.carolynsplace.net](http://www.carolynsplace.net)

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



## *Join Us...*

### *Carolyn's Place Annual Meeting*

April 9th, 6 p.m. Held at Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wtby

More details: see page 2.

**We wish you a  
Blessed Easter Season**

