



# CAROLYN'S VOICE

A GIFT FOR YOU

**TO:** *Humankind*

**FROM:** *God*



God's gift to us at Christmas is The Family. He presented it to us over 2000 years ago. The gift was not wrapped in red and green designer wrapping paper, nor was it placed below a glittering balsam fir adorned with sparkling ornaments and peppermint candy. The gift was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed upon worn and scratchy hay beneath the roof of a tattered and weathered stable.

There was no jolly man with a white beard and red suit cruising in on a shiny sleigh led by eight heavily-antlered caribou to deliver the gift. God's gift was transported by a frightened young woman on a tired mule led by a poor, confused young man with sandals and a stick to fuel his journey. The simple dedication and selfless love of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are a model for all humanity.

During this Advent and Christmas season, take time to pray for *the family* – your own family, those whose families struggle, and those without families. Whether it is a prayer of thanksgiving, or a prayer of petition, pray for God's timeless gift to mankind.

"Love your family. Spend time, be kind & serve one another. Make no room for regrets. Tomorrow is not promised & today is short."

## *A Prayer for the Family*

Lord God, from You every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. Father, You are love and life. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, the fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of life and love. Grant that Your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families in the world. Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love. Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family. We ask this of You, Who is life, truth, and love with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## *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.*

# Honoring Carolyn's Legacy

Though the evening was chilly, the atmosphere was warm and welcoming at the Carolyn's Place Annual Dinner November 3rd. More than 270 supporters gathered at Waterbury's La Bella Vista, to celebrate the pregnancy care center's 21-year legacy. The event raised nearly \$20,000 to help Carolyn's Place empower individuals – through education, comfort and assistance – to make life choices related to their sexuality and child-bearing that are consistent with the sanctity of human life.

Guests were treated to soft jazz music, graciously provided by the talented Gomez & Sadlon, as they perused and bid on the 120 silent auction baskets generously donated by local businesses and friends of Carolyn's Place. Some of the most popular auction prizes included Yankee tickets, a two-day overnight stay in Boston, a flat screen television, and golfing packages.

A special thanks to our emcee, Bill Dunn, for his humorous and entertaining role throughout the evening. A former recipient of the Carolyn's Place Life Award himself, Bill is well-known locally for his weekly "A Matter of Laugh or Death" column in the Republican-American and is the author of "The Merry Catholic."



Fr. Robert Rousseau greeted the crowd by recounting the story of discovering baby Carolyn Marie, who was left in the foyer of St. John the Evangelist Church in Watertown. Fr. Rousseau lauded the mother's courage and thanked her for choosing life for her child who was confidentially adopted soon after. He later led the guests in singing "Happy Birthday" and presenting a cake in honor of Carolyn Marie's 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday this November.

The event paid tribute to four exceptional individuals for their pro-life advocacy and volunteer work. The Maureen Anne Donohoe Life Award was presented to William J. Pape, II, Editor and Publisher of the Republican-American newspaper, for his brave and long-standing commitment to sharing pro-life and life-affirming articles with the paper's readership.

The Carolyn's Place Ministry Award was presented to Father John M. Cooney who served as the pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Watertown from 1994 to 2012. Father Cooney is a devoted supporter of our ministry and is committed to praying for the protection of life. Throughout his tenure at St. John's, the beloved pastor provided generous monthly support from the parish as well as a monthly collection box for parishioners to contribute. Though retired, Father Cooney continues to actively participate in all of Carolyn's Place's projects and events.

The Walter J. Williams Service Award was presented to husband and wife duo, Monique and Jean Luc Fortin. Monique was inspired to volunteer with Carolyn's Place in 1997. Today, she oversees and sorts the thousands of personal needs items that are donated to Carolyn's Place each year and helps to process the many mailings that are distributed annually. After accompanying Monique to Carolyn's Place, Jean Luc noticed that parts of the building were in dire need of some TLC. He volunteered to help and has graciously repaired our fence, fixed a part of our garage roof, built shelving, and provided many other much needed repairs.



All of our honorees received special citations from the State of Connecticut, presented by Sen. Joan Hartley and Sen. Joe Markley. The honorees also received special citations from the City of Waterbury, presented by Mayor Neil O'Leary.

Carolyn's Place was also honored to have Rep. Selim Noujaim show his support by attending the dinner.

Fr. Robert Grant from St. Thomas Parish in Thomaston gave the blessing for our meal to begin the evening, and Rev. Jennifer Arnold, an intern with Carolyn's Place, and a pastor at the Waterbury Church of God concluded the dinner with a beautiful closing prayer.

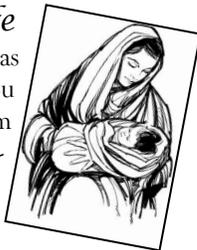


A special thank you to all of our volunteers and supporters who made this year's event a great success! We would especially like to thank all those who purchased an advertisement in our program booklet and our sponsors: GOLD- TD Bank; SILVER- Prospect Veterinary Hospital, Sullivan Brothers Remodeling and Main Street Financial Group, LLC; BRONZE- Waterbury Swiss Automatics, United Auto Sales and Services, Mrs. Maureen Williams in memory of Walter J. Williams, Prospect Boarding and Grooming, Dr. Michael Rokosky, J. Peck Construction Services, Inc., Thomaston Comfort Control, and Naugatuck Valley Memorial Funeral Home.



*This Christmas...Give a Gift for Life*

Give an alternative gift that saves lives. This Christmas send a donation in honor of that special someone you want to recognize, and Carolyn's Place will send them a beautiful, personalized Christmas card acknowledging your donation. A donation may be made in the enclosed envelope or by going online to our website at [www.carolynsplace.net](http://www.carolynsplace.net).



*Give a gift wrapped in love not in tissue paper.*

**CAROLYN'S PLACE NEEDS:**  
 Bookkeeper  
 About 3 hours a week  
 Knowledge of Quickbooks, Excel and payroll  
 Contact: Ginny (203) 597-9080

## SILENT AUCTION DONORS

The success of our Silent Auction was due to the hard work and support of many people. However it would not have been possible without the tireless leadership of Noreen Corsi, Kathy Arnauckas and Carla Torres. We are sincerely grateful for the countless hours and creativity of these women and the many other volunteers who selflessly gave so much of their time and talents. Thank you so much to the following people, businesses, and organizations who contributed items to our silent auction.

Adam Broderick	Gayle's Depot Square Farm Shoppe	Rita Lombardi
Adams Hometown Market	Ginnette Paradis	Robert & Jeannette Bianchi
Alexis Chacchia	Good Ideas	Rocco & Toni Calabrese
Amodeo's Highland Package Store	Helen Kramer	Rock Garden Café, Watertown
Anthony Ceste	Helga & Bernhard Roegele	Ron & Noreen Pearsall
Barbara & Brian Theriault	Heritage Hotel	Rozzi's Restaurant, Thomaston
Jane Sealey	Holy Cross High School	San Marino Restaurant
Baudinet Family & Friends	Hugh St. Leger	Sandra E. Bordes
Beachcombers	IGA Town Plot, Waterbury	Seven Angels Theatre
Beardsley Zoo	Jane Teta	Shubert Theatre
Bill Wildman Floor Covering	Janice Hunter	Somma Tools Company, Inc.
Carla Torres	Judy Knott	Sports Center
Carmen Anthony Steakhouse	Kathy Arnauckas	St. Thomas Becket Parish
Carolyn's Place Phone Consultants	Kidcity	Rep. Selim & Mrs. Linda Noujaim
Carolyn's Place Volunteers	LaBonne's Markets	Susan & John Charbonneau
Charlie Fenn's Haircutters	Laurel Klepacki	Sweet Pea's Florist
Charlie Longo	Mantz Auto	The Dapper Dog
Children's Museum of Southeastern CT	Mary Moynihan - Proclaim His Name	The Plaid Poppy
Children's Museum of W. Hartford	Marylou Peters	The Shore Line Trolley Museum
Christine & John Kasinskas	Mohegan Sun	The Somma Family
CoCo Key Water Resort Hotel	Neil Tremaglio	Theater Works
Country Club of Waterbury	New Britain Museum of Art	Triple Play Sports Bar & Grille
CT Trolley Museum	Nino's Restaurant	United Auto Sales Service, Inc.
Dan Whitman	Noreen Corsi	Viso Bello Day Spa & Massage Therapy
Danbury Railway	Oliver's Supermarket	Warner Theatre
Diane Countryman	Palace Theater	Watertown Golf Club
Diorio Restaurant	Pamela Peck & Family	Knights of Columbus Council 3594
Discovery Museum	Patrick Baker & Sons	Watertown Meat Center
Elizabeth Richard Gifts	Peter Cunningham	Wendy Gallagher
Ellen Cavallo & Friends	Phyllis & Dean Tarsi	Wes Wensek
Ellie Bambach	Quassy Amusement Park	Woodbury Pewter
Essex Steam Train & Riverboat	Raymond's Jewelers, Watertown	Wtby Health Dept. Nurturing & Positive Parenting
Fr. Robert Rousseau	Refresh Spa & Salon, Watertown	Yale Repertory Theatre



*Thanks So Much!*

## From Ellen's Desk

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, know that each one of you is kept close in prayer. And may you all experience Jesus in a very personal way. The following is a Christmas Prayer of Pope John XXIII:

"O sweet Child of Bethlehem,  
Grant that we may share with all our hearts  
in this profound mystery of Christmas.  
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace  
for which they sometimes seek so desperately  
and which you alone can give to them.  
Help them to know one another better,  
and to live as brothers and sisters,  
children of the same Father.  
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.  
Awaken in their hearts  
Love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.  
Join them together in your love.  
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen"



### **"Tweens Take Charge"**

The next eight week session begins on

**Tuesday, January 7, 2014.**

6 -7:20 PM

For more info or to sign up:

Please contact Nicole at (203) 695-3999 or

[nicole.carolynsplace@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.carolynsplace@gmail.com)

Offered in association with the Waterbury Police Activity League

## From Nicole's Desk

"Thanks again for a wonderful program. My daughter loved going there.... She loves everything she made there and the talks that she had with you and all the girls. Thanks so much again for working with my daughter." - Mother of a Tweens Take Charge participant

When most adults look back at their middle school years, very few yearn to repeat them. In fact, for most of us, our middle school experiences can be described as "awkward, confusing, lonely, uncertain," etc. Looking back at my own experiences, I struggled with my body image, was often anxious, worried, and unsure of myself, and had pictures of NSYNC in really embarrassing boy-band attire plastered all over my locker. Of the latter, I am not ashamed.

A lot of things have changed since the years that I was in middle school (2000-2003). One Direction is the new NSYNC, every kid has a cell phone, and nobody passes notes anymore. Gone are the days of emailing or instant messaging your friends on AIM, because now there is texting, and an ever-increasing number of social networking apps. The number of STDs among middle school students has also skyrocketed, the prevalence of cyber-bullying is higher than ever, and many middle school students are now referred to as "tweens."

The name speaks for itself: A "tween" is someone who is not a little child, but not quite a teenager. He or she is in that "in-between" phase of adolescence that can often be challenging, uncomfortable, and scary. Beginning September 16th, I took a dive into the world of the American "tween" girl. Every Monday evening for eight weeks, I met with 6th and 7th graders, and together, over snacks and crafts, we discussed themes such as choices and consequences, self-respect, cyberbullying, self-control, and the societal sexual exploitation of girls. They were challenged to recognize their dignity, set their standards high, and be leaders rather than followers.

*Tweens Take Charge* is not a magic wand, as it won't eliminate the challenges of growing up that each girl will face over the next few years. Unfortunately, they will probably encounter more difficult situations than you or I ever did. However, with this program behind them, the girls will have the necessary foundation to approach each challenge with confidence, grace, a genuine respect for themselves and those around them, and a greater understanding of right and wrong. That's half the battle right there.

# Thank

## *Senior Stitching*

The members of the **Watertown Senior Center Knitting and Crocheting Group** have been busy these past months making blankets and hats to keep our babies warm this winter. Because of your generosity in sharing your talents, we are able to provide a handmade item to each of our clients. Thank You!

## **A Special Offertory Collection**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the second grade CCD classes at **St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Naugatuck** had a special collection for Carolyn's Place. Under the leadership of Mrs. Joanne Dowling, the children brought baby items to Mass and during the offertory presented them on the altar as their gift to help moms in need with their babies. The youth brought many items such as baby food, bottles, diapers, wipes, and toys. We are very grateful for your generosity. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

## *Time & Talents*

Once again Phyllis Carpentieri shared her gift of needlework by making soft, warm blankets for our babies. We are grateful that Phyllis always thinks of our babies and shares her time and talents with us. Thanks so much!

## **THREE PARISHES UNITE**

The Ladies Guild from linked parishes of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Washington Depot** and **St. Patrick-Roxbury** in conjunction with the **Salem Covenant Church-Washington Depot**, took up a collection for Carolyn's Place. They held a pot luck dinner, at which they invited our director, Ellen Cavallo, to speak about our ministry. Everyone in attendance brought a gift for our babies. Everyone was extremely generous bringing a large number of diapers, clothes, wipes and infant toys. Thank you so much for your generosity!

## **A WIN-WIN PROJECT**

This October, following months of preparation including leaders' approvals, material research, blueprints of the plan, and fundraising, Gabe Pasqualucci, (Troop #162,



Southbury) beautified the back yard of our Center to earn his Eagle Scout Project. Since our parking is in the rear, the back is the entrance for many of our visitors. Gabe, along with several of his fellow scouts and parents, replaced the old Plexiglass garage windows with new double hung windows that match our Center. They also stripped and repainted the garage doors, patched the garage floor, ripped out years of overgrown shrubs and vines, planted daylilies, hydrangeas, boxwoods and many other plantings. The area



was trimmed with scalloped cinder blocks and covered with a delicate pink stone mulch. Gabe adorned the area with a cherub statue as a finishing touch. A small group came the first weekend to do some prep work and the following weekend

over a dozen people spent hours completing the project. We are sincerely grateful for the wonderful job accomplished by Gabe and his troop members, and congratulate him on becoming an Eagle Scout.

## **WINTER 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:** Printer paper, forever stamps, cribs (must meet current codes-no drop down sides), copies of the book WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING (by A. Eisenberg, H. Murkoff & S. Hathaway) to give to our clients

**WISH LIST THANK YOU:** We are sincerely grateful to: Dawn DeBiasi for the binders, paper clips and baby outfit, Phyllis and Dean Tarsi for the Staples gift card to purchase binders, and Carolyn McDonough for the many office supplies.

**SILENT AUCTION WISH LIST THANK YOU:** Thank you to those helping with items needed for our silent auction: Toni Calabrese for the maple syrup, Jane Sealey for the Barnes & Noble gift card, The Somma Family and Somma Tools for the Barnes & Noble gift card and the Babies R Us gift card.

# YOU

## Stitching with Love

Recently, Jane Brazee and her sister, Elizabeth Alessio, donated a dozen beautiful handmade baby blankets, hats, and booties for us to give as a special gift to our moms for their babies. The women began working on this selfless project early in the year. Each set was specially boxed with loving care and will provide a warm, snuggly gift for our babies. Thanks!

## Warm Donations

Students from the Newman Club at Post University gathered together and made us over a dozen fleece blankets. They are different sizes so will serve many purposes including liners for car seats, blankets for newborns, and blankets for older babies. They will be a great help for many different client needs. Thank you so much for finding the time in your busy college schedule to remember our moms and babies.

## Snuggle-Up

Thank you for the blankets that were donated from parishioners at the Shrine of St. Anne for Mothers. We are grateful for your generosity and know that they will be appreciated by our moms this winter to keep their babies warm.

## FIVE FABULOUS BASKETS

We are truly grateful to the parishioners at St. Thomas Becket Church in Cheshire, who created five fabulous theme baskets for our silent auction. Under the leadership of Ms. Sandra Hague, items were collected to fill a laundry basket of "All Things Chocolate." The parishioners also donated items to make an "Italian Dinner" basket, and an "Italian Dessert" basket, and a Pre-School basket. The Men's Club pooled their resources and made a high quality wine basket. We hope you enjoyed making the baskets as much as the auction winners of each basket enjoyed receiving them. Thank you so much for your generosity and creativity!

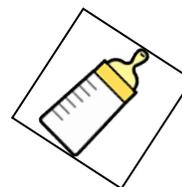


## "Mom Bags"

The Life Teen Group from St. Francis Xavier in New Milford, under the leadership of Ms. Sue Pullen, made special "Mom bags" for some of our clients. Each bag contained a warm throw blanket, lotion, chocolates, a silk flower, and a decorated photo frame. These gift bags were a special treat for our moms and greatly appreciated. Thank you very much!

## AUTUMN BOOMERANGS

This fall, the parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Waterbury hosted a Baby Bottle Boomerang. They raised \$1,443.97! We are grateful for your generosity and for Fr. Frederick Aniello holding the event and for the assistance from the coordinator Jane Teta. Thank you!



### 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

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

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

**NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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**VISIT US:**

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

Blog: [carolynsplaceblog.com](http://carolynsplaceblog.com)



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



*Carolyn's Place wishes you  
a blessed  
Christmas Season*

