



# CAROLYN'S VOICE

## The Miracle of Life... God's Special Gift to All of Us.

8 Weeks



16 Weeks



20 Weeks



24 Weeks



28 Weeks



32 Weeks



# LIFE IS A CELEBRATION

The celebration of the birth of a baby girl born 23 years ago took place on November 2, 2014 with 314 guests enjoying good food, great company and a wonderful evening. Carolyn's Place held our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner at La Bella Vista Pontelandolfo Club in Waterbury.

The primary focus of the evening was to celebrate life, but this signature event also raised approximately \$25,000 for use in supporting our mission of "empowering 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."

The soft jazz music generously provided by Gomez & Sadlon, entertained the guests during the cocktail hour while everyone mingled and viewed 125 fabulous items in the silent auction. Some of these donated items included two Yankee tickets donated by the Tremaglio family, a 39" flat screen TV donated by the Watertown Knights of Columbus Council 3594, and Sweet Silver Surprise (over \$100 in cash hidden amongst a large bowl full of Hershey Kisses) donated by the Charbonneau family.

We were delighted to have Republican-American columnist Bill Dunn (author of "A Matter of Laugh and Death") as our Master of Ceremonies again this year. It was our privilege to introduce The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Hartford, as our keynote speaker. Archbishop Blair gave an uplifting talk on respect for all life and the important role we play in this critical arena.



The celebration recognized several individuals for their exceptional advocacy for life. Mrs. Anne Marie Cullinan, the Chief Academic Officer of Waterbury Public Schools received the Maureen A. Donohoe Life Award in recognition of her implementing the "Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens Program." This program has enabled many students to give birth to their baby and still complete their education.



Sister Suzanne Gross, F.S.E. was presented with the Carolyn's Place Ministry Award which recognizes individuals with a religious vocation who exemplify extraordinary commitment to protection of the sanctity of human life. Sister spoke of her gratitude for her many years as the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Ministry coordinator.



The Walter J. Williams Service Award, which is given annually to those who have provided outstanding volunteer service to the Carolyn's Place ministry, was bestowed upon Wesley Wensek from Woodbury. Wesley has been the Baby Bottle Boomerang coordinator for seven years and has expanded the fundraiser so that it accounts for over 25% of our annual income.

The evening opened with Carolyn's Place Chairperson, M. Jane Teta, and founder Father Robert Rousseau, speaking about our ministry and recounting the story which led to the formation of Carolyn's Place, respectively. We were then led in a blessing of the meal by newly ordained Sub-Deacon Dean Tarsi from Our Lady of Lebanon Parish in Waterbury. The event closed with a prayer from Fr. Dennis Vincenzo, the pastor at St. John of the Cross in Middlebury.

In addition to being honored with the presence of Archbishop Blair, we also welcomed Mother General Shaun Vergauwen and Mother Rosemae Pender from the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. Also, State Senator Joe Markley showed his support by attending our dinner.



Many thanks to all those who joined us in our celebration, as well as those who were unable to attend but supported us with a donation, auction item or prayers. A very warm thanks to all those who volunteered countless hours to organize this successful event.





Photos courtesy of Allen Thibodeau and The Catholic Transcript



We greatly appreciate all of the generous advertisers in our program booklet and the following sponsors: **GOLD SPONSORS:** One Anonymous Business, Kennedy Wealth and Tax Management, TD Bank; **SILVER SPONSORS:** Law Offices of Paul Shea, Main Street Financial Group LLC, Sullivan Brothers Remodeling, United Auto Sales & Services; **BRONZE SPONSORS:** J. Peck Construction Services LLC, Knights of Columbus Isabella Council #15 - Southington, Maureen Williams - in memory of Walter J. Williams, Naugatuck Valley Memorial Funeral Home, Prospect Boarding and Grooming, Prospect Veterinary, Siefert Associates LLC, and Waterbury Swiss Automatics.



*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.*



**A CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

I ask the Lord, tiny and defenseless as he appears before us in the crib, to inspire in every heart tenderness and compassion:

Wipe away, Baby Jesus, the tears of children!  
Embrace the sick and the elderly!  
Move men to lay down their arms  
and to draw close in a universal embrace of peace!

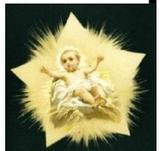
Invite the peoples, O merciful Jesus,  
to tear down the walls created  
by poverty and unemployment, by ignorance and indifference,  
by discrimination and intolerance.

It is you, O Divine Child of Bethlehem,  
who save us, freeing us from sin.

It is you who are the true and only Saviour,  
whom humanity often searches for with uncertainty.

God of peace, gift of peace for all of humanity,  
come to live in the heart of every individual and of every family.  
Be our peace and our joy! Amen!

Saint Pope John Paul II



## From Ellen's Desk

"Whatever you do for one of the least brothers of Mine, you did it for Me." Matthew 25:31-46

The Gospel on the Feast of Christ the King resonated with me. It made me think of Carolyn's Place and the work that we do.

I am always humbled and privileged when a young woman shares her story. In doing so, she tells me that she trusts me and is exposing her heart.

Often these stories speak of loss...homelessness, abandonment, fatherlessness, broken promises and often an unplanned pregnancy.

Then, with the assistance of the Divine Healer, we begin to mend that heart. Making a "life plan", we re-build her life, one step at a time. Medical referrals, child-birth and parenting classes, support and unconditional love are the steps to helping her see her dignity as a person. As her self-respect grows, she sees herself differently. And she also begins to see her child as a real gift!

The awesome thing about serving "the least of these", is that we are changed and transformed. We see with Christ's eyes and we see Him in everyone we meet.

As we go through Thanksgiving and into the Christmas season, may we see "all things new."



### *Our Lady Intercedes*

The missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe blessed our Center again this fall. It is a special opportunity for us to pray for the protection of the unborn and moms who are struggling with an unplanned pregnancy.

(Photo Nicole Macioci and Phyllis Tarsi)

### An End of the Year Thought

As the end of the year approaches, many consider offering donations to their favorite charities. If you are able, we ask you to please consider placing Carolyn's Place on your list. Your prayers, time and monetary contributions are vital to our efforts to provide the education, comfort and assistance to many young women in need. We are very grateful for your ongoing support and helping us make a difference for life! An envelope is enclosed for your convenience, or go to our website to give a donation online. All donations are fully tax deductible.

## From Nicole's Desk

Whenever I give a chastity presentation to teenagers, I display two pictures on the screen: a dog and a plastic water bottle. I then ask the students a series of questions, and by the time they have answered them, there is a general consensus that a dog is brought to the vet as a puppy to be neutered so that it will not mate. It is necessary to go to this extreme, because as an animal, the dog does not have self-control or free will. He will simply act on natural instinct. As for the water bottle, the teens know that any environmentally conscious person would drink from it and then recycle it.

Why is this a part of my chastity presentation? Well, let's start with the first picture. I think that it is important to show young people that, when it comes to sexuality, our secular culture views them as nothing more than animals. In school and in athletics, they are expected to be disciplined, practice self-control, and delay gratification (ex. go to practice instead of a party in order to win a championship). In terms of their sexuality, however, the culture sings a different tune: "They are going to do it anyway. Let's encourage abstinence, but be realistic, and also provide them with contraceptive options. They might not be able to control themselves." So, in a sense, teens are considered to be total human persons in some respects, but in the area of sexuality, they are not much greater than your neutered pet.

I use the second picture to demonstrate another important point: that is, if young people follow the advice of the culture, and start engaging in sexual activity as teenagers, or even young adults, the chances of them marrying the first person they sleep with is very slim. They will probably have other partners, and so, will essentially be recycling their own and other people's bodies and hearts. At the same time, their noble desires for true, sacrificial, and committed love will be difficult to satisfy, because this kind of love cannot be found in the ways of our secular culture.

Our teenagers need to know about real love and how to find it. They also need to know that they are irreplaceable, unrepeatable human persons, created in the image and likeness of God, with the ability to practice self-control and choose good over evil. They deserve nothing less.





### THE SUCCESS OF TWEENS

Thanks to the great success of our "Tweens Take Charge" program, in January we will begin our fourth year of offering this fun and innovative way for middle school-aged girls to learn about self-respect and responsibility; covering topics such as bullying, relationships, sexual

abstinence, dreams and goals, actions and consequences, and many more. These topics are discussed while the participants make crafts, play games, enjoy snacks, watch a video and/or have "girl talk" sessions. It is a wonderful opportunity, in conjunction with PAL, for girls ages 11-13 to still enjoy being young, while learning about and discussing some of the "tough pre-teen subjects" they are dealing with and those they will be facing as they enter high school. Some comments about our Tweens program are:

*"Can we keep coming longer than the 8 weeks?" - Alyssa*

*"Can I sign up for the next session?" - Ciara*

*"Thank you so much for the program...my daughter loved it and would love to return again next year." - Jackie*

*"My daughter loves this program. She learns new things and is able to share things and ask questions that maybe she normally would not ask." - Bria*

*"Elena really enjoys spending time with Nicole, because she shows so much interest in the children. I think that is why Elena has really taken to her and the subject matter in the program. Thank you so much for what you and the program have done." - Ana*

If you would like to learn more about this eight week program, or sign up for our next program which begins Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> please contact Nicole at 203 695-3999 or email at [nicole.carolynsplace@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.carolynsplace@gmail.com).

### OIL DRUM ART

This fall the Tweens in our program participated in a city wide program called "Oil Drum Art." Various organizations and groups throughout the Waterbury community were given an oil drum to decorate with a theme of something that was a "first" in Waterbury. Following some research, the Tweens chose that the Waterbury Clock Company produced the first Mickey Mouse watch. The girls had fun painting the oil drum with Mickey Mouse characters. In November there was a special presentation of all of the oil drums, and now they are placed throughout the city. This was an educational and fun way to provide historical awareness to Waterbury as well as to keep the city trash-free.



### Made by Mom With Love

This fall we were blessed to have Gail Ciarleglio provide crocheting lessons to some of our moms. Tiffany, one of the moms from our parenting class, took to the skill like a natural. In a few short weeks Tiffany crocheted a baby hat, an afghan and began a Christmas stocking. Tiffany gave birth to a beautiful baby girl in late October who now can use these special items made by her mom with love.



Girls from our Fall Tweens Take Charge Program.

### 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, Staples gift card

**HELP NEEDED:** An electrician for minor electrical problems, Help with weekly light housekeeping

**WISH LIST THANK YOU:** We are sincerely grateful to: Bridget Flannigan for the diapers, and Vicki and Michael Marino for the diapers.

**SILENT AUCTION WISH LIST THANK YOU:** Thank you to the many people who responded to our request for items for our silent auction.

# Thank

## Made with TLC

Once again we have been blessed with many people sharing their creative talents by making items for our moms and babies. We extend a warm thank you to the following creative people.

◇**Glenda LaPage and friends** donated four beautiful handmade quilts to keep our babies warm this winter.

◇**The Accounting Society of Post University in Waterbury** recently donated five handmade fleece blankets. These large blankets will be a great Christmas gift for some of our older babies, to keep them snuggled up.

◇**Knitters Plus** group mailed us all the way from Crystal River, Florida, beautiful handmade baby hats along with onesies for us to distribute to our babies.

◇Students from **the Rotella School in Waterbury Quilting Class** sewed two quilts and donated them to us. They were both beautifully made - one for a girl and one for a boy. They will be a nice Christmas gift for two of our babies.

◇**The Knitting and Crocheting Outreach of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Harwinton** used their talents to make baby blankets and hats and a beautiful prayer shawl.

◇**Betty Kastelein** knitted us two beautiful hat, booties and blanket sets. They will be a wonderful gift for two of our moms to keep their babies warm and snugly.

◇When **Barbara Lutkas** showed **Aurelia Woodbeck** an afghan that her mom had made but was unable to finish, Aurelia jumped right in and completed the beautiful afghan. This very special blanket was completed thanks to the love of three people. This special love will surely be passed on to one of our families.

◇**Pat Pavlik** from St. Francis Xavier Parish in New Milford visited our Center to learn more about our ministry. She brought elaborate handmade items including a hooded baby bunting. This was a skillfully made item that will keep one of our babies very warm and cozy this winter.

## Our Christmas Blessings

We are so grateful for all of the dedicated and faithful volunteers Carolyn's Place is blessed to call family. It is because of their help and love that our ministry has been able to continue saving lives for over 22 years.



### THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

Seen in this photo are some of the ladies who make up our Thursday Volunteer Group (left to right) Ellie Bambach, Noreen Corsi, Sandy Ferraris, Carla Torres, Kathy Arnauckas, Sue Nizzardo and Judy Knott.

## SILVER AWARD

Two members from **Girl Scout Troop 64067, Jillian Murray and Gabriella Gagas**, working on their Silver Award, held a bake sale outside a Middlebury store which raised \$333.85. These funds will be used for educational materials for our parenting program. In addition to this fabulous event, Gabriella and her mom joined us at the Annual Dinner and donated a lovely basket from Bed, Bath and Beyond for our silent auction. We are truly grateful for your support and wish you good luck with your Silver Award.



## PRAY IT FORWARD

**Cathy Winters** is a member of the **Watertown Congregational Church**. The church has a program entitled "Pray it Forward" in which one member is given \$50 to use for the purchase of items for a charity of their choice. Cathy participated in this program and chose Carolyn's Place to be the recipient. She used the funds to donate diapers to us. Thank you for your support.

### You are a Winner!!!

This year Stop & Shop celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by sponsoring a "100 Days of Giving" campaign. Carolyn's Place was honored to be one of the recipients of a \$1,000 gift from the company. We received a surprise visit from employees of Stop & Shop in early September with balloons, cake and a giant check symbolizing the \$1,000 check we would receive. We are grateful to have been selected as a worthy organization and thank Stop & Shop for their generous donation with a special thank you to Rick Trotta for submitting our name.



## OKTOBERFEST

This fall, the residents from **Chatfield Farms Community in Prospect** held an Oktoberfest. In addition to the event being enjoyed by all, this generous group of people collected items and money for Carolyn's Place.

They donated many baby items such as handmade blankets, hats, diapers and clothes, along with over \$770 in monetary donations. We also received a beautiful set of handmade crocheted rosary beads donated by Irene Vesely. Thank you so much for your outstanding support.



# YOU

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY LIA

Twelve year old **Lia White** shared her birthday celebration by asking everyone who attended her party to please bring a gift for Carolyn's Place. Lia brought us diapers, shampoo, onesies and other baby items. We are truly grateful for being part of this special birthday celebration! Thank you!

## Special Visitors



Members from the **St. Francis Xavier Women's Guild in New Milford** visited our Center this fall. They enjoyed touring and learning about our ministry while we enjoyed receiving the many diapers, clothes and other baby items they donated. We are sincerely grateful.

## A New Ladies Guild

The newly formed **St. John of the Cross Ladies Guild in Middlebury** invited our director, Ellen Cavallo, to speak at one of their first meetings. While Ellen shared stories about our ministry, the ladies shared many, many gifts of baby items for our babies, each having a card with a special note for our moms. Thank you so much for inviting us to be a part of your organization.

## The Little Flowers

The young girls who are members of **The Little Flowers from Sacred Heart Parish in Southbury** do something special each month in honor of a saint. Since October is respect life month, St. Gianna was selected because she is the patron saint of the unborn. In honor of St. Gianna, the group chose Carolyn's Place as the recipient of a special donation of baby items which they collected. Eight year old Ava Amara (shown in photo with her mom), also made us two fleece blankets. Thank you so much for your donation and sharing your talents with our babies.



## Neighborly Love

**Mary Spataro**, who lives up the block from Carolyn's Place, stops by regularly with a couple of bags of groceries. We distribute these items to some of our moms in need. Mary is a true example of someone who shares their blessings with the less fortunate. Thank you so much.

## AUTUMN BOOMERANGS

Many thanks to the parishioners of **St. Ann Parish in Bristol** who, under the leadership of Maryann Brayne, held another Boomerang for us. This year they generously raised \$1,267.37! We are sincerely grateful for your years of sponsoring a BBB for us.

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This fall **St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Oakville** sponsored a Boomerang which raised an amazing \$2,246.30! Thank you to Joan Gugliotti for coordinating the event and to all of the parishioners for their continued faithful support.

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For the second year, **St. Matthew Parish in Forestville** held a BBB. With the guidance of Marie McQueeney, they raised the outstanding amount of \$6,770.44! We are truly grateful for your awesome generosity.

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**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Oxford** held their first Boomerang which raised an impressive \$5,758.95! This was thanks to the leadership of Liza Mendez and the terrific generosity of the parishioners. Thank you so very much.

## 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

**VISIT US:**

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

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



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

*See one of God's special gifts on each page  
of this newsletter.*

