



# *Carolyn's Voice*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAROLYN'S PLACE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

## **We love them first. Then the door is open . . .**

Some ask about our ministry, “Why don’t you tell these girls to stop getting themselves in this situation? Can’t you just sit them down when they have that test and tell them to make the right choices?”

That would be easy wouldn’t it? We could set everyone straight—in a hurry. But it would not be effective, and it might not even be Biblical.

If we take a look at the Samaritan woman in John 4, we see Jesus approach her much differently. Instead of pointing to her shortcomings, Jesus first offered her living water, which only He could offer. She was amazed, and she wanted to hear more from this man.

Only then, after reaching out to her need, did Jesus ask her to call her husband. We know the story: she had no husband, though she had been a wife to five different men. She—like many we see—was in the midst of yet another dead-end relationship, this time living with a man outside of marriage.

Yet instead of condemning, Jesus actually complimented her for telling the truth about her failed past. What could have been a terribly humiliating moment turned into a life-changing encounter.

To see a powerful picture of what this ministry is about, John 4—this moment with the Samaritan woman—is a perfect snapshot. Our message is not one of condemnation, but is one of hope and joy as we offer living water.

We are not here to avoid the truth—Jesus certainly did not—but when presented in love, truth unlocks the door of freedom.

So when a woman comes to us, we are reminded that while her choices may have put her in a difficult situation, she is not the first. A woman went to a well in Samaria, suffering from a string of poor choices.

Jesus could have condemned, and He could have sent her on her way, teaching us all a lesson of “righteousness.” But without condemning, He offered her living water, a gift that brings life.

She chose life. And if we keep reading in John 4, we find that others followed her. At her darkest hour, Jesus showed up. And a life was changed forever. This is a story worth emulating and at Carolyn’s Place we seek to see this story come true again and again.



## From Meagan's Desk

The tight-knit team of three that work in the client services office have continued working on the goal of building quality relationships with those that come to Carolyn's Place seeking assistance. The support we offer takes on many different forms, as each individual has a story that brought her to our door. We acknowledge the variety of struggles our mothers face: lack of education and other barriers to employment, unstable housing, experiences of trauma and abuse, addictions, and many others, often including a combination of multiple factions. These situations can leave them hopeless, feeling that there is "no way out".

Recently, a mother texted our crisis line letting us know she had just given birth to her second child. As single mother with little outside support, she didn't know which way to turn. After many texts and a few visits, our team recognized signs of a victim of domestic violence. Since we had developed a relationship of trust with her, she disclosed to us that was indeed the case. As we moved quickly to get her in contact with local agencies that could help, we also provided a (literal) shoulder to cry on and a reminder that she and her children were loved and supported.

One Winter afternoon, a young lady knocked on the front door. While at her doctor across the street, she saw the sign outside for free parenting classes. She was pregnant with her first child and was excited, but very nervous. She inquired about the classes and happily showed us the pictures from her recent ultrasound. As we were explaining the Earn While You Learn program, we chatted about her background. During this conversation, she mentioned that she had dropped out of high school. It was a goal of hers to complete her secondary education, but she was new to Waterbury and didn't know how - but we did. A simple inquiry at the door resulted in this mother registering for both parenting classes at Carolyn's Place and classes to continue her academic journey. At her first EWYL class, she proudly showed the advocates her English essay with a large red "A" on the top of the paper.

Our goal is that every mother leaves Carolyn's Place knowing she was heard and not judged, believing in the dignity and worth of her life and that of her child, and is able to envision a grace-filled future for her family. With the blessings of Almighty God, and the generous prayers and support of you all; we are able to ensure each mother is given tools and loving support to make that vision her reality, each and every day.

### You're Invited to Join Us Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, March 20th**  
**Mass 6pm**  
**Meeting 7pm in Church Hall**

**Our Lady of Loreto Church**  
**12 Ardsley Road, Waterbury**

*OLLC is an accessible facility*

**Following a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Fr. Robert Rousseau, the board and staff of Carolyn's Place will present more detail on the successes and challenges of 2023 along with our plans for 2024 at this year's Annual Meeting on March 20th.**

A summary of our 2024 presentation and financial report for 2023 will be available on our website no later than April 1, 2024.

## Second Breath for Second Blessings

When a woman comes to Carolyn's Place pregnant with her first child, she is eligible to attend our Earn While You Learn program. However, there are many women with pregnancies other than their first child, who consider abortion or are in need of assistance. Based on our formation philosophy that "no woman should face pregnancy alone," we are here to help these women also, through our Second Blessings Program. This program was launched in the fall of 2019 with the use of a video based series. However, as the program has grown, so has our awareness to provide a more personal touch as well as a diversity of classes.

Second Blessings acknowledges the continued need for educating the parents and caregivers of infants, toddlers, and young children. The Second Blessings Program has also been structured to accommodate both expectant and postpartum mothers. Each week, a different topic area is presented by a volunteer or staff member seasoned in the subject, encompassing both parenting and life skill topics. The classes are non-sequential, thus allowing participants to begin attending at any point and select the presentations that are most beneficial for their needs. Those that attend six or more classes are eligible to receive a new crib, car seat and personal needs items for their newborn.

**You can help  
Carolyn's Place avail  
its services to more  
individuals by  
requesting brochures  
to display at your  
church, school, office  
or agency by calling  
203.597.9080**

As the pilot phase runs its course, participants have had the opportunity to learn about a different topic matter each week. During the first week, a certified car seat technician modeled the proper use of rear-facing, front-facing, and booster seats. This included an individualized installation and adjustment of existing seats. During the following week, an experienced mother discussed healthy ways to introduce a new infant to an existing household, while still making time for mom. In another session, a dietician spoke about nutrition for young mothers with the use of an interactive game. Another session covered personal finances including the basics of banking, budgeting, and credit.

Other options to choose from as the program develops, are a refresher class on labor & delivery from an experienced nurse, a discussion on postpartum mental health matters, learning how to integrate early literacy development, and discovering best practices for toilet training. Since Second Blessings operates on a rolling schedule, clients can begin participating in the program at any time and attend as many presentations as they desire.

*Carolyn's Place continues to seek presenters that are seasoned in related content areas, who would be willing to present for about one hour, for approximately four to six times over the course of a year. Please contact us if you feel so called to serve in this way.*

### **Educational Presentations for your Church or School**

The staff of Carolyn's Place would be delighted to give an age appropriate presentation on the dignity of human life for young children and for older youth, sexual abstinence, chastity, self respect, relationships, abortion and STD's.

Carolyn's Place also offers a general presentation on the role of pregnancy centers and the history of Carolyn's Place for all audiences.

Contact our business office at 203.597.9080 for more information.

# 2023- 2024 MEMBERSHIP

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*In honor of "Our Blessed Mother"*  
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The Annual Membership Drive, launched each July, is one of the major fundraisers for Carolyn's Place. This year, a goal of \$75,000 was set to sustain our mobile van ultrasound operation, add three part-time client consultants, including one bilingual role, and maintain an increased presence among internet advertising sources. **We are grateful to share that the membership drive raised over \$80,000!**

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 Mr. & Mrs. Sebastian Listro  
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 Mr. & Mrs. John Ruxton

**Total Members: 290**  
**New Members: 63**  
**Total: \$80,225**



## Welcome Aboard



Carolyn's Place is excited to welcome Sophia Del Rio Vicario to join the staff as a Client Consultant. As a native Spanish-Speaker, Sophia will assist to bring our services to a broader community.

Sophia holds a B.A. in Psychology and a M.Ed in Applied Behavior Analysis. As a wife and mother of two, she additionally works as a postpartum doula. Sophia's experience, commitment to faith, and bilingual skills will continue to add value to the services of Carolyn's Place.

## Christmas Collections

Thank you to all the following groups & churches for the bountiful personal needs collections received during the Advent and Christmas Seasons:

- St. Rose of Lima Columbiettes, Newtown
- St. Paul Parish, Kensington
- Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Plainville
- St. Bridget of Sweden Parish, Cheshire
- The Prospect Quilting Group, Prospect
- Holy Disciples Parish, Watertown / Oakville
- St. Basil the Great CCD Classes, Wolcott
- Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Southbury
- St. Stanislaus Church, Bristol
- New England Die Company, Waterbury
- Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury
- Naugatuck Valley Community College, Waterbury
- Knights of Columbus 13469, Prospect

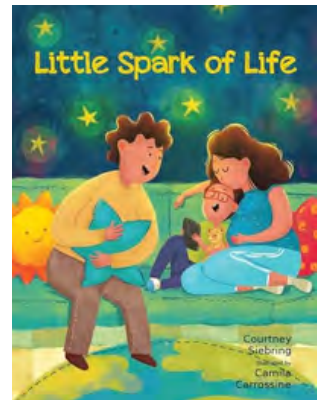
## Thank You For Your Service

Carolyn's Place is grateful for the time, sacrifice and dedication bestowed by the following individuals that are transitioning off the Board of Directors:  
**Diana O'Rourke, Joy Savulak, & Nick Laffin.**

## Book Suggestion:

**Little Spark of Life**  
by Courtney Siebring

It's never too soon to begin teaching children that every new baby comes from God. Readers will delight in this joyful rhyming narrative that tells about the miracle of a new baby and celebrates the fact that every child is a gift from the Lord. You can easily obtain a copy from Amazon or Kindle.



For more information on hosting a BBB at your church, school, workplace or group, visit our website or contact our office at 203.597.9080

No group is too small to support our mission!



Please support Carolyn's Place, along with your other favorite local charities this April during the Give Local Online Event.

# Spring Wish List

Diapers Sizes 5 & 6  
 Baby Wipes  
 Bottles Brushes  
 "Little Remedies" Nasal Saline Solution  
 Medical Spoons / Dispensers  
 Bulb Syringes  
 New Baby Bottles (All Sizes)  
 Baby Shampoo/Wash  
 New Carseats - All Designs  
 Adult Slippers & Travel Size Hygiene Products  
 New Baby Shoes Sizes 4, 5, & 6

Bottled Water  
 K-Cup Coffee Pods  
 Forever Stamps  
 Diaper Rash Cream  
 Medium Size Canvas Tote Bags

Gift Cards to Amazon, Home Depot, & Walmart

*Potted flowers for our grounds are welcome as the seasons transition*

## Connecticut March for Life

March 20, 2024

Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral | 10am

Rally at Capitol | 12pm

March through Bushnell Park | 1pm

Give witness to the sanctity of life by joining others in Hartford.

More Information: [www.marchforlife.org/connecticut](http://www.marchforlife.org/connecticut)



### Do you receive our emails?

Carolyn's Place periodically sends out email updates about our programs, engagement opportunities and events. Visit our website and sign up for our emails under the "about us" tab, so you will always be "in the know."



Federal regulations prohibit the distribution of used car seats. As our carseat program grows as a component of Second Blessings, we are anticipating the need for 75 carseats over the course of 2024. Basic, convertible carseats work best for our program.

*The personal needs room of Carolyn's Place exists to provide supplementary material aid to clients that are actively working with our staff as well as participants in our education programs. Our mission is to support decision making related to sexuality and childbearing through education, comfort, and assistance.*

**Our Facebook Accounts have recently changed. "Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center" is a newly developed page that will regularly advertise our services to potential clients while the existing page has now been renamed "Friends of Carolyn's Place." This will now be a page filled with CP news for donors, volunteers, and supporters-at-large. Our Instagram account will now be primarily client focused.**



### Contact Us

**24/7 Client Support & Pregnancy Help  
203.597.9050 (call/ text)**

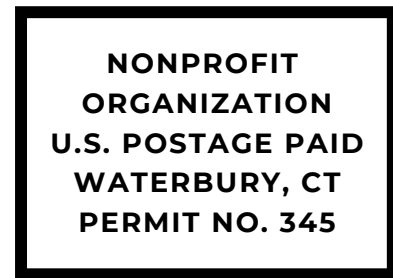
**Business Office  
203.597.9080 (call/text)  
staff@carolynsplace.net**



**Carolyn's Place**

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

137 GRANDVIEW AVENUE  
WATERBURY, CT 06708



CALL/TEXT

**24/7 SUPPORT LINE:** 203-597-9050

**BUSINESS OFFICE:** 203-597-9080

**VISIT US:**

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



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



# *Carolyn's Voice*



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAROLYN'S PLACE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

## Spring 2024

**Annual Meeting March 20th**

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**Second Breath for Second Blessings**

Article on Page 3

**2023 Members Acknowledged**

Listing on Pages 4 & 5

