



Carolyn's Voice

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAROLYN'S PLACE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

The Power of an Ultrasound

An ultrasound can be an incredibly inspiring means of helping a woman recognize the new life within her, and to choose life. About 80% of women that receive an ultrasound choose to continue forward with their pregnancy. It is important, however, that we not confuse the medical purpose of an ultrasound with the heartfelt intended outcome of this critical diagnostic tool.

Since 2016, Carolyn's Place has been able to offer ultrasounds to our clients through our ministry partners at the CT Mobile Ultrasound Van which comes to Waterbury twice each week. As Carolyn's Place continues to focus on empowering women to choose life, the ultrasound van program is presently at the center of our strategy to advertise, advocate, and assist. Over the past 24 months alone, we have seen a 100% increase in ultrasounds, a number that continues to rise as we increase our advertising efforts.

Ultrasound Prevents Unnecessary Procedure

Ariel's Story

Ariel*, a recent high school graduate, tested positive for pregnancy with an at-home test and quickly ordered an at-home abortion kit. Eagerly waiting for the package to come, she hesitantly scoured the internet for more help with an unplanned pregnancy. She contacted Carolyn's Place via text and agreed to come to the mobile ultrasound van. Upon taking a practitioner - administered test, it was determined she was in-fact not pregnant. This visit was an opportunity to discuss making the right lifestyle choices looking onward.

Ultrasound Saves Lives

Mabel's Story

Earlier this month, Mabel*, a Waterbury Native, found herself pregnant and was looking for an abortion pill regimen. She saw our online ad regarding a free, diagnostic ultrasound. Although our staff clarified we do not provide or refer for abortions, she agreed to come down to the mobile van for an ultrasound. Mabel left the van with an intention to abort, however, the following week, she informed the Carolyn's Place Staff that the ultrasound image impacted her decision to continue on with her pregnancy. She will be giving birth in March.

Each week, this powerful combination of advertising, relationship and readily available services help spare women from choosing abortion, and Carolyn's Place would like to serve more individuals just like Mabel, Ariel, or Iesha and Jose.

Since the beginning of 2024, the Board of Directors has been participating in a strategic planning process that has identified three major areas for growth. First is our client-focused marketing. As featured at the Annual Dinner, our ambitious 2025 goals include onboarding a marketing agency specializing in pregnancy center advertising to update our brand facets, develop a new client-focused website, introduce features such as banner ads & SEO content, and manage a Google Ads Campaign.

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*Names changed for privacy

The Power of an Ultrasound, Continued

Next is the interest in introducing medical services to include practitioner-administered pregnancy tests and limited diagnostic ultrasound testing. This is certainly no small task. It will require us to seek a medical doctor that would serve as the medical director for Carolyn's Place and to hire an individual licensed and trained to perform the limited obstetric ultrasounds. This winter, we will be hosting an information session for medical professionals who would like to learn more about this initiative. In prudent stewardship of this goal, Carolyn's Place has contracted a consultant for this project with the National Institute of Family & Life Advocates (NIFLA), a reputable organization that supports the legal and medical needs of Pregnancy Centers.

The final component to our strategic plan is to add more programming space. While Carolyn's Place has maximized the available space in our 1920's colonial house, we continue to face the challenge of providing areas in which clients can visit confidentially. Additionally, more parking space and a dedicated client receiving area have been identified as areas that specifically need to be addressed. For these reasons, the Board is considering several solutions which may involve moving our client services, including provisions for ultrasound testing, to a nearby location. The present location on Grandview Avenue would, in that case, be maintained for the business office, parenting classes, and the material aid room.

As we head into 2025 with our focus on pursuing these plans, which are currently in the developing stages, we at Carolyn's Place continue to ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we discern the steps needed to make this vision a reality.

Attention Medical Professionals

Are you a MD, DO, APRN, PA, RN, LPN, or RDMS?

If you have these letters after your name, your professional license permits you to help save lives through potential roles in our developing medical services program. Contact our Executive Director, John Lynch, to have your name put on our list for our medical provider information night.

John.Lynch@carolynsplace.org

Ultrasound Draws Couple to Get Help

Iesha and Jose's Story

Iesha* saw online that Carolyn's Place offers free ultrasounds, so she called to ask about them. After speaking with a client advocate for some time, Iesha confessed she had a positive pregnancy test and her partner was threatening to leave her if she did not have an abortion. She planned to take abortion pills that weekend. When Iesha and Jose* came to the ultrasound appointment, Jose stood against the door. As he watched, a persistent fluttering on the screen showed the baby's heartbeat. The stunned father stared and muttered "I didn't know there was a heartbeat". The couple made the choice for life and are registered for EWYL in 2025.



The Carolyn's Place Annual Meeting, an opportunity to learn more about this plan, is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 12

“Note the Power of a Baby to Change the Mood of a Room!”

Monsignor John J. Bevins



With the words above, Monsignor John J. Bevins, one of the three honorees, challenged the packed room at La Bella Vista on Sunday, November 3, 2024. Speaking to a record breaking number of attendees Monsignor noted, “They (the babies) are so close to God, calling the group to remember Jesus’ admonition, “Whatever you did for these least brothers of mine, that you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40).

And what is it that the attendees did? They came out in larger numbers to support the mission and activities of Carolyn’s place. They gave generously and raised over \$54,000. But they did more than that. They came together in solidarity with each other, with the Church, with Carolyn’s Place, and most importantly with unborn children and their parents, to pledge their continued support.

With soothing, smooth jazz in the background, people from all walks of life and professions gathered and grew deeper into a community to serve the least of God’s children. From simple attendance to monetary donations, to the silent auction, over 440 people rallied to support life from its conception. New connections and friendships were fostered as older associations and acquaintances were renewed.

Many thanks go out to Allison Demers, On-Air Host, and Community Access Director for The River 105.9, WHCN for being a tremendous emcee. Her introduction to the evening and her guidance through the event made for a pleasant experience for all. Father Rousseau, the founder of Carolyn’s Place stepped up to remind us of where we started 33 years ago as we wished Carolyn a happy birthday and Carolyn’s Place a happy 32nd anniversary. We must always remember who we are and why we are here!

During the dinner, three people were honored by Carolyn’s Place. The First was Trudy Higgins. Trudy has been involved in pro-life activities for many years, including involvement in Carolyn’s place, organizing her parish’s baby-bottle boomerang, attending the Archdiocesan Respect Life Mass, and arranging pro-life vigils during 40 Days for Life. One of the most touching moments in Trudy’s address came when she reflected on “meeting the three year-old boy who was born because she was there to help a young woman choose life.”

As noted earlier, Monsignor Bevins, who was recognized with the Ministry Award, spoke before us with a prophetic voice. He reminded us that “It is Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament who fuels our conviction. We must be people of prayer and worship to do the work we do. As citizens of this country we must also understand that Our Founding Fathers got it right! If we don’t have the right to life, we’ve got nothing. You can’t pursue happiness if you haven’t been born.” Monsignor said of his most significant role in pro-life, “I stand out of the way and let others do their job.”

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2024 Awardees, left to right, Bryan Mercier, Trudy Higgins, and Msgr. John Bevins

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- Dr. & Mrs. William Rozmajzl
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The Power of A Baby, Continued

The Maureen A. Donohoe Honoree, Bryan Mercier, President of Catholic Truth, marked a very clear distinction between Carolyn’s Place and Planned Parenthood. He noted, “we do the hands-on work. We are pro-baby and pro-mother. We stand in stark contrast to organizations like Planned Parenthood.” He referred them as takers, taking both money and babies. On the other hand, Mr. Mercier continued, “We give.” He then gave a list of the material support that Carolyn’s Place provides clients such as cribs, formula, diapers, and other material support. The truth is Carolyn’s Place gives even more. We give the truth, we provide hope, we offer education, we build hope and trust. We love...babies, mothers, and fathers.

To those who came to the Annual Dinner, who donated money or auction items, we are extremely grateful. To those who regularly support Carolyn’s Place we likewise owe a debt of gratitude. Because of people like you, we are able to serve hundreds of families. Because of you we thrive. Because of you we have very real plans for growth. Most importantly, because of you, women and men are choosing life.

In this season of Advent, when we prepare to welcome the Christ child, your love and concern are the lights on the wreath as we pray, “Come Lord Jesus. Come quickly and do not delay!”



Jane Teta & Ginny Baudinet have given a combined 35+ years of Board Director Service to Carolyn’s Place

Thank You

Outgoing Board Members

This Fall, four Board Directors have completed their period of service to Carolyn’s Place. We are most grateful for the time, energy, and commitment given from Carol Gruszka, Emile Drillon and long-time members Dr. M. Jane Teta and Virginia Baudinet. Their contributions have made an ever-lasting impact on Carolyn’s Place.

Position Open

Client Advocate
(English / Spanish Speaking)

Carolyn's Place has a part-time, with potential for full-time, Client Advocate position becoming available in our faith-based ministry. This role entails client advising & options counseling for those in unplanned pregnancies, providing client support referrals & communication follow up on potential client inquires. Fluency in Spanish required. Additionally, this position requires some on-call work.

Experienced social work or counseling background preferred. Please contact our Executive Director, John Lynch for more information.

John.Lynch@carolynsplace.org
203.597.9080

In Memoriam

We are grateful to those individuals that have made a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one

In Loving Memory:

- Mr. Donald Gilman Lavertue
- Mr. Raymond R. Aubertin
- Ms. Michelle Spinella
- Mrs. Lynn Marti
- Ms. Amelia Wesiberg
- Mrs. Wanda Tiernan
- Mr. Joseph Ulrich
- Mrs. Cheryl Cosciello
- Mr. Joseph S. Danielowski
- Ms. Judith Marion Sheil
- Ms. Marion Dowling
- Mr. Francis Fisher, Sr.
- Mrs. Joan O'Brien

In Honor:

- Mr. Bennett Galick
- Mrs. Nancy Whelan
- The Cole Family



Join Our Rosary Group
on Thursdays @ 11:30am

Join Our Men's Prayer Group
2nd Tuesday of each Month @ 7pm



Joan O'Brien, an active volunteer phone advocate at Carolyn's Place, passed away this past Fall. May she Rest In Peace.



Archbishop's Annual Appeal Supports Carolyn's Place



Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV, recently toured Carolyn's Place and presented a \$25,000 gift from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal - Vicariate Outreach Program

Compelling Collections

- Middlebury Congregational Church Youth Group, Middlebury
- St. Bridget of Sweden Parish and Knitters, Cheshire
- St. Paul Parish, Kensington
- Columbiettes from St. Rose of Lima, Newtown
- St. Matthew Parish, Forestville
- Our Lady of Mercy, Plainville
- Holy Disciples Parish, Watertown / Oakville
- Knights of Columbus, Council #3594, Watertown

Thank you for all you do for us!

2025 Membership Drive

The Annual Membership Drive, formerly beginning in July of each year, will now start late Winter for its respective year. In 2024, we did not conduct a membership drive in order to adjust for this timing. A 2025 Membership Drive Appeal will be mailed to existing members and new donors later this winter.

Envelopes for 2025 Membership Contributions are contained in this newsletter for those interested in making a gift to Carolyn's Place prior to year's end.

Any membership contributions received since July 2024, will be applied to the 2025 membership.

The 2025 Membership Drive will conclude in November 2025, and the names of all donors will be published in the Winter 2025 Newsletter.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

- Prince of Peace Parish**
Woodbury / Bethlehem \$3,654.69
- Our Lady of Mercy Parish**
Plainville \$613.00
- St. Anthony Parish**
Prospect \$2,374.17
- Ladies of St. Anne Society**
Waterbury, \$356.46
- St. Matthew Church**
Forestville \$5,415.21
- St. Maxmillian Kolbe Parish**
Thomaston / Terryville \$5,231.80
- St. Bridget of Sweden Parish**
Cheshire \$3,789.30
- St. Peter Claver Church**
West Hartford \$5,275.00
- Holy Disciples Parish**
Watertown / Oakville \$10,521.81
- St. Joseph Parish**
Bristol \$2,149.91
- St. Francis of Assisi Church**
Naugatuck \$2,440.95
- Our Lady Queen of the Apostles**
Derby \$727.51
- Church of the Assumption**
Ansonia \$1,222.40
- All Saints / Todos Los Santos**
Waterbury \$1,620.85
- APEX Education Solutions**
Wallingford \$124.33

Bottle Drives make great service projects for Lent or before the March for Life in January. Contact us to host a drive at your church, school, or place or work. Business Office: 203-597-9080

“Laser-Focused” Mission

The story is all too familiar at national pregnancy help conferences and training seminars. Directors, advocates, and board members alike consistently express that their pregnancy center, incorporated with a mission to help women choose life, has exclusively become a baby supply bank or thrift store.

The primary purpose of a pregnancy center is service, not stuff. Individuals hired and trained to work in a pregnancy center, such as Carolyn’s Place, are serving to empower a pregnant woman to make a life-affirming decision for their pregnancy. We focus on making ourselves readily available and provide a confidential & comfortable environment to look at options regarding a pregnancy. Our self-administered tests and ultrasound van, help her confirm she is indeed pregnant, which brings more certainty to the conversation. This call is what makes a pregnancy center different from other organizations that may focus on worthy works such as providing food, furniture, clothing or supplies.

As we hone in on our “laser-focused” mission to advocate for the unborn, we have not abandoned the call to help our clients obtain for the temporal needs they have. Carolyn’s Place operates two major “support services” that go hand-in-hand. Pregnant clients are strongly encouraged to attending our Earn While You Learn Program, which provides those completing the course with a generous starting allotment of equipment and supplies as they equip themselves with a solid set of parenting skills.

Items that appear on our wish list, baby shower lists, or as part of an Advent or Lenten Collection have been chosen because they serve a specific role in our program.

This approach, along with well-researched agency referrals made through our client advocates, allows us to allocate a majority of our resources towards our mission to help women choose life.



We are not presently accepting furniture, used baby equipment or used clothing

Winter Wish List

- Diapers Size Newborn, 1, 2, & 3
 - Baby Wipes
 - Baby Bathtubs
 - Baby Grooming Kits
 - Baby Bottles (3-pack)
 - Baby Thermometer & Care kits
 - Clothing: Newborn up to 3-6 months, neutral colors
 - Diaper Bags (backpack style)
 - SafeFit Changing Pad Kit XL
 - Crib Mattresses
- For Our Center:**
- Forever Stamps
 - Copy Paper
 - Gift Cards to Home Depot, Staples, and Amazon

PLEASE KEEP CAROLYN’S PLACE IN MIND WHEN PLANNING LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECTS





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



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May the Lord Bless Your Christmas This Year



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2025 Membership Opportunity Enclosed

