



Carolyn's Voice

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAROLYN'S PLACE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Spring Baby Showers Usher in Community Support

During the first half of 2025, four local groups generously donated material goods to our Carolyn's Place expectant mothers, their families, and their babies by hosting baby showers. The groups are: All Saints Home Improvement of Prospect, Christ Church of Quaker Farms, Midd/South Catholic of Middlebury/Southbury, and Post University's Newman Club of Waterbury.



Students from the Newman Club at Post University recently hosted a "Jack and Jill" baby shower to benefit clients of Carolyn's Place.

Business Manager Kim Halmose and 2024 Walter J. Williams Service Award honoree, Trudy Higgins, worked closely as Carolyn's Place representatives at the showers, speaking to attendees about our center's mission and goals. Shower gifts are ultimately provided to expectant mothers who complete the Earn While You Learn classes which focus on labor, delivery, and infant care or the Second Blessings online program for mothers that have previously given birth to one or more children. The classes take place during a mother's third trimester of pregnancy.



According to Trudy, "I have been very impressed by the generosity of those women who donate such lovely items such as high quality baby clothing, diapers, books, and car seats. I update them on the childbirth preparation and parenting classes, the pregnancy tests and ultrasounds performed, the number of women being served, and any new services being offered."

Left: The women's group at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Washington Depot, annually host a baby shower for Carolyn's Place.

While the showers traditionally have been all-women events, Post University's Newman Club gathering included both women and men. Newman Club Advisor, author and writing instructor Sean Crose said, "When Marya Poplawski DePerna first approached me with this idea, I knew right away she was onto something special. This was a way to spread Christ's message of love and support for others through real action. What's more, those who participated found it to be fun. Although Marya deserves the credit here, I was honored that she suggested this be a Newman Club event."

If you are a member of a group that would like to host a baby shower in the coming year, please contact Carolyn's Place to make an arrangement for a future date.

Easter, Spring and Mother's Day Collections

Thank you to the following groups & churches for the bountiful material aid collections received during this past Spring:

St. Thomas the Apostle, Oxford
 St. Basil the Great Parish, Wolcott
 St. Junipero Serra Parish, South Windsor
 Watertown United Methodist Church
 St. Anthony, Prospect
 All Saints Home Improvement, Prospect
 Holy Disciples Parish, Watertown / Oakville
 The Community Chapel Sisters, Oxford
 Midd-South Catholic Parish, L.I.F.T. Group, Southbury / Middlebury
 Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Waterbury

St. Matthew, Forestville
 St. Luke School, Southington
 St. Bridget of Sweden, Cheshire
 St. Francis de Sales, Bristol
 Christ Church, Quaker Farms
 Post University Newman Club, Wtby
 CJR - TOP Program, Waterbury

Get Involved with the Annual Dinner

Registration for the Annual Dinner, along with opportunities to sponsor, advertise, or contribute to the silent auction, will become available in August. **We will hold a kick-off meeting for returning or interested volunteers on Thursday August 7th at 6pm.**

Presenting Sponsor Opportunity

Carolyn's Place is seeking a Presenting Sponsor for this year's Annual Dinner which includes reserved parking, tickets for twelve, champagne for guests, an opportunity to give a toast, and numerous points of recognition through printed, displayed, online, and spoken means. Contact us at 203.597.9080 for details.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2025

Annual Dinner

November 2, 2025 | 3:30 PM

La Bella Vista

Reservations Open Late Summer 2025

Honorees:

Maureen A. Donohoe Life Award:
Bill O'Brien

Carolyn's Place Ministry Award:
Sr. Mary Richards, F.S.E.

Walter J. Williams Service Award:
Terri Moriello & Kathy Durgy-Concepcion

Study Finds Abortion Pill 22 Times More Dangerous than FDA Claims

According to a study released on April 28, 2025, by the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC), the abortion pill, mifepristone, is 22 times more dangerous than previously claimed in Food and Drug Administration (FDA) data.

In 2023, 63% of abortions in the US were medical rather than surgical abortions. That percentage has grown to 80%. The findings of the EPPC study, along with ease of access to and prevalence of medical abortions, are at odds with the claim that abortion advocates care about women's reproductive health.

The EPPC study reports that 10.93% of women experience sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging, or another serious medical event within 45 days of ingesting mifepristone. These results, come from the largest-known study of the abortion pill to date, analyzed data from an all-payer insurance claims database. Analysis considered 865,727 prescribed mifepristone abortions from 2017 to 2023.

An earlier study by the FDA and Danco Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company that markets mifepristone under the brand name Mifeprex, was based on 10 clinical trials comprised of 30,966 participants. That study noted only a 5.26% failure rate among participants.

First approved by the FDA for distribution in 2000, the abortion pill originally was subject to strict regulations. Only physicians could dispense the pills. Its use was limited to the first seven weeks of pregnancy and patients were required to submit to three separate doctor's appointments—the first including a medical exam to ascertain the patient's medical status, the second between the patient's taking mifepristone and misoprostol (the second drug in the abortion regimen), and the third two weeks after the abortion to assess the patient's post-abortion attempt status.

In 2016, the regulations were relaxed, expanding mifepristone's use up to ten weeks of pregnancy. A wider range of healthcare professionals was also allowed to dispense the medication. And the requirement for abortion providers to report complications other than death were removed.

By December of 2021, the FDA no longer required in-person dispensing of the abortion pill. Mifepristone could then be obtained via telemedicine and shipped nationwide.

The loosening of restrictions over time demonstrates an increased and powerful disregard for women's well-being and the assumption that the lives in their wombs are inherently disposable.

The EPPC study's authors, Jamie Bryan Hall and Ryan T. Anderson, conclude that, "[i]n light of this research, we urge the FDA to reinstate earlier, stronger patient safety protocols and reconsider its approval of mifepristone altogether. Women deserve better than the abortion pill."



Mifepristone, picture above, was first approved by the FDA as an abortifacient in 2000 and has been used, increasingly more, over the past 25 years.

Director's Column: An Update on the Ultrasound Office Expansion

Since our 2024 Strategic Planning Session one year ago, our efforts to expand our marketing, facilities, and services are well underway.

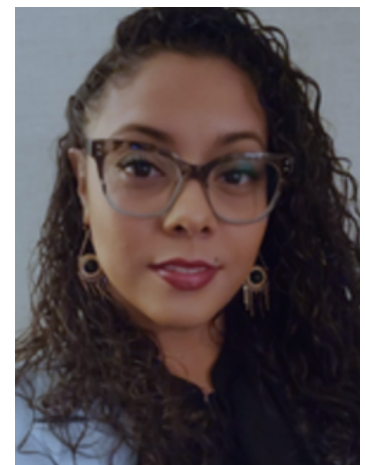
Our partners at Choose Life Marketing are in the final stages of developing a fresh brand for Carolyn's Place and a new sub-brand for our coming client service and ultrasound office. A brand is not merely a logo, but also a cohesive communication design including both the visual elements of fonts and the tonal elements of voice and writing style. It is becoming the norm in modern pregnancy centers to feature a brand specific to an abortion-vulnerable population that is separate from that of the supporter and "happy to carry" populations. The Carolyn's Place re-brand will make its appearance later this summer. Come Fall, we will announce the name chosen for the client intervention and medical service portion of our ministry with its own logo, website, and promotional materials.

Marketing is just one piece of our conversion to a medical-based pregnancy center model. Several weeks ago, we reached a milestone on our facilities expansion by signing a lease for a 1500 square foot office suite directly across the street from our present location. This site maintains our close proximity to two highways, a CT-Transit stop, and offers ample parking. The space still requires some TLC to become a home of ministry. Based on plans developed by Pustola & Associates that we shared in the Spring Newsletter, work will soon begin to convert the presently vacant office space to include a dedicated ultrasound testing suite and several private spaces for client-advocate conversation.

At the core of any ministry are the ministers themselves. Once operational, the pregnancy testing and diagnostic ultrasound services will function under the supervision and collaboration of Amanda Jones, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC. Amanda is a familiar face at Carolyn's Place, currently leading many of our EWYL classes. We will employ one or two qualified sonographers, highly trained to perform ultrasounds, and plan on including several nurses who will volunteer on some days to assist as a professional resources.

For clients, the essence of Carolyn's Place will remain the same. Women will continue to find us online, through a referral, or by word of mouth, initiating a relationship with one of our client advocates. Pregnancy tests will be performed by medical professionals and many clients will receive an ultrasound to confirm their pregnancy, just as we offer now on the visiting mobile van. Appointments then segue into a conversation about moving forward: strategies for telling parents or partners, parenting education opportunities, adoption, abortion risks, and community resources. Since each client's circumstances are unique, the appointment can expand to another decision conversation with a follow up appointment. Our staff assure that the client feels supported as she makes a plan to move ahead emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Several visits to Carolyn's Place are often necessary for the client to finalize her decision.

In a world where abortion is readily available and accessible, our marketing, facilities, and services expansions intend to increase the availability, accessibility, confidentiality, and longevity of our mission.



Amanda Jones, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC will serve the mission as the collaborating medical provider for pregnancy testing and limited diagnostic ultrasound services in the planned office.

Discerning A Commitment to the Mission

Is God calling you to intentionally give your time to the mission of Carolyn's Place? As we expand our office space and increase our service hours, we are seeking individuals to consider making a volunteer commitment with us. Skills and time commitments vary considerably and volunteers will be asked to participate in a discernment process, agree to a code of conduct, and complete a background check.

Registered Nurse - Serves the clients of Carolyn's Place primarily by conducting patient health intakes, administering pregnancy tests, and providing health education. Works under the medical supervision of our collaborating medical provider. **Commitment:** 3x per month on a weekday. Begins late Fall 2025.

Housekeeping - Provides a positive client experience by assisting in the interior upkeep of our waiting areas, offices, and restrooms. Tasks include vacuuming, trash removal, mopping, and cleaning of bathroom fixtures. **Commitment:** 1-2x per month. Begins late Summer 2025.

Prayer Ministry Coordinator - Coordinates prayer intentions from staff, clients, and supporters of Carolyn's Place to the two prayer groups as well as those on our prayer chain email. **Commitment:** Attends at least one in-person prayer group, monthly. 1-3 hours per month. Begins Summer 2025.

Hospitality Minister - Cares for clients and guests through serving on a rotation to provide baked goods for the Tuesday Classes. May optionally share in preparing a home-cooked meal on select Tuesdays for evening classes. **Commitment:** 1x per month. Begins Summer 2025

Courier - Transports material aid collections from sponsoring organizations to Carolyn's Place, as well as other destinations. **Commitment:** 1-2x per month, mainly Spring and Fall.

Bulk Material Organizer - Physically manages bulk supply of diapers, wipes, car seats, and bedding while providing moving assistance on "graduation day," which occurs every eight weeks. **Commitment:** 1-2x per month.

Ambassador - Spreads the word about our mission by promoting Carolyn's Place at local medical offices, churches, schools, or social service centers. **Commitment:** 2-3x per month. Begins Late Fall 2025.

Newsletter Club - Meets four times per year to prepare the mailing of Carolyn's Voice for 4,200 recipients while sharing in fellowship around the mission of Carolyn's Place. **Commitment:** One weekday quarterly.

Advisory Committee Roles: Fundraising, Human Resources, Medical Advisory & Public Relations. Experience required. Please contact John Lynch to discuss further.

Please contact our business office at 203.597.9080 or Kim.Halmose@Carolynsplace.org to arrange a time to talk about serving the mission.

RDMS Position Available

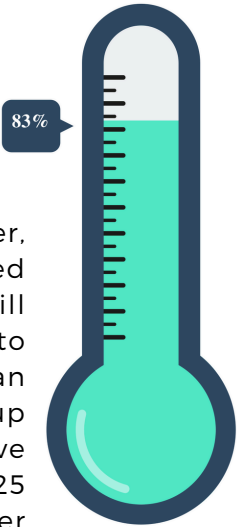
Carolyn's Place is seeking a part-time Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) to serve in the new client service & ultrasound office, opening in Fall 2025. The primary duties entail performing diagnostic ultrasounds to confirm an intrauterine pregnancy, within the context of our life-affirming support ministry, under the collaborating medical provider.

Visit our website or contact the business office for more information.



Fighting the Current

Membership Goal:
450 Members



2025 Membership Drive Progress

Since the “soft start” back in December, the 2025 Membership Drive has surpassed our \$85,000 goal by \$1,800. We are still striving for 75 more households to become members by the Fall. You can visit our website or wait for the follow-up mail in July. The 2025 Membership Drive will wrap up in several months, and 2025 Members will be recognized in the Winter Newsletter.

The fiscal resources needed to operate our planned medical center model are estimated to be about \$65,000 more annually than our current expenses. We have full trust that the Lord will provide the means for the work he has called us to do. In lieu of a specific project campaign, we ask supporters to continue to support our annual fundraisers such as Baby Bottle Boomerang, Annual Dinner, or Membership, as able.

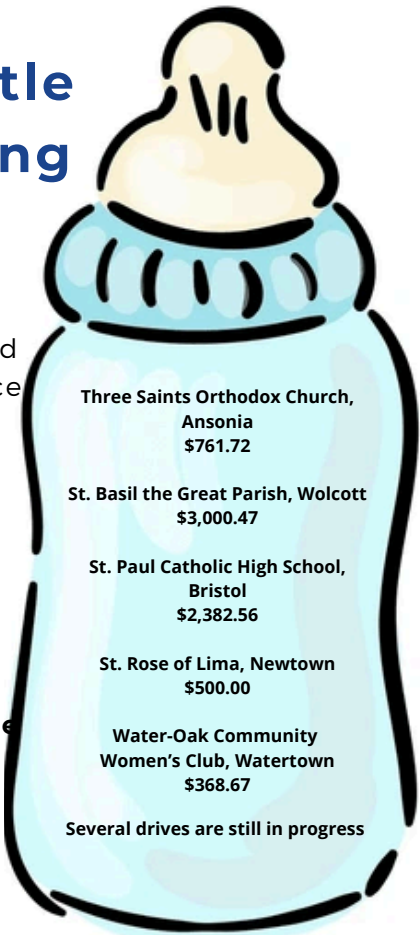
Baby Bottle
Boomerang

A Little Change,
Changes Lives...

You can help raise funds and awareness for Carolyn’s Place at your church, school, or place of work. We provide the bottles, bins, and signage.

Fall is the most popular
time to run a drive!

Contact our business office
today at 203.597.9080



Our Mission At Work

Year-to-date, 24 pregnant women have changed their initial abortion intention after an appointment at Carolyn’s Place. Additionally, 25 individuals have graduated an education program and 71 diagnostic ultrasounds have been performed.

In Memoriam - Spring 2025

We are grateful to the following families for requesting memorial donations to be made to Carolyn’s Place following the passing of a loved one:

- Mr. Robert S. Muckle, Sr.
- Mr. John K. Knott, Jr.
- Mr. Raymond Holland
- Mr. Frank C. Cesare
- Mrs. Anne Vaichus

Spring Grants Received

Carolyn’s Place is grateful to have received a \$15,000 grant from the David, Helen, and Marian Woodward Fund for the addition of a dedicated pregnancy testing bathroom in our new client service & ultrasound office.

On Pentecost Sunday, Carolyn’s Place was presented with a \$2,200 grant from the Mid-South Catholic Parish Mustard Seed Fund to purchase an exam table for this planned expansion.

David, Helen & Marian
Woodward Fund



Needs Room Well Supplied

The Lent, Easter, and Mother's Day Collections were abundant. Our closets are stocked with diapers of needed sizes, and shelves filled with new summer clothing. We are grateful to have a large enough supply of items needed to support our programs into the Fall.



Center Volunteers Phyllis White, Shirley Tooth, and Sabina Lavallee are pictured with Business Mgr. Kim Halmose as the last of the Spring Donations were sorted and stored.

What's Needed for a Client Visit?

Our wish list and website continue to display materials needed to conduct our life-affirming pregnancy decision visits as well as material support to our graduates. Clients visiting our office are likely having a pregnancy test and/or ultrasound conducted, meaning they will be asked to start drinking water upon arrival. In an attempt to make a soft environment, we make comfort snacks available in one of several meeting areas where a scented candle or fresh flowers ease the environment and tissues stay within reach. Visits conclude with a plan for next steps: printing out pages of referrals or care instructions. Clients take home a copy of the book *What to Expect While You're Expecting* upon departure.

In between visits, our team assure the meeting and bathroom areas remain clean and welcoming. Utility items on our wish list such as bottled water, Kleenex, or bathroom cleaner play a direct role in our mission to empower women to choose life for their unborn child.

Do you receive our emails?

Carolyn's Place periodically sends out email updates about its 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."

Recent Google Reviews

"I felt as if I was surrounded by angels who reassured me and treated me with kindness. 🥰🙌🙌🙌" - Shouha S.



"I had a very pleasant experience with Megan, who was warm and welcoming. She was able to see me within an hour of me calling and provided me with the resources that suited my needs.

There is parking in the back in case there is any confusion on the street" - Marsha L.

"Best 6 weeks for new parents me and my wife enjoyed the classes and the atmosphere of the classes are out of this world I wish we could come back weekly throughout our journey. Amanda, Jenny [Genevieve] and Megan makes it feel like home" - Korinthains W.

WISH LIST

New Car Seats - All Designs
 Baby Grooming Kits
 Baby Bath Tubs
 K-Kup Coffee / Decaf
 Rolls of Stamps
 Copy Paper
 Bottled Water
 Ginger Ale
 Toilet Paper
 Kleenex Tissues
 Surface & Bathroom Cleaners
 Packaged Snacks / Chocolates
 Book: *What to Expect While You're Expecting*

Gift Cards:
 Amazon & Home Depot



Carolyn's Place

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

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WATERBURY, CT 06708

CALL/TEXT

PREGNANCY SUPPORT LINE: 203-597-9050

BUSINESS OFFICE: 203-597-9080

VISIT US:

www.carolynsplace.org

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Summer 2025

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