

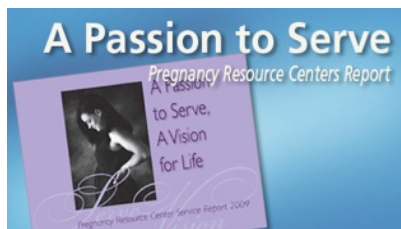


For additional comments from
Dr. Peggy Hartshorn
Contact: Virginia Cline
614-885-7577 ext 112
Fax Number: 614-885-8746
VCline@heartbeatinternational.org

Historic In-depth Pregnancy Resource Report Spotlights Contributions of Heartbeat Affiliates

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Heartbeat International is proud to partner with Family Research Council and other life-affirming pregnancy center networks in the release of the groundbreaking joint services report, *A Passion to Serve, A Vision for Life*.



“This report shines a light on the positive contributions of pregnancy centers, maternity homes, adoption agencies, and pregnancy help medical clinics,” said Heartbeat International President Peggy Hartshorn, Ph.D. “These faith-based community organizations, 40,000 volunteers strong, brighten a woman’s future with the support she needs to bring new life into the world. This is one of the greatest volunteer service movements in the history of our country.”

“We are pleased that this report spotlights ten Heartbeat International affiliates through stories that demonstrate sacrificial acts of love and service. These frontline lifesavers are strengthening their communities one heart at a time,” said Hartshorn.

This combined service report, available at [Passion to Serve](#), traces the history of concern and care for pregnant women and reports on the positive impact of the pregnancy center movement in this country. It presents in detail, through statistical summaries, case studies and client stories, the extraordinary social service contributions made by pregnancy resource centers, detailing how centers are meeting the needs of women, youth and families.

Executive Director of one of the spotlighted Heartbeat affiliates, Vivian Koob said, “The clients served by Elizabeth’s New Life Center are overwhelmingly young, unmarried, impoverished, under educated, and minority. These young women seek out Elizabeth’s New Life Center because they are scared, confused and without a positive support system. They may need emotional support, medical information, spiritual direction, educational classes, material assistance, prenatal care, and mentoring and Elizabeth’s New Life Center offers all of these at no cost to the client.”

A former client whose poignant story in the report showcases one of Heartbeat’s Oklahoma affiliates, Kendra Howerton said, “If it weren’t for Stillwater Life Services, I honestly do not know where I would be today. The staff, board, and volunteers at this pregnancy center invested a great deal into my and my family’s lives. The results of their investments are priceless.”

The report also includes endorsements from public figures such as U.S. Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) who said: “The success rates and national expansion of these pregnancy care centers are a testament to their invaluable work in the lives of communities and individuals over the years. These networks provide services that are often unavailable elsewhere to expectant mothers.”

“If Congress does not explicitly exclude abortion from the health care reform legislation, more women will be pressured to abort their babies,” said Hartshorn. “The pregnancy resource movement is dedicated to empowering women with life-affirming alternatives so abortion is unwanted now and unthinkable for future generations.”

Heartbeat affiliates provide all the facts on abortion – from post-traumatic stress disorder to possible medical complications – that abortion providers often leave out. Pregnancy centers set the standard for true reproductive healthcare for women.