Babies and Pregnancy Centers Make Cover of TIME Magazine
By Peggy Hartshorn, President

After nearly 40 years, pregnancy centers are being noticed by mainstream media. The first centers were founded in the late 1960’s, but we have been a well-kept secret. With TIME’s February 26 story on centers, and fetal models on the cover, it seems we have been discovered!

The story zeroes in on Asheville, NC, Pregnancy Support Services, its abortionist Lorrie (who refuses to give her last name), and a Presbyterian pastor who meets with Lorrie and others to find “common ground.” It concludes that abortion is not a simple decision and that situations facing individual women are very complex – ideas we agree with. But there is still a danger in articles like this one that have a “feel good” effect.

Before I comment on the negative, let me highlight some of the article’s positive aspects. Deborah Wood, CEO of the Asheville center, did a marvelous job in the interview and is described as we would want to be: “kind, calm, non-judgmental, a special-forces soldier in the abortion wars who is fighting her battles one conscience at a time.” The article also makes clear that the center is not a “fake clinic.” It has medical personnel and physicians.

TIME mentions Heartbeat International, Care Net, NIFLA and Focus on the Family’s Option Ultrasound™ Program, and it publishes the Option Line® number, 1-800-395-HELP -- for 4 million readers! It has maps indicating the distribution of centers, comparing our numbers (about 2,300) to the small number of abortion clinics. This is great!

But we can not bask in the glory and forget that the story can be read to reinforce unflattering stereotypes:

- not all centers use the most accurate or up-to-date information on abortion’s effects (it states “information and ideology conjoin”);
- some consider center activities (such as giving baby booties to women with positive pregnancy tests) “manipulation”;
- some centers answer phones in such a way that women drive hours to get there for abortions only to be shown pictures of aborted babies.

Even the pro-life pastor, Rev. Hutchinson, is quoted as confessing, “I never would have said that the ends justify the means . . . but I know that it was in my heart – if lying helps save a baby’s life, that glorifies God.” He now has changed, due to efforts to find “common ground” with the abortionist and others, and he concludes, “This whole process has reminded me that Jesus is not a Machiavellian. It really helps me trust the sovereignty of God. He is in control of who lives and dies. My effort is to serve folks, and the means I use matter.”

I would agree 100%, but this all reinforces the impression that (See Page 4.)

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Clinic Beat - Is 3D/4D Ultrasound Necessary?
By Chris Holmberg, RN – Heartbeat Medical Specialist

For years, pregnancy resource centers have used traditional 2-D ultrasound to diagnose viable uterine pregnancies. Additionally, centers have found ultrasound technology helpful in opening the hearts of abortion-minded/vulnerable clients to embrace and recognize the reality: “that’s my baby.” Recently, 3-D/4-D ultrasound, often described as a “window into the womb,” has gained attention on the world medical stage. And, now many are asking if the technology is appropriate to use in a pregnancy center environment. Does its use fall within the parameters of limited ultrasound medical indication for documenting fetal viability and gestational age? Is it too expensive? Remembering that the medical director at your center is key in making this decision, the following gives you some basic information on the use of 3-D/4-D ultrasound in pregnancy centers.

For best results babies should be at least 9-weeks gestation before performing 3-D/4-D ultrasounds. Pregnancy center directors whose medical personnel use 3-D/4-D ultrasound find that the movement of babies 12- to 15-weeks gestation show off great personality and melt hearts as the full-body views still fit on the screen. On the other hand, some clients viewing the 3-D/4-D image are distracted by extraneous details interpreted by the machine.

Also note that getting a clear picture can be challenging, depending on the baby’s position and sonographer’s skill. There is definitely a learning curve for the sonographer when going from 2-D to 3-D/4-D. Because the 3-D/4-D process involves doing a 2-D scan first, the skills can be learned over a period of time while maintaining basic services. Many ultrasound manufacturers do offer special training as part of their service. A machine typically used by an OB/GYN physician can be purchased for as low as $60,000. The 3-D/4-D probes are necessarily different and more expensive than those used in 2-D ultrasound.

Many centers are using 3-D/4-D more as an adjunct tool rather than as a replacement for 2-D. The Association for Medical Ultrasound (AIUM) affirms: “2-D sonography is currently the primary method of medically indicated anatomic imaging with ultrasound.” The AIUM also reiterates the inappropriateness of non-medical “fun” pictures. Concerns have arisen in increasing liability in recognizing anomalies. Supporters of the 3-D/4-D feature speak to the pregnancy resource center’s ability to better support families facing potential fetal anomalies, and counter physicians who might counsel parents to “terminate the pregnancy.”

Medical technology is always being upgraded, improved or made obsolete. Center leadership needs to carefully measure and evaluate the positives and negatives of new opportunities.

We are thrilled to announce that Heartbeat Legal Counsel Peggy Wolock and her husband, Steve, were recently blessed with the birth of their first child. Jonathan James Wolock made his appearance in the world on January 3, 2007, weighing in at a solid 9 pounds. While Peggy fulfills her duties in the greatest pro-life profession of them all—motherhood—she will continue to work part-time for Heartbeat. Congratulations Peggy, Steve, and Jonathan.
New Pregnancy Center Opens in Rolla, Missouri

The Pregnancy Resource Center of Rolla in central Missouri officially opened its doors on February 15, 2007. Since then, thirteen volunteers have kept the center's doors open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., six days a week, offering pregnancy tests, peer counseling, mentoring programs, abstinence education, parenting classes, Bible studies and baby supplies to women confronted with unexpected pregnancies.

By April of this year, the center plans to become a medical clinic, adding ultrasound to its list of services. Dr. Christopher Baldwin will serve as medical director and chief operator of ultrasound equipment.

Executive Director Joe Dalton moved to Rolla a year and a half ago with his wife Jane and their eight children. While Dalton is a relative newcomer to Rolla, he is no stranger to pro-life efforts. In addition to serving as the executive director of the Pregnancy Resource Center of Rolla, he is also the CEO of Pro-Life Communications. Joe comments: “I wear both hats, but many pro-lifers in the area have come together to help us start this center. Heartbeat International and Alliance for Life have also helped us a great deal.”

The central mission of PRC of Rolla is to help women think through all of their options. The center specifically hopes to get more women to consider the least-chosen pregnancy option—adoption. Dalton points to statistics which show 1.5 million couples desiring to adopt while each year 1.2 million babies are aborted each year.

PRC of Rolla intends to work closely with established organizations in the area, such as Birthright of Rolla and the Phelps County Community Partnership, to complement existing programs and services. Operating as an interdenominational organization, they hope to appear welcoming to any woman, regardless of her particular faith background.

welcome to the Heartbeat family  

NEW AFFILIATES
Now serving more than 1,000 affiliates

Assemblies of God Family Services Agency, Hot Springs, AR
Esperanza Women's Center, Phoenix, AZ
Pregnancy Resource Center of Marin, Novato, CA
Compassion Pregnancy Services, Hollister, CA
Life Choices Pregnancy Center, Poway, CA
Pregnancy Care Center, Fresno, CA
Catholic Charities & Family Services, Norwich, CT
New Dawn Women's Clinic, Goldenrod, FL
Women's Choice Center, Bettendorf, IA
Safe Harbour Crisis Pregnancy Center, New Paris, IN
Life Care Center for Women, Ottawa, KS
Access Pregnancy & Referral Centers, Metairie, LA
Woman's New Life Center, Metairie, LA
Hagerstown Area Pregnancy Center, Hagerstown, MD
Archdiocese of Washington Pro-Life Office, College Park, MD
Pregnancy Help Center of Waterford, Waterford, MI
Pregnancy Choices LifeCare Center, Apple Valley, MN
North Side LifeCare Center, Minneapolis, MN

LifeCare Center East, St Paul, MN
Jefferson County Pregnancy Care Center, House Springs, MO
Women's Resource Center, Gulfport, MS
H.E.L.P. Crisis Pregnancy Center, Monroe, NC
Life Choices, Inc., Phillipsburg, NJ
New Life Pregnancy Center, Taos, NM
Summit Life Outreach Center, Inc., Niagara Falls, NY
Pregnancy Support Center of Caddo County, Anadarko, OK
The Pregnancy Center, Woodward, OK
Crossroads: Open Door for Life Choices, Guthrie, OK
Next Step Pregnancy Information Center, La Grande, OR
Pregnancy & Family Resource Center, York, PA
A Woman's Heart Pregnancy Resource Center, Greenville, TX
Hope For The Heart Abortion Recovery, Dallas, TX
PRC – Agape Lighthouse Ministries, Onalaska, TX
Allied Women's Center, San Antonio, TX
Pregnancy Help Center of El Paso, El Paso, TX
Christian Life Resources, Milwaukee, WI

NEW INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE
Heartbeat Ghana Ministries, Accra, GHANA
Babies, Pregnancy Centers Make Cover of TIME Magazine (cont’d from page 1)

there ARE those in our movement who are Machiavellian – and this is a wedge that the other side uses to discredit and divide us.

Finally, Lorrie is sympathetically portrayed as an abortionist who has been threatened by pro-lifers (not the pregnancy centers!); her clinic has been bombed and had its windows shot out, but what she really wants is to reduce abortions.

The subtle danger of this article is that it “feels good.” Centers are well-intentioned, the other side doesn’t want to see women manipulated, abortionists want to reduce abortions, and pro-life pastors are soul-searching. These players in Asheville are seeking common ground. And then there are the clinic bombers, the only villains of the story.

And what of the common ground arrived at in Asheville? This is the dangerous one -- “to decrease abortions.” This will be a rallying cry for pro-choice candidates in the next elections. They are trying to make the general public, conflicted about abortion, comfortable enough with “decreasing abortion” that they will vote pro-choice! The TIME reporter assumes everyone will agree that promoting birth control is the prime method of reducing abortion. We know that birth control promotion (and “safe sex”) are part of the CAUSE of the large number of abortions, not part of the solution.

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Articles like TIME’s may help us, but they may be part of a strategy to further divide the pro-life movement into the good guys and the bad guys, to blur the line between right and wrong, and to lull the general public into thinking there IS common ground in promoting birth control. This would ultimately set us back in our efforts to save lives, promote the sanctity of every human life, and return our country to one of its root values, the inalienable right to life.

Meet Me in St. Louis
for the 36th Annual Heartbeat Conference
Adam’s Mark Downtown, St. Louis, Missouri
April 18–21, 2007

Register online at
www.heartbeatinternational.org
Only $210 if registering by March 30, 2007

2007
Training Schedule

Executive Roundtable
April 17–19, 2007 ● St. Louis, MO

36th Annual Conference
April 18–21, 2007 ● St. Louis, MO

New Director Oasis
August 22–25, 2007 ● Columbus, OH

Leadership Institute
November 12–16, 2007 ● Columbus, OH
Congress Convenes, Promptly Attacks Embryos
By Nathan Burd

In the last edition of Pulse, we discussed the possibility of increased attacks on pregnancy centers by the newly elected Congress. Now that the new Congress has convened with a pro-abortion majority, we are gaining some early insight regarding how they’ll approach key life issues.

One of the very first pieces of legislation considered by the new Congress was H.R. 3, a bill that expands federal funding for unethical destructive embryo research. The bill was passed by a vote of 253-174. Thankfully, President Bush has pledged to veto this bill should it also pass the Senate, and Congress is unlikely to have the votes necessary to override that veto.

However, the early passage of this bill indicates that pro-abortion members of Congress will aggressively push their agenda over the next two years. Longstanding pro-life provisions could be targeted for repeal and various life issues are sure to receive significant attention and debate.

Heartbeat International will closely monitor all activity on life-related legislation, especially anything that could have an impact on life-affirming pregnancy centers. During a recent trip to Washington, D.C., we were proactive in reaching out to members of Congress to educate them on the good work done by pregnancy centers. In the coming months, we’ll continue our efforts to make sure that our elected leaders understand the help and hope you provide to your communities.
March for Life 2007: Moving Forward
By Nathan Burd, Director of International Program & Public Policy

In the recently released conclusion to the Rocky film series, aging boxer Rocky Balboa offers the following advice to his struggling son:

“It's not about how hard you can hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward.”

The fictional Balboa will never be hailed as a noted philosopher, but this quote holds special significance for those of us in the pro-life movement. After all, many view the 2006 election results as a vicious hit to the pro-life movement. Pro-abortion members of Congress now enjoy a slim majority over pro-life members, but anyone expecting a defeatist attitude in Washington, D.C. was in for a pleasant surprise at the 2007 March for Life.

Pro-life members of Congress expressed a renewed zeal for the cause at the pre-March rally. In fact, more members showed up to speak at the rally than in previous years. They expressed a clear resolve to keep up the fight and to keep moving forward in their quest to promote the sanctity of life in our nation’s capital.

Those of us involved in pregnancy center ministry have also been the target of a few recent pro-abortion punches. The abortion lobby releases misleading “studies” to smear the good work we do. Pro-abortion members of Congress introduce bills meant to intimidate us. The media often presents our efforts in a less than positive light. But guess what? They can't stop us. We keep moving forward.

We brush aside their attacks and continue to provide compassionate help to women and families in need. We continue to offer healing to those who suffer from post-abortion trauma. We continue our abstinence programs, our parenting classes, our medical services, and our adoption support. We keep moving forward.

As always, the 2007 March for Life was packed with young people eager to engage their generation in the fight for life. We know the future of the pro-life movement is in good hands because the post-Roe generation has an intensity for the cause that is unmatched. We survived abortion and we're committed to ensuring that others survive as well.

The combination of energized pro-life members of Congress, increasingly effective pregnancy resource centers, and young people with a passion for justice make it clear that the state of the movement is strong. And after all, we know how this story ends. It won't be long before the pro-life movement lands a Balboa-like knockout over the culture of death. It's just a matter of time because we always keep moving forward.
H.E.A.R.T. Training

“Healing the Effects of Abortion-Related Trauma” is a one-day training that will equip individuals in pregnancy resource centers, counseling agencies, or churches to effectively minister to those hurting from a past abortion/s. The information provided will address post-abortion stress (PAS) in both men and women, tasks to healing, how to screen individuals interested in the program and go over user-friendly Leadership and Participant manuals. The training and manuals are powerful tools to help you minister healing to individuals suffering from PAS. This training, normally provided on site, will be offered April 18, as an In-Depth Day session at the Heartbeat annual conference.

Peacemaker Ministries

The mission of Peacemaker Ministries is to equip and assist Christians and their ministries to respond to conflict in a manner consistent with biblical principles. Peacemakers provides conflict coaching, mediation and arbitration services to help resolve lawsuits and business disputes, as well as church or ministry divisions. For more information about Peacemaker Ministries, call them at 406-256-1583, or visit www.Peacemaker.net. Please note there will be a workshop on this topic at the Heartbeat International annual conference.

Talking About Abortion

This one-day training, based on the Heartbeat manual, was developed from the experiences of several Heartbeat affiliates. Consultants teach from a helpline/phone model for sharing information on abortion that can also be used in an office setting. You will learn how to use the Ten-Point Health and Safety Checklist and the talking points on the Morning-After Pill. The training includes updated information on abortion methods and studies examining the physical and emotional effects of abortion on women. Contact the Heartbeat office for more information. Please note there will be a workshop on this topic at the Heartbeat annual conference.

LOVE Approach Training

This one-day training, based on the Heartbeat manual, offers the basics in peer counseling, with an emphasis on relationship-building and listening skills. Topics include: Listen & Learn, Open Options, Vision & Value, Extend & Empower. The training is interactive and gives participants the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned. The information in LOVE Approach is ideal for all staff, board members, and volunteers at your center. Many volunteers and staff feel inadequate to address the diverse needs of their clients. This is a great opportunity to equip them and boost their confidence. Please note that this training will be offered April 18, 2007, at the Heartbeat annual conference.

Sexual Integrity Program Training

Join a Heartbeat International consultant for a powerful one-day training that will lay out the biblical foundation for sexual integrity and introduce and teach you how to implement The Sexual Integrity Program in your center. The Sexual Integrity Program is designed to help you continue building the relationship with your clients, especially with the negative test client. It includes a variety of resources to be used from the very first meeting through additional interactions. The materials have all been designed, produced, or chosen to comply with the foundational biblical pillars for the program. Please note that this training will be offered April 18, 2007, at the Heartbeat annual conference.

Free Evangelical DVD Resource

Announcing “Tools for Saving Souls and Saving Lives”! This DVD includes messages from a pastor to pastors about the importance of partnerships between pregnancy resource centers and the local churches. This eight-segment DVD offers tools for sharing the Gospel and client testimonies that can be used in churches or during special events. The DVD is available in English and Spanish! If you would like more information or would like to order the DVD, please contact Lori DeVillez at Texas Life Connections info@texaslifeconnections.org, or call 512-971-7000.

Employment Opportunities

Please visit our website for a complete list of employment opportunities with Heartbeat and our affiliates.
Medical Perspectives is a manual co-produced by Heartbeat International & Care Net to assist centers in both the planning and the implementation phases of offering medical services. This is a must-have resource for any center considering, offering or expanding medical services!

Purchase your manual through Heartbeat International for a preferred affiliate price of $200.