



*Protecting
the physical,
emotional and
spiritual life of
mothers and
their unborn
babies.*

STAFF

Executive Director, Carol A. Clews
Development Director, Debbie Honig
Office Manager, Delores Summons
Center Coordinators:
St. Paul Street – Linda Gossman
St. Rita's – Cathy Johnson
St. Brigid's – Angela Page
Helpline Coordinator, Alice Steck
Sonographer, Jill Woods
Volunteer Trainer, Grayla Reneau

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair, Tom Schetelich, Esq.
Vice Chair, Cathy Johnson
Treasurer, Mark Bender
Members at Large:
Ray Bowen
Jeanne Graniero
Richard Montalvo
Della Tate
Advisory Board:
Andreas Dailey, Alice Steck

www.CPCforHelp.org

Lifeneews

A Story of Grace

On October 1st, 2009, Chris and Mari Quillen received the wonderful news they had been waiting five months to hear, "it looks like a baby girl." Leaving their ultrasound appointment with joy in their hearts and elation beaming from their core, they called their family to share the blissful news. Their celebration came to a painfully abrupt halt as they received an urgent call from the doctor asking them to come back immediately. In short, they received the devastating report that their daughter, Shirley Grace, had a condition in which her brain had not developed and in its place were significant amounts of fluid. They were advised by doctors and specialists to terminate the pregnancy. Understanding the beauty and value of each precious life that God gives, they made the decision to carry their sweet angel and trust that as God is the perfect giver of life, He too would take her in His perfect timing.

The weeks and months that lead up to Gracie's birth were difficult and filled with sleepless nights and countless tears, but God in His goodness and mercy gave Chris and Mari the strength they needed to keep fighting and believing in Faith that their daughter would defy the reports of the doctors. On January 29th, 2010, Miss Shirley Grace did just that, she came into this world with a spirit and presence that humbled and touched every soul she came into contact with and even brought the doubting doctors to tears. The following three weeks brought one miracle after the next and every aspect of her life and her parent's faith continued to glorify Christ and bring lost souls back to the Lord. The greatest miracle of all came in the early hours of the morning on February 20th, 2010 when Jesus came and took His precious daughter home to be with Him. Although her life was short, she lived it with great purpose and fulfilled everyday of her destiny with amazing grace.

*...they received an
urgent call from
the doctor asking
them to come back
immediately...*



Helpline Happenings

7934 calls were answered in 2009 at The Center for Pregnancy Concerns. How exciting! 7934 opportunities to minister God's love, grace and compassion to each soul that inquired about the services we provide. That's the beauty of the work that we are blessed to do at CPC. Clients call for a pregnancy test, material assistance, information about abortion, referrals, parenting classes... but most importantly, as we incarnate the love of Jesus their spiritual needs are met as well. Prayerfully, many who were prayed with or accepted Christ as their Savior or just plain experienced a loving voice that empathized with their needs were changed as they were offered a "cup of cold water" in the name of our Gracious Lord.



The Helpline continues to grow (18 precious volunteers in all) and we are striving for 24 hour coverage in 2010. We are grateful to God for the privilege to provide encouragement and strength to each person that calls. We are committed to walking by faith and trusting God for what He alone can do!

Serving with you for Life—
Alice Steck Psalm 145:1

A Message from the Executive Director

As I sit here in my office on St. Paul Street, I look outside and all I see is piles of snow! So far, 2010 has been challenging for many of us weather-wise. The Center closed for a week during the worst of the blizzard. Negotiating city streets seemed dangerous, if not impossible. And I was sure our clients were feeling the same way. Now, with a break in the weather, we're all trying to catch up.

The Center fared quite well in 2009. Between our three centers we saw 1,000 clients and our Hannah's Cupboards were overflowing with beautiful and use-

ful baby items from churches, individuals and community organizations. We counseled our clients, gave them Bibles, did pregnancy tests and sonograms, gave away prenatal vitamins, clothing, diapers, formula, and much more. Our Earn While You Learn program is growing, slowly but surely, and our Mommy & Me Boutique is filled with beautiful things for baby and mom.

We had some terrific fundraisers during 2009: our annual Tee Off For Kids Golf Tournament at Hobbit's Glen in June, the Ride for Life in July and a wine tasting at the beautiful Mt. Felix

Vineyards in August. Our fall event was an unequivocal success, raising over \$50,000. We heard some inspirational testimonies, and our live and silent auctions were extremely exciting, with the live portion conducted by Tracey Tiernan and Mike Alley, who were hilarious. In short, it truly was a great evening.

We surpassed our income projections for 2009 and so we ended the year with a big sigh of relief and with the knowledge that we were truly blessed. We begin this year with the resolve that, with God's help, 2010 will be an even better year.

Carol Clews, executive director

Is Baltimore anti-CPC?

On December 4, 2009, the Baltimore City Council passed a bill aimed directly at pregnancy centers in the City that will not provide or refer for abortions. This bill, which became law when signed by then-Mayor Dixon, requires the Center for Pregnancy Concerns to post a sign in our waiting room, in both English and Spanish, that we do not provide or refer for abortions or for birth control.

We had aggressively lobbied against this bill, joined by national right to life organizations and religious organizations of different denominations. We strongly believe that it is very bad legislation, for the following reasons:

As supporters of CPC, we are offended by the justification put forward in support of this bill. The primary reason advanced by its proponents was that women coming to the Center are given misinformation about abortion. This is not true — and the proponents of the bill had not one actual client of the Center who could testify in support of these allegations.

As citizens of Baltimore, we believe that this bill is politically motivated. The staff and volunteers of CPC provide needed services and support to families in need — especially vulnerable women and children. We would expect our City

Government to support these sacrificial efforts that provide the help available nowhere else, rather than try to hinder our work to appease those offended that we stand for the choice of life.

As Americans, we believe that this bill violates our Constitutional rights under the First Amendment. The bill restricts our freedom of speech by dictating the sign we must post. Further, it requires us to make statements that are not true



Tom Schetelich, Esq., Chairman of the Board ~

— the Center does provide birth control counseling as abstinence is a recognized form of birth control.

As Christians we are disappointed, but not surprised, that our stand for life draws opposition.

So, what are we doing?

First, as Supporters of CPC, as citizens of Baltimore, as Americans and as Christians — we honor the laws of our elected officials. We posted two signs in our waiting rooms. One sign complies with the language of the bill, wrong as it may be. The second sign lists the many free services and referrals that we do provide — so that those women coming to us will understand the opportunities and hope that we offer them.

Second, we are considering carefully our legal alternatives. We extend our thanks to the lawyers who have volunteered their time and are studying this law and the questions raised by it.

Thirdly, and most importantly, we are renewed in our commitment, our efforts and our prayers to bring the Hope of Jesus Christ to families in such great need. We thank you for your support of our work.

*Tom Schetelich, Esq.,
Chairman of the Board ~*

My Thoughts On Becoming A Volunteer At GBCPC

I started as a volunteer at the Center for Pregnancy Concerns several years ago when a friend of mine, Debbie Honig, became director of Development and she needed help with the fall banquet. I have helped with that event for the last several years but then I started back to school and was taking a class that required some type of service work. I immediately thought of the Center, since I had already been helping with the banquet. I was curious to find out what other volunteer opportunities were available to me. I found out that there is a training class which you must go to if you want to be a receptionist, a hotline volunteer or a peer counselor.

I must say that this training session was a wonderful experience. The material is presented in such a way that you do not feel too over-whelmed when you have completed the course. The training is done over a weekend, which encompasses a Friday evening session, a Saturday session and a Monday evening session. Grayla Reneau, the volunteer trainer, is a wonderful cook so we were treated to great meals as well!

After your training is completed, you must then "shadow" another peer counselor for several weeks until you feel comfortable to meet with clients on

your own. Each week as I drive down to the Center I ask the Lord to give me just the right words to say to whoever may come in the door at the St. Paul St. location.

I have been absolutely amazed at some of the young women who have come through those doors. They are sometimes scared, sometimes overwhelmed and sometimes just need someone to listen to them as they share their story. I always feel very privileged to be able to minister to them. It is very difficult sometimes when I realize that I can't fix everything that is wrong in their world, I can only offer them the resources that we have but, most of all, I can offer them the love of Christ and for this I am very grateful.

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the Center. If you don't want to commit to the training, there are other ways to help. There is always a need for volunteers to help with the fall banquet/auction and other fundraising events and I am sure that our Center Coordinators could always use office help, if that is more your thing. So, won't you consider letting God use you in this wonderful ministry?

*Brenda English,
Peer Counselor, St. Paul Street Center*

NAMELESS

By Britt Abell

The nameless ones

Gone too soon

Their light never seen

Like the stars by the moon

Bright futures they had

As they waited to come

But there was no one to hold

These nameless ones

Unforgotten they stay

In the hearts of a few

These priceless, great treasures

That the world never knew

Little feet meant to walk

Little hands meant to hold

Are now gone forever

Like a story untold

As long as I live

With every breath that I take

They'll not die in vain

I'll live for their sake

A breath never breathed

A song never sung

A voice never heard

By these nameless ones



A Warm Welcome to the newest member of our staff.....

In November the Center welcomed **Jill Wood** as our new **Sonographer**. Jill came to us out of Liberty University, graduating cum laude with a degree in biblical studies, with a minor in psychology. She is a certified sonographer, graduating from UMBC with an award for the highest grade point average. She recently attended a two-day seminar on Limited Obstetrical Ultrasound sponsored by the National Institute of Family & Life Advocates. Jill thoroughly enjoys her work and brings a lot of energy and innovation to the Center. Recently married, she and her husband Ben live in Cockeysville.

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

In today's world people are involved with their work, church obligations, their children's activities...the list goes on. Unfortunately, this busyness leaves the Center with a deficit in our volunteer department. With a third location about to open, the situation will only become more urgent. Can you help? All that's required is being a Christian, a willingness to serve and a minimum amount of time. Call our Volunteer Trainer, **Grayla Reneau**, at **410 828-4428**.

What's Fun in 2010?

Debbie Honig, Development

Who doesn't love **Andy Nelson's BBQ**? Watch for more info about another fundraising night (in April) at this yummy restaurant.

I do believe we'll once again see lush green grass under all the snow — hopefully, by June 7 for our annual **Golf Tournament**. We'll be at Hobbit's Glen in Columbia again.

June 26 is the date for our **Ride for Life**. We've partnered with *Option2Adopt* and *Praise 'n Thunder* for this motorcycle ride through lovely Monkton. The route begins and ends in Hanover, Md. Share this date with your biker friends.

Remember the gorgeous evening we spent at our **Wine Tasting** at Mt. Felix Vineyard in Havre de Grace last summer? Let's do it again on July 17.

CPC's **30th Anniversary Gala** will take place on October 7 at the Hunt Valley Marriott.

Please call the office for more information on these fundraising events. Come out and join the FUN!!



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 8237
BALTO., MD 21239

Greater Baltimore
Center for
Pregnancy
Concerns
2418 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

