



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

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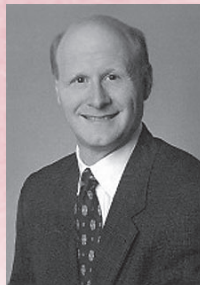
[www.CPCforHelp.org](http://www.CPCforHelp.org)

# Lifeneews



## Dear Friends —

We are very happy and gratified to write you to report on the Federal Court litigation where the Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns opposed an unconstitutional city ordinance that required pro-life pregnancy centers to post disclaimers that we do not provide or refer for abortions or provide birth control information. On January 28, 2011 the United States District Court for the District of Maryland declared the ordinance to be unconstitutional and issued a permanent injunction against its enforcement.



This Baltimore City ordinance was the first of its kind in the United States, and part of a strategy to restrict the ministry of pro-life pregnancy centers. The ordinance affected only pro-life centers, and imposed a legal obligation to post signs that we do not provide or refer for abortions nor provide birth control information.

In April 2010 we wrote to you, our supporters both in and outside of Maryland, telling you that we felt it was a necessity that we challenge this ordinance in Federal Court. We felt not only the duty to do it for ourselves, but for pro-life centers throughout the country, because similar legislation was being advanced nationwide.

On January 28, 2011, the Court ruled that the city ordinance was unconstitutional, a violation of the First Amendment. The Court found that the ordinance was not "view point neutral", but rather that the Baltimore City government had passed this ordinance because it disagreed with the message that we deliver every day to those who come to our Center. In the words of the Court: *The Center's viewpoint, formed on the basis of sensitive religious, moral, and political beliefs, is the overarching reason for its stark refusal to perform or refer for abortions...the government cannot impose special prohibitions on those speakers who express views on governmentally disfavored subjects.*

*The Baltimore City law was the first of its kind in the United States, and part of a strategy to restrict the ministry of all pro-life pregnancy centers.*

The City has now appealed this decision, and the case goes to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. We are very appreciative to the Archdiocese of Baltimore and to Archbishop O'Brien, who joined us in this lawsuit. We are also thankful to our attorneys at Ferguson, Schetelich & Ballew and Gallagher, Evelius & Jones, who took up this case for us pro bono, and handled it so efficiently that the work of the Center went on unhindered while a case of national implications was being litigated.

We are writing to thank you, our base of supporters, for continuing to make our ministry possible. Most of all, we thank the Lord for His grace and favor which sustains us every day. Some people say, "you can't fight City Hall". But we believe in the principals of our Constitution and in the justice of our God, *for with righteousness He shall judge, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.* Isaiah 11:4.

*Tom Schetelich, Esq.*

*Board Chairman, Center for Pregnancy Concerns*

## Update on Our Medical Ministry

The Center for Pregnancy Concerns is blessed to have new leadership for the medical portion of our organization. Mary Ann Sorra, M.D a gifted OB/GYN who is strongly pro life and a strong proponent of natural family planning is our Medical Director. Working with her and preparing to begin performing sonograms on our abortion-minded clients is Kate Plaut, R.N. We are privileged to have these two wonderful professionals working with us.

## WE'VE MOVED!

Moving day was Saturday, January 22. After months of meeting, negotiating and deliberation (headed up by Tom Schetelich's team at Ferguson, Schetelich & Ballew) the decision was made to move our administrative staff and one of our centers from St. Paul Street in Baltimore to Eastern Boulevard in Essex. We had an enormous amount of help from The Saints, a football team made up of homeschoolers brought to us by John Connell. By 3:00 pm on that day, we

were completely out of our old offices and into our new place. We have been made to feel very welcome by representatives from many churches in the area. People are beginning to realize we're here and the clients are coming. Our Earn While You Learn program is in full swing. We had an Open House on March 16 (see photos) and were busy greeting people and giving tours the entire day. If you haven't seen our new digs, please stop by — we'd love to show you around!



442 Eastern Blvd,  
Essex MD 21221  
410 391-6699



## God Given Encounters

Have you ever experienced what I call a "God Given Encounter"? If you reflect upon your experiences in life, I know, without a shadow-of-a-doubt, you have had one, two, or possibly more "God Given Encounters". These are moments only God could have orchestrated. I would like to share my most recent encounter.

I needed to go to Franklin Square for some pre-op testing. During this appointment I experienced a "GGE". Let me explain. As my name was being called, a middle-aged woman approached me and requested I sit at her cubicle. We exchanged pleasantries and she started going over my information: what was my name, address, phone number, meds, what procedure am I having done, etc., etc. When she got to the line of my place of employment she read it out loud. As she started to read, "Greater Baltimore Crisis Preg..." she stopped and said, "Oh my gosh, you work for that organization?" (Of course I thought, "Oh, no, here we go again. I bet she is a Pro-Choice person.") Much to my delight, I was completely wrong. She went on to

explain how she knew about the GBCPC. When her son was a teenager, he got his 15-year-old girlfriend pregnant. Needless to say, this was very upsetting for both sets of parents. Shirley, (name changed to protect the innocent) wanted her son to man-up and help raise her grandchild. She did not believe in abortion. The young woman's mother on the other hand, wanted her daughter to abort their child. This caused battle lines to be drawn between families. Shirley decided she was going to do everything in her power to make sure her grandchild had a chance at life. She started to search the Internet for support groups.

After perusing the Internet for various agencies, she came upon the GBCPC. She spoke to her son, and her son's girlfriend, about setting up an appointment just to see what the agency had to offer. At first, the girlfriend was reluctant. After some persuasion from Shirley she agreed to make the appointment.

She made her appointment for the Holabird Center. Shirley, her son, and the girlfriend, went together. Shirley said

to me, "I don't know what was said in that counseling room, but when my son and his girlfriend came out, his girlfriend said to me, "I am going to keep my baby." Shirley continued, "I wanted to jump up and down with joy. I was so happy my little grandchild would get a chance at life. Oh, her mother gave her some grief, but she stayed strong in her decision. Now, I have a gorgeous 7-year-old grandson who I adore and I owe it all to your agency!"

Wow! Was this a "God Given Encounter," or what? What were the odds I would be called to this woman's cubicle? What were the odds she would have had an encounter with our organization? God is awesome!

Thank you God, for allowing me to be called to this woman's cubicle. Thank you God, for allowing each of us to have "God Given Encounters." Thank you God for the volunteer who spoke to this young woman and made a difference in her life and the life of her unborn child.

*Linda Gossman  
Center Coordinator, Essex Center*

# My First Save as New Director at St. Brigid's Canton

*CPC client has given us permission to share her story*

Prior to working at CPC's Canton location, I'd always had a burden to reach abortion-minded women and save babies. I am the oldest after an aborted sibling and I am always aware of that. I knew God could use me in the fight for Life.

This story of God's grace started with me when my first abortion-minded client came in for a pregnancy test on November, 1, 2010. They were a young, newly-married couple, ages 19 and 20, and recent refugees from Nepal. The test revealed that they were pregnant. We struggled through the language barrier and, with God's help, I learned more of their needs.

Because of financial hardships, little family support, work, no food, they felt that "we cannot keep the baby or don't know what to do". They both were very stressed and I encouraged them that we will be with them each step of the way. I showed them how far along she was (3 months pregnant) with our developmental pictures and presented various options to parenting and adoption. During the time we spent together on this first visit, I was under the impression that they might be Hindu.

I had given them the movie *Bella* to watch, the Bethany Christian resource on adoption, as well as other materials for them to review and a Bible in their native language. A few visits later I found out they had read the Bible. They also shared that they wanted to keep the baby rather than place it for adoption. They said it was better to have the baby while they were young, that with CPC and IRC's support, WIC, and food stamps it was possible. When the husband shared that "with God all things are possible," I realized that I was with Christians. I was thinking, "This is too good to be true. They are saying what we all say here when we are witnessing." I was in shock!

*Because of financial hardships, little family support, work, no food, they felt that "we cannot keep the baby or don't know what to do".*

I found out later that a previous CPC client had encouraged the mother to visit CPC and keep her baby. I let this woman know that she was a part of saving this baby's life.

CPC has supplied the couple with baby furniture, layette, parenting class information locally, a baby book to help prepare them and anything they needed to feel secure. We also have provided maternity clothes to the mother. The IRC helped get them a doctor for follow up visits. The mom brings the new and updated sonogram pictures to me, especially visiting me to tell me the baby was a girl. The couple lets me pray with them every visit. We have prayed for more work for the husband and support. He later received a better job and a car from a family member.

We are anxiously awaiting the baby's delivery May 14, 2011. Please pray for strength and guidance. They have made such a turn around from the first visit of depression to JOY!

The mom recently told her mother overseas that "Lindsay loves me". That is exactly the spirit of love we want clients to feel here. We are in the right place to receive what we share. I am very thankful and overwhelmed that we are able to have an impact like this.

This couple has referred 3-4 new clients from the IRC and their community and they are very happy! They are a great example of faith, and trusting God in a hard circumstance, which gives me hope in the great task ahead of us. But God is Faithful! (Lamentations 3:22-24)

Onward in Him,  
*Lindsay Rupprecht*  
Center Coordinator, St. Brigid's, Canton

## Where Are You?

Dear CPC Friend, We have reviewed our mailing list and noted that we have not heard from many of you in a really, really long time! Since our costs keep rising, please let us know if you don't want to receive mail from us any longer. To be removed from our mailing list you can ...

**Call:** 410-391-6699

**Email:** Delores@centerforpregnancyconcerns.org

**Click:** www.CPCforHelp.org

**Mail:** 442 Eastern Blvd., Essex, MD 21221

Don't hesitate to call us if you have questions about where or how your donation is being used. Please consider volunteering your time or talents. You can do this from home or even just for a day.

Thank you and together let's **change our culture for LIFE!**

**If you would like us to stay in touch with you by email only, please indicate that when you contact us.**

## A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY

We all have to pay our BGE bill, right? Why not have a portion of your utility payment help support the vital work at the Center! Switching to Viridian Energy will take about 2 minutes of your time and it's as easy as going to **www.viridian.com/life** and click on the "Become a Customer" button. Please consider this. If you have questions, just call our Viridian representative, Michael Hall, at 443-271-9317.

## CPC'S EVENTS FOR 2011

**Ride 4 Life** — Saturday, June 11 – Ride your motorcycle and raise funds – Registration is 9:00 am, Kick stands up at 10:00 am, cost is just \$30 per bike  
Staging: Dunkin' Donuts 1338 Dorsey Road, Hanover, Maryland 21076

We'll ride through back roads to the Cancun Cantina, 901 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

This event is equally sponsored by CPC and Option2Adopt, an outreach of Praise-n-Thunder

**Tee Off for Kids** Golf Tournament — Monday, June 20, 2011

Registration is 7:00 am, Shotgun Start 8:00 am, cost is \$100 per golfer

Hobbit's Glen Golf Club, 11300 Willow Bottom Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21044

Continental breakfast, Lunch and Awards Ceremony

**Fall Event** with Silent and Live Auctions — Thursday, October 6, 2011

Doors open for auction shopping and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner and program. Cost is \$50 per person  
Hunt Valley Marriott

**Baby Bottle Campaign** — Year-round Fundraiser

We deliver baby bottles to you to be distributed throughout your church, school, business or organization. After they are filled with change, bills and checks, we'll come and pick them up. This fun and easy fundraiser is a vital source of revenue for the Center, allowing us to continue offering all of our FREE services.

For information or to register for any of these events, just call **410 391-6699**

## Praying for Life

There is a group of young girls who are part of a pro life organization called Faith in Action at Sacred Heart Church in Glyndon, Maryland. They work in a variety of ways to help our Center. Here is the prayer they pray at the end of each meeting:

Lord, bless this baby with all the love that Heaven can release.  
Send angels down to protect and surround this little life with peace.  
Bless each expectant mother with love, courage and strength to give birth to the child she carries. We pray through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

**INSIDE:**  
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"My First Save"

  
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