



Sacred Trust

WELS Lutherans for Life

May 2020

Phone Consultation Success

*““Freaked out”
seemed to be an
understatement...”*

Cleo contacted us through our website requesting options information. She had already taken a pregnancy test and was scheduled for an ultrasound at another pregnancy center. She was looking for other help so she agreed to do a phone consultation with Rachel the following day.

Rachel called at the scheduled time and *Cleo* picked up (which is always nice). During the call, *Cleo* explained that she was switching birth control methods when she became pregnant. She was about to graduate.

She certainly didn't expect to become pregnant. In fact, “freaked out” seemed to be an understatement since this was not what she wanted. *Cleo* came from a Roman Catholic background, but that didn't seem to shape her worldview. She believed people should be able to choose not to have babies.

Cleo discussed abortion pills with Rachel a little. *Cleo* had done some reading up on them. She also researched fetal development a little bit. *Cleo* was uncertain about how far along she was.

Cleo hasn't discussed her situation with anyone other than her boyfriend. She's known him for years. He told her she could decide whether to keep the baby or not. Most women don't find this helpful and it sounded like *Cleo* felt no support from him.

continued on pg. 2



“Protecting a child's right to live and be loved by loving moms and dads.”

Message from the President

I want to take a moment to share my concern for you. I hope you are doing well, taking care of yourself as well as your families, and loved ones during this challenging time. I pray for you and your families—that you are healthy and cheerful during this challenging claustrophobic time. I also hope that this time has drawn you closer to God and strengthened your faith rather than caused you to fear or concern for the future.

As our national quarantine begins to shift toward a gradual re-opening I'm reminded of three critical decisions we've made at WELS Lutherans for life. Our three "Yesses" to which we're committed now-- and going forward.

Thankfulness

We're saying "Yes" to thankfulness, because we could not be more grateful for you and your continued support through these trying times. Some have had to step back from financial support, yet others are stepping up in amazing ways.

Not only this, but you have called to encourage us... many of you almost daily! Thank you! We are so grateful for those of you who pray for this work. You are helping in so many ways, **"Thank you!"**

Re-Imagining

Because of you, we chose to say "Yes" to re-imagining how to deliver our services during this time. Physical distancing may have changed some of what we do, but the ability to adapt is opening new doors for us as we connect virtually with our clients

and patients in a meaningful way.

It's not likely we would have chosen this path, but we were given this path. Now that we see the possibilities, even after this time of physical distancing is over, we can still apply much of what we are learning.

Faith

For all of us individually and for this ministry, God has strengthened our faith through this time of testing. Faith becomes more powerful when tested. He has given us renewed vigor for this fight.

With you, we're choosing to say "Yes" to faith in a new way, knowing that while we cannot see what life will be like on the other side of this pandemic, the One we worship has a perfect 2020

Vision of the future—and He is worthy of our trust.

We know that regardless of what is in front of us, God is with us. And that's enough for all of us.

These three "Yesses" will stick with us as we go forward. And go forward, we will. Thank you for walking with us during this time. We see a bright future ahead. And we face this future with an unequivocal, "YES."

*"Regardless
of what is in
front of us,
God is
with us."*



For Life in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter Georgson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

President & CEO

Phone Consultation Success continued

Rachel felt like she and *Cleo* built a good rapport during the call.

After her ultrasound, *Cleo* called Rachel to provide an update. *Cleo* happily reported that it looked like a healthy pregnancy. She heard the baby's heartbeat and told Rachel "I'm keeping my baby."

Thanks to you, we were able to affirm *Cleo's* choice for life for her baby. Because of you, we are ready to assist her on the road to being the best parent she can be.

You Can Help a Family

While you have been dealing with the Coronavirus situation the best you can, please know that at WELS Lutherans for Life we've made some tough decisions. We're furloughing volunteers, managing the center only during client hours with two paid staffers, serving clients through phone screenings and consultations, keeping doors locked, taking all health safety precautions (wearing gloves and face-masks, sanitizing, etc.), having the sonographer on-site only when an ultrasound is needed, and sending parenting class lessons via email. Staff are working from home.



Although we've made these major changes, there is an incredible amount of work ahead of us to ensure moms and dads are given compassionate care and help to navigate life-and-death decisions surrounding unwanted pregnancies.

Clients' material needs due to Coronavirus are already keeping us busier than normal. We anticipate even greater need in the coming weeks and months.

- Typically conceptions increase when people are confined in their homes (blizzards and natural disasters).
- We're hearing reports of increased domestic abuse – including sexual assault resulting in unwanted pregnancies.
- Many people are struggling financially due to layoffs and business shutdowns.
- Abortion providers are claiming to be essential, while capitalizing on people's fear.

With these needs in front of us, there is a need for increased funding. At the writing of this newsletter the Virtual Life-A-Thon, still to come, is well below our fundraising goal. Also, when churches can't gather they also can't run normal baby bottle fundraising campaigns.

We're thankful a group of special supporters have taken their generosity one step further by pledging their monthly support to provide for moms and their families.

Just \$19 a month will make a huge impact in caring for moms, dads, and families.

I know you will not rest while moms and babies continue to need diapers, wipes, formula and support. Or while young ladies find they are pregnant and can't see how they could possibly bring a child into this world of uncertainty.

By becoming a monthly supporter, you are literally becoming part of the team who cares for moms and their families – just as though you were here providing compassionate care and hope in Jesus. So I hope you will join this group of special supporters today.

When the next normal arrives, the need of moms and families will remain if not increase significantly. You will be here to continue the good fight! The moms and their babies are counting on you!

**You Can Be Here for a Mom and her Family Every Month!
\$19/Month (63 Cents/Day) Really Makes A Difference.
We Hope You'll Join Us as a New Monthly Donor!**

TRIBUTE GIFTS

From 1st Quarter of 2020

Show how special people are or how their lives have touched yours. Send a gift in memory of someone who entered eternal life or honor someone for a milestone (*birthday, baptism, adoption, anniversary, confirmation, graduation, etc.*). Each gift is gratefully acknowledged and noted in future Sacred Trust issues.

In Honor

From

Scott and Rebecca Klitzke
Beverly Braskett
Eugene and Sharon Huth
Lyle and Marilyn Krueger
John and Beth Wagie

Celebrating

Camille Carlson's birthday
June Trede's birthday
1st Dad Program graduate
Myla, granddaughter born in February
Margaret Wagie's birthday

In Memory

From

Bill and Karleen Liedtke
Vivian Swanson
Andrew and Bonnie Huth
Joel and Jan Fredrich
James Dyrud
Randy and Carol Robison
Paul and Laila Fleischer
Esther Iverson
Frank Kitzman
Edwin and Dawn Olson
Carol Gallepp
Bill and Karleen Liedtke
Evan and Trudie Roloff
Peter and Rose Georgson
James and Sharon Aderman
Bonita Rieder
Merlyn and Corrine Krueger
Karen T Runge

In Memory of

Clem Kreye
Joyce Dyrud
Joyce Dyrud
Joyce Dyrud, great grandmother
Joyce Dyrud
Jim Merschman
Jim Merschman
Jim Merschman
Austin Nickolai Kitzman
Doris Carnahan
George, Alice and George, Jr. Gallepp
Jim Wilz
Jean Moericke
Jean Moericke
Violet Wangerin
Sally Starr
Fred Moll
Kathleen Doud

Encouragement from our Patners:

- *I am overjoyed that our LFL is doing all it can do in these crazy and odd times. - Phil W.*
- *Thank you all so much for saving babies! Please know you are in our prayers for God's continued blessings. - D & A H.*
- *Praise God for the many babies that were spared from death. We are thankful that you and your staff are there for them. - Name withheld*

Client Are Saying...

- *You are my hero.*
- *I love everything about this place. People are so nice and make you feel comfortable.*
- *I felt no judgement about my situation. Thank for doing such a great job.*

Updates

Loving Parents

Our *Loving Parents* classes continue but in a modified way. Beth D., our primary educator, has been sending out weekly parenting lesson emails to more than 20 parents. The parents can email their homework to Stefanie, who is one of our Saturday receptionists. Some parents have stopped by to pick up diapers and wipes. This, along with texts has allowed us to stay connected with our *Loving Parents* participants. We've been touched by their kind words of "stay safe." Some of the topics addressed in lessons are: Teaching your kids to play on their own, Motivating your child, and 10 ways to exercise as a family.

Beth has also provided useful resources like, "A Support Guide for Raising Babies and Toddlers Through the Corona Virus Crisis."

First Dad Program Grad!

Earlier this year, before Coronavirus stalled so much, we had our first Graduate of our pilot Dad Program. We'll call him *Adam* since he is our first "Dad Grad." We're excited to support men looking to step up in their God-given role as father and partner in parenting. Gene H. a long-time volunteer is very knowledgeable and was his advocate. Some of the "Practical Fatherhood" lessons they went through were:

Role Models, Respect for Mothers, Being a Leader, Discipline Foundation, Discipline Guidelines

Adam is proud of his accomplishment, grateful to Gene and you for the training, and eager to put his lessons into practice. He did not give us permission to use his name or photo. Please

