



giving on a **SHOESTRING**

November 30, 2009

Dear Friends,

Many organizations need a lot of money because they run extensive programs and have big bills to pay.

Life Choices Center is not one of those organizations.

First of all, like the Greater Binghamton community we serve, we are relatively small. Second, we stick closely to our primary purpose (although we are often tempted to get involved in other areas because there are just so many needs). Third, we have become masters of the shoestring budget!

If you're receiving this letter, it's because you've contributed to the work of Life Choices Center in some way. Thank you. We could not do what we do without you.

I'm serious.

When your budget is small and you stretch dollars, literally every single gift matters.

As we near the end of a calendar year, many of us are considering making a charitable donation so that our dollars go toward a cause we believe in—instead of getting taxed. On the reverse side of this letter, you'll see where your year-end, tax-deductible gift to Life Choices Center will go.

I recognize that we're not the only ones living on a shoestring budget, and however you are able to support Life Choices Center, please know that you are appreciated. Every donation allows our staff to focus less on fundraising and more serving the women and men who come through our door.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me. I can be reached at 607.723.3540 or at director@lifechoicescenter.org.

Russ Smith
Executive Director

Helping women & men

BEFORE, DURING and AFTER an unplanned pregnancy.

BEFORE

“Are you gonna keep doing ‘good choices for a good life’ even after we’re done meeting?”



Michelle didn't know whether to laugh or cry. The question came from one of the teen boys she worked with to produce the first edition of *DaTruf*, a magazine for guys with a positive messages about sex, love, and relationships. Michelle had been emphasizing to the teens that good choices lead to a good life, and challenging them to keep that idea in mind as they wrote their articles.

Will you help us reach teens with the **good choices for a good life** message—before the crisis pregnancy hits?

Your money will go toward...

- Printing costs for *IMAGE* magazine and *DaTruf*
- Snacks for teens in *IMAGE* and *DaTruf* groups
- Literature for negative pregnancy test clients
- Advertising targeted to teens and college students

DURING



All the help and guidance I've gained has given me a major sense of accomplishment.

Carrie, pictured here with her mentor, Jeannette, graduated from Smart Choices in August after two years in the program.

Ever since Life Choices Center began 17 years ago, the founding members knew it wasn't good enough just to tell women not to have abortions. They knew if they really wanted women in a crisis pregnancy to choose life, they'd have to come alongside them and support them in real, practical ways.

We've carried on that vision, primarily through our 'Smart Choices' mentoring program, and have expanded it to also include support for new fathers.

Will you help us **support new moms and dads** during pregnancy and their child's early years?

Your money will go toward...

- Curriculum for clients in the Smart Choices program
- Pregnancy tests
- Supplies for ultrasound exams
- Diapers, wipes and other baby essentials

“It was a breakthrough when I understood that God actually, really, truly forgave me. It was a very joyful moment for me.”



Kirsten with her husband Randy

AFTER

Kirsten spent way too many years waiting for God to punish her for the abortion she tried to keep buried in her past. “I was overprotective and clingy with my daughter,” she says. “I thought God was going to take her away.” When she found out that there were women at Life Choices Center who had also experienced abortion, Kirsten was relieved to know she wasn't the only one, and she signed up for the 'Beyond the Choice' abortion recovery Bible study.

“That study changed my life,” she says. “I have become a much better parent. I'm able to trust that my daughter is God's child.”

Will you help us point women and men suffering after an abortion toward the **healing forgiveness** Christ offers?

Your money will go toward...

- Abortion recovery Bible study books
- Memorial service costs
- Bibles to give our clients

the \$1,000 challenge

A generous donor has given a \$1,000 gift to Life Choices Center—along with the challenge to others to match the gift amount. You can match her gift on your own, or pool your money with a group of friends.

We've estimated that a client of Life Choices Center can receive about \$133 worth of services per month. We factored in costs such as pregnancy tests, ultrasound exams, curriculum and one-on-one time spent with a volunteer mentor.

Of course, we offer our services **completely free** to clients—and your money will help us keep it that way.

Life Choices Center
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