

Life Lines

XXX Number 308

"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

Ashland Care Center

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This time of the year has a way of bringing back fond memories of years gone by...past Christmas' at Grandma's house, walking through knee deep snow to find just the right Christmas tree, the smell of gingerbread wafting through the house, singing Christmas Carols, hearing squeals of joy as your child opens that longed for gift...



But for many of our clients, this time of year stirs up memories that would rather be forgotten...telling parents they are pregnant, a boyfriend abandoning the relationship because he "couldn't handle it", missing a baby because a pregnancy ended too early either through miscarriage or abortion...

I picked up a little devotional book hoping to use it during our morning prayer time at ACC and came across the following:

"After Jesus rose from the dead and returned to Heaven, God's hands and feet left the soil of this earth. Or so it would seem. But when God guides us to reach out to others in love, to feed the hungry, to comfort the grieving, to provide for the poor, to tend to those who are ill in body or spirit, or to share God's message of hope with those who are searching for the truth, we are acting on God's behalf. We become His hands and feet on this earth."

Never forget that a warm hug from your own two arms may be the touch of God someone desperately needs today. Don't hold back. God may be using you to answer someone's heartfelt prayer." (From 101 Amazing Things God Thinks About You, pg. 130)

"That's it! That's Ashland Care Center in a nutshell!" Fortunately my staff is accustomed to my dramatic phrasing and I didn't startle them too much. But seriously – that is who we are and who we want to be – the needed shoulder to cry on, the listening ear when it seems no one else will listen, the words of encouragement, the safe place to land, "the touch of God someone desperately needs today."

Today, and as you make preparations to celebrate the birth of our wonderful Lord, please take a moment to pray for those who have experienced a loss, for the gal with a heart aching to be understood, for the guy who is scared out of his mind to be a dad and for ACC Office Manager, Karen Gerwig as she continues to valiantly fight the effects of cancer and chemotherapy. Stand with us – "Don't hold back. God is using US together to answer someone's heartfelt prayer." Together – "We become His hands and feet on this earth."

Ducia Hamm, director

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from All of Us at Ashland Care Center*

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED LIFEWALK 2012



You raised over
\$23,000 for
Ashland
Care Center!



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING BUSINESSES 2012

Allstate Insurance - Bill Snook
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Ashland Eyecare, Inc.
Ashland Women's Center -
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Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers
Wise Communications

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE CARE CENTER'S ANNUAL BANQUET - MARCH 21, 2013

Back by popular demand - Christian comedian Gordon Douglas



JOIN US FOR SANCITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

"TOGETHER FOR LIFE"

Sunday, January 20th, 2013

At 6:30 PM

Ashland Brethren in Christ Church

2750 Mifflin Ave, Ashland

Speaker: Joyce Mansfield

Come hear the story of one ordinary woman's emotional (and sometimes humorous!) journey from spiritual confusion into a joy-filled life in Christ. Once a vocal pro-choicer who just didn't "get" Jesus and wanted to save the world, God orchestrated events in her life to teach her the horrible truth about abortion and show her that SHE was the one who needed saved. Now she is a wife, mom of three and a passionate advocate for life who can't get enough of Jesus and the hope he gives the world.
(Right: Joyce Mansfield and her family)



WELCOME TO OUR INTERIM OFFICE MANAGER

Everyone knows things can get a little hectic when the office manager is gone and we have truly missed our office manager Karen Gerwig who has been on medical leave. In order to get things running efficiently again, Dona Martin has been added to the staff as interim office manager.

Dona has lived in the Wayne/Ashland area most of her life but left the area a few years ago because of her husband's work. On returning to Ashland, her family found a church home at Christ Community Church. When Dona's employer closed up shop, she found herself out of work but planned just to retire and enjoy her family. However, when she was approached about coming to the Care Center, Dona was enticed by the prospect of the one-year position and found a job where she could apply her 35 years of accounting experience.

Dona has been enjoying her first weeks on the job and especially likes the Care Center's Christian atmosphere. She finds that her schedule still allows her plenty of time to spend with her husband, three daughters who live in the area, her son who lives in Louisville, KY, her eight grandchildren, as well as her beloved horses. **Welcome, Dona!**



A WORD FROM A CLIENT

(used with permission)

Dear Ashland Care Center Staff,

Since I was a couple months pregnant, I have been coming to the Care Center for the baby bucks program. Your program has helped me so much. When I was pregnant, I started out with nothing and because of this program, my daughter has diapers, soaps, wipes, and clothes. She also has toys, extra formula, shoes, socks, burp rags, and hats.



Every time I earn baby bucks, I feel so accomplished. I feel like a good mom because I did this all on my own. I watch videos that have helped me through my pregnancy and my growing baby girl. Every book I read from the ACC's bookshelf has helped me learn about my child's growth, health, the things she should be able to do, etc.

I just wanted to write you guys and tell you that you guys mean a lot to me and you guys have made such an impact in my life and in my daughter, Aubree's life.

Praying for me every time I come in the Care Center means something to me. Other than my family, boyfriend, and daughter, I never had someone care so much about me and my daughter.

Thanks for all you guys have done for me. I pray for you guys now. (P.S. I pray a lot more now than I did before I came to the Care Center.)

Love you guys,
Danielle and Aubree xoxoxoxoxo

BOUTIQUE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

After a year and a half of volunteering in the Care Center office, **Pat Rogers** is ACC's new Boutique Manager.



Pat was attracted to the boutique because of her dedication to our mission and her love of recycling just about anything.



Pat is a Hillsdale native and has lived in this area all her life. She and her husband Dan have seven children, three of whom are still at home. In her leisure time, you can find Pat and her husband enjoying their children's many sports activities.





A big thank-you is due to former boutique manager Janet Bright who is retiring after a number of years of generously giving her time and energy to the boutique. Janet, thanks for a job well-done!



BOUTIQUE GETS A MAKEOVER

Ashland Care Center's Baby Boutique received a makeover this fall courtesy of a donation of \$450 from Christ Community Church. (Thank you CCEFC!!)

Located in the lower level of Ashland's Emmanuel United Methodist Church, some areas of the boutique have been rearranged and everything is complemented by a new checkout counter, designed and built by John Boyd, a hanger rack built by Phil Hamrick, portable clothing racks, new lamps to facilitate the sorting of donations, a CD player to provide background music, and some new items to update the children's play area.

Feel free to visit the Boutique for a look-see. **And don't forget, the boutique would love your donations of diapers, wipes, quality, clean, used baby clothing, strollers, pack n' plays, etc.**

