

Together for Life Virtual Gala Highlights

To say this year's Gala season was a little different is an understatement. The path we traveled was like no other. We often said we saw Jesus with a machete just inches in front of us clearing the brush so we could move forward in planning our virtual gala. The good news is, **God blessed us with amazing collaborators who worked tirelessly to produce a beautiful online event.** We are grateful to Grace and Austin Cline, of SiteMap, who designed our gala web page, and Kirsti Lewis with KDM Production who filmed several segments and produced the video.

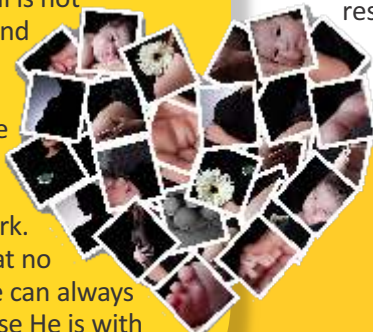
We also want to thank Matthew West who performed the song, "Unplanned" for us, Abby Johnson who made a cameo appearance, Chris & Carol Fear who gave an inspirational donor testimony, and Mike Williams who did our appeal. Pastors Ian Thomas of The King's Church and Richard C. Piatt, III of Fellowship Baptist, gave our invocation and benediction respectively and did outstanding. We truly appreciated everyone's willingness to join us in our first ever virtual gala journey.

While we are incredibly grateful to all of you who generously shared your resources with us, we wish we could report to you that we met our fundraising goal. However, that is not the case. As of early August, we were still \$75,000 shy of our budget goal. The donations are still trickling in but we really need your help to get to the finish line. **If you haven't had a chance to view the gala, you still can!** Go to awcgala.com to access the event.



If you were planning to give a gift and haven't yet, we encourage you to visit this same page and use the buttons listed below the video to make your donation. You may also mail your gift in the envelope enclosed.

Although our fundraising goal is not yet met, we still give honor and praise to our Lord for ALL He has done and is doing at A Woman's Choice. We believe in His faithfulness – that He will provide all that we need to continue this Kingdom work. What we know for sure is that no matter our circumstances we can always find joy in the journey because He is with us, and **YOU are together with us for LIFE!**



A WOMAN'S CHOICE

Changing hearts. Saving lives.



Think for a moment about a time in your life when you have felt overwhelmed and confused about what to do. These feelings of emotions are relatable to all of us. Now, think about going through this troubling time all alone with no joy and no hope. Many of the women who visit A Woman's Choice are going through overwhelming circumstances and often look to abortion as a solution. This happened to Kristie* who came in for help about her unplanned pregnancy. When she arrived at A Woman's Choice, she was strongly considering abortion.

During her visit, Kristie opened up with her advocate and let her know that she was already a mom of multiple children. She said she was in a long-term relationship with the baby's father who also had a child with another woman. As you can imagine, she was overwhelmed with so many needs and responsibilities.

Kristie and her advocate spent time listening to one another and building trust. Her advocate gently explained her pregnancy options and the hope Kristie could find in Christ. She prompted Kristie to think about a new way of life, a new path to walk that includes Jesus. **We are excited to announce that the Holy Spirit moved Kristie's heart to accept Him into her life!** With this new sense of joy in Christ, after leaving A Woman's Choice, **Kristie also chose life for her baby.** Praise God!

We rejoice with Kristie that she found joy in the journey, not only in parenting a new life, but also in finding new life in Christ. We also rejoice in thanking you, our supporters, for joining us in this journey as we share the joy of the gospel with our clients. You are making an eternal impact and we praise God for you!

**name changed for privacy*



Save the Date!

Saturday, November 7

(see article inside)



Joy in the Journey

In James 1:2, we are instructed to “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.” This is often a tough Scripture for believers to swallow. First it reminds us that we *will* face trials of many kinds, and then it tells us to consider it “pure joy” when we do. Say what? We don't like it, and it doesn't seem to make sense. But it is a powerful and wonderful truth.

The joy referenced in this Scripture is found in the verses that follow it. When we read on, we see that we will face trials, but we *can* have joy in knowing that God is working through them to accomplish amazing things *in us*. In the moment, the things may not feel or look so good, but it is what comes later that is something to celebrate! So, we can have joy when we stay focused on what God is doing, rather than what we are going through.

What if, when we face a trial, instead of asking, “Why, God??,” we ask, “What, God?” What if we focus on what He wants to grow in us, instead of the challenge? Imagine what joy we can have! We can also find joy in the journey when we take time to *look for it*. Here is what I know—no matter how bad or hard things become, there is *always* still good. I know that because *God is good*, and there is no circumstance that changes that. So again, it is about where we place our attention. If all we focus on is the trial, we will miss out on the good around us.

At A Woman's Choice, we are blessed to see God's goodness in the work He does in our ministry every day. However, that does not mean that we are immune to the trials of life. We, too, have faced the difficult challenges of the pandemic in our ministry, as well as personal trials in the lives of our staff, volunteers, and clients. Things have been hard everywhere. And yet, *there is joy*—for us and for you. I hope you will read through our newsletter to see some of the ways we have seen God's goodness, and I hope you find joy in what you read.

One of our greatest joys is seeing God change hearts and save lives, and it is because of YOU that happens every day in our ministry. Thank you for bringing us joy with your faithful support. May God bless you and give YOU joy in your journey!

Rebecca's Heart

a note
from AWC's
Executive
Director



Walk Anywhere for Life - SAVE THE DATE!

On **Saturday, November 7, 2020**, A Woman's Choice will hold our annual Walk for Life. While we typically meet at First Presbyterian Church on Lake Hollingsworth, this year, we invite you to Walk *Anywhere* for Life! It is our hope that we can follow through with our regularly scheduled event on the lawn of the church. If unforeseen circumstances don't allow us to, or if you would rather walk in your neighborhood than with a crowd, we welcome you to walk on your own. But, know this – **we really want you to walk for life with us!**

The Walk for Life is a fun, family-friendly, fundraising event that requires no prior athletic training or ability. We welcome all ages – even infants in strollers! **It's easy!** You just recruit your sponsors, and then **come join us** in saving the lives of babies that otherwise may not have any chance at life!

The success of our Walk is built on the number of “sponsored” walkers who participate, so to have an abundance of walkers, we need an abundance of churches sharing this information for us! **WE NEED YOU** to join us in the journey and share the joy of walking for life. If you could help us by serving as a Walk Liaison at your church, **please contact Kelly at kellya@supportawc.org or Janet at janets@supportawc.com.**

To register as a Walker and start your personal fundraising webpage, access our Walk for Life website at awcwalk.com and follow the prompts.



Despite Challenges, Teen Impact Had a Great Summer!

Teen Impact is a special peer-to-peer program, presented to teenagers by a group of high school teens who have made a commitment to abstain from premarital sex, drugs, tobacco and

recorded videos to our site locations. Our videographer did an excellent job, as he was also a former summer staffer, so that gave him a lot of insight into how to direct the team. As a result, A Woman's

Amid the busyness, for a time of refreshing, teaching and spiritual renewal, our team attended a week of camp June 22-26. The camp space was donated this year so every Impact student had the opportunity to attend without any out-of-pocket costs!

A Woman's Choice will begin accepting applications for next summer soon. If you know of a high school student who is interested, please go to our website or contact Aimee Almon, our SHARE Director, at Aimeea@supportawc.org. Teen Impact is a great way to serve the community while earning necessary community service hours for college entrance requirements.

So even though the summer started out as challenging, and we were not sure we could run the program, we were able to overcome the obstacles, and bring another year of sexual health and relationship education to many middle and high school students in Polk and Hillsborough County. Several of our summer staffers said that this was the craziest and most fun summer ever! Thank you to our Heavenly Father and the generosity of GiveWell Foundation for making it all possible. There truly is *joy in the journey!*



* There are several other Impact videos available. Please contact Aimee if you are interested in sharing them with your church or community organization.



alcohol. The presentation is fun, interactive, and engaging. Through it, teens learn the risks associated with sex before marriage and the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, empowering them to choose healthy relationships and set themselves up for a positive future. **Teen Impact is part of the prevention arm of A Woman's Choice.**

Although challenging because of the current climate in which we live, Teen Impact had a successful and productive summer! We allowed our creative juices to flow and were able to present "virtual" presentations to three Boys and Girls Clubs in Lakeland for a total of 50 students. The team also presented five **Facebook Live** presentations to Boys and Girls Clubs in Hillsborough County via zoom, adding another 75 students. We were even given the opportunity to present three live presentations at **City of Lakeland Parks & Rec, Lakeland PAL, and Anchor House Ministries** for a total of 30 students. That's over 150 students who were able to hear our message, and the team still has one more live presentation scheduled at **Transforming Life Church** on August 19.

Normally training week begins the Monday after school gets out, and we hit the ground running with presentations the following week. This year we were able to train for one week, and film for one week, giving us the opportunity to offer quality pre-

Choice now has **quality Teen Impact video's available to use not only during the summer but even in the classroom during the school year.** We wanted to share a couple of them with you. One is a pantomime titled, *Pieces of My Heart*. The other is titled, *Lysol*, and it describes the role of the Impact Team. To view them, open your camera on your smart phone and hover over the following QR Codes which will then take you to the YouTube videos*:



Lysol



Pieces of My Heart



A Woman's Choice

1234 E. Lime Street
Lakeland, FL 33801

863.683.2341

SupportAWC.com



Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Permit #1
Lakeland, FL

SEE INSIDE

Finding Joy in the Journey



When you are planning your long-term investments and legacy giving, keep A Woman's Choice in mind. There are so many creative ways to multiply your blessings so they have an eternal impact on the women, men, and families we serve. Contact Janet Smith at janets@supportawc.com to hear more about planned giving and joining our **Legacy of Life Champions Club**.

MISSION STATEMENT:

A Woman's Choice helps women and men choose LIFE for the UNBORN through CHRIST-centered education, MEDICAL care and SUPPORT.

VISION STATEMENT:

Ending abortion by advancing a culture of LIFE and FREEDOM in CHRIST

You may opt to receive our newsletter via email by contacting Deena at deenak@supportawc.com.



Be sure to
**"LIKE" us on
Facebook**
"SHARE" us
with your friends.
[Facebook.com/
supportawcflorida](https://www.facebook.com/supportawcflorida)