Meeting Notes – Feb. 6, 2024

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, for its weekly meeting. Rotarian Dori Harmon was responsible for the program and invited Machelle Hall, executive director of Sav-A-Life in Lanett, AL, to be our speaker. Sav-A-Life is a pregnancy resource center located across the street from Piggly Wiggly in Lanett. The year 2023 marked the organization's 38th year of ministry, during which time they have served 23,000 men and women by providing free, confidential pregnancy resources.

The center employs a nurse manager and a client services coordinator, in addition to their executive director. The center is also staffed by 21 volunteers, including three nurses. It is governed by a seven-member board of directors. Their mission is to promote life and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. They receive no government funding and are supported entirely by donations.

With the reversal of Woe v Wade, the center has had a greater opportunity to serve the men and women in our community by providing resources before, during and after pregnancy. Their daily goal is to change hearts and save lives. The center offers free pregnancy tests; confidential counseling that includes discussion of the options of parenting, adoption, and abortion; and a first-trimester ultrasound, usually performed at 8-10 weeks in the pregnancy.

They have outgrown their current facility and have been praying for opportunities for expansion. They also desired to remain in the same area. They have been saving money in a building fund for years and have more recently been praying for opportunities to raise an additional $50,000.00. In four months, the center raised $75,000.00, exceeding their $50,000.00 goal. This was made possible by donations from individuals and businesses in our community. The planned new building will offer more exam rooms, an ultrasound room, a conference/teaching center, as well as office and storage space. With the upcoming expansion of facilities, their current building will be turned into the Baby Boutique where parents can shop for needed items for the baby. They currently offer those items, but converting the current building will allow for much more room.

The center also offers programs such as Earn While You Learn, an on-going parenting, life-skills program, and a Bible study where the parents can earn Baby Bucks to spend while shopping in the Baby Boutique. The Men's Ministry offers a weekly program every Tuesday afternoon for the fathers. On average each month, the center provides 18-20 pregnancy tests and 60 Earn While You Learn visits (one time per week per client). Many clients continue to return to the center after the baby is born.

Diane Sheriff

**WAYS TO LIVE OUT YOUR PRO-LIFE BELIEFS**

Sometimes we need ideas of practical ways to live out our pro-life beliefs. There are SO many ways to do this. Here are some ideas to get you started right here in our community. Some are as simple as prayer, while others will require planning and a financial investment.

**Pray:**

· That women and men facing unintended pregnancies will choose life and choose Christ

· For Sav-A-Life staff that are meeting with women everyday - our Nurses and Client Advocates

· For women who are being pressured to abort by a partner, parent, or other person; that they will have courage and choose life

· That abortion clinic workers and abortionists would see the truth of life and walk away from that profession

· For local, state, and national elected officials to have the courage to stand for life

· That women and men who have unintended pregnancies would be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ

· For post-abortive women dealing with grief and regret from their past abortion

· That women who are considering a chemical abortion would change their minds

**Support:**

· Support Sav-A-Life financially.

· Ask a Sav-A-Life staff member what material donations are needed. (Diapers, baby clothes, etc.)

· Offer your professional skills to support Sav-A-Life – IT, Graphic Design, Marketing, etc.

· Partner with Sav-A-Life by offering to help with needs around the center.

· Work with others to host a baby shower for the center’s current clients.

· Volunteer at the center.

· Buy gift cards (of any amount) and donate them to Sav-A-Life for their clients (grocery stores, gas cards, and restaurants).

· Plan a prayer walk around Sav-A-Life.

· Write a card of encouragement to the staff at Sav-A-Life.

· Host a Baby Bottle Boomerang in your church and support the center’s fundraisers throughout the year.

**Serve:**

· Share your pro-life vision on your own social media.

· Offer to drive a pregnant woman to Sav-A-Life for testing or classes if she doesn’t have transportation.

· Offer to drive a pregnant woman to her OB appointment.

· Plan a baby shower for a single pregnant woman in your church.

· Invite a young family over for dinner.

· Offer a night of childcare to a single parent, or take dinner to a single parent and her child(ren).

· Make a meal plan to provide meals to a single woman in your church after she comes home from giving birth.

· Offer a night of childcare to a foster or adoptive family in our community.

· Invite younger women and men into discipleship relationships via small groups and Bible studies.

· “Adopt” a single parent and include them and their child(ren) in your family activities.

· Purchase diapers and wipes and donate to a single mother or young family.

· Identify resources in your community and become familiar with them to be able to share with young women or couples who need assistance (Sav-A-Life, Circle of Care, Christian Service Center, local food banks, local WIC and Medicare offices, and any other services available in the community).

· Help a single mother or struggling family who needs transportation to get to and from work, to the grocery store, to pay bills, etc.

· Identify local and state pro-life elected officials and write them a note of encouragement.