


# NEWSLETTER





**“...I WILL TELL THE  
STORY OF THE  
WORKS OF THE  
LORD.”** PSALMS 118:17

In Genesis 16 we read of a young woman who was given as a sex slave to her master's husband in a bizarre ploy to grant his wife a child she deeply longed for. Within this young woman's nightmare of traumatic abuse, God shaped the history of all mankind. He was present in her darkest hours. She responds with these words: "You're the God who sees me!"

**For 35 years God has been shaping the stories of thousands in our community with life-giving hope through the ministry of LifeChoices.**

The stories of many of our clients are complex and often filled with more questions than answers, but then God shows up. He hears their cries, He sees their pain, He provides all the answers they could ever need.

Our team serves **over 10,000 students** through our prevention programs in 14 area school districts every year. Through our clinic doors we welcome **more than 4,000 clients** each year to receive free and confidential medical services. Into the dark corners of our communities, we choose to take Jesus to the streets and serve women caught in exploitation. In our local jails we show up with the compassion of His touch to provide essential sexual healthcare. This year our team has already had **over 2,500 gospel-whispering moments** with the individuals we are honored to serve. With your support, we can whisper God-filled hope into their lives.

Joseph Campbell is quoted as saying "People forget facts, but they remember stories." **Will you join us next month at our special 35th anniversary banquet to celebrate the incredible stories God has written at LifeChoices?**



**Featuring special guest speaker, Benjamin Watson,** we are excited to gather with you to reflect on the great impact we have made together. Benjamin was a 16-season NFL tight end, as well as an author and speaker. A Bart Starr award winner, two-time Walter Payton Man of the Year nominee, and Super Bowl Champion, he is now a college football studio analyst with the SEC Network, VP of Strategic Relationships with Human Coalition, and Director of Football for Pro Athletes Outreach. Along with his wife, Kirsten, he is the founder of The Watson 7 Foundation, a nonprofit focused on strengthening families. Benjamin is a highly sought-after speaker and we cannot wait to introduce him to you all!

*be a part of the story...*

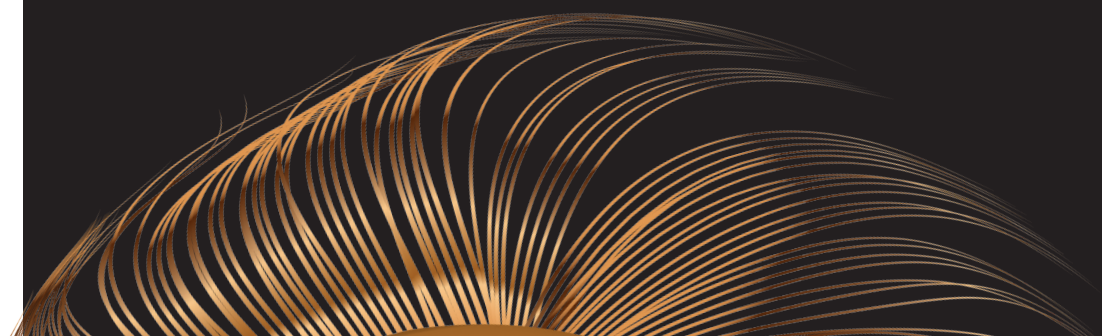
Thursday, October 17th • Hope City Church  
Doors open at 6:00 PM, dinner begins at 6:30 PM

**Registration for this year's event is now open, but seats are filling fast!  
Please visit [lifevoices.org/banquet](https://lifevoices.org/banquet) or call 417-623-0131 to register today!**

*An opportunity for financial partnership with LifeChoices will be presented.*

*Due to limited seating, adults only, please.*

**We are deeply appreciative of your faithful support of LifeChoices. We could not serve over 14,000 people each year without you. Will you join us to see that our services continue for the next 35 years and beyond?!**





# SEVERAL MOMENTS, SEVERAL MONTHS

MISCHA LONG, RN, BSN, DIRECTOR OF NURSING

One of the things that sets LifeChoices apart is our desire to build genuine relationships with our clients. We don't always get the opportunity to connect with a client multiple times, but when we do, the impact can be incredible.

**Earlier this year, Andrea\* came into our clinic for a pregnancy test.** She was homeless and her boyfriend said it wasn't a good time for them to have a baby. He wanted her to have an abortion, even offering to pay for it. Andrea was honest to say she felt conflicted about the decision and thought an abortion would be emotionally challenging. **Over the next two weeks, three different staff members met with Andrea to provide various services.** One staff member treated her for two sexually transmitted infections. Another nurse provided ultrasounds to confirm her pregnancy was developing as it should. And yet another team member met with her to discuss resources that were available throughout our community to assist her with making a parenting plan. By the end of those two weeks, Andrea had tools to move forward with carrying her pregnancy but was still unsure of her decision. She repeatedly said, **"I really want to keep this baby, but there is so much going on in my life that it makes it hard to consider."**

**Two months later,** Andrea reached out to us and admitted that she had not yet seen a doctor for her pregnancy due to a lack of transportation, nor had she decided whether or not to carry her pregnancy. She shared she felt "stuck" and her boyfriend was still pushing for an abortion. **She came to the clinic once more and our team continued to offer her encouragement, support, and resources.** Before she left that day, we assisted her with getting an appointment with a local physician so she could move forward with the healthiest pregnancy possible.

**Several weeks later,** one of our nurses was asked by a county jail to assist a pregnant woman in their custody. **When the nurse arrived, it was Andrea who sat before her.** She told the nurse she had been arrested for trespassing while looking for somewhere to sleep at night. She had no idea how long she would be in jail but her main concern was continued exposure to infections that could affect her and her baby. She anxiously shared that she hadn't felt the baby move recently – **she was deeply concerned about the life growing within her.** In that moment, our nurse was able to provide an ultrasound, address her infection concerns, pray with her, and make a follow-up care plan.

Like so many of our clients, Andrea's journey is still ongoing and undoubtedly complex. However, regardless of what comes next, she knows that **LifeChoices is here for her.** Because of your partnership with LifeChoices, our team will be able to continue sharing God's love, grace, and kindness with Andrea and her baby.

*\*Name changed to protect client confidentiality.*

# THE BENEFITS AND BLESSINGS OF A BIG GOD

TROY HILL, CPA (RETIRED)

How do you use just a few words to describe an indescribable God and the blessings received when you are used as a conduit for His good work at LifeChoices?

**I believe our God is a god of creativity, structure, and simplicity.** It is within this framework that my wife and I have considered our charitable giving options during different seasons of life. If you desire to leverage your giving to the greatest possible impact, perhaps this perspective could be helpful to you also.

Regardless of how you choose to partner with LifeChoices, once all is said and done, **there is truly nothing better than the satisfaction of knowing (without a doubt) that you have been part of changing and saving lives through LifeChoices.** That alone is a pretty great benefit, and it is why I cry at the annual banquet every year when hearing how many lives have been impacted through LifeChoices and our giving!

If you want to learn more about any of the following strategies and how to maximize your gifts in 2024, contact Jordynnn at 417-623-0131. She would be more than happy to visit with you before the end of the year!



## CHARITABLE GIVING IDEAS

- 01 Cash**  
The simplest and most straightforward way to give.
- 02 Monthly Giving**  
Simple, structured, and highly beneficial to the organization.
- 03 Gift of Appreciated Securities**  
(stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) – Creative giving option that many don't consider.
- 04 Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**  
Simple, creative, and structured giving option for individuals 70 ½ or over.
- 05 Gift from Donor Advised Fund (DAF)**  
Creative and structured option that provides a flexible way to give with potential unique tax benefits.
- 06 Gift of a Specific Bequest from Estate at Date of Death**  
Creative and structured giving with incredible legacy impact.
- 07 Utilization of the Missouri Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credit program**  
This is a creative, structured, and simple way to leverage your partnership with LifeChoices to great impact.

# BEAUTY FROM ASHES

KAROLYN SCHRAGE, RN BSN,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Elisabeth Elliot wrote **“Of one thing I am perfectly sure, God’s story never ends with ashes.”** Her husband was one of five missionaries killed while in service to the expansion of God’s Kingdom and yet she chose to return with her daughter to the very tribe who killed him with a desire to continue sharing the redeeming love of Jesus. She chose to overcome the ashes of sorrow with the hope of eternal life.

For many who are caught in sexual exploitation and human trafficking there often seems no way out and no one who cares. Beauty has been turned to ashes and life has been beaten into sorrow.

**But God, in His redeeming love, has given LifeChoices unique access to many of these individuals through years of providing advocacy and medical services during victim-centered law enforcement operations to recover missing and/or exploited individuals.** The stories we hear are harsh and at times our help is rejected, but the beauty of God’s hope often endures beyond that initial crisis intervention. Our team continues to faithfully invest in these women and pour unrelenting love over their deep wounds of emotional and physical pain for many months (or even years) after we meet them.

One of the young women we connected with through these efforts jotted a note on a bright pink post-it and left it with our clinic receptionist a few weeks ago. She wrote:

*“Hey! I haven’t seen you in a while. I wanted to tell you I got into a nursing program! I couldn’t have made it this far without your help and I’m so so blessed to have met such a light in my darkest time. Thank you for all you do for the young women in our community. Love you longtime. You are a hero!”*

As the facilitating organization of the RISE Coalition (Regional Intervention of Sexual Exploitation) LifeChoices stewards these opportunities with a deep sense of honor and responsibility. It’s because of you and your investment in the mission of LifeChoices that any of this is possible. **Since 2016, we have served over 335 survivors of exploitation and partnered with law enforcement on more than 30 victim-centered operations.**

Following a recent operation, one of the detectives sent this note, *“I very much appreciate your team’s help with this...Each of these girls were so sad in their own way and have suffered a lifetime of abuse and neglect. They deserve to know people, even strangers, care about them. Hopefully with a little nudge they will discover a path to a new and better life. Again, thank you.”*

Thank you for your gifts, encouragement, and support to make this possible!

**“To all who mourn  
He will give a crown  
of beauty for ashes,  
a joyous blessing  
instead of mourning,  
festive praise instead  
of despair.”** - Isaiah 61:3



# CHANGE FOR LIFE 2024 WAS OUR BEST BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN EVER!

Thank you so much for your continued friendship and generosity with LifeChoices through our annual Change for Life baby bottle program. This year we distributed more than 5,300 bottles to 80+ local churches. **We are excited to announce that, for the first time ever, Change for Life raised over \$100,000 this year!** In the last 11 years, our local churches have raised over \$800,000 through this fun and easy project. These gifts will truly make an incredible impact as we continue to serve students, clients, and the sexually exploited. Thank you so much!

**Your change changes lives!**



# LET'S CONNECT

Want to support the work of LifeChoices but feeling tight on time or money?

Interacting with our social media posts is a free and easy way to support LifeChoices and spread awareness about our programs, services, and upcoming events!

You can even turn on notifications for our pages so that you never miss another post!

**Connect with us on Facebook by searching for LifeChoices Health Network, or find us on Instagram at @lifechoicesjoplin.**





LIFECHOICES  
ANNUAL BANQUET

Registration for this year's event is now open, but seats are filling fast!

Visit [lifechoices.org/banquet](http://lifechoices.org/banquet) or call **417-623-0131** to register today!

# LIFECHOICES HEALTH NETWORK

531 E 7TH STREET | JOPLIN, MO 64801  
417.623.0131  
[lifechoices.org](http://lifechoices.org)

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