

P.O. BOX 68, NORWALK, OHIO, 44857

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[www.friendsofabigail.com](http://www.friendsofabigail.com)

**Our Services**

- Physician-Verified Pregnancy Tests
- Peer Counseling for Women & Men
- Maternity and Baby Supplies
- Parenting Classes
- Referrals to Other Agencies
- Abstinence Education
- Post-Abortion Counseling
- Embrace Grace & Embrace Life Programs

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# CARELINK

Connecting the Abigail Family

March 2018

## From the Director's Desk

One of my favorite things about following God's leading is that things are never as they seem. When I took this position to be the Executive Director, I was a little confused as to why the Lord directed my path from working with youth to working with new moms.

**Things are never as they seem.**

By helping parents, we are helping the family. By helping the family with material items and spiritual direction, we are ultimately impacting the lives of their children. It's a trickle-down effect which can change family dynamics for that family and ultimately, future generations.

What I have learned is that we are all here because we love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Luke 10:27). Because of our love for God, we see our clients and their children through His eyes with His love.

**"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13**

We want to save lives of unborn children from abortion. We want to help our clients become disciples of Jesus Christ. Those are the goals, but neither will happen without love.

Have you ever heard the saying, "People won't care how much you know until they know how much you care"? That is what we do here at Abigail. We truly and genuinely care about each and every client and their born and unborn children. We love them with the love of God, and that is what sets this ministry apart. That is why we are seeing clients getting plugged into local churches and clients going into Embrace Grace straight from graduating our parenting program (both are stories within this newsletter).

Here at Abigail Pregnancy Services, we offer a lot of free services to our clients; however, the greatest service we offer is loving on our clients and speaking life over them. Oftentimes, it is as though we are speaking life over dry bones.

**"Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone..." Ezekial 37:11**

We see clients come in with no hope, who have been told there is no hope, and they have made their bed and settled in a land of hopelessness. They come through our doors, and we begin to speak faith, hope, and love over them. Slowly, they begin to change. Not every client, but the ones that grasp onto our words in the peer counseling room do. Where they have felt judged and looked down upon everywhere else, we lift them up and encourage them. We love them because God is working through us with His love for them.

**"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19**



Blessings,  
Amanda Clark

SAVE THE DATE!!

We are so grateful to our friends at Jim's Pizza Box in Milan, who will be donating a portion of their sales to Abigail on April 17th. This event will go on all day so mark your calendars and remember to tell your friends and coworkers. They do take out too!



Tuesday April 17th at  
**JIM'S PIZZA BOX RESTAURANT**

10 N Main Street, Milan OH

A percentage of food sales on this day will go to providing valuable services for clients and their children at



**Abigail Pregnancy Services**  
Educate, Encourage, Empower

[www.friendsofabigail.com](http://www.friendsofabigail.com)  
[www.abigailpregnancyservices.com](http://www.abigailpregnancyservices.com)

## Contact Us

Please call for more information about our ministry or the services we provide.

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**Willard Office:**  
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Visit us on the web at  
[www.friendsofabigail.org](http://www.friendsofabigail.org)

Friends of Abigail on Facebook



## Meet Our Staff



Carol Beal, Financial Analyst, Terri Bridgett, Office Administrator, Pat Myers, Parenting Facilitator, Amanda Clark, Executive Director, Cathy Pausch, Community Educator, Ria VonKamp, Receptionist, Angie Solis, Peer Counselor, Carol Rinella, Communications Coordinator

## In This Issue

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# celebrate LIFE

**Our Annual Walk for Life will be on Saturday June 9th at 9AM at Suhr Park in uptown Norwalk. In a few weeks you will be receiving a personal invitation in the mail to participate in the walk with all the information you need to do so.**

## What is the purpose of the Walk for Life?

The purpose of the walk is two fold. It is one of our most important fundraisers, and enables us to continue the life changing, life saving work of the centers. These funds provide valuable services to woman and families experiencing unplanned pregnancy. We offer these services at no charge to the clients. The other reason is that the Walk raises our visibility in our communities. Its an amazing way to promote our services to attract more clients, volunteers and supporters.

## Why should I participate?

Participating in the walk is an easy way to put your compassion into action for our clients, and that is an important way to support a pro-life culture in our community. Where would these clients be if not for the help they receive at Abigail? Would they be living with the grief and aftermath of an abortion? Would they ever be told that they and their children have great worth in the eyes of God, and would they ever know that they have a Savior who is waiting for them with open arms? When you participate in events for this ministry, you are giving families these opportunities and much more.

## What if I'm not into sports?

We have great news for you if you're not the sporty type! Our walk is a leisurely stroll down a portion of Main Street and back. You can go as far and as fast (or slow) as you like. This event is designed to include as many participants as possible.

## What if I can't make that date?

More great news! If you can't make it to the event on June 9th, you can walk at a time and place that is convenient for you!

***Please prayerfully consider participating in the walk, or sponsoring someone who is. Your opportunity will be coming in the mail soon!***

## Change For Life

Our Thanks to Ripley Church, Trinity Christian Academy, Willard Christian Alliance Church, and Willard Church of the Nazarene for participating in our Baby Bottle Campaign.



Our goal for 2108 is to raise \$10,000 through the campaign and we're off to a great start! If your church, school, or group would like to participate please call the Norwalk center at 419-668-9500. All you have to do is distribute the bottles to your group and collect them on the determined date! We would be happy to send a representative from Abigail to speak to your group.

What an easy way to support life!



We recently had the privilege to celebrate this beautiful momma's birthday! She is a Baby Basics parenting class graduate who has gone on to join our Embrace Grace program. We are so proud of her efforts!

## Our Volunteers Are Awesome!

Last year Abigail volunteers donated **1376 hours** of their time. That equates to **\$15,870** in savings to the ministry! Our volunteers are amazing!!

## Please Pray

Abigail Pregnancy Services has abstinence presentations coming up in 3 local schools in April and May. We need your prayers that our message would change the lives of teens and their choices regarding sex and relationships.

## Our Babies Need Safe Places to Sleep

We are experiencing an extreme shortage of new or gently used cribs (not drop sided, please) and pack-n-plays. Please consider donating one of these items or donating funds for the purchase of one. This is a great outreach for a group to take on! Thanks in advance for your help on this!

## Grocery Receipts

Our friends at Shild's IGA in Norwalk donate a percentage of your grocery receipts from their store to Abigail Pregnancy Services. You can send them or drop them off to the centers or turn them in at the store with our name on the envelope. If you shop at IGA, it's an easy way to support the ministry! Thanks to all who participate in this program!

## Client Spotlight

*Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well. (1 Thess. 2:8)*



Every day as peer counselors at Abigail we have the privilege of meeting with struggling moms to encourage them in their motherhood journey. Often times we are the ones most blessed and challenged by the courageous clients that God ushers into our counseling rooms; such a client is our dear friend, Shannon. We first met Shannon a couple years ago when her son, Zachary, was four months old. Shannon was going through a difficult time. Not only was she experiencing debilitating post-partum depression, but she and her husband were struggling financially. Shannon finally broke down and reached out to local agencies for help. From the moment Shannon stepped into Abigail's she felt a tremendous bond with our staff. After her first counseling session, Shannon began seeking the Lord and got connected to a local church. It has been an honor for us to watch this beautiful young mom grow in her faith.

This summer Shannon experienced a devastating blow when her mother, her best friend, died after a brief battle with cancer. Her mom's death shook Shannon's faith, but she continued to seek material, emotional, and spiritual support from her "Abigail Ladies". Over the past several months each of us has ministered to our sweet friend through prayers, tears, and our personal stories of loss. Thankfully things are getting better for Shannon. In January she and her husband were blessed with their second son, Anikin. In addition, Shannon has slowly begun to connect with her Heavenly Father. Each time we see her we notice that she is becoming stronger both emotionally and spiritually. Please continue to pray for Shannon and her beautiful family.

In closing, we want to leave you with some words Shannon penned to our staff: *"I have been given these trials to find out how strong I am, and I felt so weak, but you helped me take that step to walk into church and pray to God. And I know now that everything will get better and I may need help for a while, but as long as I stay strong, pray and put all my faith in God, that he will be there and he has a plan. I am just still trying to figure out that plan! But because of you at Abigail's I have been brought closer to God and you have helped me believe in the good of people! Thank you so much for all you do for new moms and pregnant moms. I love what you do and I am so glad there is a place like this for women to go to for religion and help with pregnancy and motherhood!"*

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry at Abigail. You are a tremendous blessing to us and our precious clients, like Shannon.