

All Are Invited! JUNE 8, 2019

Walk for Life

**WE STILL NEED WALKERS!
SIGN UP TODAY!**



9-11 AM at
Suhr Park
Gazebo
in Norwalk

Register NOW!
online at
www.friendsofabigail.org
or call 419-668-9500. Our friends
from WGGN will be
broadcasting live
from the walk.

Contact Us

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

Norwalk Office:
3900 Laylin Rd
P.O. Box 68
Norwalk OH 44857

(419) 668-9500

Willard Office:
124 Maple St
Willard OH 44890

(419) 951-6109

ministrydirabigail@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.friendsofabigail.org

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CARELINK

Connecting the Abigail Family

May 2019

From the Director's Desk

The Lord Knits Our Hearts Together

This is my very last newsletter that I will have the privilege to write for within our Abigail family. As I have been praying the past couple of weeks, the Lord has continued to place the phrase "your hearts are knit together" within me. Again, I continued to pray to the Lord about what more should I say in my last newsletter article. Of all things, He placed the scripture 1 Samuel 18:1 on my heart. I thought, "Lord, why would you place the relationship of Jonathon and David on my heart? What does this have to do with pregnancy center ministry?" You can image my astonishment and peace I had when I read the passage: "*The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul*" (1 Samuel 18:1, KJV).



As I leave my position as the Executive Director of Abigail Pregnancy Services, I have peace in knowing that the Lord has knit my heart with the heart of this ministry: the staff, board, volunteers, and supporters. This will not change because our hearts have been knit together.

The past 4 years of working within this ministry was not just working at a job. It was sharing the joy of clients saved with coworkers, interceding for clients and their families, praying for donors who were going through hard times, and doing life with all I was blessed to know within this ministry. If you are a supporter who has had a hard time and we knew about it, I can guarantee that you were lifted up in prayer by the Abigail staff. Through prayer, praise, and everything in between, our hearts became knit. A kind of knitting that only the Lord could orchestrate.

After a little over 4 years of running my race within Abigail, I know the Lord is calling me to serve in a new community. I also know that He has someone planned to take my position that will be strong in the areas where I was weak. Rather than having the new Executive Director (ED) fill my shoes, my heart is that that individual make his or her own path as they are handed the baton to run their race continuing the mission of Abigail Pregnancy Services. I am sure, whoever this new ED is, his or her heart will be intertwined with all of ours in no time as he or she will be embraced into this loving Abigail family.

Thank you for your support, prayers, and encouragement that you have all given me during my time within this ministry.

With a Heart of Gratitude,

Amanda Clark

Abigail Pregnancy Services. Putting Compassion into Action for over 29

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 Peer Counseling

Please report address changes to Terri at centermanager2@gmail.com. You may also request to receive this newsletter by email.

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Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Our Board President



Four years ago when Rhonda Holbrook attended Abigail Pregnancy Services Annual Fundraising Banquet she felt like she was being called to volunteer at the ministry. She wasn't exactly sure what that would look like, but over time she decided to serve as a board member. After 2 years she was voted in as Board President.

Rhonda's belief in the sanctity of human life and compassion for babies and their mommas along with her bubbly personality and positive outlook on life makes her a valuable asset to Abigail.

Rhonda is CFO at Sharpnack Auto Group and she and her husband Richard are also Associate Pastors at Willard Church of God. They will be married for 35 years in August! They have a son Rick and his wife Amanda, and a daughter Richele and her husband Jesse who have given them 5 grandchildren that they love to spend time with. They also have 2 grandbabies they look forward to meeting in heaven.

The thing that excites Rhonda most about the ministry at this time is the fact that we will soon be offering limited ultrasounds to our clients. The thought of connecting a momma to her baby is one that Rhonda holds close to her heart. As we work through the last part of legal and training requirements to open our medical office the excitement is building!

One of the things Rhonda is working toward is raising awareness about the ministry in our communities. It's frustrating when people comment that when we moved from uptown and thought *we closed*. *Please help us set the record straight by spreading the word!* Abigail Ministries is here and fully equipped to help clients! Rhonda wants to see the number of clients who come to our centers explode. The staff and board couldn't agree more!

"He will cover you with His feathers. He will shelter you with His wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection." Psalm 91:4 NLT

The Norwalk center is in critical need of laundry/boutique workers. Responsibilities include processing and sorting clothing and other donations, washing them and getting them in to the boutique. Our Willard center needs volunteers to take laundry home to wash and return. Please call Carol Rinella at 419-668-9500 or email at volunteer@abigailonline.org.



Dine to Donate



The Freight House at 50 North Prospect St. in Norwalk will be donating a portion of the days' sales to Abigail on **JUNE 19th. Dine in or take out from 11AM-10PM. Check out their menu at freighthousepub.com.** We hope to see you there!

WHY DO YOU WALK?



We asked Holly Harvey, a long time supporter, why she participates in the Walk for Life. Holly said that she believes in supporting local businesses and organizations. She believes that it's important to help local women who are facing one of the hardest times in their life with the services that Abigail offers. Thank you Holly, for putting your compassion into action!

Thank You!

The Love Bus Ministry has deemed May to be "Love Thy Unborn Neighbor Month." We are so thankful that this Christ centered ministry has blessed Abigail by raising awareness of the ministry, donating supplies, and most importantly sharing Jesus with women and families facing crisis pregnancy. They will be at McGuan Park on May 31st at 5:30 PM to plant a memorial tree and offer prayer and hope for those affected by miscarriage and abortion as well as giving out baby supplies, refreshments, and rock painting. Thank you for including us!

The Norwalk Jaycees invited us to help with the comfort station at this year's Strawberry Festival in Norwalk. It is our pleasure to be a part of that!

Our sincere thanks to:

- The Foundation Church
- Grace United Methodist Church in Willard
- A Fresh Wind Church
- Wakeman Congregational Church
- Freedom Christian Fellowship
- Providence Baptist Church of Bellevue

for participating in our Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign! We are over half way to our goal!

Beyond The Basics Success

There are so many new and exciting changes going on at Abigail Pregnancy Services, one of them being our revamped parenting program, "Beyond Basics", which educates parents of toddler-aged children. Just this week, we celebrated our first graduate of the program.

Savannah was an addict who had been clean for two years, but in a moment of weakness, this past November, she used and overdosed. As a result, her two year old daughter was placed in foster care, and Savannah entered into a rehabilitation facility. Upon being released from rehab last month, Savannah's main focus was to regain custody of her daughter. Her case worker referred her to Abigail's parenting program. Even though parenting classes were not court mandated, Savannah felt that this was a good first step in getting her daughter back.

In the brief time that we've worked with Savannah, we've seen this determined young lady successfully achieve a multitude of accomplishments including: finding a place to live, getting a job, receiving professional counseling, earning unsupervised visits with her daughter, and completing our "Beyond the Basics" parenting program.

Savannah admitted that when she first came to Abigail she was very nervous. However, she found the staff to be extremely welcoming and was immediately put at ease. Savannah faithfully attended our parenting classes, which she described as being very informative, two times a week enabling her to finish the six class program within a month. Upon fulfilling the requirements of "Beyond the Basics", she received a certificate, an official letter of completion for the courts, and a graduation gift---a toddler bed, which Savannah hopes her daughter will be sleeping in this fall. Most importantly, however, she has gained a new confidence for the future equipped with the needed skills to help her become the best mom she can be. In Savannah's own words, "The past is the past", and she is more determined than ever to be legally united with her daughter.

The staff at Abigail is blessed to be a part of Savannah's success story. As donors to this ministry, you too play a vital role in her story. Thank you for your continued financial and prayerful support of Abigail Pregnancy Services and its clients, like Savannah.

