

Friends for Life

CARE  NET[®]

Pregnancy Center of the Hudson Valley

Winter 2011

**Celebrating 25 Years
of Ministry**



Inside:

**Understanding
our Culture and
Responding
Biblically**



Care Net President to speak at our Fundraising Banquet!

Care Net's 25th Annual Fundraising Banquet will be held at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie on Friday March 18th. Our theme for the evening will be "Reflections" as we celebrate twenty-five years of ministry serving Dutchess County. We are honored to have Care Net's President, Melinda Delahoyde, as our keynote speaker. A lifelong leader in the pregnancy center movement, Melinda was appointed President of Care Net in 2008. She has worked with Care Net from its inception, serving in various roles both on staff and on the Board of Directors, including Chairman of the Board from 2003-2006. She will help us celebrate our history as well as cast a vision as we look forward to the future of the pregnancy care center movement and your Care Net.

This year we will be in the beautiful Grand Ballroom, with the Hors d'oeuvres Hour in the side room that overlooks the majestic Hudson River. We will be sending out a post card with all the details as the date approaches. If you'd like to sponsor a table or help underwrite the Banquet, please call the Center at (845) 471-9284.

Prayer & Praise

Praise God that we are now doing our Sexual Integrity Workshops in Van Wyck Jr. High School!

Pray for an increase in pregnancy test clients.

Pray for the protection of all pregnancy centers from the attacks by pro-abortion groups, especially those in NY State.



Amazing Donation from Carter's & OshKosh B'gosh!

A special thanks to Sarah Foster for recommending Care Net and to Olivia Farquharson for choosing us to receive an amazing donation of samples from Carter's and OshKosh B'gosh. They shipped us 10 huge boxes full of new clothes for infants and premies. A few of the samples had slight imperfections which were repaired by our wonderful volunteers Janet Ludlam and Marilyn Bradford. Thank you all for filling our storehouse! We're praising God for all of you!

Many thanks to Anne and David DeLisle for donating our beautiful new vacuum cleaner. What a blessing it is to have one that works so well!

Friends for Life

Softball Tournament Raises \$1,400!

Congratulations to the **Vineyard Community Church team**, Care Net's 2010 Softball Tournament Champions and to the **Hyde Park Baptist Church team** who were the Runners-up. Thanks to all the teams and their fans who came out to support the Center: Calvary Chapel, Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, Evangelical Free Church - third place team, New Life Bible Church, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wojo's Wonders and the Women's Team. And thanks to the Lord for the perfect weather!



Walk for Life Raises over \$12,000!

Thanks to all of you walkers and volunteers who came out to the Walk for Life! We had a wonderful day with great weather. One of our walkers could not be there the day of the Walk because she was in China, so she did her walking on the **Great Wall** wearing her Care Net Walk for Life t-shirt!!!



Corby Montemarano did her Walk for Life on the Great Wall of China!

Did You Know?

Since May 2009, three consecutive national polls have found more Americans now identifying themselves as "pro-life" than "pro-choice," suggesting a significant shift in public opinion about abortion. Currently 47% consider themselves "pro-life" and 45% consider themselves "pro-choice" ("The New Normal on Abortion: Americans More Pro-Life," Gallup poll, May 3-6, 2010).



Understanding our Culture and Responding Biblically



Recently I had a conversation with Pastor Richard Buccio, one of Care Net's Pastoral Advocates, about something we had noticed about his church. A few years ago, Hyde Park Baptist Church made the decision to become monthly financial supporters of Care Net. As our relationship with them grew, it became very clear that the pastors had a real heart not only for the women we serve, but also for those who are suffering from past abortions. Pastors Buccio and Nargi have worked hard to create an environment within their church where women and men can feel safe to deal with their post-abortion trauma in private and confidential ways. The fruit we are seeing at the Center as a result of their intentional focus on the abortion recovery issue is nothing short of miraculous. Women are being healed, speaking out and encouraging others to take that brave first step. I asked Pastor Buccio to write whatever the Lord placed on his heart for our newsletter. This "Letter to Pastors" is the result and I pray you all will benefit from reading it. - Deb

It will be 38 years this January that abortion has been legalized in the United States. When "Roe v Wade" became part of our Bill of Rights, I was a soon to be fifteen-year-old. At that age, I gave little thought to this 1973 controversy. Did I care? Not really. It did not impact me personally and like any young teenager who did not know the Lord, I rarely contemplated or discussed deep moral or biblical issues. Did I think abortion was wrong? Possibly, but since the leadership of our country said it was right or acceptable to have an abortion, then maybe it was right. The seeds of doubt had been planted.

Unfortunately, my generation and the ones now following have watered and cultivated that seed. Today, without realizing it, the mind-set about abortion is "Life is only life when it is wanted". Thus, for the average person, to simply discard an unwanted baby from the womb is perfectly normal, justifiable, legal, and without consequences.

God says different. He alone is the giver and taker of life (1 Sam. 2:2-6; Job 1:19-21). We are not above our Creator nor should we be. We do not have any right to usurp His authority and approve or perform abortions. I comprehend and agree with this now. I am no longer that immature fifteen year old with little conviction, but instead a wiser "white-haired" pastor motivated by God's Truth who understands the bigger picture of His will for mankind and the sanctity of life.

I am also aware that I have a congregation that grew up with the same influences and laws that I did. And as a pastor, I have the duty and obligation to re-educate, heal, and motivate the people God has called me to shepherd. What problems and issues has this infamous abortion ruling created for the church? Consider the following:

(1) False Perception – Because it has been recognized by governmental authorities, we may believe it as a battle lost or

something that cannot be reversed, so we therefore think why even try? May I remind all pastors of a Christian man by the name of William Wilberforce, a British politician who for twenty years fought legislation in Parliament to eradicate slavery. Though his submitted bills and resolutions were defeated repeatedly with much funded opposition, he persevered and won. It was a month after Wilberforce's death that the House of Commons voted to free the slaves and abolish all slavery. He once wrote, "So enormous, so dreadful, so irremediable did the [slave] trade's wickedness appear that my own mind was completely made up for abolition. Let the consequences be what they would: I from this time determined that I would never rest until I had effected its abolition." May we purpose in our own hearts to do the same with abortion.

(2) Complacency – Because we grew up with the idea that abortion is acceptable in legal circles, we may forget that God still does not approve of its practice. As pastors, we must preach, teach, and equip our people to be God's "spokesperson" in a world gone wrong. Yes, many in the world will not listen, but believers must still prove themselves steadfast and faithful (even in adversity) by continuing to pray, speak against abortion, and support pro-life movements. We are not to sit idly by and watch the world slide downward.

(3) Guilt – Because it was sanctioned by our country and thus practiced by its citizens, we may be unaware that there are many individuals in our own churches that have had abortions. The guilt and remorse over what they did is still present and they sadly hold it deep within their souls. They are ashamed to share this "unpardonable sin" with anyone. As pastors/shepherds, we must know our people/sheep and compassionately come alongside them when they need help. A person struggling with post-abortion emotional anguish is no exception. They must know God is a merciful and [\(continued on next page\)](#)

Friends for Life

Understanding *continued*

gracious God ready to forgive any sin and set them free. If our pastoral counsel and encouragement is not enough, then we must be ready to refer them to specialized and trained agencies like Care Net.

We are living in "interesting times". As pastors and Christians we are confronted with many unbiblical obstacles and worldly influences. Abortion is one of many issues we must deal with. What would you tell a disinterested but impressionable fifteen year old kid facing the moral and ethical dilemmas of today? I would tell him the answers are found in Jesus Christ. I believe it is the responsibility of the local church to change the community with the Gospel. Paul Chappell, in a publication of The Baptist Voice, says it beautifully, "Reaching people is the same as it has always been – show them that you care, and bring them to Jesus".

With a world that is racing toward a destructive end, may we be excited to live close to Christ's return. Now more than ever we should be motivated to share the Gospel while we still have the opportunity. By doing so, issues like abortion can be abolished in the minds and hearts of individuals one by one.

Pastor Richard Buccio, Hyde Park Baptist Church

Fill out this form and mail it to the Center to make your electronic donation.

Donations Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Monthly Gift: \$_____ One Time Gift: \$_____ Matching Grant: \$_____

Check Bank Name: _____

Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____

Master/Visa: _____ Exp.: _____ CVV2: _____

(Last 3 numbers on back of card)

By signing below I hereby authorize Care Net Pregnancy Center of the Hudson Valley to charge the indicated account the specified amount as written above monthly or one time.

I agree to notify Care Net Pregnancy Center of the Hudson Valley, in writing, of any changes or cancellation at the following address:
PO Box 2118, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Christmas Blessings

Many thanks to all those who made Christmas for our clients so special! From beautiful gifts for our moms, clothing and supplies, cleaning up around the house, gift wrappers, Christmas cookies and other treats, and toys for the children, we so appreciate your help in shining the love of Jesus to our families.

- New Life Bible Church Women
- Hannah & Alana Davis in memory of their mother, Jennifer
- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
- God's Love Extended from Fishkill Church of the Nazarene
- New Beginnings Youth Group
- Dutchess Community College Christian Fellowship
- St. Martin de Porres
- Vassar Road Baptist Church Pre-School
- All those who donated toys

The Path to Sexual Healing Bible Study

The Path to Sexual Healing Bible study is for those who have been sexually abused and those who have hurt others or themselves through sexual sin. While exploring the spiritual consequences of sexual trauma and sexual sin, the goal of the study is to allow the window of our soul, with all its pain and impurities, to be opened to God. In Scripture we find our God is one who longs to heal our wounds and purify our defilement. The study will begin in the early spring. If you are interested in this completely confidential study, please call the Center to sign up. (845) 471-9284.

Celebrating 25 Years of Ministry



Praisin' in the Park Raises \$4,440 for Care Net and 89.7 The Sound of Life

The Lord provided the most perfect day for Praisin' in the Park! The crowd enjoyed fabulous music from Pure Joy, Calvary Chapel's Praedicare, Full Gospel Center's Elevate, Rock of Refuge Church Praise Team, Terry Dunham and GODSOWN, and Calvary Chapel's Streets of Gold. We enjoyed inspiring messages from Pastor Ray Martin, Pastor Nick Santano and Pastor Derek Duncan. Thanks to all who participated! Special thanks to Chris Houle and his team for the fantastic sound! Thanks to our underwriters: Lambert Plumbing and Heating, Morris Associates and Calvary Chapel. Thanks to Ballentine Communications for the discounted sound equipment rental and to Lola's Café for supplying the concession stand. And thank you to all of you who came out to support Care Net and The Sound of Life. God bless you all!

Board Transitions

We welcome **Jessie Yackel** to the Board of Care Net. Jessie attended Gordon College and has her masters in educational psychology from Marist College. She has been teaching at Lourdes High School for five years. She attends Calvary Chapel, loves reading, writing and spending time with her family and friends.

Karen Khan has resigned from the Board having served for the past year. Her law practice has grown and is demanding more of her time. Karen has been so helpful in reviewing our legal issues and we appreciate that she will continue to make herself available if we need her expertise. We pray the Lord will continue to bless her as she serves Him.

Care Net Board & Staff

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Center Needs:

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Friends for Life

CARE♥NET

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Save the Date:

25th Anniversary Fundraising Banquet at The Grandview

Friday, March 18

A Word from the Director

New York Pregnancy Centers Under Attack

Attacks on pregnancy centers by NARAL and Planned Parenthood are heating up and very serious. In New York City, the situation is escalating. On Tuesday, November 16, 2010, Care Net national staff Jeanneane Maxon and Kristin Hansen testified before the New York City Council's Committee on Women's Issues in opposition to Intro. 371 - a bill to regulate the free speech of pregnancy centers in New York City. The bill was prompted by an undercover report produced by NARAL Pro-Choice New York. According to the Care Net report, the hearing was almost 6 hours long in an 80 degree room with more than 50 people present to testify for and against the bill. Of all the hearings Care Net has attended on these bills across the country, they said this was the most hostile. Many of the Council members present were not only "pro-choice" but also had close ties to NARAL and Planned Parenthood. Care Net said their rhetoric against pregnancy centers was alarming. The bill is likely to pass, though we should still pray for its defeat.

As we move forward with the new administration in New York State, we expect to face more challenges in 2011. Eric Schneiderman, our newly elected Attorney General, has very close ties to NARAL New York. His father has been a board member of NARAL for at least a decade, was once its chair, and served as the treasurer of its Political Action Committee. He stepped down from his NARAL posts in April 2010 prior to NARAL's endorsement of Schneiderman. Kelli Conlin, President of NARAL Pro-Choice New York, is serving on the Social Justice Committee of

Schneiderman's transition team. Care Net National has alerted us to expect possible

attacks similar to those former Attorney General Eliot Spitzer launched when he was in office. They also anticipate that other City Councils will attempt to pass legislation similar to the bill in NYC. Please pray for the protection of all our New York centers and the defeat of any legislation against us.

It is so important for us to remember that "...our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12) We serve the omnipotent God of the universe who is bigger than NARAL, bigger than Planned Parenthood and bigger than all those who seek to silence our work supporting the mothers facing unplanned pregnancies and their unborn children.

For more information on these attacks, please visit the Legislation page on our supporter website: ISupportCareNet.org. Your prayers and support are needed now more than ever.

Serving Jesus with you, Deb

