



Arkansas Valley Pregnancy Center Update



AVPC—Serving Since November 1995

- **Over 1000 clients served**
- **Over 1200 repeat visits**
- **2500 have heard about abstinence**
- **23 have accepted Christ**
- **Our hours open have doubled**
- **Men now minister to men & couples**

On November 2, 1995 the door of the Arkansas Valley Pregnancy Center first opened to serve clients. Our tenth anniversary is only weeks away.

We will spend the actual day of our 10th anniversary doing what we did ten years ago. We will be available to serve women and their families.

We will celebrate on Friday, November 4, 2005 with a La Junta Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Open House. We hope to have our cozy building at 211 Belleview packed with friends who have supported the ministry

from day one, new supporters and members of the community who are just learning about us.

Please mark your calendar and join us in celebrating what God has accomplished and is doing here in the Arkansas Valley.

- **November 4, 2005**
- **5—7:30 p.m.**
- **211 Belleview Avenue, La Junta**
- **Open house to celebrate ten years of service to women and their families**

Auction Raises \$6,436

Picture this! It's Monday before the auction and little has arrived. Worry creeps over the volunteers at Maier's Auction Barn. Are we going to have enough to have an auction? By Wednesday more things had shown up, but not enough to allay human fears. By Friday, things were looking great! God had provided more than enough for the auction. We had so many blessings, we had to carry auction items outside the barn. Just look at the list on the right of the many businesses and individuals who donated items this year!

Now we focused our worries on whether there would be anyone to bid on the wonderful treasures the next day. September 17 was a glorious day and the barn was filled with many AVPC supporters and general public. Bill Maier, auctioneer, and Van Hollis, clerk, with the help of Richard Muth and Brad Maier urged bidders on through the morning and into the afternoon.

The final result was that God provided \$3,936 through the sale of donated items. Modern Woodmen of America will match \$2,500 bringing the grand total for the auction to \$6,436.

Thanks to Auction Donors

Advanced Cellular, Alternative Health Options, Ark Valley Animal Hospital, A to Z Electric, Avante Styling Salon, Darrin Nielson at Avante, Bamboo Panda, Bay Valley Foods, Casa Luz, Colorado Bank & Trust, ENIVA Store, Everything Wireless, First National Bank LJ & LA, Flowers by Jeanne, Fowler Hardware, H & R Tire, Just Fish, Kienitz Sewing & Vacuum, Kreft's Sales, LJ Auto Service, LJ Chiropractic Center, Lori's Corner Café, Muth Welding, Muth Inc., Nancy's Niche, Otero True Value Hardware, LJ Pizza Hut, Racine's Locksmithing & Security, Scaff Bros., Sharp Image Styling Salon, Six Star, Triad Computers, Valley Auto Parts, Village Inn, Leigh Ann Neilsen-Where's Median Massage, Xpress Printers, Cindy Alwin, Suzanne Anderson, Lucia Arellano, Raven Bowser, Marilyn Bracey, Pastor Jon & Ruth Ann Brandt, Ty & Ashley Briggs, Shirley Cash, Sheila Clodfelter, Mel Davy, Pastor Kurt England, Vera Garrett, Pastor Paul Gleason, Everitt Groves, Amy Guddat, Kathy Hight, Cliff & Char Hosea, Mike Houtchens, Liz Johnson, Patty Johnson, Esther Kienitz, Earl & Marci Manyik, Marilyn Matern, Gordon & Helen Moench, Ron Pacheco, Philip & Judy Palmer, Lena Piatt, Dawn Pollmiller, Judy Ramirez, Cel Santistevan, Polly Seyferth, Joy Shoup, Connie Suarez, Jade Vigil, Annette West, Karisa Woodward, Donna Wren, Marie Yoder

September 2005

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**“choose life,
that both
you and
your
descendants
may live.”
Deuteronomy 30:19**

Choose Life

By Connie Suarez, Executive Director

I am blessed. No one is more amazed that God has allowed me to serve in this ministry than myself. I still shake my head and smile a goofy grin when I realize what I get to do everyday.

Don't get me wrong. I have my days when I grumble.

But when my focus is where it should be I get excited about a job that requires prayer before each shift. I don't have to worry about my boss being mad because I'm taking time to share the Gospel with the client I'm helping. It's in the job description after all.

I suspect it is an even greater blessing for the ladies and men

who volunteer their time. Otherwise, why would they keep coming week after week, year after year?

Surely, it's because they are blessed.

So why don't more choose life by volunteering at the Arkansas Valley Pregnancy Center?

We have four openings for female peer counselors and seven openings for male peer counselors. I speculate about the reasons why people – people who support what we do – don't step forward.

My hesitation came in focusing on my lack of experience. I was excited by what the Steering Committee proposed that we do

here in the Arkansas Valley. But me? I even longed to do what would be done at 211 Belleview.

But me?

Fortunately for me God kept nudging me. He made my comfort zone so uncomfortable that I stepped into the really uncomfortable zone that was designed to be for my blessing.

I am praying for you. You who feel a tug at your heart when you think about this ministry. You who feel that you can't do what God is calling you to do. You can't but God can.

I am looking forward to seeing how God blesses you as you choose life at the Arkansas Valley Pregnancy Center.

Volunteers Can Now Train With CD

Equipped to Serve, AVPC's volunteer training manual, now has a companion self-study CD. It will take new volunteers step-by-step through the training manual. Interactive exercises will help them practice newly-learned skills.

Equipped to Serve is authored by one of the pioneers in crisis pregnancy work, Cyndi Philkill. The manual gives a Biblical basis for the sanctity of life for the unborn and explains from Scripture the authority, responsibility, help and rewards for workers at the Pregnancy Center.

Training for ministering to clients includes learning about who the client is and the communication tools to help her or him. The Equipped to Serve training prepares an individual to minister to anyone whether they be pregnancy center clients or someone at work or home.

With this CD new volunteers will be able to begin training immediately instead of waiting for the next Ministry Training Seminar. If you are interested in volunteering give Connie or Darlene a call at 384-5561.

Thanks to Our Fund Raising Partners

**K J Foods, Ordway
The Lighthouse, La Junta
Maier's Auction Barn, Rocky Ford
Muth Welding Service, Rocky Ford
Arkansas Valley Board of Realtors
Bay Valley Foods, La Junta
Otero County Insurance, La Junta
Xpress Printers, La Junta
First National Bank of LA & LJ
Grantham Realty, Ordway
H&R Tire & Auto, Rocky Ford
Harris Pharmacy, Rocky Ford**

*Please express your thanks
to these businesses for
their support of our fund
raising events and the
ministry of the
Arkansas Valley
Pregnancy Center.*



Sharing With Clients

By Darlene Moench, Client Services Coordinator

Schools are back in session now. Finding a little too much time on your hands? Want to do more for God?

Why not pray and see if God leads you to the Pregnancy Center.

Join us in sharing with clients in both good times and bad times.

One client, who just finished a parenting class, shared with the counselor a difficult decision she was facing. She had a life changing choice to make. We are so proud of her determination to do what is right and her peace as she acknowledges that God will supply what she needs for her child.

Another client and counselor have struggled with their schedule. It seems one or the other has been sick but they stick with the book they are going through. The counselor says they both are learning. We are so encouraged by decisions being made.

Not every client makes the decision to either change a lifestyle or to commit her life to Christ, but when one does we all rejoice.

Your prayers and support make sure that caring peer counselors are here when God brings a client to the Center.

... she acknowledges that God will supply what she needs for her child.

Arkansas Valley
Pregnancy Center
211 Belleview Avenue
P.O. Box 249
La Junta, CO 81050
info@avpclj.org
www.avpclj.org
(719) 384-5561
HelpLine Hours
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Board

Rodger Harris, Chair
Bernhard Ebert, Vice-Chair
Esther Muth, Secretary
Dorothy Chapman, Treasurer
Sharon Murphy, Director
Kim Rider, Director
Annette West, Director
Connie Suarez, Exec. Director

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Mark MacDonnell, J.D.
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Jeff Perry, M.D., M.P.H.

Client Services Staff

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Lucia Arellano, Peer Counselor
Lupe Carillo, Receptionist
James Eubank, Men's Ministry
Kathy Hight, Peer Counselor
Jesse Hight, Men's Ministry
Esther Kienitz, Receptionist
Pam Miner, Peer Counselor
Darlene Moench, Client Srv Coord
Helen Moench, Receptionist
Joe Romero, Men's Ministry Coord
Jimmy Schwab, Trainee
Anne Visker, HelpLine

Abstinence Educators

Jen McMillan, WAIT Trainer
Travis McMillan, WAIT Trainer
Serenity Markus, WAIT Trainer
Michelle Nast, WAIT Trainer

Support Staff

Kathy Del Rio, Mailings
Judy Lewis, Housekeeping
Gordon Moench, Bldg Main Coord

Fishing Company Update

No matter how great the abstinence message some girls will make unhealthy choices. Claudia Budd has worked with some of them in her career at Las Animas Department of Social Services. As they have passed through her office Claudia has heard God call her to the ministry sometimes known as a maternity home. Claudia calls it The Fishing Company based upon the proverb, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for one day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." Claudia envisions providing an environment where young women can make the right decision for their children and their future. By seeking the same kind of financial support that AVPC has enjoyed Claudia will also be able to cast the net of salvation at The Fishing Company.

The Fishing Company is in the initial planning stage. Claudia desires to share with churches and community organizations her vision. Please call 456-2352 or 384-5561.

Praise:

For God's provision through the auction and matching funds from Modern Woodmen of America.

For the opportunity for Serenity Markus and Rachel Jacob to attend the National Abstinence Conference.

For dedicated staff who have answered God's call to serve at the Arkansas Valley Pregnancy Center.

For the vision and dedication of the Steering Committee who organized the Arkansas Valley Pregnancy Center.

For God's faithfulness during the last ten years.

Requests:

For a prayer warrior to organize our prayer ministry.

For men and women to join us in ministering to clients.

For the addition of one or two more WAIT Training presentation teams.

For God to keep our eyes focused on Jesus Christ and our hearts prepared to minister to co-workers and clients.

For peer counselors to have an opportunity to share the Gospel.

For provision for a building for The Fishing Company and operating funds.

For direction for a new building for the Center.

Praises &
Prayer
Requests



AVPC Website Up and Running

Teresa Wadleigh has provided our clients and supporters with internet access to Arkansas Valley Pregnancy Center information. Care Net Vice-president of Client Marketing, Lisa Jacobson, gave us great advice on how to reach the abortion vulnerable women in our community.

So we have client pages that can be reached through the address www.avpclj.org. We hope to advertise this part of the website with posters in the local schools. Client pages will not contain all the information we want our supporters to have.

So we have supporter pages that can be reached through the address supporters.avpclj.org. Teresa is still working on these pages but there is lots of good content already. You can subscribe to newsletters and prayer letters right now. Eventually you will be able to make donations online. Teresa plans to make that available by our next Walk for Life. The plan is to have an internet option for the Kids Contest as well as provide a way for supporters to pay pledges online.

Check out the website often as Teresa continues to build a communication tool that we hope and pray will reach the generation that relies heavily on the internet for information.

Teresa Wadleigh is donating her time to us. We appreciate her hard work for this ministry. You can check out her web designing services at www.trustinghimwebdesign.com.



Iron Sharpens Iron

By Joe Romero, Men's Ministry Coordinator

As more and more men are coming to the center we see the need for more willing men to be available to minister.

Though they are much younger men, I call them men, not because of age or maturity, but because they are willing to come with their partners to seek help at the Center.

Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (NIV)

Though for the most part these younger men may be just "iron ore" yet they are in the process

of becoming steel, which is a strong metal used for structural support in buildings. How much we need structure and support in our families today.

One important point to consider is that these young men think that they are going to become fathers when their child is born. Though they seem to have a sense of responsibility they don't realize that by God's design they became fathers at the time of conception. They just need direction and affirmation of their personhood as men and as fathers. I remember one young

man's facial expression when I mentioned that he was a father, even though his child hadn't been born. There was a smile on his face that seemed to light up the whole room.

Surely there is a need for men to sharpen other men and even more to share the love of God in Christ Jesus with these young men that are seeking help.

Is the Lord calling you to serve in this ministry? Do you have spare time in your day to serve? Just say, "Yes!"

There was a smile on his face that seemed to light up the whole room.



Choose Life

I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live. Deuteronomy 30:19 NKJV

I want to help clients choose life at the Arkansas Valley Pregnancy Center.

I want to help as a:

- LIFE SUSTAINER—Pledge of \$5,000 a year for 5 years
- LIFE SUPPORTER—Pledge of \$1,000 a year for 5 years
- LIFE SPONSOR—Pledge of \$ _____ a month or
 - A one time gift of \$ _____
- LIFE SAVER—I would like to volunteer as a:
 - Counselor, Receptionist, HelpLine
 - Men' Ministry Counselor
 - Abstinence WAIT Training Presenter
 - Maintenance Provider
 - Church Representative
 - Fund Raising Helper
- Email Prayer Warrior—My Email Address Is:

@ _____.

- My name and address is on the opposite side of this sheet as corrected if necessary.
- My phone number is _____.

I Would Take the Fire!

By Serenity Markus, Abstinence Education Program Coordinator

Someone once asked Jean Cocteau, the French writer, artist, and film director, what he would take if his house were on fire and he could remove only one thing. He replied, "I would take the fire."

"I would take the fire?" Of course - the house would quit burning! But Cocteau had something else in mind when he answered this question. He was referring to the fire in his soul, the passion that makes life come alive.

How does a passionate life ignite? Steve Arterburn wrote a book called *FLASH POINTS*. He says, "God will ignite the passion in your soul to make a change or difference - no matter the cost."

The dictionary defines **flash point** as "the lowest temperature at which a combustible liquid gives off vapor in sufficient quantity to ignite momentarily upon application of a flame." Often God ignites that flame at the lowest possible temperature or breaking point in our lives to show us that the flame can only come from Him.

In August, Rachel Jacob and I were thrilled to attend the National Abstinence Conference in Hollywood, California. People had come from all over the world to learn more about the message of truth that saves lives and builds healthy relationships. Many speakers shared their personal stories with a passion that

was ignited by a flash point in their life. By the third day of the conference, I was so excited and ready to come home and spread the fire in my soul that first began with my own flash point! I am so encouraged to know that we are teaching one of the best programs to our students and communities.

When Steve Arterburn said, "The fire of passion can change a life, and one passionate and faithful life can change the world," he echoed what Jeremiah said in chapter 20, verse 9 "If I say I will not mention Him again, or speak in His name, then His Word becomes a fire in my chest, I am weary of keeping it in, indeed I cannot."

Often God ignites that flame at the ...
breaking point in our lives to show us that the flame can only come from Him.



*Arkansas Valley
Pregnancy Center*

211 Belleview Avenue
POB 249
La Junta, CO 81050

Phone: 719-384-5561

Address Service Requested



Help Wanted Ministry Positions Available

Administrative Assistant Paid Part-time Position

Seeking an outgoing, organized individual with a burden for the ministry of AVPC to assist with accounting and fund raising activities. Attention to detail a must, experience with accounting and/or fund raising a plus.

Prayer Coordinator Volunteer Position

We urgently need an organized individual with communication skills to coordinate our prayer ministry. Prayer has been the foundation of the AVPC ministry. Prayer Coordinator would inform individuals and churches of AVPC prayer needs.

For job descriptions and applications call 384-5561.

Coming Events:

October 25, 2005—6-8 p.m.
In-service at the Pregnancy Center

November 2, 2005—Ten Year Anniversary
of AVPC opening to serve clients

November 4, 2005—Business After Hours
celebration of AVPC Ten Year Anniversary—Open house at 211 Belleview Avenue, La Junta, 5-7:30 p.m.

November 15, 2005—Friend Raising Banquet & Silent Auction, 6—8:30 p.m., Otero Junior College Student Center Ballroom

December 3, 2005, Board & Staff Mini-retreat, 9:30—1:30—La Junta Baptist Tabernacle

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