



IN STEP

Winter 2017

WITH PREGNANCY MATTERS, INC.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I began at Pregnancy Matters in 1985. You don't stay around that long unless you know the work an organization is doing is productive, is good, is needed, and is appreciated. I am reminded of this on days when my volunteers or interns are out and I am removed from a pile of paperwork to do one-on-one work with moms in crisis.

On November 21st, I received a call from the hospital social worker stating there was a patient that needed a car seat to take her baby home. Because the other staff were out, I went on the visit. As I entered the room, the 21 year old mom was alone with her son breastfeeding. There was no family there, no spouse, no best friend. We talked for a while and she shared with me as she smiled that she also had a four year old and one year old son. I asked if all she needed was the car seat and she stated that she had no sleepers but could get by with the t-shirts that she had. I told her providing her with some additional items was not a problem and she gave me permission to do a home visit the following day.

As I approached the brick apartment building the following afternoon, I noticed there were no curtains on the windows. I entered the hallway, walked up the stairs and knocked on the door. After a second knock, the door slowly opened and a rambunctious four year old in superman underwear gave me the biggest grin. He then displayed his ability to do cartwheels and asked me to do one—but I had to decline. He then asked if I would like to see his baby brother. I could actually see him when I walked in the front door. . . I could see his momma sitting on the edge of the mattress on the floor holding him. She was easy to spot because there was no furniture in the living room to block the view. Just a warm happy toddler with lots of energy ---and a young mom doing the best she could to keep everyone safe and healthy. There are many more facets to this story that would take to much more space to explain in this short newsletter. But that glimpse into this young woman's life, and the privilege to be allowed to help her and make a difference, reminded me of what my amazing crew of volunteers, interns, and staff do every day



at Pregnancy Matters. Each member of our team faces the daily challenge of problem solving with each client so that a woman can have a healthy pregnancy, a positive pregnancy outcome, and continue to meet their own personal educational, occupational, and life goals. We facilitate, we guide, we lead, we love, and we support. We could not do that without the backing of the community and the contributions they provide.

Your support pays for pregnancy tests so that we can counsel and provide free emotional support for the women when they find out their test is positive; so we can provide prevention information and decision making information...

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Pregnancy Matters, founded on the Christian principles of service and love and life, is dedicated to educating, empowering, and encouraging individuals to make healthy choices about their pregnancy and their relationships.

INSIDE:

- Walk for Life Sponsor Form
- Join us in 2017
- Making a Difference

LOCATIONS

241 S Lewis Lane
Carbondale IL
618-549-2794

808 W Prairie
Marion IL
618-997-2790

info@pregnancymatters.org



WALK FOR LIFE Saturday April 8, 2017

University Mall
in Carbondale

Registration and Breakfast
begin at 8am

Sponsor form enclosed!

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR CONTINUED....



when their test is negative. It pays for prenatal vitamins as well as ultrasound supplies so she can get that first real image of her baby and build this strong bond and be motivated to eat better, to not smoke, and to nurture that maternal instinct.

Your financial support makes sure the phone bill is paid so that we can continue to call and check on women asking for ongoing contact, it pays utilities so that it is nice and warm when families come in to receive some much needed baby supplies and at the same time feel comfortable staying and talking and asking and learning. During group workshops for pregnant moms, because of your monetary donations-- we are able to provide them with food while they spend time with other women facing similar circumstances and challenges.

We help them see that a life event that others tell her is devastating or shattering, can actually be something beautiful and remarkable. We want each young woman to experience joy through this and we want them to grow from the experience and

to accomplish and to achieve and to thrive. With encouragement and support and guidance, she can do it!

I feel blessed because I have been able to celebrate with these strong and amazing mothers for more than three decades. I hope you will help this good work continue by getting involved in not only our April 8th Walk fundraiser, but by supporting this unique organization on a regular basis.

With much appreciation for each and every one doing their part,



MARSHA MCINTOSH, LCPC
Executive Director



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

SATURDAY APRIL 8, 2017

8am BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION
GRAND COURT AT UNIVERSITY MALL IN CARBONDALE

WALKER INFORMATION

Name _____

Age _____ Total Raised _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

GROUP PARTICIPANTS

Group Leader _____

Name of Group _____

Total Walkers in Group _____

Total \$ Raised by Group _____

If you are walking as part of a group, please register as a group when you arrive. Thank you.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY.

Make checks payable to Pregnancy Matters, Inc.

	SPONSOR NAME	SPONSOR ADDRESS, CITY, ST, ZIP	SPONSOR PHONE	AMOUNT PLEDGED	AMOUNT COLLECTED	CASH OR CHECK	RECEIPT REQUESTED
1							Y N
2							Y N
3							Y N
4							Y N
5							Y N
6							Y N
7							Y N
8							Y N
9							Y N
10							Y N
11							Y N
12							Y N
13							Y N
14							Y N
15							Y N
				TOTAL PLEDGED			
				TOTAL COLLECTED			