Family Life Services

Saving Lives, Building Families

Behind the Scenes Through 2020

A Note from the Executive Director

Dear partners in our ministry,

In the past several months, every single aspect of how we help women has changed.

As God pushes Family Life Services beyond our comfort level and calls us to rely fully on Him, He also richly provides for us to go further than we could have ever imagined. Thanks to your generosity and the overwhelming grace of God, we are continuing our mission to provide any woman who is challenged by pregnancy with important support in these desperate times.

Take a look inside for a "**behind the scenes look**" at what we've been able to accomplish, including a **life-saving story** with a unique twist and some **month by month highlights.**

I'm so grateful for your support and the amazing response of our partners, staff, board members and volunteers. Your patience in waiting for us to share updates has allowed us to focus on our mission. The Lord continues to show His never-ceasing faithfulness by allowing us to serve the abundance of clients that have continued to show up at our doors, even in a time of social distancing. Despite an extended time where women couldn't enter our building, lives were saved, women were blessed and Family Life Services shone like a beacon of hope in the darkness.

Yours in life,

Yarimar Cherney
Executive Director

Photo by Francesca Patti Photography

Staff

Yarimar Cherney
Executive Director

Kathy Niemiec, RN
Nurse Manager

Timothy Davis
Office Administrator

Gabriella Korkes
Client Services Manager

Daniel Mitchell
Outreach and Education Coordinator

A very special "thank you" to these communities for your extra efforts to support life this year:

Knox Presbyterian Church

St. Andrew's Catholic Church

Knights of Columbus, several chapters

St. Thomas Catholic School

Washtenaw Christian Academy

Our significant Emerald Anniversary Gala donors & Walk for Life sponsors

Onward with Life Giving Tele-Health Visits

It was a humbling experience to not be able to offer our clients ultrasounds for 4 months due to several challenges. This really puts the focus on just how much abortion in our local community and beyond is viewed strictly as a "**medical procedure.**" In the new year, we are excited to share with you the following goals that we hope will ensure we won't ever have to stop doing ultrasounds again.

- expanding our schedule by training new ultrasound sonographers
- implementing changes to streamline our client model
- data management tools to integrate texting and emailing clients
- technology to allow FLS to serve women away from the office

Updating and optimizing how we interact with clients who are considering abortion before and during their ultrasound visits will allow us to more effectively support a woman's choice for life. There will be no stopping what God can do through our ministry when we equip our humble non-profit with the updated technology and tools that the abortion industry has had access to for years.

Caring for our Very Essential Workers

During this challenging time, it is more important than ever to bring attention to caring for our essential workers. Did you know that we couldn't have provided continuous service to our community if we couldn't rely on the dedication of our paid staff members and unpaid volunteers? Praise God that, so far, the days have been rather limited when folks have had to stay home because of symptoms of illness. We are heading, however, into a complicated winter, where we may not be able to continue that trend.

Up until now, FLS hasn't yet been able to provide our employees with a competitive wage. In the last couple of years, we have started in the right direction with cost of living increases, but we hear God calling us into **more generous action** now. In order to properly love the women in our community, we require a **stable and well-supported** staff. We are so thankful to be able to work with a dedicated team that has so faithfully said "yes" to the sacrifice involved in working in ministry. Will you help this be the first year we provide equitable pay for the **pro-life heroes** of our community?

January

- Welcomed new staff: Client Services Manager & Office Administrator
- Installed new exterior building sign

February

- Completed ultrasound suite renovation
- Blessed exterior building sign

March

- New Samsung 4-D Ultrasound machine delivered
- Started contact-free diaper, wipe, and clothing distribution
- First paperless tracking of material assistance system

April

- Reduced on-site staff to 2, with only 1-2 volunteers
- Work week adjusted to 85% off-site
- Checked in with all volunteer family members

May

- First confidential and secure tele-health appointments
- Paperless client tracking implemented

June

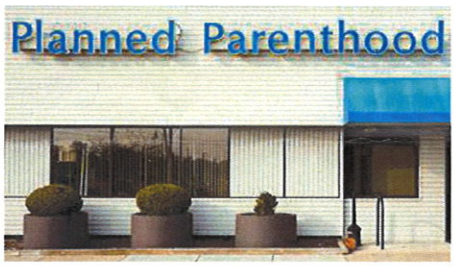
- Filled more than 500 support requests since beginning of pandemic
- Approved COVID-response plan

"Wait...Referred from Where??"

One day during daily prayer, this surprising response came as Gabriella, our Client Services Manager, was sharing about a client we were praying for that was referred to us.
"Yes, **from Planned Parenthood**," she confirmed.

Within the next few weeks, the story of this unique referral unfolded.

A young woman made a call to the local Planned Parenthood, requesting a pregnancy test. Unable to provide a walk-in appointment, they referred her to Family Life Services and advised her to come back to Planned Parenthood after her test.



Later, when this young woman walked through our doors, she was pleased to hear that not only could we help her with a pregnancy test & ultrasound exam, but at FLS those would be **completely free**.

Sitting down with one of our counselors, our new client explained that she was worried that she may be pregnant, and had quite a few challenges ahead of her.

In addition to starting to support herself, she wasn't sure she could continue living with friends. Assuming she was pregnant, she was **considering an abortion**, but she had been encouraged by her partner to consider other options. But the major challenge she shared, was that she was terrified about how her mother would respond to the pregnancy.

Within a few short minutes, her pregnancy test results came back: **she was pregnant**. Seeing the results, she surprised herself and broke a smile. She was actually excited about the news.

This brave young lady returned to Family Life Services for an ultrasound a couple of weeks later and she had even asked her boyfriend to join her. Kathy, our RN, and Tiffany, our volunteer RDMS, kindly led the procedure. She left with a cherished picture of a beautiful baby, **only 7 weeks old**. The best part was the comment she made on her way out: **"Seeing my baby makes me want to keep it even more."**

It looks like this young lady won't be returning to Planned Parenthood anytime soon. **How will you help us bless even more beautiful, strong ladies with the truth of the gift of life in 2021?**

July

- First live-streamed Emerald Anniversary Gala with Pam Tebow
- First ultrasound client in office since beginning of pandemic
- Transitioned to walk-in hours

August

- Welcomed new Client Services Manager and transitioned to an Interim Executive Director
- Purchased much-needed office hardware upgrades
- Held most successful Walk for Life to date

September

- Held annual strategic planning with staff and volunteers
- Approved system-wide improvements for client options counseling

October

- Welcomed new Outreach and Education Coordinator
- Contracted new data solution software to start in 2021
- Blessed new ultrasound suite and machine

November

- Collaborated with other local pregnancy centers
- Provided Thanksgiving baskets to hungry families in need

Decemeber

- Giving thanks for God's awesomeness!
- How will you help us in our life-giving mission today?

Board of Directors

Dan Lanuti President	Linda Caillouet Secretary	Daniel Frattarelli Director
Ron Gutkowski Vice President	Carl Combs Director	Tom O'Brien Director
Matt Holody Treasurer	Roz Dieterich Director	Joyce Van Ryn Director

Follow us on social media!

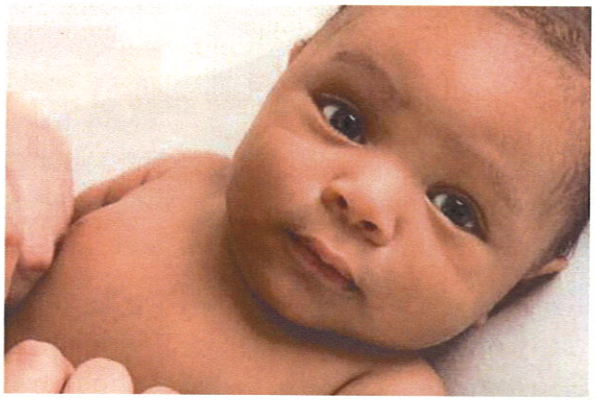
@familylifeservices washtenaw

Family Life Services of Washtenaw County

Donate at flsfriends.org • Text "life" to 734-359-7883 to give

Life-changing impact: the numbers

- **Over 24,000 diapers given during lock-down**
- **Over $30,000 worth of baby goods given since March**
- **Doubled Walk for Life success from 2019 to 2020**
- **Average donation in 2020 was over $230**
- **239 new donors 2020**



48197824 C005

Family Life Services
840 Maus Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
flsfriends.org

Wait...referred from where??
See client story inside

King of Love Missions
514 Saint John Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ypsilanti, MI
Permit No. 10

Family Life Services: Shining like a Beacon of Hope

Did you know these important abortion facts?

- 60% of all abortions up to 10 weeks gestation are non-surgical in the United States
- In July 2020, the federal government lifted restrictions requiring in-office visits
- In Michigan, an ultrasound is not required before getting an abortion
- In Michigan, it is legal to prescribe abortion drugs using Tele-health

New logo in 2021

We are excited to announce that we will be designing a new logo in the new year!

This new logo will create a client-focused and updated brand for Family Life Services that is simple, clear, and — most importantly — able to communicate our loving care and hope.