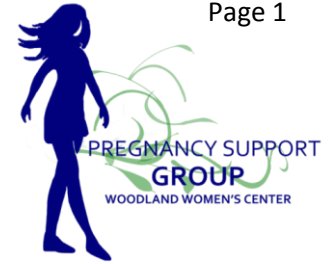


Life Support



Here is a blog article written by a young woman who has risen above her circumstances and turned her unplanned pregnancy into a light and a hope for others. In this article she writes about the often overlooked aspect of being pro-life...the mother. No matter your thoughts or beliefs on the matter, when it comes down to it, the mother IS the one who chooses life for her baby. We support the mother, we in turn support life.

So You Think You're Pro-Life?

By Raquel Rose Kato, May 22nd, 2013

After experiencing my own unplanned pregnancy and now working at a crisis pregnancy resource center everything that I ever thought about being pro-life has completely changed.

I realized that before I got some perspective, I actually wasn't very pro-life at all.

Yes, I believed that abortion was wrong, so in that sense I was pro-life, but now I know better.

Being pro-life does not JUST mean you are against abortion, and that you want to save the lives of the innocent unborn.

Yes, that is of course a very fundamental part of being pro-life, but there is so much more to it, and if we fail to miss these other key aspects, then we actually fail to be truly pro-life.

Protecting and defending life is an all encompassing call. It is not just about the babies, it is about their mothers, their fathers, and their families. Yes, people need to speak for the unborn when they don't have a voice, but if that is the primary focus, we are completely missing the mark.

Hello....the mother is the one who ultimately decides the fate of her child, so if we aren't pursuing the healing, and genuine interest of her life, then we are utterly failing.

In fact, if I'm completely honest, when I was in the midst of my unplanned pregnancy, the slogans out there like "abortion kills a child" or graphic pictures of aborted babies made me resent the pro-life movement. I understand their motives to spread awareness of the realities of abortion....but for the

woman in the crisis (THE VERY WOMEN THAT ARE CONSIDERING ABORTION, THE WOMEN WE NEED TO REACH THE MOST) this is a huge, huge turn off.

Why might you ask?

Well, it is simple.

When you only focus on saving the life of the baby, you fail to acknowledge something very important.....and that is, that the mother's life needs to be saved too. Did we already forget that the very women who find themselves in unplanned pregnancies and who are considering abortion are very broken, afraid, and alone? They need some serious, genuine love and healing. But, quite frankly, when there is all this hollering for the babies....the woman in the crisis thinks she is forgotten. She thinks everyone just cares about the baby, no one cares about her.

She is desperately crying out, "No one cares about how traumatically my life has changed, no one cares about my future, no one cares about my dreams, no one cares about helping me!"

We CANNOT forget about the mothers, fathers, and families of the unborn. They matter

too. They are the ones making decisions, and we need to support them.

Month 2017 Outreach

New Clients	16
Appointments	79
Births	12
+ve Pregnancy Tests	1
-ve Pregnancy Tests	1
Ultrasounds	4

So how exactly can you be genuinely pro-life? I will speak on behalf of the mother specifically here.

I made a list of simple suggestions/ideas from the girl "who has been there" and as someone who works with these girls every day as an adviser at a Pregnancy Resource Center.

1. Volunteer at or financially support Pregnancy Resource Centers. [...]
2. Offer up your home to single women who are pregnant and may need a safe haven. Some girls that choose life are kicked out of their own homes, or they are so ashamed and embarrassed that they need a safe place to be during their pregnancy.
3. If you are capable...look into adoption. The girls that cannot raise their children because of their circumstances or finances need good families to entrust their children to if we want them to choose life. Pray about this and see if you are called to adoption.
4. Change the language! A big reason women are choosing abortion is simply because they are afraid of what people will think or say if they find out they got pregnant. (This was my biggest fear!) This means, create a culture of life, instead of death and gossip. Instead of saying "Did you hear who got pregnant?" say "Did you hear who chose life?" Wow...what a different way to approach the same topic. One is gossip driven, and one is life affirming and compassionate.
5. Another simple thing to do is compliment pregnant women...(this goes for ANY pregnant woman). [...] Single, unmarried pregnant women are not affirmed enough on their worth, which is why it is so challenging to choose life. [...]
6. If you are parents....when you have "the talk" with your daughter, explicitly tell her something like this, "I hope you are never in this situation, but you NEED to know that if you ever found yourself pregnant, we will still LOVE YOU and will do everything we can to support you, don't ever be afraid that we won't be there for you if that happens." You can change around the wording, but

the point is to explicitly tell her that if she finds herself pregnant you will support her and LOVE her. I "knew" that was the case with my parents, but they never explicitly said that, so the devil planted seeds of doubt and made me question whether or not they would support me...and when you doubt that, it makes it so much easier to rationalize an abortion.

7. ^ this same tip goes for anyone having a heart to heart with a young woman about sex (whether you are a friend, mentor, church leader, etc.)
8. Support women who choose life by throwing them baby showers! My friends and family threw me showers, and it was the most touching thing that has ever happened to me. I have never felt soooo loved. It brings me to tears even thinking about it. Showering these women with love is the best way to offer them healing. They need to know that they are loved (especially when this world

constantly judges them).

9. Another very meaningful thing is when people affirmed me as a mother. Being a new mom, especially an unwed mother is extremely scary. Half the time I have NO CLUE what I'm doing, and so any encouragement is literally a gift from heaven. I remember one day a friend was babysitting and she left a little card on my bed after I came home just saying what a great mom I was and it brought me to tears. That type of encouragement keeps me going!

10. Offer to babysit! Single moms need help!!! If

we are to be pro-life and not let single moms and their children slip into poverty we need to help them by offering childcare so they can work, or finish school to provide for their family and get on their feet. I know if my family didn't help me with watching AvaMarie, I would not have been able to graduate college.

11. Finally: One of the biggest tips is to seek out the single moms. I often find myself so busy with work and motherhood, that I'm too exhausted to really invest in stuff for myself or in even maintaining

THANK YOU...

Patricia Ornelas, for your donation in honor of S. DeFugio Salas

Jennifer Freitas, for donating many, many items to our Christmas boutique in value of \$2,000 in memory of Debbie Freitas. Debbie was a great prayer warrior for us and the love that she had for Pregnancy Support Group will be deeply missed!

Don & Ann Arneson, for donating a new security screen door for our clothes closet and for installing it. You guys are awesome!

David Hargadon, for the use of the Woodland Christian School for our Walk/Run for life in October

Gary Christopherson, for being our sound and music guy once again.

friendships. When my friends call me up, it means the world. It lets me know I'm not forgotten. Most of the time I can't even meet up or hang out, but the fact that I was remembered and invited makes all the difference.

I know this seems entirely "mother focused" but imagine if we coupled these actions with the pro-life discussion about the baby. Women would stop getting abortions because they would know they are supported

and loved!!! Women in unplanned pregnancies would no longer think of themselves as screw-ups and would instead receive healing and recovery through a REAL culture of life.

I've seen and experienced the FEAR of being judged or unloved as the primary factor in abortion, and these tips would hopefully eliminate that fear.

If we are to fight for the unborn, we are to fight for the mothers just as much!

Raquel writes over at www.storyofarose.com. Please visit her website for her testimony and for a full version of this article: <https://storyofarose.com/2013/05/22/so-you-think-youre-pro-life/> And please take the time to support a single mother in your life. Just let her know she is loved.

THANK YOU...

The Pregnancy Support Group is once again the recipient of kindness and generosity. This particular time, the PSG has been blessed with a generous outpouring of giving for our Crib Program. Our crib program allows for new cribs to be given to mommies that participate in 32 hours of Earn While You Learn curriculum. LifePointe Church picked us for their annual "Giving Away Christmas" this year and featured our crib program as their focus. After only four weeks the LifePointe family generated \$13,233 in funds to purchase cribs for our mommies that work so hard to earn them. From all of us here at PSG, Thank You from the bottom of our hearts to each and every one of you at LifePointe church for letting God in your hearts and responding to the call and giving so generously!

God Bless You!

On another note of generosity, PSG was blessed from an anonymous foundation with \$10,000. We are so very humbled by God's great provision to PSG and we are grateful as well that there are people in this community that pay attention to this ministry and are eager to give. We genuinely appreciate this amazing gift! God Bless You!

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