



FOOTHILLS PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

LIFEletter



✧ FPRC NEWSLETTER • VOL. 1 • ISSUE 6 • DECEMBER 2020 ✧

2020: Looking Back Over a Year with THANKS-Giving

A personal note from our Executive Director, Lori Berg

It is not at all uncommon that Susie, Vanessa, and I start our days at FPRC with prayer. Many times we alternate who actually verbalizes our prayer requests, after we have all taken a moment to reflect. When Vanessa is the one to say the prayer, she usually starts out with something like this: "God, we are just so thankful!" Indeed, as Scripture admonishes us to be, we need always be in that "thankful, joyful, prayerful" place. So as I reflect upon this year, I, too, cannot help but to be thankful. To God, to all of you, to an amazing staff and crew of volunteers. To a Board that's solid and mature. To a Gala Team that's as dedicated as they come, and to the lives with whom we have intersected. Let's take a quick look at some of this past year's many highlights:



Pamper Day 2020...each year for the past eight, we have been inviting clients to the center for a half-day of "pampering". Each client (their stories range from new moms to moms who

have lost their babies, to women we are encouraging in so many ways to grow, to women who are being sheltered for their own safety) is treated to exercise tips, styles and cuts by Pasadena City College Cosmetology School, pro make-up, polishing of nails, prayer, sweet treats, and baby-sitting courtesy of Santa Teresita. A major care day like this one cannot possibly happen without the hearts and hands of 40-50 volunteers!

Then...the unthinkable. COVID-19, this strange new virus hit! FPRC was designated as an essential service, so there was never a question we would be here. For the mere fact that we provide food and clothing to the babies and infants we serve. Plus, we offer at NO CHARGE medical pregnancy testing and ultrasounds, our doors needed to



stay "open". Due to being essential, we were able to offer "telehealth" in the event that a client wished to stay away and yet wished to be attended to by a medical person, clients were able to call in and set-up appointments and referrals with our nurse, Susie. Vanessa, our office manager, and Susie each worked adjusted hours, while still offering all the care and support to which our clients have grown accustomed. Thanks to a caring and hard-working staff. Many thanks to Right to Life League of So. Cal., who provided us with legal counsel as we navigated each and every day.



Thanks to our church partners and donors whose unwavering and faithful support helped us, not only during the pandemic, but beyond. As director of FPRC, we are blessed and humbled by your steadfast support. WE ALL DO THIS WORK

TOGETHER!!! Your generosity exceeded my expectations! Pre-Gala, during the Gala, and now as we move forward into a New Year...thank you!!!

When traffic at our building wasn't as heavy in the very first days of the pandemic, our landlady, Kathy Paul, wanted to provide FPRC with some upgrades and improvements. She is an advocate for life and knew that we were going to have very real pressures applied as we were serving greater numbers



of clients with every week. Other pregnancy centers in the San Gabriel Valley were closed, leaving us the only center to serve clients. So, Kathy made sure that our suite was in the best shape it could possibly be! Bless you, Kathy, for caring that our clients receive the highest quality. We appreciate your heart!

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FOOTHILLS PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

a State-Licensed Medical Clinic
(626) 358-2122

924 Buena Vista Street, Suite 202
Duarte, CA 91010

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon, Wed, Fri: 11am - 3pm
Tues, Thurs: 2pm - 7pm

MISSION

FPRC is a safe place where individuals and families are empowered with the tools and support to make healthy life choices.

ABOUT US

We recycle hope into every life that walks through our doors.

WAYS TO DONATE

Mail your gift to:
FPRC

P.O. Box 234
Monrovia, Ca 91017

Or give online at:
foothillsprc.org

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2020: Looking Back...

As riots and protests ravaged many streets across our neighborhoods and country, FPRC was forced to really examine "who" we are. And truthfully, in all fairness and frankness, it is



true of us...that ALL LIVES MATTER here! Our clients are brown; black; yellow; red, and white...all races, all-genders, all incomes, all ranks and walks, all faiths. And ALL receive the same love, light, help, support, resources, compassion, and care.

There are other parts of the world wherein pregnancy centers like ours couldn't even exist. The young woman we heard about recently who was stoned to death in her native country... she could've received support and safe shelter here. The mother who wished her daughter of color would abort her child...to that mother, we posed the fair question: "When does a black life matter, if not in the womb?" For every client we serve, our hearts and hands are open. Your support of FPRC makes a difference in the lives of ALL!!!

Spring is the time around here in which we are usually busy planning two of our favorite events: The Annual Friendship Tea and Fashion Show with our church partner, United Methodist of Monrovia and our Annual Gala. While sitting in my office with our social media manager, Kristine, it occurred to both of us that this year was going to look very different when it came to both! Instead of bemoaning the fact that we were going to have to think way outside the box, we jumped into action. Our media wall we use at our galas was mounted on our inside wall here at the center. And stage the fashion show...we did!!! Outfits were selected from United Thrift and we filmed



a virtual fashion fling. Donors and models and viewers had a virtual blast! Thanks to Susan, Maddie, Wendy, Kimberly, and Kristine. You made it happen, team! What?! You still haven't seen it? It's archived at our website: foothillsprc.org for your viewing pleasure!



Where would we be without the faithful support of our church partners? From diapers to donations; from supplies to service projects; from missions, monthly dollars to making movies with us...we shout praise to God for the following churches who have shown us support this year: Abundant Life Fellowship; New Life Assembly of Duarte; United Methodist Monrovia; First Presbyterian of Monrovia; Glendora Alliance; Cornerstone Bible Church; Foothill Church; St. Frances of Rome; PazNaz; Annunciation Church; One and All Church; First Baptist Monrovia; Vineyard of Monrovia; Friends Church of Glendora; Immaculate conception, and St. Dorothy's Church. Grace Church of Glendora will be providing Thanksgiving boxes of food to a couple dozen of our clients. And One and All Church of San Dimas are treating our clients to a Christmas Store! Way to partner....thank you!!!!

With the media wall still mounted on the inside of the center, we scripted and staged our first-ever virtual gala, playing indefinitely up on our website: foothillsprc.org. Thanks to the hard-working team of film-makers, including a couple of "film angels who were dropped right out of the regions of heaven, namely Gene Puzon and Ethan Kisaka, an incredible Gala Team and other volunteers told a beautiful story in Gala 2020: Be a Light! **See our collage of pictures below with some of the behind-the-scenes**



shots of our fabulous crew! I encourage you to watch it, tell other friends to view it...and then, watch it all over again! It's never too late to give! Thank you for your generous support. Special thanks also to all of the event sponsors and donors to this gala's silent auction.



Each year, several of our church partners lovingly allow us to share a small message with their constituents about our work. We, in turn, distribute baby bottles and encourage them to fill them up with their change, bills, and checks! And this year, even amidst minor setbacks, some of our churches have continued to support us in this way. Thanks to St. Frances of Rome and Annunciation, and Immaculate Conception, for your commitment to partner with us in this way. Another pleasant surprise came in the form of a young man who, together with other college buddies of his, decided to run a separate "virtual" baby bottle drive for us... thanks, Gene!

What lies ahead? With your continued support financially, prayerfully, and in-service, FPRC continues to serve all the moms, dads, moms-to-be, babies, and families with our expert medical support; supplies just when needed the most; all a client's options; resources and helps wherever clients find themselves; and hope and light on the path ahead. Let's face the New Year with thankful hearts, joyful remembrances, and prayerful posture!



I direct your attention the inspiring story shared by our nurse, Susie. And Brian, our Board Chair, invites you to take the next step in your financial partnering. Thank you for reading their articles and partnering in the LIGHT...the LIGHT which is Foothills Pregnancy Resource Center. ■

BEHIND THE SCENES! VIRTUAL GALA 2020: BE A LIGHT!



Susie prepares to share an actual ultrasound, while Gene gets a light reading. Who knew those diapers boxes would come in this handy?



Oh, so happy Hayley! Hayley had such a great time amid all the cute kids' clothes in the Donation Room.

The media wall hanging on the interior wall of FPRC.



Kristin is telling the story of Paulina as Gene gives her direction.



Eva and Greta enjoying a candid moment with director Gene. Are you tracking the number of times we see the diaper boxes being used as a platform onto where we mounted the camera?



Lori getting a brief moment to stand at the media wall before we call it a wrap! The umbrella in the foreground is a great lighting help! Hmmm...more diaper boxes, too.

Kristine and Candy enjoying a lighter moment with the director. Gee....there are those diaper boxes again.





FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

BY BRIAN RIETZE, CHAIRMAN

We at FPRC are eternally grateful for the compassion and support of our friends, donors and volunteers – without you, we could not do what we do. We receive no federal or state funding, so the financial support from our donors, churches and local businesses is what sustains us throughout the year.

2020 has been tumultuous in a lot of ways, and FPRC has not been immune from the financial implications of the economic shutdowns, specifically as it has impacted many of our donors, inhibited us to hold some fundraising events, and caused our organization to make sure we watch every penny spent, sometimes foregoing things that we desire to do, but simply do not have the funding to do. Yet, throughout 2020, our doors have remained open and our life-giving services have remained accessible to the community – we are grateful to God for his blessing and provisions through our supporters.

For you reading this, I pray that you would prayerfully consider increasing your financial partnership with FPRC, whether you have been a casual supporter or a dedicated giver over the years. We need a host of “legacy givers” who will ensure FPRC has the financial resources needed to continue making a significant impact on all who come in contact with our (and your) organization. Listed below are some of the ways we can facilitate your giving and we encourage you to reach out to us if there are other methods you would like to utilize to do your giving:

- Check/Credit Card
- Publicly Traded Securities
- In-Kind Donations: Vehicles, Real Estate, Items to United Thrift, Airline Miles
- Utilize Workplace Programs: Automated Giving, Matching Programs



On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Foothills Pregnancy Resource Center, I would like to say THANK YOU for your financial partnership. ■

In Memoriam...

Sheila (Fleming) Ratzlaff, Founder of FPRC

Sheila Kay Ratzlaff, the founder and visionary of FPRC who in turn served as its first director, passed away on Sunday, October 11.

Sheila was living with her husband Paul, in Arizona, as was her son Bryan. Her daughter Alisha lives in Colorado with her husband Derek. Sheila had suffered for nearly two years with ailing health.

FPRC is thriving currently due to the elbow grease, commitment and faith which she and other leaders in our community initially mustered at the center's very beginnings. Sheila's dream, which later became known As Foothills Pregnancy Resource Center, started in 2001 when she established this safe haven for women, men, and children who found themselves in a difficult place while facing an unplanned pregnancy.

In the words of her dearest friend, Carol: “Sheila always told others of her love for God. She loved to laugh and giggle. She was always so positive about what was possible! She was a bright light every time she walked into a room.”

So it is fitting that in 2020: Be a Light, we are remembering one of our brightest! Thank you, Sheila.



Sheila pictured here flanked by dear friends!

Let's call her... "Leitha"

by Susie Mullen, Clinical Nurse Manager

During 2020, FPRC has seen a rise in the number of teenagers coming to us with unplanned pregnancies. We have also seen a rise in clients either witnessing or experiencing domestic violence. Isolation, parents experiencing loss of income, added responsibility for schooling children at home all add up to stress! Teens with too much time on their hands due to the shut-down of church, school sports and other extracurricular activities have turned to each other and the result is many more surprise pregnancies.

“Leitha” (not her real name) was one of those clients. The first time we heard from her was from Options United, a hotline referral service that lists FPRC as a resource. They described her as a sixteen-year-old girl in high school who wanted to discuss her possible options; carry and parent, abort, or place the child she was carrying for adoption.



I called her and she explained to me that she had already done many pregnancy tests which all turned out to be positive. She was living with her single mother who had younger children in the home as well. The mother had herself experienced multiple abortions and Leitha had not told her about this pregnancy. We chatted for a while and it became clear that Leitha had already decided that she wished to carry and parent this child. We made an appointment for a pregnancy test and an ultrasound.

The following day, I received a second phone call from Leitha. She had been experiencing nausea and vomiting and her mother had become suspicious and asked her to take a pregnancy test. Oddly, the result of the pregnancy test was negative for the first time. Leitha said she felt that God made that happen as every other test result was positive. The next day she called again and said that her mom had figured out that she truly was pregnant and told her to get in the car to go to Planned Parenthood to get an abortion. When Leitha refused, she kicked her out of the home and she was now staying with her boyfriend's parents. She asked us to find her alternative housing which we immediately started researching.

This roller coaster ride continued until the day she came in for her appointment. She brought her boyfriend “Jamal”, who was obviously very supportive of her decision to carry and parent their child. The ultrasound revealed a six week old fetus. Basically, we could see very few details but I was able to capture the baby's heartbeat and with love in her voice and tears in her eyes she said, “He's so little!” She and Jamal immediately connected with this new and precious life.

We talked about next steps and encouraged her to give her mom a little more time to adjust to this new and unexpected information. We prayed together and she thanked me for being there for her in this moment when she felt very alone and afraid. This is the work of Foothills Pregnancy Resource Center. We are a safe place where hurting women can come for a second set of eyes on a new and stressful situation. A place where they can come to calm down and make informed decisions about the future of the life that they are carrying inside of them.

Won't you help us bring help and perspective into lives of young women like Leitha? Your gifts and prayers speak directly into Leitha's life and the life she carries. You being there for FPRC creates the opportunity for us to be that safe place for all of our clients. A big thank you to all our generous partners! ■

SERVICES OFFERED:

- Urine Pregnancy Testing
- Limited Ultrasound (if you qualify)
- Options Counseling: Hear about ALL of your options
- Support after an abortion
- Groups and Classes: Support, Parenting, Mentoring
- Supplies for you and your baby

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

- **Options Counseling** Explore your options, "Are You Pregnant? Emergency Contraception? Considering Abortion?"
- **Abortion Recovery**
Restoring Lives and Relationships After Abortion
- **Susie Mullen, R.N.,** Nurse Manager
Foothills Pregnancy Resource Center
- **Lori Berg,** Executive Director
Foothills Pregnancy Resource Center

**POST-ABORTION CLASSES
OR ONE-ON-ONE
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS**

Abortion affects families. Through a ripple effect...one abortion...may touch the hearts of many.

A NEW SUPPORT GROUP IS FORMING IN YOUR AREA

Please call: **(626) 358-2122** to get all the information.

PARENTING SUPPORT GROUP

Are you a parent of young children?

Please join us as we discuss topics of discipline, structure, and healthy living. Enjoy the community of other parents. Your children are more than welcome to come along. Ask us for details!



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM
FOOTHILLSPRC.ORG



Sometimes, do you just wish you had a "SAFE PLACE" to gather and get some **HONEST ANSWERS?** Do you have a safe place to go **WHERE NO ONE WILL JUDGE YOU** as you share your questions or thoughts? We have support groups. We even have one-on-one mentorships for guys! Everyone could use a little support. **WE'RE A SAFE PLACE.**

If you need support or to share with another person for the first time, all our services are **CONFIDENTIAL** and **FREE!**

FPRC IS A SAFE PLACE



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