

Abel Letter

Winter 2017-18

A publication of the Abel Pregnancy Resource Center: A place of hope for those making pregnancy decisions

Together for life

ingly serve and their children, both yet-to-be-born and born.

In October, we were awarded a grant of \$1,900 from the Community Foundation of the Virginias to purchase car seats, pack 'n plays, cribs and crib mattresses. We were able to restock our supply which had dwindled to one pack 'n play. Clients enrolled in our Earn While You Learn program earn "mommy dollars" or "daddy dollars" through a variety of education enriching activities related to pregnancy, infant care and parenting. Clients accumulate dollars and then spend them on items they will need for their baby.

In the last edition of the *Abel Letter*, we shared that the number of women from Mercer County that had an abortion in West Virginia dropped from 58 in 2015 to 38 in 2016. Based on the statistics that we recently received from the Department of Health and Human Resources in Charleston, WV, we project that number to further drop to 28 in 2017. We know that our online and brick and mortar presence in the community, made possible through your consistent and generous support, has contributed to this 50% decline.

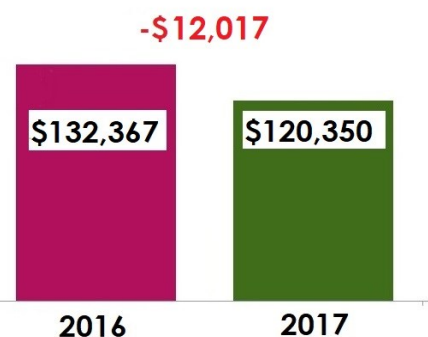
We are so grateful for the strong community support that we have enjoyed since March 1994, when we first began offering services to women facing unexpected pregnancy situations. So many of you, through your business, school, church, club or simply as an interested person, have generously supported the Abel Pregnancy Resource Center through your financial gifts, volunteer work, prayers, material donations (i.e. baby clothes, cribs, diapers, car seats), professional expertise and encouraging words and deeds. What brings us "**Together for Life**" is our shared value that all human life has intrinsic worth because we are made in the image of God; which includes the women and men that we lov-



Pictured are staff, clients that earned a pack 'n play, and James "Smokey" Shott, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of the Virginias. Photo by Eric DiNovo, courtesy of the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*.

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Giving Report 2016 vs 2017



A Glimpse into our Financial Situation

This year has been financially challenging. As the graph to the left shows, giving is behind \$12,000 from 2016. Looking ahead through the first two months of 2018, which are historically low giving months, we project an additional \$12,000 deficit until March when funds will start coming in from the Baby Bottle Blessings Campaign. To pay our December bills and cover the projected deficit through the first two months of 2018, we need at least \$24,000 over and above the anticipated generous giving from our monthly supporters.

If you choose to share in this need, feel free to use the enclosed envelope.



We are greatly encouraged as we approach 2018. Reminding ourselves “to not grow weary in doing good,” we are rekindling our passion for this ministry in order to build it ever stronger to the glory of God and the benefit of the community.

Therefore, we will focus on reaching and caring for at-risk clients; better connect and build bridges to other community organizations;

expand our donor base through relationship building; develop and maintain a strong core of Advocates in supporting churches; develop an effective ministry that prepares birth fathers to be 24/7 dads and be supportive of their child’s birth mother; and recruit volunteer Spirit-filled mentors (women and men) for the Earn While You Learn program and crisis pregnancy coaches.

*What brings us “**Together for Life**” is our shared value that all human life has intrinsic worth because we are made in the image of God*

We invite you to continue with or join us, maybe for the first time, on this life-affirming journey, as “together for life” we seek the well-being of our community!



Becoming a 24/7 Dad

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 24 million children in America—one out of three—live without their biological father in the home. Consequently, there is a “father factor” in nearly all of the societal ills facing America today. Research shows when a child is raised in a father-absent home, he or she is affected in the following ways...7 times more likely to become pregnant as a teen; more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol; more likely to commit crime; 2 times more likely to drop out of high school; more likely to go to prison; 2 times greater risk of infant mortality; more likely to face abuse and neglect; 4 times greater risk of poverty and 2 times more likely to suffer obesity.

We are renewing our efforts to assist birth fathers to become involved, responsible fathers. To do this, we will use materials produced by the National Fatherhood Initiative; learn from biblical examples of fatherhood done right and wrong; and recruit male mentors to effectively engage fathers with their children.

If you share this vision and would like to help make it a reality, please let us know.

Contact us about training to become a...

Pregnancy Decision Coach: Provide counsel and support for a woman suspecting or experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, help her work through the various decisions facing her, educate her on the issues surrounding abortion, parenting and adoption, support in Christian love, and establish a relationship for the duration of her pregnancy and beyond. Involves one 2 to 4-hour shift per week.



Client Advocate for Women and Men Enrolled in the Earn While You Learn Program (EWYL): Assist dads and moms and/or expectant parents, during their time at the center, as they complete educational lessons on subjects such as parenting, pregnancy and healthy relationships. Clients earn mommy or daddy dollars through completing lessons and homework and keeping appointments. These dollars can then be used to “purchase” material items for their babies. The Client Advocate builds relationships with moms and dads in the program and plays a crucial role in helping them learn about parenthood and to provide for their baby’s needs.

“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-14

Baby Bottle Blessings 2018

Goal
\$25,000



Here are a couple of ways that you might consider bringing the Baby Bottle Blessings Campaign to your church, business, club or group. We can supply you with baby bottles, bulletin inserts/handouts and an Abel PRC representative to give a 5 minute update on the pregnancy center and introduce the BBB Campaign.

—Introduce it on **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**, January 21, 2018.

—Hand out baby bottles on Mother's Day, May 13th, and then collect them on Father's Day, June 17th.

—Pick any time frame in 2018 to begin and end your BBB Campaign. Some churches continue their campaign throughout the whole year.

BBB Campaign Video



If you'd like a way to introduce your group to the Baby Bottle Blessings campaign, then how about showing this video? It only takes 2 minutes. If you'd like to preview it, just let us know.

For more details on the Baby Bottle Campaign, go to www.friendsofabel.org

Abel PRC Advocates...
Let's do dinner together!
Monday, January 8
6:00 pm at the Center

We'd like to get together and share a meal with all those we call upon to promote our special events to their church, business, club or group. We will prepare a meal for you. All you have to do is show up. Afterward, we will discuss how we can work together throughout 2018 to strengthen the relationship between our supporting churches and groups and the pregnancy center ministry. Please RSVP by January 3.

Kroger community rewards



...supporting the Abel PRC is as easy
as swiping your Kroger Plus Card!

Just 23 Households More!!

We are now up to 77 households that are supporting the Abel Pregnancy Resource Center simply by swiping their Kroger Plus Card when shopping at Kroger—an increase of 12 households from the previous quarter!! This occurred between May 29 and August 28. As a result, Kroger sent us a donation of \$845.36!! We are now just 23 households away from reaching our goal of 100!! We are really excited that so many of you are swiping your Kroger Plus Card in support of the Abel PRC. What a blessing you are to us! If your Kroger Plus Card is not yet linked to Abel Crisis Pregnancy Center, then please go to our website (www.friendsofabel.org) and follow the link to set up an account. You will become one more household supporting the Abel PRC every time you shop at Kroger.

Express your support...clip and send with your gift.

Abel
Pregnancy Resource Center

Phone: 304.325.2000
E-mail: info@abelcenter.org
Web: www.friendsofabel.org



[Facebook.com/abelcenter](https://www.facebook.com/abelcenter)

Here's how I would like to express my support

- Become a Monthly Supporter ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 Other \$ _____
- Share a One-Time Gift \$ _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Thank you so much for partnering with us in ministry.

Winter 2017-18



Update on Tony and Pam Matney

After sending out a letter in October regarding Tony Matney's triple by-pass surgery, many of you have asked us how he is doing. Since Tony and Pam do not have health insurance and Tony would be unable to work for some time, we invited you to make donations toward their medical bills and living expenses. To date, you have responded with just over \$4,500 in donations!! Donations are still being received. Make checks out to "Tony and Pam Matney" and mail it to the pregnancy center. Thank you!

Here is a word from Pam: "Tony is doing much better. He goes to the surgeon December 6th for another follow up. He hasn't been released to go back to work, but hopefully will be in January or February. We are very grateful and overwhelmed by the generosity of God's people, and so thankful that God loves us."

Trail Run/Walk for Life 2017

What an amazingly beautiful day we had for our annual run/walk through Bluefield City Park!!! We'd like give a special "thank you" to the Princeton High School Future Career Community Leaders of America and the youth from Johnston Chapel Baptist Church for serving during the pancake breakfast. In addition, we are so thankful to Grants, Kroger, Sam's Club and Baker Sanitary Supply Company for donating toward the breakfast. Thank you!!! Arielle, Ireland and Amelia for providing live music and Chy, Elisabeth and Lorena face painting. We're also very thankful to our corporate sponsors: Bluefield College, West Virginia Pipeline, Kimberly's Greenhouse, Richwood Self Storage, Ultra Services & Associates, Clinch Valley Printing, Brandon M. Lingenfelter DO PhD and Robert R. Stevens DDS. If you are one of the 350 people that sponsored a runner/walker, "Thank you so much!" Together, with God's blessing, we raised just over \$21,000.



This colored edition of the *Abel Letter* is made possible by Clinch Valley Printing in Tazewell, VA 276-988-5410. Thank You!

Baby Bottle Blessings Campaign 2018 • Advocates/Liaisons Dinner, Monday, January 8



Abel
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