

Assist Pregnancy Center

Special points of interest:

- Meet “New” Director of Client Services (Do you recognize her?)
- Walk|Run|Ride for Life raises \$20,000!
- Assist Welcomes New Volunteers and Plans Appreciation Brunch

A Daughter’s Birth Brings a Family New Life

The first call was not so pleasant. Juan and Sylvia (names have been changed) looked in the Yellow Pages to find out what to do about an unwanted pregnancy.

“I took that call on helpline,” said Cynthia Thomas, Director of Outreach. “I was newly trained and that was one of my first calls. I had a hard time understanding the woman and then a man came on. He explained that she had taken a pill. By the grace of God, I was able to bridge the language barrier and schedule an appointment for the next day.”

It was one of those tense appointments. The couple came with their three year old son. They had just recently moved from Miami and were not ready for another child. Sylvia remembered, “After I saw the video about the choices and the regrets women had, I started to change my mind.” Sitting there now with her beautiful 9 month old daughter on her lap, she related her feelings through her husband.

“Assist has helped us a lot,” Juan said. “Starting with learning to parent, discipline and provide proper nutrition to our son all the way

to carrying and raising our daughter.” He winks and jokes about a third child.

The South American couple have been enrolled in Assist’s Earn While You Learn program since that first visit in winter 2009. They now come regularly to counsel with both our bilingual client mentor, Ana Luis Cornejos, and our male mentor, Al Swann. They are working through the material entitled, “Biblical Portrait of Marriage.”

It wasn’t long ago they had lost everything, Juan and Sylvia said, relating their story of having to leave Miami for lack of work and moving

to Springfield to live with her family. Since that faithful day when they came to Assist, they have grown as a family and as a couple. They have a home of their own now and two children who love each other.



Partnering Together for Life

Our Mission:

Assist Pregnancy Center exists to share the love of Christ by encouraging life-affirming choices with individuals facing unexpected pregnancies.

Our Hours:

Monday & Tuesday
Noon - 6 pm
Thursday
2 - 8 pm

Helpline:

703.354.7272

Business:

703.354.7291

Fax:

703.354.2966

Ministry site:

www.assistpartners.org

Client site:

www.assistcpc.org

An Interview with Our Two Newest Board Members



1) What motivated you to become a board member?

Barry Oxford: I have had a passion for the work God does through pregnancy centers for a long time and supporter of Assist for many years. When approached and asked to pray about joining the Board, it did not take long for God to reassure me this was a ministry in which He wanted me to serve.

Chris Reyna: My desire to become a board member began with a discussion with my friend Jane (Fuller). As she explained how Assist reaches men and women, not only with their current physical needs, but by speaking God’s truth and love to each individual that enters, I knew God had opened a door for me to walk through.

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends ~

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all...that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

Dear Friends,

It was at a recent VA Directors' Coalition meeting that I was challenged with the idea of "not allowing either side [of the abortion issue] to define who we are." I was reminded amidst the political volleying of the recent Federal budget decision that Assist is, first and foremost, a compassion ministry, not issue- focused, but Christ- centered and others-focused.

God has taught me through the ministry of Assist that we cannot simply share the Gospel; we must daily live it out -- praying for and even loving those who hate or abuse us, forgiving as we want (and need) to be forgiven, giving thanks in all circumstances, dying to ourselves and allowing Him to be God...sufficient, all-powerful, faithful, merciful, Creator and Sovereign King, Risen Lord! Only then can we reach others for Christ.

Admittedly, it is not always easy for me to subjugate my passion for justice and righteousness of the unborn and their mothers who may be deceived (even as Eve was) to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

But, as I practice loving Him and my co-laborers, as well as those He brings through the doors of the Center, I have seen the Lord pour out blessing upon blessing on the ministry with:

Clients from far and wide – many from some of the spiritually darkest corners of the world, yet hungry to know the truth and be set free;

More babies born and increasing opportunities to invest in the hearts and the minds of their new parents through our educational and Christian resources;

A growing team of staff and volunteers who operate, not out of their limited human abilities, but the supernatural gifts that God has given them;

A wonderful base of supporters, who give generously and faithfully to ensure that those in our community facing unexpected pregnancies continue to have life-affirming choices.

With these blessings comes the need for additional resources (thus we have budgeted 15% above last year.) But, I am emboldened by Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, in which he unapologetically asks them to support the missionaries that have served them in the past and continue to reach out to others. Consider with me, what has Christ given us? What is He asking of us in response?

Jesus has given us His all – His life, His righteousness, His inheritance, His Spirit, and eternal fellowship with the Father. Jesus has given us new life, and through Assist, a ministry of reconciliation - and *"since God has reconciled the world to himself in Christ, and has not counted our sins against us, we are to be Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."*

How can we be anything less, and what could be more important? Thank you for your partnership in this ministry – with Him, through Him, and for Him.

Partnering for Life,

Jane



Now recruiting
underwriters and
table hosts for our
Fall Banquet
Interested?

For more info,
contact us at
703.354.7272
or email:
outreach@assistcpc.org

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2) What area(s) will you focus on as a board member?

Barry: My focus will be on the development aspects of the Center's ministry serving as the Chair of the Development Committee. I will also serve on the Prayer and Governance/Nominating Committees.

Chris: My area of focus as a board member is on finances and governance. These areas can seem boring to some, but I truly enjoy "crunching numbers".

3) Where would you like to see Assist grow/change?

Barry: In all cases, bath everything we do in prayer because this is God's ministry. Specifically, for the short term, focus on increasing our clientele through development and outreach activities. For

the long term, grow to the extent that we can consider the option of providing a sonogram service.

Chris: I would like to see Assist grow in the area of reaching the younger generations with the good news of abstinence as a positive life choice and God's perfect plan for us.

4) What is your favorite scripture?

Barry: My "life verse" is Galatians 2:20, the entire plan of salvation is contained in this scripture. If I die to self each day as this verse infers, I have placed myself in a position for God to use me to further His Kingdom.

Chris: My favorite scripture is I John 1:9, it keeps me humble and thankful at the same time.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Welcome “New” Client Services Director

She’s Back! Those of you who have supported Assist for a long time will remember Carrie (Clayton) Brightwell. Carrie came to Assist in 2000 starting as a volunteer client mentor (while working full-time as a lawyer), then coming on staff as Linda Perry’s assistant, eventually directing client services and filling almost every duty in between – as needed.

She answered the call to missionary work to Ghana in 2009, right about the time Linda was retiring. In fact, Jane shadowed Carrie briefly before Carrie went to Africa and shortly thereafter, Jane became Executive Director.

When Carrie came stateside at the beginning of this year and Jenny Meredith was taking her leave of absence in her fourth month of pregnancy – client services didn’t miss a beat. “We really feel God was gracious in bringing Carrie back when He did,” Jane said.

Carrie’s knowledge of the curriculum allowed her to teach the client mentor training in March. “While nothing can replace the enthusiasm and youth Jenny brought to the Center, Carrie’s familiarity with our clients and procedures has really allowed us to forge ahead,” Jane said. “All of this has taken place simultaneously with our transition to WayCool – an online scheduling database – and the integration of a new bilingual counselor, Ana Luis Cornejos. It’s been amazing.”

While she is no longer physically in Africa, Carrie continues the work she began there to start a pregnancy center in the capital city of Accra. She formed a group of like-minded, spiritually-united believers, “The Women of the Latter Rains.” A friend and fellow member, Rev.

Georgina “Happy” Crentsil is working on this and other issues facing African women to form a ministry, Doxa Life, supported by Africa Cares for Life.

Happy was recently granted a scholarship by Heartbeat International to attend its annual conference in Columbus, Ohio in May. With a generous offer from Assist to pay for Happy’s transportation to and from Ghana, she and Carrie will attend together.

Reflecting a moment on her time spent in Ghana, Carrie said, “My faith became stronger (concerning the very real dangers and challenges she faced there.) On the one hand, I felt the power of evil, yet on the other hand, I grasped the very real power of God...It was not an option to pray without ceasing there and it’s a challenge to come back to the comfortable faith I see around me here.”

Of course, she said she feels very blessed to be home living with her son and reconnecting with her two young granddaughters, “but my heart is still in Africa.”



Carrie Brightwell (right) shows Carolyn Dumas the new WayCool online scheduling procedures.



Thank You Walk|Run|Ride for Life Business Sponsors:

Passport Auto Group, Intellectual Property Research, Inc., Performance Physical Therapy, Grace Bible Church, Northern VA Dental Associates, Fitness on the Run, Brambles of Occoquan & Top Golf

Just Perfect. Glorious. Smooth. These are a few of the adjectives that were used to describe this year’s 2nd Annual Walk|Run|Ride for Life. More than 90 participants came to Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church on the last day of April to participate in Assist’s second largest fundraiser of the year.

They came early,

they came as whole families, they came individually, on unicycles, on scooter bikes, from out of town. They came from 17 different churches to celebrate LIFE.

With generous business sponsorship totaling \$2,300 and the monies raised by our sponsored participants, Assist received \$20,000.

“Grace does such a nice job promoting this family friendly event,” said Tammy Patrignani, Director of Finance. “We are very thankful to our church liaison, Carol Peter, and her family for hosting us.” Grace provides the food and facility within a stone’s throw from the Washington and Old Dominion Trail where the event took place again this year.

To read the rest of the Walk|Run|Ride for Life story and see all of our event photos (thank you Jan Bush), go to: assistpartners.org

Assist Pregnancy Center

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Annandale, VA
Permit No. 6020

LIFE | AFFIRMING | CHOICES

5101-D Backlick Road
Annandale, VA 22003



820 Babies
Reported in our 22
Years of Ministry!

Welcome:

Frank, Ilianna, Franklin, Layla, Skylar,
Ellianne, Courtney

United Way
Campaign code
8190
CFC #98301



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

Affiliate of
CareNet &
Heartbeat
International

Key Dates:

- May 30 (Mon) - closed for Memorial Day
- June 4 (Sat 9:30- 12 am) Staff & Volunteer In-Service
- June 21 (Tues 6- 7 pm) Annual Prayer Service at the Center
- June 23 (Sat 10-12 am) Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
- Sept 22 (Thu 6:30- 9 pm) 22nd Annual Fall Banquet

Next Volunteer Training

Oct 4–Nov 1 (Tuesdays 6:30 –9:30 pm; Sat only Oct 15 8:30 –4:30 pm)

Wish list:

- Center Handyman
- Non- drop side cribs
- Crib mattresses
- Newborn/Infant car-seats (seats less than 5 years old)
- Gift cards (i.e. Target, Giant, Walmart, etc.)
- Furniture & Flat Screen TV for counseling room
- Tall bookshelf
- Baby nose & nail care items

Assist Loves Our Volunteers

CONGRATS to the 8 NEW Volunteers who have completed volunteer training: Debbie Adams, Melinda Cagle, Ana Luisa Cornejo, Nomie Derani, Vivian Duckett, Julie Lovejoy, Teresa Thompson

"Many Hands Make Light the Work." All volunteers are encouraged to join us Saturday, July 23 from 10am - noon at Cascade Apartments for an **Appreciation Brunch!**



Calling All Volunteers – Our next **In-Service Quarterly Meeting is June 4, 9:30 am - noon. Topic:** "Presenting Abstinence to the Negative-Test Client."

Summer Volunteer Interest Meetings

June 14, July 12 & Aug. 2 from 1 - 2 pm at the Center

(Pictured above) Completing a Civics project, 8th graders Meg Depue & Jake Tyler collected donations at St. Bernadette Parish and posted flyers in the neighborhood for Assist.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rodney Darville, President
- Mildred Barylski, Vice President
- Beverly Jamison, Treasurer
- Roycea Watson, Secretary
- Robin Hellmuth, Member
- Barry Oxford, Member
- Chris Reyna, Member

Special Thanks to retiring Board

Members:

- Rita Thompson,
- Charlotte Treadwell

STAFF

- Jane Fuller, Executive Director
- Carrie Brightwell, Director of Client Services
- Tammy Patrignani, Director of Finance & Administration
- Cynthia Thomas, Dir. of Outreach
- Deborah Gerlisky, Director of Volunteer Services