

# MPS/Best Options Life Notes

Connecting with the ministry family

## Changing Lives: 2011 through July

- Visits 975
- Client ages: Teens 32%  
20-25 38%  
25-30 17%  
Over 30 13%
- 81% unmarried
- Averaging 30-35 new pregnancy tests each month
- 102 ultrasounds (7 months)
- 90% of abortion vulnerable women chose life!
- We met 39 new babies, brought in to visit after birth!
- At least 119 clients heard the Gospel.



Muskegon Pregnancy Services  
Best Options  
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[www.bestoptions.org](http://www.bestoptions.org)

*Impacting lives—one or two at a time*

## A cup of coffee with Priscilla Hinze

### The future keeps getting brighter at MPS/Best Options

**A**t MPS, we are susceptible—like any other ministry—to getting caught up in the day to day of meeting the needs of our clients. That's extremely important, after all, it is why we are here.

But sometimes, the “day to day” can block our vision of what we want to be in one, five or ten years. And though we are excited about what the Lord is doing *now*, we want to continually improve.

#### First step

For instance, our goal is to one day be the *first choice* of any woman in our area who thinks she may be facing a crisis pregnancy.

That's a tall order, to be sure. But—with God—all things are

possible aren't they?

Because we believe this, we dare to dream.

We dream of meeting more needs than we can even fathom at this point.

We also dream of a shining facility that will attract that future growth.

Sometimes, we even dream of expanding our medical facility to provide STD/STI testing.

A long shot? Perhaps. Impossible? Not with God.

#### When dreams come true

Dreams become reality when we put them on paper, pray through them and ask a simple question, “Lord, what do you want us to do in the future?”

#### Our new year begins

So as our new fiscal year begins on September 1st, we dare to dream. This year's theme is “Hold on to Hope”.

We are beginning the year by making a concerted effort to reach the abortion vulnerable—advertising our services at the colleges, upgrading our website (have you seen it? [www.bestoptions.org](http://www.bestoptions.org)), and expanding our ministry to those who have chosen abortion in the past. We are reaching out to male partners because we know that 67% of abortions are coerced.

And with our dynamic and visionary Board of Directors, we look to the future. We won't rest in the day to day—not until abortion is unthinkable in Muskegon because we are *first choice*, offering hope, help, and **Life**.

## LifeWalk is set for September 17th: Our largest in history?

If you choose to walk in this year's LifeWalk, we won't promise you will lose the weight you want.

We won't even tell you that you will be in markedly better shape. After all, it is only a mile and 1/2.

And no, walking with us won't put your face on TV or get your name in the paper.

Walking and getting some friends and family members to sponsor you will however, provide the funds needed to touch more lives.

This year we are walking in the neighborhood of the Center with the highlight being a Center tour. Our goal for this fundraiser is \$22,000—that's

200 sponsored walkers with just over \$100 each in pledges. Doable? Yes! Of course the fewer sponsored walkers we have the less support we receive. So ask friends to join you for a fun morning of exercise and fellowship—and don't forget the great door prizes! Call 726-2677 today to help make it happen! (see page 4)



Willing hearts—good partners

## We are looking for a few willing hearts

When talk turns to finances, the first question is often, “How much do you need?” We can answer that with a dollar figure, but deep down we know there is something else that makes the ministry soar: Willing hearts.

If someone has a heart for those who are struggling with a “life” decision—that’s who we are looking for.

Compassion demands action. Though it’s important to denounce the tragedy of abortion, with the other hand we need to reach out—make a difference.

The question, then, is not “how

much?” but “how many?”. We know not everyone can volunteer—lives, jobs, and families demand attention. But we also know there are “many” who can make a difference, equipping us to touch hearts and change lives with their **financial** partnership.

### Guardian’s Circle

Members of our **Guardian’s Circle** provide sustained support through monthly gifts. It’s as though they are there with us when we meet our clients.

Monthly donations can be made with a monthly check, by elec-

tronic funds transfer, or by automatic monthly credit card deduction.

As we reach out to women and girls in seemingly hopeless situations, we know our Guardians have our back because of the love we share in Jesus Christ. We present hope with confidence—that nothing is impossible for Him.

### Join Us!

Visit our website (or call) to begin your partnership for Life! [www.bestoptions.org](http://www.bestoptions.org) or 726-2677. You will be blessed. and so will we.

*“Maybe her fears have been ignored and she has had no response to her emotions in the past. ‘Trust’ is a foreign word to her.”*

## Who does she need when she’s hurting?

### She just got the news that her worst fears have come true: she is pregnant.

#### On the Outside

She sometimes masks what is going on inside her heart, choosing instead to remain stoic on the outside, taking the news with faked calm. Maybe even appearing callous—with a chip on her shoulder as big as a rock.

She might not say much, choosing instead to endure her pain quietly, with little emotion. She does everything she can to maintain control. Perhaps her life requires that. Maybe her fears have been ignored, and she has had no response to her emotions in the past. “Trust” is a foreign word to her.

#### Inside

Her heart, however, is breaking.

She’s afraid to show her fear, anger, sadness, and the feeling of desperation that’s telling her that life as she knows it will never be the same. She’s alone.

#### Who will care for her?

Someone needs to be there for her, don’t you think? That someone doesn’t necessarily have to have a therapist’s license or a degree in psychology. She doesn’t need to be a prize winner to offer compassionate support.

Instead, she needs to be patient, caring—loving. It’s that simple. She must be someone who cares enough to listen beyond the words or outward appearances. Someone willing to withhold judgment and sage advice until trust is established. She replaces pity with empathy and understanding. She’s willing to take the time necessary to break down the protective walls around a very vulnerable heart. She brings a message of hope and a shoulder to lean on.

#### Our current volunteers

God sends women to this harvest field, and He equips them to meet and serve clients like this one. We are like family—sometimes leaning on each other when we need help and hope. These are our current advocates:

Heidi Adams, MaryAnn Mellema, Juanita Nielsen, Lorraine David, Tina Gayden, Brenda Ritsema, Joyce Rhodea, Luanne Peter, Mary Truax, Esther Ashley, Sue Moen, Jamie Oosterhart, Tonja Schoonbeck, Robin TerLaan, Vikki Schultz, Emmogene Cotal, Deb Haegert, and 1 in training Kari Hibbard.

These women offer hope and support 4 to 8 hours each week. We don’t look for perfect people to volunteer—just those willing to try. **Maybe God’s calling you.** We can use your heart, and perhaps a young woman like this one needs you even more. Give us a call 726-2677.

**Join us!**



Someone needs to be there for her.

## Just where are the frontlines anyway?

Where are the frontlines in the battle for the sanctity of human life? Washington? Michigan's capitol?

Anyone who has watched both of these venues realizes that while political legislation is important, it will never be the ultimate answer.

You might think perhaps that the frontline is at our Center where hearts are touched and lives are saved daily. But there is a place where the battle is more intense.

That place is on our knees. In the midst of busy lives, it's so easy to forget the incredible impact of prayer.

So what would it mean if each of us took a few moments out of our day to whisper a prayer for those facing crisis pregnancies, and for the safety of the children they are carrying?

Just a few moments is a small sacrifice, but it's the most important thing we can do.

Here's some ideas to start with:

- Pray for women facing unplanned pregnancy at this moment.
- Pray for those involved in the abortion industry, that the Lord would change their hearts.
- Pray for our volunteers, for courage, strength, and endurance to carry on.
- Pray for post-abortive women to repent and find forgiveness in the Lord.
- Pray for politicians on both sides of the issue, that the Lord would give pro-life politician courage to stand, and that He would change the hearts of those opposed.
- Pray for our Board of Directors and paid staff to make God pleasing decisions.
- Pray for the clients we see every week—that trust will lead to hope, life, and salvation.

## United Way giving

September is the month for United Way pledge drives. We often hear from United Way donors that they are "expected" to give during the pledge drive.

Giving is good!

Some people become concerned as to how their UW donations are used in the community and how much actually goes to the organizations they choose to support.

In Muskegon and Oceana Counties United Way funds do not support any anti-life organizations.

We receive United Way funds if donors designate our number on their pledge form. That number is **76539**. The designation has to be written in under "other" on the form.

A percentage of your United Way donation will be used to

process and administer it.

Thank you for remembering Muskegon Pregnancy Services by writing in your designation. We will acknowledge your commitment when we receive word from United Way.



Thanks it means a lot!

## Just saying thanks

Ours is a world of complaints, isn't it?

For instance, when is the last time someone called a waiter or waitress over and said, "Hey, I just wanted to tell you that you've got great service and great food here!"

Or how many school principals have received a call from a parent saying "My child is doing so well that I thought you'd like to know how much I appreciate

it."? We spend our time measuring success by having the fewest number of complaints, don't we? After all, why count compliments when there are so few?

### Our turn for compliments

We decided that this month, we will turn the tables on society—and thank those who serve. So in this space, we want to say thank you to all of you who faithfully volunteer with us at Muskegon Pregnancy Services/Best Options.

Thank you advocates, because you could be spending your time elsewhere. You could be relaxing, watching TV, taking a walk, shopping—or who knows what.

Instead however, you chose to be an encourager for someone who is struggling with a crisis pregnancy—or for someone concerned about the possibility. You chose to make a difference. You chose someone else over yourself.

Because you said "yes" to God's call on your life, babies will live

and their mother's lives will be changed.

### Be blessed

So be blessed dear ones. What you have done for the "least of these little ones" you have done also for the One who gave His all for you.

### Well done.



## Hold on to Hope

It's time for our Annual Fall Fundraiser—**LifeWalk**! If you have never participated in this event this is the time. This year we will be walking in the neighborhood of Muskegon Pregnancy Services with a tour of the Center as a highlight. So how can you get involved? Call 726-2677 to receive a walker's envelope in which you collect support from your friends, family, co-workers. Then just show up on September 17th to join us as we glorify God for the priceless gift of human life created in His image! Questions? Call us 726-2677.

**What:** LifeWalk 2011 fundraising event

**When:** Saturday, September 17th—registration begins at 8:30, you'll be done by 11am.

**Where:** Beginning at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Jefferson & Webster Downtown and walking to the Pregnancy Center for a tour.

**Who:** YOU! And your family and friends who want to get their own support and walk with you. Small children will need strollers.

**How:** Call today to get your information and collection envelope 726-2677 or email and we will send it right out Priscilla @bestoptions.org.

**Why:** Because it's a fun and active way to show your support for life and provide much needed funds to help us reach our goal of \$22,000 for this event!

**Door prizes, refreshments, fellowship, fun—join us!**