



MPS/Best Options E-News

June 2010

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Our websites

www.bestoptions.org
This is our client website

Info.bestoptions.org
This is our donor/volunteer website

www.unitychristianevents.com
Check out this year's musical artists, volunteer to help

Praise God for a successful Banquet!

On the evening of May 20th we were blessed to have 265 people join us at the Trillium Banquet Facility for our annual Spring Banquet. This year's theme was "Press On". As usual we had a great dinner in lovely surroundings, but also as usual the stars of the show were three precious clients who chose to give their unique testimonies so the Banquet attendees could understand **better what the ministry means to those we serve. As of this writing, I'm pleased to say that we were successful in meeting our budget for this event and I can report donations just over \$28,000!** We gained some monthly donors and some old friends increased their monthly commitment. These commitments will result in just over \$3,300 in additional income by the end of the year. Praise God with us for providing through His people – to Him be the glory. This success would not be possible without the support of our underwriters who covered the expense of the Banquet so that attendees could donate from their hearts knowing that their donation would go directly to saving and impacting lives. The following businesses and individuals underwrote the Banquet – please thank the businesses listed with your patronage:

Benefactors – over \$1,000

Dr. and Mrs. Gustav Barkett
Betten Chevy Cadillac Pontiac GMC

Patrons – over \$500

Country Dairy in New Era
Wagenmaker Greenhouses

Advocates – over \$250

Dr. & Mrs. C. Robert Alkema
James Word Concrete Construction & Repair
Knights of Columbus – Father Rudy & Clem Council 13035

Partners – over \$100

Martin J. Nolan Insurance Agency
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Wilson
Rev. & Mrs. David Horne
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Reenders
Mr. & Mrs. Don Rypma
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Nielsen

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Havermans
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Vanderwest
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Karnes
Mr. & Mrs. Don Underwood
Father Michael Olson
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Lee



Want to see our three year plan?

Because ours is a cutting edge ministry it's important that we plan wisely.

We dream at times, always balancing our dreams with sound stewardship and effective goal-setting.

Yet we remember that every plan must impact people.

So the key focus of any three year plan we make, then, is that moms who have positive pregnancy tests today will have two year old boys or girls tomorrow. And that those youngsters will be dreaming of a great future.

If you want to sow into a great future for the children of tomorrow, join us. Your financial gift today, or phone call to offer to serve as a volunteer, will make the difference in fulfilling our three year plan.

You can donate on our website at info.bestoptions.org (click donate today) or call us today to ask about how you can serve 231-726-2677.



"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you a future and a hope."

Coming Soon!

It's time to mark your calendar for **LifeWalk 2010!** Our walk will take place on **September 25th with registration beginning at 8:15am and the walk finishing by 11:00am.** We plan on 20% of our operating funds coming through LifeWalk each year. You can make a difference for life simply by securing pledges and joining us for a morning of exercise and fellowship! **Here's the details:**

- **We will walk at 9am rain or shine.** Walk or run at your own pace and set your own time limits. **If you can't be there on the 25th, don't let that stop you! Secure pledges and walk at your convenience** in your neighborhood or gym and send your pledge form envelope with your collected pledges to MPS at PO Box 1703, Muskegon, MI 49443
- **Supervised games** will be provided for non-participating children between the ages of 2 and 8 on the field at the center of the track. Every child gets a prize!
- **Door prizes** will be given to some sponsored walkers whose names are drawn throughout the morning.
- **Refreshments** like bagels, donuts, fruit, coffee, juice and water will be available.
- **About sponsors:** Ask family, friends, church members, local merchants, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to sponsor you with a

single, generous, tax-deductible gift to Muskegon Pregnancy Services for your participation in LifeWalk '10. Remember, your effort to get a good number of sponsors is **key** to the success of LifeWalk and the continued provision for the work of this ministry.

- **About collecting pledges:** Try and collect in advance of the walk. Uncollected pledges will be billed out by MPS so we need you to have sponsors print clearly and give their complete addresses. Turn in your envelope at the registration tent.
- **For sponsor envelopes** for yourself and/or a friend, call 726-2677. If you walked last year we will be mailing envelopes in July. Consider getting a team together from your church, neighborhood, or work.

We can't do what we do without your help – LifeWalk is your opportunity to be a living billboard as you tell people about the ministry and ask them to support you for LifeWalk.



Unity Christian Music Festival August 11-14 Heritage Landing

Have you heard the great news about the Unity Christian Music Festival? This year the ticket price has been lowered to allow more people to attend! Even though the price is lowered, the value has not been. We are excited to see the line-up of Christian music artists who have committed to entertaining us. They include: Casting Crowns, Third Day, Matthew West, Jeremy Camp, Thousand Foot Krutch, Britt Nicole, Salvador, and many others! All of this for \$10 a day!

But here's something else you need to know, MPS/Best Options is one of the chosen ministry partners that will share in a portion of the profits after expenses are paid – so the more attendees, the more support for local ministries like ours! We will be there with our information table throughout the festival.

And know what else? If you volunteer to help at Unity, you will attend the day you help for free! You can help make the Christian outreach of Unity happen! They need over 700 volunteers over the age of 15. Now we can use your help in this too. If you volunteer for Unity by going to their website www.unitymusicfestival.com and you **click on "Muskegon Pregnancy Services" in the drop down ministry partners selection on the application**, we will be credited for encouraging you to volunteer. This may influence the donation made to us from the profits. **So it's a win for everyone – you attend for free and get to serve, Unity has the help it needs, and MPS benefits as well.**

If you haven't attended Unity in the past, this may be the year to begin making it an annual event for your family! Good fun, good fellowship, good games and activities for kids, good food, GOOD GOD! Go to the website now to find out more and sign up to volunteer. www.unitymusicfestival.com You can call us with any questions at 726-2677. Hope to see you there!

Since the beginning of the year to this writing in early June we have served 738 times; reaching out with the hope of Christ, the message of abstinence before marriage, the truth of life in the womb, mentoring for new moms and dads, and offering healing to women who are grieving and repentant over a past abortion decision.

Material Needs

Spring and Summer are the seasons for cleaning up and cleaning out. They are also the seasons for Garage and Yard Sales! Before you dispose of your outgrown baby items at a garage sale for minimal money, please consider the babies of our clients who are in need of good used necessities. We will give you a receipt for a tax deduction – you itemize your donations and place a value on them (you can check the IRS.gov website to see what the government accepts as value on your items.) We take baby clothing up to 18 months. Other items you may have to donate are:

Cribs(the bars must be no more than 2 3/8 in. apart – no recalls)

Crib mattresses

Bassinets

Change tables

Strollers (safety belts must be on them)

High Chairs (")

Swings

Boppys

Bouncy seats

Breast pumps

Crib & bassinet sheets

Bath towels

Baby bottles

Maternity clothing

Of course we take new items as well, including much needed diapers.

Last year we donated over **\$28,000** worth of baby needs to clients working in the LifePlan Program. These clients earn these items by their commitment to the weekly, one-to-one program or by attending church and bringing in notes taken at the service.



An Excerpt from Banquet Client Testimony

From new mom Jacquelynn Harrison

"I seemed to have what appeared as a perfect pregnancy. I had spent my pregnancy getting everything ready and trying to make sure I was able to **provide my son with everything he needed. I didn't really have any** complications until I went into early labor. I went into labor 12 weeks early and the battle was just going to begin.

When I had my son he weighed only 2lbs.14oz. He was born without a heart rate and it took over six minutes to revive him. During delivery he was under a lot of extra stress and ended up having a stroke. The stroke caused a lot of brain damage. The doctors diagnosed him with hydrocephalus, which is water on the brain caused by his grade 3 intraventricular hemorrhages. Jayden was hospitalized for 52 days and during that time he was fed through a gavage feeding tube. Jayden has a lot of struggles but continues to press on.

The doctors did not give me much hope of many great things to look forward to my son doing. They did not think that he would be able to eat from a bottle, but since the day he was discharged he has never had another feeding tube.

Jayden was just recently diagnosed with quadriplegic spastic cerebral palsy. He goes to therapy each week and, as you can all see, (here she presented her 9 month old baby) it is paying off. He is such a miracle baby. Jayden is the happiest baby and everyone around him is filled with joy when they see him.

I don't know where I would be today without the help that this program (MPS) has given us. Even since Jayden was born I have been able to call them up to ask for something and they help us. Jayden needed a walker for therapy and of course the Muskegon Pregnancy Center came to our rescue again. I would like to thank them for all they have done for us and all of you for helping **support this program. Without you all, babies like Jayden wouldn't have the things that they need. This isn't just about money, it's about changing lives, and all of you have changed mine. Thank you very much."**

