



Life in Christ.
Life in the womb.

Spring Newsletter 2018

Adopted View

“Ruby” came to the Fairfax center for a pregnancy test. She had only missed one period, and was in complete denial that she might be pregnant. At the pressing of her friends who criticized her recent weight gain, she made an appointment.

She walked into the lobby with her eyes down and hands clasped tightly refusing to make eye contact. After she filled out her paperwork, I took her back to a counseling room and offered her a seat on the brown, leather couch cheered up with brightly colored pillows.

“So what brings you here today?” I asked. To my surprise, she opened her mouth and truth came pouring out. She told me of how she was all alone with no family around and not ready for a baby. Although her boyfriend desired to keep the baby, she did not.

I asked her what the deciding factor would be and she responded with a common response I both dread and hope for: “It depends on how far along I am. I know at 8 weeks it is not a life yet.” Many, bordering on all, women who come to SLM are in such a rush to abort because they believe it eventually does become a life in their womb, but is not one “yet.” They don’t know the heart has already started beating, the gender has been determined, and baby has her fingers and toes. When they learn this information, shock overcomes their faces. In the culture we live in, life is not taught as common knowledge, but rather as a topic up for debate.

When I presented this information to Ruby her shock quickly hardened into determination. She had already decided not to keep this baby. However, one glint of hope still clung to my heart- she had brought up adoption on her own.

The adoption option is a rare choice among our centers. Most clients scoff at the idea thinking they never could and never would abandon their children. They would rather end both of their suffering now while they can’t clearly see what they’re doing. That is where ultrasound comes in as a crisis pregnancy center’s best line of rebuttal and encouragement to its clients. I knew this, and I scheduled Ruby’s ultrasound appointment for the next available.

A few days later, Ruby shuffled back into the lobby with her teeth clenched down on her lip. One of our nurses, Marni, prepped her for her procedure. I stood behind Ruby silently as a chaperone and watched the screen intently. I have seen so many ultrasounds performed; so, I generally know what I am looking at thanks to extensive education by our wonderful sonographers. I tried to locate her bladder... was it not filled? Why could I not see it?

Marni continued to scan and I tried to make sense of what I was looking at. Was that her own heartbeat pulsating through some chord? It surely was not the flicker I am used to seeing of an 8 week heart. And then my mind organized the information my eyes were taking in. I was seeing a four chambered beating heart of a baby... a really big baby.

(continue reading on our blog by clicking the button below)

[Continue Reading Ruby's Story](#)

2018 Fellowship Dinner Recap

Thank you so much!!

We were so pleased with the turnout at this year's dinner, and absolutely floored with the enthusiastic, generous support the ministry has received as a result! Our fundraising goal of \$328,000 was surpassed - to date, SLM has raised over \$368,000!! Praise God for His provision - the work of this ministry could not continue without the generosity of our supporters. THANK YOU!

Special thanks to Melissa Ohden, our incredibly inspiring keynote speaker! If you weren't able to attend or would like to hear more of her story, you can buy Melissa's book *You Carried Me* here!



[Buy Melissa's Book](#)



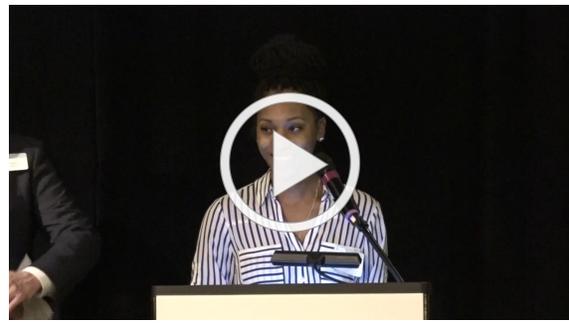
Sabina's Story

Our Brave Clients

We are so proud of our clients who shared their powerful testimonies of transformation at the dinner!! Missed it or want to hear their stories again? You can watch them anytime - click on these video thumbnails to watch!



Jessica's Story



Alyssa's Story

CEO Corner

Ephesians 3:20-21 - "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

This verse comes to life through the work of Sanctity of Life Ministries in several ways:

- though you, our partners, and your generous gifts that overflowed at the Dinner to enable \$368,000 to be committed to the work of the ministry,
- through the lives transformed by the Gospel at our two centers,
- through babies' lives saved,
- through the foundation of prayer that this ministry is built on.



This is a very busy season in the ministry. As we continue the day to day outreach, we are immersed in many projects that will enhance our effectiveness to better serve more clients. Our hope is to expand our overall client capacity by 15 - 20% in the year ahead. To do this, we see the need to make some improvements: we want to update our client website to make it more relevant; expand our volunteer base to serve more clients; update some of our day-to-day operational needs like telephones, IT and donor software; and replace the ultrasound machine in our Fairfax center this year. Your incredible generosity is making these changes possible!!

We ask for your prayers as we work to overflow our appointment books with clients who need our services. We pray that the effect of all of our coordinated operational and mission efforts will enable many more clients to choose our services first and be able to make an informed decision about their pregnancy. Though we face competition every day from abortion providers, we are energized and thankful for the clients whose stories share how our centers have cared for them holistically in their time of need, not only through medical services but through continued compassionate support. These stories of transformation and hope encourage us daily.

You play a vital role in allowing these stories to take place! Thank you for your heartfelt actions that advance the work of our mission. We are thankful that God's people are continually used for His glory through our clients' lives.

Many blessings and thanks for all you do,

Margery

Margery

Margery Williams, CEO

Curious About Volunteering with SLM? Come to our Volunteer Informational Meeting!!

When: Saturday, June 2nd from 9am - 10:30am

Where: Nova Pregnancy Help Center of Fairfax, 10380 Democracy Lane

Why: If you're interested in volunteering at SLM in any capacity, come to learn more!

Please RSVP at 703-278-5433 so that we can prepare to welcome you!

Calendar Updates

April 17 - June 5 (ongoing) - Post-Abortion Bible Study for women on Tuesday evenings

June 2 - Volunteer Informational Meeting - 9:00 - 10:30am at our Fairfax Center; come to learn about volunteering!

June 11 - Evangelism In-Service for Staff & Volunteers

*Please note: our Men's Post-Abortion Bible Study was rescheduled to the fall - we will announce dates soon!

The Facts of Baby Bottle Campaigns

Did you know how much regular Baby Bottle Campaigns sustain our ministry?

Here's some stats on the campaigns held to support SLM in 2017.

Total Number of Campaigns in 2017: 24 Campaigns

Total Amount Raised by Baby Bottle Campaigns: \$78,000 (!!)

Highest Amount Raised by ONE Campaign: \$17,000

Types of Groups that Held Campaigns:



- Full Church Congregations
- Bible Studies / Community Groups
- Children's Ministries / Sunday Schools
- Women's Ministries
- Military Spouse's Ministries



Baby Bottle Campaigns make a HUGE difference for our ministry, and in the lives of our clients!! Thank you for your support through these campaigns over the years!!

Do you attend a church that hasn't hosted a campaign before? Have a Bible Study that wants to find a way to invest in your local community? Do you participate in a women's ministry looking to serve local women in need? **Ask us about starting a campaign today!!** They're easy to do: simply pass out bottles that we will provide, and have your community fill them with coins, cash or checks. We'll walk you through the rest! Email Jenna at jenna.tabelon@slmpregnancy.org to hear more.

Help us stock our Earn While You Learn Boutique: Most-Needed Items!

We have several clients from our Earn While You Learn program who are need of some specific items. If you feel led to support our clients directly, would you please consider purchasing the following items from our Amazon wishlist below?

- Car seats
- Strollers
- Swings
- Breast pumps + extra bottles
- Cribs



Thank you for your support of our clients who are preparing for their little ones!

[Check out our Amazon Wishlist](#)

Pro tip: Bookmark this webpage for future reference!!

[Visit our website](#)

