

*We had a glitch in the previous version of the Summer Newsletter sent out recently - apologies for the duplication. Please disregard the prior version.
Thank you, SLM*



Summer Newsletter 2018

The Rest of the Story

In our Spring Newsletter, we told the story of "Ruby", a recent client who came into our center abortion-minded. Upon her ultrasound, she was shocked to learn that she was 35 weeks along - and very close to delivery. We asked for prayers for "Ruby" as she sought medical care and prepared for the birth of her baby, and potentially made an adoption plan. Click below to read the first part of Ruby's story if you missed it last time! We're pleased to share that the story didn't end there....

[Read Ruby's Story, Part 1](#)

Life for "Ruby" had changed drastically after visiting our center for her ultrasound. After months of not even realizing she was pregnant, the ultrasound revealed she was, in fact, 35 weeks along, despite barely showing on her petite frame. With a very short amount of time to prepare to deliver her baby, Ruby had discussed with our nurse and a member of our staff the possibility of adoption. While this sounded like it might be a good option for her, in fact the only option she could wrap her head around, there were other details to be handled first. Our nurse sonographer, Marni, advised Ruby to seek medical attention as soon as possible, as she needed to find a hospital to deliver her baby – soon! This would prove to be more difficult than expected – since Ruby had gone 35 weeks of her pregnancy without any prenatal care, many doctors were hesitant to take on her case. After some advocating for Ruby by our nurses, we were happy to learn that Ruby was finally under a doctor's care.

Our staff waited anxiously for news as Ruby's due date became closer. Would the baby be healthy after months without medical care? What must Ruby be feeling? Overwhelmed didn't even begin to cover it. Ruby had shared earlier that none of her family, who all lived on the West Coast, would be able to be at the hospital for her baby's birth. She was understandably very nervous. We prayed for her often, always keeping her and her baby in our thoughts.

Finally, Marni was able to get in touch with Ruby. “Hi Marni, it’s been a hectic time since I last spoke to you...” A picture of love, support and joy followed this message.

God had such a beautiful plan for Ruby and her little one. Baby Liliana was born May 9th, perfectly healthy. Doctors had congratulated Ruby on a healthy baby despite having no prenatal care. Although Ruby had shared how nervous she was before the birth, she had people in her corner: “even having no family, I had my small support team walk with me every step ever since leaving your office.” Her friends surrounded her and her baby on the day of delivery.



Following Liliana's arrival, Marni asked Ruby how she was feeling about motherhood, hinting at the previous discussion of adoption just a few weeks before. In this conversation, it became abundantly clear that Ruby was so in love with her sweet daughter. “I know it sounds cliché, but as soon as they handed her to me after she was born, I fell in love.” She told us how she was learning to be a mom, despite only having had two weeks to prepare before Liliana’s arrival.



Ruby had experienced such an abrupt shift in her life with such grace – her entire mindset had changed when she became a mother. Now her priority was thinking about what would be best for her baby, from taking her to all of her check-ups to ensuring their living situation was the best it could be for Liliana. About a month after Liliana’s birth, we learned that Ruby planned to move back home to the West Coast to be with her family. We knew that we had to do something to show our support for her before she left town, so we organized a little something special to celebrate Baby Liliana and Ruby’s graceful transition to motherhood.



Our team & Ruby

Ruby was so shocked when she arrived at her baby shower. With Baby Liliana and a faithful friend joining her, she smiled and softly chatted with our staff as we asked after the baby's health, how Ruby was doing, and their plans for the move. We were able to provide Ruby with a few gifts to support herself and Ruby as they built their new life together as mom and daughter on the West Coast.

It was so evident to us that day that baby Liliana had stolen Ruby's heart, and Ruby had embraced being a mom in the sweetest way. Our staff was filled with joy upon seeing this family who we had prayed over for weeks so perfectly protected in God's plan. Ruby expressed her thanks for all the support our center had given her, through the first medical services she had received from us initially, to the kindness our nurse Marni had shown in following up with her, and finally to our joyful send-off at this baby shower. In one final message, she thanked us: "This was all so amazing and I am so blessed people like you guys exist. I feel so special and more supported during this time of my life. This experience will follow me forever."

Please continue to pray for Ruby and baby Liliana as they build their new life as mom and daughter on the West Coast! God has protected and provided for these two faithfully, and we know His plan for this family is beautiful!

[Read this story on the blog](#)

Men's Post Abortion Bible Study

We are so glad to be starting our first Men's Post-Abortion Bible Study this fall! Our leaders Pastor Vince Hinders and Dr. Chung Woo have a heart for walking men hurting from past abortion decisions through the healing process, guided by God's grace. All men with an abortion decision in their past are welcome to attend.

When: Tuesday evenings, starting Sept. 18th, for 8 weeks, 7 - 8:30PM

Where: Redeeming Grace Church (Fairfax, VA)

What: A Bible study through the book *Healing a Father's Heart*, to facilitate healing for any man struggling with a past abortion decision. Any confidentiality concerns will be respected.



Abortion decision in your past?

LET GOD HEAL YOUR HEART

Men's Post-Abortion Bible Study
Led by Pastor Vince Hinders & Dr. Chung Woo
Redeeming Grace Church
Tuesday evenings for 8 weeks, starting Sept. 18th
7:00 - 8:30PM

To sign up or ask questions, contact our Fairfax Center at 703.278.5433 or at info@slmpregnancy.org.

[Email to Sign Up](#)

Dear Partners,

Your generosity is enabling our mission to reach more women and men in Northern Virginia. In the Spring Newsletter, I wrote that our goal for 2018 is to expand our mission by 15-20% this year. ***We have already seen an increase in ultrasounds by 42% and pregnancy tests by 18% since the first of the year!!***



This 42% increase in ultrasounds confirms our need and intention to expand medical capacity and offer **more** ultrasound appointments and nurse sonography hours, as well as increase open hours one night a week on Tuesday evenings in October.

Ironically (it is no accident) as I write to you in early August, we have just seen a huge surge in advertising by the largest abortion provider in the nation, whose expansive budget for online advertising in the millions of dollars is untouchable for a pro-life medical outreach like Nova Pregnancy Help Centers. I am reminded of Philippians 1:27 that says: ***"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the Gospel."***

We are undaunted! We are praying that God's truth will rise to the surface, that our Google Ads will be seen and clients will seek our services first. Would you please pray for client traffic which has taken a hard hit **in just one week...**that women and men in the Northern Virginia community will find Nova Pregnancy Help Centers in spite of the surge from abortion clinic advertising?

I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge the ongoing support of our churches and individual partners who faithfully sustain Sanctity of Life Ministries every day of the year! You enable a free medical outreach to save the lives of babies, provide hope to women and men in Northern Virginia and allow us to share the Gospel of Christ that transforms lives!

I want to thank the following churches for their incredible Baby Bottle Campaigns that expanded our outreach in 2018 so far: Alexandria Presbyterian Church, Burke Community Church, Calvary Road Baptist Church, Engleside Baptist Church, Community of Faith Tabernacle, Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Harvest Bible Chapel Fairfax, Jerusalem Baptist Church, The King's Chapel, Korean Central Presbyterian Church, Life Community Church, Redeeming Grace Church, Reston Bible Church, Southpoint Church, and Southview Community Church.

I also want to say thank you to Grace Church of Alexandria for a very special legacy gift from the congregation as they closed their doors after ten years of ministry and church partnership with SLM. Pastor Jonathan Matias, his wife Christy and their children came to our center in the late spring and presented a very generous donation from the church in remembrance of how God worked through the church planting and ministry of Grace Church. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

In His Service,

Margery

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

We need administrative volunteers at our Alexandria center to help with data entry, and we need client advocate volunteers at both centers. Now's your chance if you've ever considered volunteering with SLM! Your help can change lives!

When: Tuesday evening, August 14th from 7pm - 8:30pm

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!



NIFLA v. Becerra

This past spring, we shared on Facebook that several SLM staff were able to participate in a rally on the steps of the Supreme Court in March to support free speech for pro-life pregnancy centers across the nation in the case presented by NIFLA v. Becerra. The Supreme Court struck down a California law that would force pro-life pregnancy centers like ours to advertise for abortion.



Through the "Reproductive Fact Act" of 2015, the state of California wanted to direct the intention of women coming to pregnancy centers, pointing to one option from the very moment they walk into a center -- abortion. This law specifically targeted pro-life pregnancy centers. Created by abortion advocates, the Reproductive Fact Act was an attempt to target a viewpoint that the state of California doesn't like and replace it with a singular viewpoint. Thankfully, the Supreme Court saw the unconstitutionality of this. We are so grateful that our day-to-day client services were not altered by the import of law with a pro-abortion agenda.

Calendar Updates

August 14th - Volunteer Interest Meeting, Fairfax Center, 7 -

8:30pm

Sept. 18th - Men's Post-Abortion Bible Study starts, 7:00 - 8:30pm, continuing for 8 weeks on Tuesday evenings at Redeeming Grace Church in Fairfax

Oct. 12th - 13th - Fall Client Advocate Training at Fairfax

What Our Clients Say About Us

We love hearing what our clients have to say about their experiences at our centers! Here are a few highlights from some of our recent exit surveys.

"I feel at home, safe & loved. Everything is perfect."

"They are warm & welcoming."

"They care!!!"

"I feel like I can open up and be myself."

"I felt loved every second. I enjoyed everyone. You ALL are amazing people. God led us to the perfect place."

[Visit our website](#)

[Donate to SLM](#)

