

## Summer Newsletter 2019



### From Fear to Joy

Ashley arrived two hours early to her pregnancy test appointment with her husband and a friend in tow. Though her appointment wasn't for a few hours, she wanted to be seen as soon as possible. Earlier that same day, Ashley went to a nearby abortion clinic only to find it closed. In God's providence, Ashley ended up at our door after a doctor trusted by her family had referred her to us.

*"Go to these people. They will take good care of you"*  
the doctor told Ashley.

Within minutes of her arrival, it became abundantly clear that tensions were high and emotions were strong among the support group she brought with her. While Ashley waited to be seen, she and her husband Rob stepped outside and had a volatile argument concerning why they were at our center and the uncertainty surrounding the many choices they were considering. Ashley was so scared about being pregnant because of other health problems she was already facing. She simply could not comprehend handling a pregnancy at the same time. Rob pleaded with his wife to consider keeping the baby. Their heated argument was cut short by the start of her appointment.

Ashley's client advocate provided her with a safe and quiet space where Ashley was able to process the pregnancy alone. Her advocate encouraged her to slow down and take a minute to breathe. After a few moments of silence, Ashley shared that she grew up in faith, but had grown distant from her relationship with God. She and her advocate joined together in prayer. Her advocate asked God to bestow peace and wisdom upon Ashley and her husband as they made their decision. The advocate hoped that God would speak into Ashley's heart and still her fears.

Thankfully, the nurse had availability for an ultrasound earlier than Ashley's scheduled appointment. Ashley and Rob went into the ultrasound room with our nurse, significantly calmer than they had been before. God was already intervening in this appointment, and He was just getting started. As the nurse began the scan, Ashley's eyes opened wide in surprise.

*"Is that...is that what I think it is? Are there TWO?"*

The nurse's preliminary medical findings showed that Ashley appeared to be expecting twins (confirmation came from the doctor 24 hours later that she was indeed expecting twins). Rob and Ashley both began to laugh with joy. Rob kissed his wife's forehead as he smiled at the images on the screen. Ashley had a new sense of calm about her, determined to do whatever it took to raise these babies. The atmosphere in the room had completely shifted. Suddenly, Ashley and Rob were a family, united in raising their two babies. That day, Ashley, Rob and their friend left the center filled with joy, profusely thanking our staff for the help they had received. God clearly turned Ashley's appointment around, all in accordance to His perfect plan. Sanctity of Life Ministries was honored to witness God's active hand in Ashley's life.

[Read More Client Stories on our Blog](#)

## CEO Corner

This has been a season of transition! We learned in late winter that our Fairfax Center and surrounding complex is going to be redeveloped for George Mason University student housing. A search ensued for new headquarters in Fairfax City, no small task...but God! Months later, we have found a new home within a short radius of our Fairfax City client hub in a larger location!

As I write this, build-out to make three condominiums into a one large 3450 square foot contiguous space is in process. We are so excited about our new headquarters, a larger, well designed space for both now and the future! After looking at many, many possible locations for a new center including areas beyond Fairfax City, I see God's hand in the entire search process that allowed us to stay in Fairfax City!

This is a faith walk for SLM as we will incur many unexpected expenses to make this move possible from increased occupancy costs, to the physical move, equipping the new center and changing all printed materials with a new address. We would appreciate your prayers as we move the fourth week of September that God would allow a smooth transition with the least amount of client services interruption. God is faithful!



## Client Advocacy Training

Seven new client advocate trainees attended a 2 day in-class client advocacy training in May. Our trainees come from varied backgrounds, some with



professional counseling and law experience, and others with a long history of church service with a deep compassion for moms facing unplanned pregnancies.

Four trainees are currently continuing with the hands-on practicum portion of the training. Our trainees are mastering the pregnancy, abortion, and options-counseling body of knowledge, learning to incorporate their personal testimonies and share the Gospel while shadowing seasoned advocates. During this equipping process, one trainee shared:

*"I am feeling more confident each day, armed with principles taught in the classroom and observing them applied in the counseling session. Seeing the Holy Spirit work gives me tremendous confidence knowing that God will be with me as his instrument of His truth and love".*

Another trainee said:

*"The client advocate training enables me to experience 'first-hand' God's love for individuals coming to the Center many choosing to continue their pregnancies and dedicate their lives to Christ...It is a privilege to invest the love of Christ and the treasure of God's Word to these precious ones we serve."*

These soon-to-be client advocates are progressing in their skills and expect to be qualified within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

## Meet SLM's Two New Staff Members!

God has answered our prayers and sent us two new staff members!



Hi everyone! My name is Addison O'Donoghue, and I recently took over as SLM's Executive Assistant to the CEO and Event Coordinator. In 2018, I graduated from James Madison University with a degree in Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication. While at James Madison, I was involved in event planning for an on-campus organization, and was blessed to have been published numerous times across many online and in-print platforms. Since graduation, I have led a women's bible study at my church and have been diligently working on writing my debut novel. From the moment I met with Margie, I knew God was calling me to SLM. I am so incredibly proud and humbled to take on this new position, and remain excited to see how God uses me while I serve SLM.

Hello, my name is Katherine Foundos, and I'm excited about starting as the new Office Administrator at Nova Pregnancy's Fairfax office. My background is in education, as a teacher and administrator, both in Virginia and overseas. I love children and have long been interested in the practical, hands-on approach of the body of Christ towards people who are expecting a child and unsure of what comes next. Through an invitation to SLM's Annual Fellowship Dinner, I first learned about this wonderful ministry and its work in our area. I originally inquired about volunteering, which transitioned into a job application when I found out they were hiring! It was confirmation that Jesus was pulling my heart toward His work in this area, to serve and to learn and to pray.

## Calendar Updates

September 12 – Self-Care In-Service at Fairfax, 9am-11am

September 14 – Volunteer Interest Meeting at Alexandria, 9am-11am

October 18-19 – Client Advocate Training, 8am-4pm

October 21-24– Volunteer Appreciation Week

November 14 – Sexual Integrity In-Service at Fairfax, 7pm-9pm

December 2-5– Christmas Volunteer Appreciation Week



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