

Winter Newsletter 2020



A Change of Heart

Maria visited our Fairfax center earlier this month with the intention of having an abortion after an at-home pregnancy test registered positive. When she entered the counseling room, she asserted her resolve by stating emphatically: *"I do not want this baby."* Upon meeting with her client advocate, Maria shared that she is an immigrant and has lived here for almost 5 years, works full time, and lives with her parents and her 7-year-old son.

Asked why she was so sure she wanted to have an abortion, Maria shared that a three-year relationship with the father of the baby had ended and he had moved away. She had once been interested in marrying him, but things simply did not work out between them. She had come to peace with the breakup and decided that being single was better for her son anyway. The news of this pregnancy left Maria feeling desperate, with a desire to abort. She felt this was the only way she wouldn't feel trapped into marriage or unable to be a good mother to the older child she was already raising. Maria also feared that her parents would be angry about the pregnancy.

During the counseling session, the client advocate presented Maria with the possibility of adoption, but Maria was reluctant to consider it. She insisted that abortion was her only option, and repeatedly asked her client advocate for abortion information. The client advocate wanted to ensure that Maria was making a well-informed decision, and because of a language barrier, the client advocate asked if Maria's friend and translator could join her in the counseling room.

Maria was then presented with an informational video which outlined the abortion. Her friend translated the video to ensure Maria understood

everything. At the end of the video, the client advocate asked if either of them had any questions or concerns about what had been presented.

Immediately, Maria responded by saying
“I cannot do it. I want to have my baby”

Maria’s client advocate was amazed by this drastic change of mind and continued their time together by sharing the Gospel and her personal testimony. Both Maria and her friend listened with great interest.

A few days later, Maria returned for an ultrasound, where she experienced the reality of life on the screen. She left her appointment that day with prenatal vitamins, literature to help her prepare for her pregnancy and a Bible. When her client advocate made a follow-up call after the ultrasound appointment, Maria was clearly more at peace. She shared with her seven-year-old son that she is expecting a baby, received coverage under her new company’s insurance plan, and said that “everything is going well.” She expressed her gratefulness to her client advocate for the phone call and for how our center had come alongside her with counsel and tangible help.

We marvel at the transformational work of God, and His presence in our counseling rooms! Please continue to pray for Maria and her pregnancy, and that she may grow in her relationship with the Lord. We believe this is the beginning of a work that He has begun in Maria that He will complete! Philippians 1:6.

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

CEO Corner

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."



Dear SLM Partners,

We began this new year committing our work and mission to the Lord and asking Him to guide our plans for 2020. With our new, larger headquarters in Fairfax and our well-located Alexandria center, we see limitless opportunities to be used by God to change the community through Life in Christ...Life in the Womb in a greater way in 2020.

Just as this new year started, a multitude of bills came across our radar in the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond that challenge the pro-life movement and roll back years and years of progress in protecting unborn children and their mothers. These bills would repeal the law enacted in 2012 requiring an ultrasound in the state of Virginia before having an abortion. It removes the 24-hour waiting period before having an abortion, allows non-doctors to perform abortions and reduces the health and safety standards of abortion clinics.

Several overlapping pro-abortion bills were presented but two passed: House Bill HB 980 and Senate Bill SB 733 which will now move to the other chambers to be considered being enacted into law in the state of Virginia. Just this morning HB 980 was brought to the Senate Education and Health Committee. No comments were allowed! An amendment was added to the bill to deny physician's assistants to perform abortions. However, nurse practitioners and certified mid-wives would be allowed to perform abortions.

We ask you to PRAY and also reach out to your representatives to oppose these bills. There is still time to make a difference in the outcome! Please reach out to your representatives to share your voice and ask them to oppose these bills at <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>.

In spite of the legislative challenges that we face, we have fierce determination and more resolve than ever to uphold the sanctity of human life. Please pray for our mission as we have already started this year with hope in Christ and renewed conviction to reach more clients through greater presence in our Google ad strategy as we link up with a pro-life ad agency, pursue discipleship curriculum to connect our more than 150 clients who received or rededicated their lives to Christ in 2019 and those who receive Christ in 2020, reach more clients with no-cost ultrasounds at our centers, offer opportunities to equip our clients with parenting and prenatal education and that we will reach more women and men through our abortion recovery bible studies.

Thank you for your faithful support of our mission!

In His Service,

Margery

Women's Post Abortion Bible Study

Do you struggle with regret, pain and sadness over a past abortion? Do you feel like you can't talk about it with anyone? You are not alone. We have

helped many post abortive women over the years to find healing. Join us for a confidential Bible study called "Surrendering the Secret." A small group of women will walk this healing journey together for 8 weeks, beginning on Wed. March 11.



As one past member said, "This bible study changed my life. I was allowed to be angry and was challenged to accept Christ's forgiveness." For more information, please contact us at 703-278-5433 or email info@novapregnancy.org. All information is kept confidential.

Volunteers Needed!



Volunteer Interest Meeting!

Tuesday, February 25
1-2:30pm
3919 Old Lee Hwy, Suite 81B

Email gail.johnsen@slmpregnancy.org today to RSVP!

Do you have a heart for helping women in a crisis pregnancy situation? We are currently seeking new volunteers! Due to the effort and time required to teach new counselors, we ask that you commit to volunteering for at least 6 months. If you are interested in partnering with us as a volunteer, please call us at 703-278-5433, email Gail Johnsen at the link below, or visit our website!

We will be hosting a Volunteer Interest Meeting on February 25th, from 1-2:30pm at our Fairfax center (3919 Old Lee Hwy, Suite 81B, Fairfax VA 22030). To attend, please call our center at 703-278-5433 or email Gail at the link below.

Email Gail to RSVP

Please Welcome Our Newest Staff Members!

Michelle Russell – Fairfax Center Director

Greetings! I was raised in Wisconsin and moved to Colorado in the 1990's to start a family. As a mother of three, I completed my Bachelor of Arts degree in Women's Studies there at Fort Lewis College. I now have four children, and have been moved several times, thanks to my husband's job in the U.S. Army. My first job as an Army wife was as a personal fitness trainer, where I thoroughly enjoyed coaching women. When I later found Christ, my volunteer career began, as I facilitated Bible studies and served on the Executive Board for the Protestant Women of the Chapel. When we arrived in VA years later, I began asking the Lord where He was calling me to serve, and I was immediately led to SLM. I began volunteering in 2017 as an administrative helper and a client advocate, and I've loved every step along the way. I have nurtured a longtime interest in women's health, and have always had a heart to help women, especially those in crisis, so it was a beautiful fit.



After I finished my Seminary degree in Religion from Liberty University, I also entered public service in VA, volunteering as the Springfield Commissioner on Fairfax County's Commission for Women. This has introduced me to the political arena that we find ourselves in, as defenders of the truth. I now look forward to the road ahead of us at SLM with great anticipation, as I am honored to be chosen as the new Center Director of NOVA Pregnancy Help Center's Fairfax Office. I have learned so much from those who have trained me over the years, and I am humbled at the opportunity to lead and grow with the team I have come to know and love at SLM.

Kayla Gelpi – Fairfax Office Administrator



Hi everyone! My name is Kayla Gelpi. I am very excited to be working as the new Office Administrator at our Fairfax location! Originally from New Jersey, I moved to Virginia in 2018 after marrying my husband. I graduated from Grove City College in 2016 with a degree in Communication Studies. In 2016, I had the opportunity to plan and host a campus-wide fundraising event for a pro-life ministry called Save the Storks. This immensely grew my passion for the unborn and I felt a strong pull towards pro-life ministry. Since graduation, I've

been a waitress, preschool teacher, and a nanny for infants. Feeling unfulfilled in my past jobs, I recently decided to leave the childcare industry and pursue my passion for pro-life, something that I knew would fulfill me and something that I felt God was desperately calling me to. I am delighted to be working at SLM and excited to see how God uses me as I pursue my passion!

It's Almost Here! Register Today!



ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP DINNER

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020

Fairview Park Marriott | Falls Church, VA 22042

"Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: 'I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself.'" - Isaiah 44:24

Date: Friday, March 27, 2020

Time: Reception begins at 6:30pm, Dinner at 7:00pm

Location: Fairview Park Marriott

3111 Fairview Park Dr

Falls Church, VA 22042

What to Expect:

- A time of fellowship with supporters of our ministry from across the DC area
- A ministry update from our CEO on the past year and vision for 2020
- Powerful testimonies of hope, joy, and transformation from our clients
- A keynote address from Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood Director and author of *Unplanned*.
- A time to get involved and give to support the work of the ministry

Important note: This year's speaker typically draws a large crowd and space is limited in the ballroom. We do not charge for this Dinner, but it costs more than \$100 per person to host this event. Our desire is to raise over 50% of our annual budget at the 2020 Dinner to sustain our outreach.

Our Annual Fellowship Dinner is an adults-only event.

Thank you for your consideration!

Register Today!

Email Addison

Prayers and Praises

Prayers -

- For wisdom for our leaders, locally, state-wide, and nationally, as harmful legislation for women in crisis pregnancies is considered
- For a client whose little boy was born on Dec. 25th and needed heart surgery – for full recovery, joy, and strength for the mom as she cares for him. We are praising God for the successful surgery.
- For women who have experienced the grief an abortion to have the courage reach out and sign up for our post-abortion Bible study.

Praises -

- For clients who stepped forward with courage, away from abortion and toward life
- For volunteers who are dedicated to facilitating a post-abortion Bible study for 8 weeks this Spring



[Visit our Website](#)

[Donate to SLM](#)