

2020 Fall Newsletter



*Life in Christ.
Life in the Womb.*

Abortion Minded to Adoption!

Kenya called our Alexandria center in August. As she scheduled an intake appointment over the phone with our office administrator, she was tearful. Young, unemployed, and living with her mother, she didn't want to be pregnant. She came to our Alexandria center for an in-person appointment and when asked by her client advocate about abortion, she shared that she was a "10" on the abortion scale. Kenya had not researched abortion procedures, but she didn't want to be informed about them either. She left our center with a scheduled ultrasound appointment.

During her ultrasound, it was revealed that Kenya was already 24 weeks along, but she appeared unmoved. Kenya's mother, who had accompanied her for the ultrasound, tearfully expressed a desire to take care of her first grandchild. Kenya left her appointment undecided. For several weeks, many attempts were made to contact Kenya regarding her pregnancy decision. When we finally reached her, she shared that she contacted one of the adoption agencies we referred her to and was in the process of making an adoption plan for her baby! How great is our God!

Kenya is grateful for the help she received from SLM. We are overjoyed to know of her life-affirming choice of adoption! We praise the Lord for Kenya and His work in her heart to release her baby for adoption. Only God can change the heart! Praise God!

CEO Corner

2020 – what a year so far! There has not been a dull moment in this season of a variety of

challenges, but God! I wish I could present a video to show you all the ways God has shown His love for life and his support for the mission of Sanctity of Life Ministries. God used YOU, our SLM partners, as the central spoke in the wheel of moving His ministry forward in an incredibly challenging year.



Our first virtual event, “A Celebration of Hope”, was a 40-minute distilled down version of our in-person Annual Dinner. We had a learning curve to transform what we usually present in-person in two hours into a short timeline in a virtual setting. We had no idea how successful this event would be and YOU, our partners, absolutely took our breath away with your involvement and generous support!! To date, we have surpassed our goal of \$300,000. If you have not seen “A Celebration of Hope” yet, you still can. Here are the login credentials.

Click the button below to watch "A Celebration of Hope".

You can also click on this link to watch:<https://youtu.be/3a3KPOCnAsc>

[CLICK HERE to watch "A Celebration of Hope"!](#)

We pray that God was glorified and that our virtual event displayed His mighty work in spite of a season of adversity. Nothing can stop God’s ability to transform the impossible into possible. He LOVES life and affirms it through His beloved children. On behalf of the SLM staff and Board of Directors, SLM thanks you from the bottom of our hearts. We are humbled by your generous support!

To update you – pro-abortion antagonism directed at our pregnancy centers is intensifying. We ask for your prayers as we deal with aggressive attacks on our credibility. Recently, abortion activists have falsely claimed to be clients and posted negative reviews on Yelp when they have never stepped inside one of our centers for services. Thankfully, Yelp recognized the two false client reviews we reported and removed them. We know that pro-abortion groups have performed undercover investigations of pregnancy centers in Virginia trying to discredit our licensed medical professionals and our services. The opposition to our mission is fierce. While these attacks simply reinforce our desire to reach more women, it can impact the effectiveness of our advertising. The pro-abortion agenda wants to destroy us. They would like us to disappear from all advertising channels. Please pray for truth to rise to the surface and that God will continue to direct clients to our centers.

With thanks for your continuing partnership in this ministry for Life in Christ...
Life in the Womb!

In His Grace,



Welcome to our Newest Staff Members!

Sharon Holland – Fairfax Center Director



Hello everyone! I am excited to be a part of SLM's wonderful team as the new Fairfax Center Director. I have over 25 years of Youth Development experience and working with the vulnerable population. For over 10 years, I worked as an advisor at George Mason University, leading various student services organizations. I have also served as field administrator for the Girl Scouts of America, as well as serving as Founder/President of C.O.P.E. – Community Outreach Program Endeavors, an organization for at risk youth with a focus on strengthening families.

Most recently, I served for 15 years as the Area Director of Young Life/Young Lives of DC, MD, and VA, a nonprofit faith-based organization that shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ with pregnant and parenting teen moms. Being a teen mom and a product of a single mom household, my passion is to equip, empower, and encourage women in need.

I recently moved to the DMV area from Richmond, Virginia and am excited to live closer to my son and grandson as quality family time is very important to me.

My life motto is to "serve others into their greatness," and I look forward to seeing how God uses me as I pursue the calling He has set forth for me!
"With God nothing shall be impossible" -Luke 1:37

Maria Buczek – Fairfax Office Administrator

Hello everyone! My name is Maria Buczek, and I am delighted to be the new Fairfax Office Administrator. I am a native Washingtonian. I have been married to my best friend, Dave, for 32 years. I have three adult

children, two sons and a daughter; and I'm a mother to a 14 year old Peekapoo who has me wrapped around his little paw! I was blessed to be a stay at home mom for over 20 years while also serving as the Business Manager for my husband's consulting practice.



I have many years of administrative experience, a heart for the unborn, and a desire to serve the vulnerable population. Most recently, I worked for the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Initiative where I served as the Director of Volunteers and, for a brief time, as the Director of Partner Engagement.

I am so grateful to the Lord for bringing me to SLM where I can use the experience and talents that God has blessed me with! I have felt immediately welcomed and enfolded into the SLM team. This is such a wonderful, faith-filled organization and I am honored to be apart of this mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and affirm life in the womb.

Lesley Mullery – Alexandria Client Services Counselor



Hello everyone! My name is Lesley Mullery, and I am thrilled to be working as a part time Client Services Counselor at our Alexandria location!

My journey of life in Christ began back in 1976 during my college years in California, where I also met my husband of 37 years. Later, my husband Mark pursued a seminary degree, became a pastor, and our family grew to six while living in Pasadena, California. I had the joy and privilege of home-schooling our four wonderful children for 22 years. As they graduated, I began considering what God would want me to do with my time during this new stage of my life. I have always loved working with and teaching children.

After the home-schooling days were over, I continued to volunteer as a science teacher and took part in our church's ministries for moms and young children. It was during this season of time, in 2017, that I prayed about and decided to become a volunteer at SLM's Alexandria Center.

Since moving to Virginia over 20 years ago, my husband and I, along with our church, have been enthusiastic supporters of SLM and their life-affirming mission of "Life in Christ... Life in the Womb". For years, I attended and served at the yearly SLM Fellowship Dinner. I loved listening to the many client stories

and how God used our Client Advocates to transform client hearts and minds. It was so compelling to me. I now realize that I had a growing desire to participate in any way that I could.

It is a great joy to join SLM's mission of sharing "Life in Christ...Life in the Womb"! I look forward to how God will change me and use me as I meet with our beautiful clients!

Kayla Gelpi – Executive Assistant/Event Coordinator

Hi everyone! You may remember when I joined the SLM team in January 2020 as the Fairfax Office Administrator. Recently, in June, I took on a new role at SLM as the Executive Assistant to the CEO and Event Coordinator. I am thrilled to be in this new position! Since college, event planning for a pro-life ministry has been my passion and my dream!



I graduated from Grove City College in 2016 with a degree in Communication Studies. During my senior year, I coordinated and hosted a campus-wide fundraising event for a pro-life ministry called Save the Storks. This not only immensely grew my passion for the unborn, but also peaked my interest for event planning. Since graduating in 2016, I've felt a strong pull towards pro-life ministry, but more specifically to be an Event Coordinator for one. When I joined the SLM team in January, I had no idea that God would open this door only five months later!

I am so thankful to have been with SLM for nine months now! God's timing truly is perfect and I am excited to continue pursuing my passion in this new role. *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."*
-Proverbs 16:9

Hail and Farewell!

Michelle Russell stepped down from her role of Fairfax Center Director after nine months on staff with SLM. Michelle has been with SLM since January 2017 and originally joined our team as a volunteer client advocate.

Michelle loved her time on staff at SLM, but the circumstances of the public school closures and conversion to virtual education led Michelle and her husband to choose to homeschool two of their children full-time. Although she is no longer on staff, Michelle still volunteers at our Fairfax center on

Saturdays!

"I am especially grateful for all the people involved in training me to be a client volunteer. They helped me to really understand my story as God's story, and how to allow Him to use it to reach others for Christ. Once I moved into the position of Center Director, I was very blessed to be able to continue counseling clients. Although I greatly enjoyed the organizational, team building, and administrative aspects of that leadership role, the opportunity to share Christ openly with people in crisis was a great honor and absolutely what put a spring in my step each week." -Michelle Russell

Addison O'Donoghue stepped down from her role in early June after serving SLM for 11 months as our CEO's Executive Assistant and Event Coordinator. Addison now works as an Office Administrator/Executive Assistant at a nationally known wealth management company.

She reflected on her time at SLM: "Each day, I experienced the true blessings of new life and the miracles of the Lord. I grew more spiritually and emotionally in my 11 months with SLM than the other 23 years of my life combined."

We thank God for these two ladies! Job well done! We thank you for your imprint on this ministry!

Calendar Updates

November 17, 2020 – SLM Staff/Client Advocate In-Service (Topic: Effective Communication)

January 17, 2021 – Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

April 16, 2021 – Annual Fellowship Dinner (Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park) - Abby Johnson, Keynote Speaker

Prayers and Praises

Praises:

- Less than 3 weeks after our first virtual event, "A Celebration of Hope", we exceeded our goal of raising \$300,000! We are so grateful for our donors and the life-saving support that SLM has received during a very challenging year!
- We praise God that we are seeing more clients every day who need our medical services and counsel and are coming to us before the abortion clinic! This is a huge praise in a season where our client traffic has been

so impacted by COVID.

- We praise God for our amazing volunteers and for their tireless, faithful service!

Prayer Requests:

- We are seeing an increase in abortion minded clients. We pray that God would allow our clients to witness life on the ultrasound and choose life for their babies.
- We pray for God's intervention in recent organized pro-abortion attacks on pregnancy centers in Northern Virginia before the election. God is greater!
- We pray for God's guidance and equipping for Sharon, our new Fairfax Center Director, as she focuses on her new position and moves from Richmond to Northern Virginia.



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