

2021 Winter Newsletter



Lilly's Story

Lilly and her boyfriend, Andrew, came to our center in the fall of 2019. We provided her with medical services and confirmed her pregnancy. During a conversation with her client advocate, Lilly shared her dramatic faith testimony. As a young girl, her faith was severely tested. Confronted with a life-or-death situation in Nigeria, men surrounding Lilly threatened her and demanded that she convert to Islam. Lilly boldly said that she would not convert from Christianity to Islam, and by God's grace the men left! As Lilly reflected on this life-changing event, she longed to be closer to God again. Lilly's client advocate prompted a spiritual discussion and Lilly rededicated her life to Christ!

Shortly after, Andrew joined the conversation and so Lilly's client advocate asked Andrew about his faith. He shared that he accepted Christ into his life at a young age, but was never serious about his faith. Another spiritual discussion ensued and Andrew prayed to rededicate his life to Christ!

Several days after coming to our center, Lilly started having complications with her pregnancy. Our nurse referred her to an OB/GYN off clinic to receive prenatal care. Unfortunately, Lilly soon lost her baby because of an ectopic pregnancy.

Nine months passed and Lilly revisited our center. Pregnant again, Lilly planned to parent her baby by herself. She had no insurance, was unemployed, and had limited support from her family across the world. Lilly's client advocate provided her with resources and information about our Earn While You Learn program. Lilly soon found a job with insurance and gained support from a friend. A few months later, she started our Earn While You

Learn program and shared that she was having a baby girl!

Lilly recently finished our Earn While You Learn program and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl! We praise the Lord for this new life and for Lilly's renewed relationship with God!

CEO Corner

Dear SLM Partners,

Your incredible support in 2020 made it one of our strongest years ever. Now in 2021, we look forward to new beginnings and pursuing new goals to reach more women for ***Life in Christ...Life in the Womb***

I am excited to announce our new Medical Director, Dr. Farah Mofid Woo, a board certified family physician, who just joined our team at the end of February. Dr. Mofid Woo has more than 20 years of experience as a primary care physician meeting the needs of children and families. We are grateful for her willingness to oversee medical services at our two centers. Thank you to Dr. Lorna Cvetkovich of Tepeyac OB/GYN who is stepping down as our Medical Director after 11 years of service to SLM. We are grateful for your service and heart for the unborn!



A goal in process is to increase medical services in 2021. We plan to have a total of 5 nurses on our staff before the end of the year and we are moving towards establishing STI testing and treatment by the fall of 2021. If you are a registered nurse and would be interested in being trained to do limited obstetrical ultrasounds, please reach out to me, michelle.franklin@slmpregnancy.org or sandy.corish@slmpregnancy.org. We are currently advertising for two registered nurse positions and are eager to hire! Hours are flexible.

We serve an amazing Heavenly Father who has moved Sanctity of Life Ministries forward in spite of challenges, a pandemic, and intense pro-abortion opposition. He works through an amazing team of Christ-centered followers – the SLM staff team I am privileged to work alongside. A HUGE thank you to each of you for your service to the Lord. Each of our team members are uniquely gifted, valuable, and have a "calling" to serve. They serve with compassion and love for our clients, going the extra mile over and over. Their example of being hands and feet of Jesus is a witness to me and to so many people in our Northern Virginia community for the ways they demonstrate the Gospel. They encourage and love our clients, meeting them right where they

are with openness and a caring attitude always.

I am so thankful for the entire SLM team of board members, volunteers, and staff who together provide leadership, equipping, and services to promote Life in Christ...Life in the Womb.

Thank you, wonderful team!

In His Service,



Pandemic Impact on Abortions

How has the pandemic impacted abortion-minded women?

The Guttmacher Institute published an article in June 2020 titled "Early Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Findings from the 2020 Guttmacher Survey of Reproductive Health Experiences". The article explains how the pandemic greatly impacted women when their access to sexual and reproductive health services was limited.

Limited services resulted in a lack of desire for children. More than 40% of women claimed to want to postpone having children or wanted fewer children, with the unknown of what their financial future could hold. The article also states that because of the pandemic and financial restrictions, 33% of women postponed visits or were not able to visit their health care provider for birth control. These fertility preferences and obstacles to obtaining contraceptives can only suggest that abortion numbers have increased.

Although national statistics about abortion numbers lag 2-3 years after the year of reported abortions, we were able to obtain data from the state of Texas in reference to abortion numbers in 2020. Keep reading below to learn how the pandemic has impacted abortion rates.

How has the pandemic impacted the number of abortions?

The American Medical Association published an article in November titled "Changes in Abortion in Texas Following an Executive Order Ban During the Coronavirus Pandemic". The article shows data obtained directly from Texas abortion clinics, comparing abortion numbers from April 2019 and April 2020.

On March 22, 2020, Greg Abbott, the governor of Texas, declared an

executive order that postponed any medically unnecessary surgeries and procedures. Due to this order, most abortions were prohibited until the order was lifted.

Research data shows the number of surgical abortions, including those performed at less than 12 weeks gestational age and at 12 weeks or more gestational age. The number of requests for medical abortions (the abortion pill) also increased as stay-at-home orders and coronavirus precautions proved it to be more difficult to get an abortion during the lockdown.

The information found covers 2019 and 2020 data from 18 out of 24 Texas abortion facilities, which provide 93% of abortions in the state of Texas.

	April 2019	April 2020	Avg. % Difference
Total Abortions	4,608	2,856	35.3% decrease
Medical Abortions	1,808	2,297	23.8% increase
< 12 weeks GA	2,318	317	151.9% decrease
≥ 12 weeks GA	482	242	66.3% decrease

Beyond these numbers, abortions from February-May 2019 totaled 18,268 whereas abortions from February-May 2020 totaled 16,349.

Out-of-state abortions rose as Texas residents received procedures elsewhere during the lockdown, totaling 947 out-of-state abortions in April 2020 compared to only 157 out-of-state abortions in February 2020, just two months prior.

After the Texas governor lifted the executive order in May 2020, surgical abortion numbers in Texas rose to 815 verses 507 in May 2019, for abortions at 12 weeks or more gestational age. Lifting the executive order resulted in a 46.6% increase in abortion rates.

While the executive order was in place, in-state abortions declined, but out-of-state abortions and online abortion pill requests rose greatly.

Although abortion rates have proved to rise up again, we are hopeful that many lives were saved in the Spring of 2020 when lockdowns and executive orders restricted access to these cruel procedures.

Save the Date!

MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH!

VIRTUAL EVENT: FRIDAY, JUNE 4 AT 7PM

"LET US HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE WITHOUT WAVERING, FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL." HEBREWS 10:23

Our 2021 Annual Fundraising Dinner will be on June 4, 2021. "Moving Forward in Faith" will be a virtual event as we are not able to safely have our large in-person event.

Please hold June 4, 2021 for our new virtual event! Maybe you think it will be just like last year's event...well somewhat. Abby Johnson will share her keynote address and we will have awesome client testimonies...but there will be new program pieces – special bonus feature you won't want to miss!

Registration details and information on how to join our event virtually will be coming soon!

Calendar Updates

March 18, 2021 – SLM Staff/Client Advocate In-Service via Zoom, 7-8:30 pm
(Topic: Year of the Gospel)

April 24, 2021 – Volunteer Interest Meeting via Zoom, 10:00 am

June 4, 2021 – Annual Fellowship Dinner (Virtual), 7:00 pm
Abby Johnson, Keynote Speaker



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