



2021 Spring Newsletter

Director's Desk -

As we approached the one-year mark of Covid-19 coming into our communities, I couldn't help but think back at how many people stepped up to help. Even as the world was frightened, we knew that we stood firm in what was important, the women in our community. Even through a pandemic, we served 7 parishes in Louisiana with 577 visits and provided 1,668 services. While Natchitoches is whom we primarily serve, women from all over have sought us for assistance. 88% of clients during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic knew about us from the community. Whether it was a previous client, friend or relative, their doctor, or school. This one is powerful. It is evident that we are better and stronger together. 87% of women in our program delivered at 37 weeks or beyond. We tackle the dire issue of preterm births in our state head-on with education and with Covid-19 was no different. Praise the Lord for His providence!

I want to specifically say, thank you. Thank you during this difficult year to our staff and volunteers, community partners, and supporters for helping the women of Natchitoches and beyond. The Lord has been so gracious and kind to handpick each of you to support us. The Women's Resource Center will continue to work each and every day for women and babies. Pandemic or not!

Now with Spring, comes our 10th annual Run, Baby, Run! We are in full gear for the preparation of it and I know we have all missed in-person events. Good news! Anyone and everyone you know is invited on May 1st to join us for this family friendly event that begins at First Baptist Church on Second Street. Now, I'm not a runner myself - but good thing that I've got a great walking crew! There are more specific details further on in the newsletter, and there is still time to register - so get that done today! I truly cannot wait to see you all there.

All the best,

Jennifer Luna

So much has happened lately...
Let's rejoice together!



Have you seen us in the 2021 Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce Community Guide & Business Directory yet? Grab one at a local business near you and check us out on page 53!



In March, our Office Manager, Danette Westfall, was selected by UMC New Orleans to go through a rigorous training to be an official child passenger car seat safety technician!



We had a blast in March on Reading on the River handing out word searches and talking with families! Got a fest, event, or fair in mind for us to go to? Send it our way!



One thing that we love is sharing about the work we do! We were so thankful to have the opportunity to be the program in the first week of March for the Kiwanis Club's meeting.



It's always such a great time when we stop by St. Mary's. Mason McCart and his friends took it upon themselves to sell baked goods and raise money for us. During pro-life week, we were showered with donations. We couldn't wait to get these in the hands of the moms of Natchitoches. Go Tigers!



Two snowfalls in Natchitoches in 2021?! We were just as shocked as you were. Isn't it beautiful? We praise the Lord for no damage done to our Center. We were able to get everyone for both of those snow weeks rescheduled quickly and we were available on our text-line so that none of our moms missed a thing.



We were selected to receive tithes from the Service League's Jingle & Mingle event. We also got to show them around the Baby Boutique, our 100% free shop filled with baby clothes and items to help reduce the expenses of pregnancy and baby care.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



We had our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner last month where the theme was "You are Our Sunshine!" and how fitting it was.

We truly could not do the work that we do without our volunteers, there would be no Center without them. Some of these women are counselors, helping women through crisis. Some are administrative, helping man the front desk. Some take on classes, teaching women about breastfeeding and childbirth.



Our Volunteer of the Year is Iris Heron! She is always helping. In-between calling moms, helping with paperwork, and manning the front desk - she is truly one of a kind.

We are so lucky to have her!

Everyone has a place here. You just have to have a heart to serve. Interested in being a volunteer? Call us to pick up a volunteer application.

New Board Member Spotlight



Our newest Board Member is Laure Spatafora Derr of Winnfield, Louisiana. She has been married to Jacque Derr for over 50 years. Laure spent 44 years teaching and retired in 2020 due to Covid-19.

She is active in her church, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where she serves as the Director of Religious Education. Laure is also active in her community and serves as President of Delta Kappa Gamma, a teacher's service organization. She also actively works each year on the Chuck Weeks Pro Life project. Mrs. Derr is anxious to get involved and do all she can to promote the WRC!

Adopt a day!

You can secure the operation of the WRC for one day this year and at the same time choose the day that is special to you in some way. Your gift can be made at \$30 each month, \$90 per quarter, or the single amount of \$360 for the year. Honor a loved one on their birthday, celebrate an anniversary, remember a grandparent, etc.

Date	Given By	Name
January 9th	George & Judy Sluppick	Memory of: Chip Stuart Anthony Jones
January 12th	Michele Todtenbier	Memory of: Ren Todtenbier
February 14th	Matthew & Leah Pagels	Honor of: Cainan James Weeks Pagels
March 14th	Sunny Arceneaux	Memory of: Her father on his birthday
April 1st	Mike & Jessica McGrath	Memory of: Miscarried child
April 18th	Charlotte Ragsdale	Memory of: Ronald Ragsdale

Donations in Memory Of:

Given By	Name
Bob Stiefvater	In Memory of June
Vickie Gentry	In Memory of Alice Hermann
Martha Lane	In Memory of Judy Sluppick
Sandra Oehlke	In Memory of Joe Allen
Liz Yeaman, Linda McEntyre, Ann Price, & Rose Marr	In Memory of Nell King Stevens

Donation of supplies:

Victor & Mayshonna Bayonne	Stroller	LaJustice Johnson	Baby clothes & supplies
Rebecca Bennett	Baby clothes	Patricia Lanning	Clothing
Jessica Berry	Diapers, bags, formula	Barbara Mangrum	Baby supplies & equipment
Desirae Briley	Toys	Theresa Matheson	Handmade quilt, blankets
Cynthia Brown	Baby supplies	Tiresa Maxie	Baby clothing
Chris & Lindsay Brumley	Carseats	Claire Mayeaux	Baby toiletries
Faithe Burke	Formula	Mary Metoyer	Bed & stuffed animals
Danielle Cobb	Baby towels	Kathy & Daniel Meyer	Formula & baby food
Lannie Cooley	Bottles & formula	Mary Millet	Baby clothes and supplies
Denise Cooper	Handmade sweaters & formula	Angie Perot	Toiletries
Melanie Davis	Cases of baby books	La'Travia Rhodes	Baby clothes & carseat
Sherllana Davis	Tricycle & bicycle	Betty Smith	Baby clothes & supplies
Elizabeth Deacon	Diapers & baby clothes	Carol & Dwane Steadman	Toys
Marvin Gibstarb	Formula	Karlie Stoker	Hygiene items & snacks
Brandon Grayson	Children's book & and bed	Edna Washington	Baby clothes & diapers
Edwina Hayward	Toiletries	Emily Wiggins	Baby supplies
Amanda Hernandez	Diaper bag & baby supplies	Mae Wilson	Baby clothes & equipment
Mary Hooper	Baby clothing		

Thank you to all the individuals and organizations who donated new and gently used supplies for our Center. Your contributions help us provide items to our clients to care for their new babies. Thank you for making a difference in these women and their families lives! Aren't sure if your donation can be accepted? Call us and ask!

AWARDS TO WIN!

 **Women's Resource Center**
Pregnancy Help Medical Clinic

5K / 1 Mile RUN, BABY, RUN!

**Saturday
May 1st**



**First Baptist Church - Second Street
Check-in: 8am**

1 Mile starts at 8:30am / 5K starts at 9am

ENTRY FEES	PRE-REGISTERED	RACE DAY
5K WALK/RUN	\$25	\$30
1 MILE FUN RUN	\$20	\$25
BOTH 1M & 5K	\$35	\$40
VIRTUAL RUNNER	\$15	\$15
CHILDREN UNDER 5 = FREE		

**KIDS, STROLLERS,
AND PETS
WELCOME!**

**PRE-REGISTER by April 20 to guarantee t-shirt @
wrcnatchitoches.org/runbabyrun or call 357-8888**



Spring Cleaning?

Through our "Good Samaritan" partnership with Goodwill Industries, when you donate items to Goodwill, get a receipt in the name of the WRC! We are able to get vouchers to give to our young moms so she can get clothing or items for the child. Simply ask to get a receipt for your goods. If you're donating bags of goods, ask them to write on the receipt the number of bags you brought in. Then mail or drop off your receipt to the WRC!



Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, especially sex trafficking, is such a serious issue and threat to everyone, even here in Natchitoches. We refuse to let it continue.

In January, we held a human trafficking training with the Director of Free NOLA, Diane Amos. Through her leadership, over 53,000 people were trained in preparation for Super Bowl 2013. We praise God for helping equip all of our staff and volunteers to recognize suspicious signs for any woman or young girl that walks into the Center. Thank you to Westside Baptist Church for letting us use the Family Life Center!



Women's History Month

We thoroughly wanted to thank the Natchitoches Black Heritage Committee for their beautiful Women's History Month Celebration this morning at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. The theme was "Visionary Women: Champions of Hope and Progress".

Our Executive Director, Jennifer Luna, was selected as the honoree for healthcare among many other incredible honorees of women in our community. We are proud to expand on healthcare in Natchitoches; enhancing it with free education, assistance, and peer counseling, ensuring inclusive equity for all women to assist in healthier pregnancies.



Danette Westfall



It is both deep joy and sadness that we share that our beloved Office Manager, Danette Westfall, will be leaving the WRC in mid-April. She began working here in 2008 and has worked tirelessly in this mission for thirteen years. Danette has been such a valuable asset to the Center, always figuring out solutions to problems that hadn't arised yet, always jumping in wherever was needed! She is truly an exceptional woman of God and employee. While she will be missed more than words could explain, we are thrilled for her in this next season of life she is embarking on.

She will still be around as a volunteer at our Car Seat Safety Classes. It sure is true in saying once a part of the WRC, always a part of the WRC.

If you see her around anytime soon, we sincerely hope that you will wish many blessings and pray for her transition!

**Non-Profit Organization
Permit 400
US Postage Paid
Natchitoches, LA 71457**

 *Women's Resource Center*
Pregnancy Help Medical Clinic

107 North Street
PO Box 2234
Natchitoches, LA 71457

RETURN SERVICE

Call: 318-357-8888

Text: 318-527-0010

Or Visit: wrcnatchitoches.org