



Sanctity of Life Sunday 2021

By Rose Condra, Executive Director

As the Director of CHOICES for 16 years, I (Rose Condra) have had the pleasure of serving alongside some of the most wonderful folks, from our Board of Directors, to our Staff, to our volunteers. Like Isaiah, when the Lord issued the question, “Whom shall I send, and who shall go for Us,” they answered, “Here am I, send me.”

Obviously, a staff of only 11 could not have served 677 clients in 2020 (or nearly 900 in pre-pandemic 2019). All the Direction with Compassion is made possible by our team of over 100 client advocates, serving as volunteers in New Albany, Corydon, and Salem.

Though we’ve all heard the word “virtual” countless times referencing events in 2020, our focus is showing how CHOICES offers REAL HOPE all across Southern Indiana.

Unprecedented... never before seen.... Changing times...Sound familiar?

Only, I’m not talking about 2020 – I’m talking about way back in 2019. In 2019, CHOICES opened a third location, offering Direction with Compassion in New Albany, Corydon and Salem. In 2019, we served 880 families in nearly 5,000 client visits. It was **unprecedented**. We had **never seen** that many clients before in one year, and the **times changed**... for the better. Expanding the ministry and adding new staff members and board members allowed us the opportunity to re-examine our mission and vision. We had fresh eyes to look at policies and continue to offer the most excellent care to moms and dads and babies.

Unprecedented....of the 880 clients, there were 98 dads who participated in our ManUp, Elevating Fatherhood program.

Never seen before.... As in, we saw 199 precious babies born to our clients, not including the nearly 900 preschoolers being parented by our clients!

Changing times... offering life-changing HOPE with over 2,000 Gospel conversations which led to 11 Professions of Faith. Hope also comes in the form of thousands of packages of diapers, thousands of articles of clothing, and dozens of new car seats and new portable cribs. While meeting needs is not unprecedented for CHOICES, the scope was something we had **never seen before!**



Why this focus on statistics? Because ***every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God!***

2020 started off strong and we were on track to serve over 1,000 families in the region. We had BIG PLANS! Though our plans had to be re-worked, we still served 677 families in 2020. We know, and we know our partners know – our work is ESSENTIAL. So, while we scaled back operations for a couple of months, we never stopped saving babies, sharing the Gospel, and providing for families in need.

During our limited operations, God provided limitless opportunities for ministry to individuals, many of whom would never have come for services were it not for the economic shutdown. These divine appointments were a beautiful display of God's grace. **Our Father is a God who is not just great because nothing is too big for Him, but a God who is great because nothing is too small.** Nothing is too small, especially a tiny 6-week-old baby's heartbeat, visible and audible on our ultrasound. The impact of seeing and hearing a child's heartbeat provides clarity and focus and empowers women to choose life.

Now that 2021 is upon us and the culture in our country is shifting away from acknowledging the sanctity of human life, our work is more important than ever. With three locations fully operational, we anticipate another unprecedented year, serving more pregnant and parenting families than ever. The tiny Baby Bottles help us do this great work.

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