Jocelyn’s Surprise
by Gayle Irwin, Patient Resources Director

Twenty-year-old Jocelyn came into True Care seeking confirmation of a second pregnancy. She had an 8-month-old at home, and the idea of being pregnant again so soon sounded terrifying.

Jocelyn thought she was about six weeks along. When the nurse placed the ultrasound probe on the young woman’s stomach, shock registered on Jocelyn’s face. The image of a 21-week-old appeared on the screen.

“I never suspected… I never thought… am I really that far along?” Jocelyn asked.

A few measurements by the nurse via the ultrasound confirmed: Jocelyn was in her 22nd week of pregnancy.

With the U.S. Senate failing to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act in January, Jocelyn could have aborted that baby. Along with North Korea, China, and Vietnam, the United States is one of just seven nations on earth that allow an abortion that late in a pregnancy.

Jocelyn would have traveled about 200 miles to reach such a clinic. Without a Planned Parenthood in Wyoming, most women living in the state who seek abortions travel to Colorado or Montana. A late-term abortionist in Boulder, Colorado, Warren Hern—whose claim to fame is that no babies are ever born alive at his office—is the likeliest place Jocelyn would’ve gone if she’d resorted to abortion.

Seeing her baby moving her arms and stretching her legs, Jocelyn burst into tears.

“It’s a wiggly little one, isn’t it?” she said as she viewed the ultrasound screen. “It was about this age when I found out what gender my other baby was.”

The nurse asked what she was thinking and feeling.

“I just can’t believe I didn’t know,” Jocelyn responded. “They’re going to be even closer in age than I thought.”

Although Jocelyn said she would carry to term and parent, her visit is a sober reminder that every year, thousands of precious preborn children are aborted at 20 weeks and beyond in the United States. Along with being unmistakably human and distinct, these little ones can feel excruciating pain as abortion profiteers like Warren Hern kill them inside their mothers’ wombs.

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Their Stories

Around here, we love to tell stories of what God is doing in the lives of those we see. Some of these stories are of women who came here believing the only option they had was to end a pregnancy, only to leave with hope in their hearts and life as their focus.

Other times we see relationships healed; of mothers and daughters facing a crisis and saying to each other, “We will make it through, together.”

Or we might see a young father turn his heart toward his child as he realizes for the first time, “This means I’m a daddy!”

The stories we watch unfold aren’t for the movies because they are often better than anything one can dream up for the big screen. These stories are often raw and unedited, not for the faint of heart but always for the tender heart.

These stories are pictures of what happens when God reaches down and says, “I’m not finished with you yet; there’s more of your story to be told . . . and you will love the ending.”

But these stories aren’t just for those who live them; they are also for those who are often behind the scenes, playing a powerful role the “cameras” never see.

For these stories are your stories.

When you stop during the day and utter a short prayer on behalf of True Care, you become part of the story. When you pick up the phone and say, “Can I help?” you become part of the story. And when you write that check or make your electronic gift to True Care, you write your name in the middle of her story, too.

Don’t you love the moment in a movie when the music hits a new crescendo and we realize the story is going to have an ending which leaves us in tears of joy? We see these stories here, and all we can say is thank you . . . for all you do to write the stories of hope we witness each day.

Welcome Dr. Drew Woodward!

Dr. Sam Scaling, True Care’s Medical Director, is stepping down after 13 years. We are grateful to Dr. Scaling for his many years of service and we are excited to welcome Dr. Drew Woodward as our new Medical Director! Dr. Woodward has been a member of True Care’s Advisory Council for many years as well as a passionate supporter of this ministry. Dr. Woodward is a Casper Family Physician.

Jocelyn’s Surprise (cont.)

The Senate’s failure to halt abortion at 20 weeks is a profound failure to protect those “wiggly” little lives like Jocelyn’s child. Especially at this stage of development, no one can deny these children are human beings—with arms, legs and faces that bear the image of God.

We in the pregnancy help movement see those images daily and our hearts break every time a woman feels she has no choice but abortion. Our hearts break no matter what the stage of development of the preborn child is.

Even in Wyoming—the least populated state in the nation and one of the most conservative—staff and volunteers at True Care see women driven to the hopelessness of abortion at virtually every stage of pregnancy.

What can we do in the trenches between life and death? Continue forward with a fighting spirit. Not all the women we serve will be like Jocelyn and choose life for their children, and we can’t count on the government to do our day-to-day work for us.

Jesus said, “Whatever you’ve done for the least of these, you have done for me.” We continue serving “the least of these” with a fighting spirit. And we remember that when we serve them, we serve Him.

2nd Annual Hymn Sing

Our Second Annual Hymn Sing for Life brought in more than $27,000.00! Folks from all over Casper gathered to make a joyful noise to the Lord on Sunday, April 8 at Grace Reformed Church. Thanks to all who attended and to all who gave in any way to make this event such a success. We are especially grateful to Pastor Mark Tippin of Grace Reformed Church for hosting us, to our MC, Mr. Ashley Bright, to Dr. Eric Unruh, our organist, to Dr. Zach Vreeman, choir director, and to the Zimmerman Family Foundation and Grace Reformed for their matching challenge gifts.

Thank you to the underwriter for this issue:

Rodolph Brothers, Inc.
You Can Leave a Legacy!

The Future Care Fellowship is a group of folks who have made plans to give a future gift to True Care through a bequest in their will, through a trust or in some other way. If you have already arranged for a future gift, let Terry know! If not, we invite you to consider it. Contact Terry at 473-2275 or info@truecarecasper.org for more information or mail in the enclosed response card.

Good to know...yet another way to give

Are you age 70 or older and subject to a Required Minimum Distribution from a retirement account? Did you know you can donate up to $100,000.00 a year directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities? Known as “qualified charitable distributions” (QCDs), they can be used to satisfy required minimum distributions from your IRA without having the distribution included in your income. Most public charities, like True Care, (our corporate name is The Caring Center, Inc EIN# 74-2458697), that are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions, qualify. See your tax advisor or financial planner for more information.

Coming Soon: a new and exciting way to make a difference in the lives of our patients

We have several patients who are or who will soon be juggling a new baby and college at the same time. These young women need financial assistance, prayer and encouragement in order to stay in school. This fall, you will have an opportunity to sponsor a True Care patient who is attending Casper College. Let’s support these young women on their journey to better futures for themselves and for their babies. For more information, contact Cheryl Flores at 307-247-4054 or cheryl@truecarecasper.org.

Resources for our Patients by Cheryl Flores

Mary Beth has our support to face her problems because you cared enough to give to True Care!

The advocate knocked on my door to let me know I would be meeting with my next patient following her ultrasound. “She just needs insurance. This is her fifth pregnancy,” the advocate said.

I met with 31 year old Mary Beth and explained I could help her with resources. She was not thrilled about being pregnant, but had decided against abortion. “I had an abortion before and I do not want to go through that again!” She did need help obtaining insurance, but after meeting with me, she realized she needed help with so much more.

Mary Beth admitted to the nurse and her advocate that she used to drink “a lot.” She said she had quit before she became pregnant. When I met with her, I conducted an ASSIST screening test which measures for alcohol, smoking and substance usage. As a result of this test Mary Beth shared with me that she drinks more than a pint of vodka and 3 to 4 beers every single day. I was able to dig deeper with her and discuss treatment options and to educate her about the effects of alcohol on a developing baby.

I also administered a test called the Edinburgh, which measures for depression. The Edinburgh was developed specifically for pregnant women to assess current depression as well as depression after delivery. A score of 11 or more points indicates depression. Mary Beth denied that she suffered from depression, yet she scored an 18 on her Edinburgh. She was interested in getting treatment for her depression and confessed she hides it from others.

Mary Beth had many stressors in her life: not wanting another baby, smoking and drinking on a daily basis, the father of the baby had left her, an abortion in her past, and four children to care for. She had adopted a mindset of “I’m fine” every time she was asked how she was doing.

This is why the screenings I am able to provide through True Care’s Resource Program are so valuable. They are a measurable way to assess patients, to discover what is really going on behind the “I’m fine” exterior, and to get our patients connected to those in the community who can help.

The Resource Program is open to all True Care patients and officially began in January 2013. During this time Cheryl has enrolled 734 patients in the program and made more than 3,740 patient contacts. She has completed 682 Medicaid applications. So far, 515 babies have been born to women who enrolled in the program.