



**2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT**



**CHANGING HEARTS.  
SAVING LIVES.  
BUILDING FAMILIES.  
RESTORING HOPE.**

*since 1973*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What a great year it has been here at New Life—a year of stability and transition between Vision 2015 and gearing up for what is next with a new urban location. In the past several years our clients have developed deeper needs and the life circumstances they are facing have become more challenging. This has been an incredible opportunity to think about how we can not only help our clients choose life, but choose to live that life abundantly.

We believe that life decisions need support. Being pro-life is about more than saving babies. It is also about raising children. It is about coming alongside mothers and fathers and helping them build healthy relationships and families. It is about helping students look past the symptoms of today during STD testing and challenging them to think about how their decisions will affect their future. It is about bringing stability to chaos, restoring hope and nurturing spiritual growth.

While New Life has grown and adapted over time, our mission remains the same. Our commitment to honor the sanctity of human life is unwavering.

Thank you for faithfully partnering with us this past year as we work to fulfill our vision “to one day reach all abortion-minded and abortion-vulnerable individuals throughout Minnesota with comprehensive pregnancy-related services and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Blessings,

*Tammy Kocher*

Tammy Kocher  
Executive Director



*"Through New Life, we gained not only a beautiful son that we adore, but our extended family has grown with the inclusion of his wonderful birth parents. We are so blessed by God's provisions for our family. We could not be more thankful for New Life." - Courtney, adoptive mother*



## LICENSED ADOPTION AGENCY

**New Life Family Services  
is licensed by the State of  
Minnesota to provide full and  
limited domestic adoption  
services to both birth parents  
and adoptive families.**

With an equal care for birth parents and adoptive families, we customize our adoption services to fit the individual needs of all parties involved. Additionally, New Life provides ongoing post-adoption services once the adoption is finalized.

### **Our Services:**

- Full and limited domestic adoption services
- Embryo adoption home studies
- Post-adoption support
- Foster care

**1980**  
**ADOPTION SERVICES BEGAN**  
as a licensed adoption agency

**2012**  
**OUR FIRST EMBRYO ADOPTION**  
was facilitated

**802**  
**ADOPTIONS HAVE BEEN FACILITATED**  
by New Life since 1980



## MEET THE ALISA & KEVIN

Alisa and Kevin were losing hope as they waited to adopt a second child. Seeking a local adoption agency, they were referred to New Life by a family friend.

They had already been selected by two other birth mothers who ultimately chose to parent their children. Kevin remembers the experience, “We were very discouraged and wondering if there was something wrong with us as a family. We constantly wondered why we weren’t getting chosen. However, waiting for Bailey was God’s plan for us.”

Bailey wanted to meet them right away, and brought her mom with her. Kevin remembers, “We were really nervous, but we immediately felt comfortable with Bailey and her mother, Nancy.” The families were so comfortable with one another they decided to make an open adoption plan which has allowed Bailey to be a part of her daughter’s life.

Alisa stated, “We want for the birth mothers to be able enjoy their lives while still enjoying

their relationship with their birth children.”

Looking back on the adoption journey, Alisa has seen God’s hand at work. “We have a family now. We have seen God work in our family and in this process in so many ways. God has been there for us in the ups and downs of this process, and has totally opened our hearts to this adoption relationship differently than what we expected. We can clearly see now this has been what is best for our family.”

We were excited for our daughter to come, but with New Life we know the birth parents are taken care of as well.”

Alisa and Kevin speak so highly of their children’s birth mothers as if they were a part of their own family, “We want them to know they are always loved. We are praying for them and we want them to know we are concerned for them too. The birth mothers have become our family.”



## PROFESSIONAL & MEDICAL PREGNANCY HELP

**First Care Pregnancy Center provides free pregnancy-related services to women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy.**

Our licensed social workers walk alongside women and their partners as they face an unplanned pregnancy, discussing all of the options they have and supporting them in their decision. They help them make a plan for their pregnancy and provide ongoing support, resources, and referrals.

### **Our Services:**

- Pregnancy Testing
- Ultrasound
- Pregnancy Counseling
- STI Testing & Treatment
- Resources & Referrals

**1,262**  
**PREGNANCY TESTS**  
provided through four centers

**507**  
**ULTRASOUNDS**  
showing life to our clients

**784**  
**STI TESTS**  
and treatment when required

**990**  
**SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS**  
initiated by our staff



## MEET ELLEN

At age 26, Ellen felt like she felt her life was moving forward when she first found out she was pregnant. Feeling confused, frustrated, and scared to lose her career, she asked her cousin, who suggested going to New Life Family Services for an ultrasound and someone to talk to.

When Ellen walked into New Life she described an immediate change. "I had a sense of peace, hope, and safety. I felt comfortable with the staff and felt like they really cared for me." She felt God led her to New Life.

The ultrasound completely changed the way she viewed her pregnancy. "Seeing the heartbeat on the screen made everything real." This was not just a pregnancy anymore, this was my baby. It was not about me or my career anymore."

After seeing her son, she chose the name Gabriel. "I felt like he was not planned by me, but by God who was with me the whole time. I knew there was a purpose for my son." Ellen knew she wanted to parent this child and with

New Life's support, raising a child seemed a lot less overwhelming. Once Gabriel was born, Ellen was thrilled to be a mother, no matter the circumstances. As Ellen raised her son, her support and encouragement came from a single mothers' group with New Life.

"Single parenting has its challenges and it is hard to keep up with everything. But life is good, I'm happy and my kids are active and involved." A lot of her support came from the women in her single parent support group, but she says God was there for her from day one.

"There have been times throughout the years where I have really struggled financially and relationally. We have gone through hard times, but God has provided for my family. Life gets stressful raising three boys on my own, but God always provides what I need in the moment each time. Every day, my faith gets me through."



## PARENTING & FAMILY SUPPORT

**Through the Parenting Plus program, families meet with Parenting Coaches who create unique educational plans for each family, while supporting them with practical baby items.**

Following educational sessions, families are able to “shop” in our clothing closet which provides practical items such as clothing, diapers, wipes, formula, and car seats. Furthermore, relationships are formed during these sessions and many clients come to know Christ in the process, which we know creates the most meaningful and lasting change.

### **Our Services:**

- Individual Parenting Education
- Group Classes
- Baby Items & Diapers
- Resources & Referrals

**1,626**  
**FAMILIES PARTICIPATED**  
in our Parenting Program

**2,030**  
**PARENTING SESSIONS**  
provided to families

**45,196**  
**DIAPERS DISTRIBUTED**  
to support families in need



## MEET LORI

"I was going to a Bible College and going to church, but also involved with a man in a sexually active relationship. Finding out I was pregnant was a big reality check for me that I wasn't going to be living a double life anymore. I came to New Life Family Services wanting to explore adoption.

At that time in life, I didn't have a whole lot of confidence in myself and I didn't know how I was going to love and care for a child. I wanted to go ahead and look at adoptive families but in my heart I wasn't sure. I had re-committed my life to the Lord when I found out I was pregnant and was praying daily that God would give me an answer because I knew He knew my child's future.

I met with a social worker throughout my pregnancy, who listened to me and helped me process my decision. I explored adoption with her and met with a few potential adoptive families. As I met with them, I found myself wishing it could be me parenting him.

Three weeks away from my due date, I still didn't know what I was going to do. In my last meeting with my social worker, she said 'I have seen you trust the Lord to bring you the family of His choosing in an adoptive family, but I haven't seen you trust Him in the same way to provide what you need to parent this child. I think you would make an excellent mother.' At that moment my heart was just filled with peace and I knew this was my answer. The Lord quietly confirmed for me that He would provide and I decided to parent.

The Lord has provided abundantly for my son, Isaac, and me. He gave me the strength and perseverance to parent and a job to be able to provide. When Isaac was 8 years old, I was able to buy my first home for the two of us. Then when Isaac was 12, the Lord provided a husband for me (along with three daughters of his own) and through marriage we were blessed with another daughter who is now 5. Isaac is now 18 and I will never stop being his mom and loving him."



## HEALING AFTER ABORTION

**New Life Family Services' post-abortion healing program, Conquerors, provides one-on-one mentoring and group sessions designed for those who are hurting from a past abortion.**

Weekly sessions address the issues of post-abortion stress from a biblical perspective in a confidential and safe setting. Conquerors is designed to meet the unique needs of each individual and walk with them in a path to healing and freedom.

### Our Services:

- 10 Week Group Sessions
- One-on-one mentoring
- Teaching & Speaking
- Online Curriculum for other Organizations

**9,953**  
**ABORTIONS IN MINNESOTA**  
in 2016

**1 in 3**  
**WOMEN WILL HAVE AN ABORTION**  
by age 45

**43%**  
**WERE ATTENDING CHURCH**  
at the time of their abortion according  
to a recent study

**31**  
**WOMEN FOUND FREEDOM**  
from their abortion through Conquerors



## MEET AMANDA

When Amanda found out she was pregnant, she and her now husband were thrilled with this news. Amanda quickly stopped all substance abuse and scheduled all of her doctor's appointments.

At her 20 week appointment, a routine test came back abnormal and her doctors discovered several disabilities. The doctor said if her daughter survived the birth, she would not live long. With all of the new information regarding the quality of life her daughter would have, Amanda decided to follow her doctor's recommendation and schedule an abortion.

"I never thought abortion would be something I would consider. But I felt like I was protecting my daughter from any pain. I never used the term abortion because it was explained to me medically. I always said I terminated the pregnancy, and I justified it because I believed it was for the right reason." About a month after her abortion, Amanda began to feel regret for her decision and felt God pulling her back to church. She became more involved in church and grew in her faith.

When her second son, Carter, was nine months old, Amanda learned he had several physical disabilities. "Carter has the mental capacity of a nine-month-old, yet it is amazing how much joy he brings to my life. There is so much help available I did not know existed when I was faced with that decision in my first pregnancy."

"Even though Carter is very limited, I could not imagine our family without him. It seems as if the Lord blessed us to be the parents of a child with disabilities. God gave us a second chance."

Soon after, Amanda sought healing from her abortion experience through the Conquerors program.

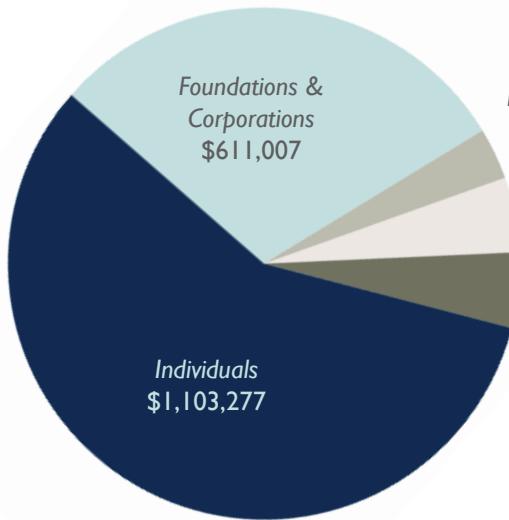
"In my time at Conquerors, God healed me through revealing I do not need to carry this guilt and shame anymore because He has forgiven me. I learned about the depth of His love for me and I did not realize I was still carrying the burden of my abortion. After participating in Conquerors, a huge weight

## FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year (April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017)

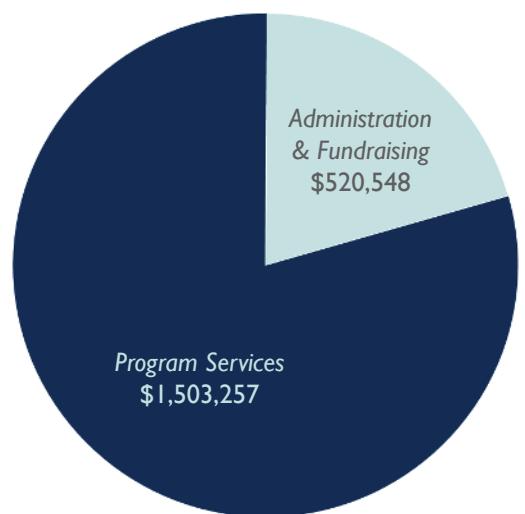
### REVENUE

TOTAL \$1,975,982



### EXPENSES

TOTAL \$2,023,805



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

for Fiscal Year (April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017)

Mike Brocker  
Dr. Peter Dehnel  
Ben Griffin, Vice Chair  
Brian Hubbard  
Jessica Johnson, Chair  
Dr. Caroline Matthews

Carl Nelson  
Joe Piche  
Christina Pilon, Secretary  
Jeff Urban  
Jeff Verdoorn

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New Life Family Services is accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), an agency that is dedicated to helping Christian ministries earn the public's trust and provides accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, fundraising and board governance.

New Life Family Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Complete audited financial statements, including a copy of our most recent IRS Form 990, are available upon request.



## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers contribute countless ways to the work in our programs!

# 7,225

## HOURS

were served by volunteers



## MEET BRENDA

"I became aware of New Life over 10 years ago when I was searching online for a pro-life pregnancy center in the area. My daughters needed to do a service project to enhance the curriculum they were being taught in church and they organized a donation drive for diapers and baby equipment. It was the fall of 2010 when I read in the New Life newsletter that nurse sonographers were needed. God spoke to my heart and I took the training to volunteer as a nurse sonographer the following year."

Sometimes holy moments occur before the ultrasound. If I am informed a mom is considering abortion, I pray that God shows up and I get really clear pictures. Like they say, a picture is worth a thousand words.

One moment I will never forget was when an expectant mom told me, prior to doing the ultrasound, she was planning on an abortion, since being a single mom was 'culturally unacceptable.' During the scan, the baby was pretty active and then turned it's face directly to the US screen as if looking at us. Before I could catch myself, I said 'Your baby is looking at you!' Her heart melted and she said 'He's so cute.'

At the conclusion of the ultrasound, when the client is given pictures with the keepsake card with Psalms 139:13-15, I ask if I can read those verses to them. They always say yes. Hearing the scripture often brings tears and that is when I offer to pray for them. Most clients are receptive to being prayed for."



**"We love our sons and their birth parents so much. We have so much admiration for them. They gave us two beautiful gifts out of their love for their child and we will be forever grateful."**

**THE NORMAN FAMILY**



## DID YOU KNOW?

**9,953**

**ABORTIONS OCCURED**

in Minnesota in 2016

**95%**

**OF MN ABORTIONS OCCUR WHERE**

**OUR OFFICES ARE LOCATED**

in the Twin Cities & Rochester

**58%**

**OF WOMEN HAVE OTHER CHILDREN**

at the time of their abortion

**40%**

**OF WOMEN HAVING ABORTIONS**

have had one or more previous  
abortions

## WHERE DOES THIS LEAD US?

As we move into the year ahead, New Life looks to deepen our existing programs and expand our reach. With more than 1/3 of all MN abortions coming from residents of Hennepin County, we are setting our sights on a new urban location in and around the Phillips neighborhood.

## OUR VISION

Our Vision is to one day reach all abortion-minded and abortion-vulnerable individuals throughout Minnesota with comprehensive pregnancy-related services and the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

# **newlife** family services

*and its programs*



CHANGING HEARTS. SAVING LIVES. BUILDING FAMILIES. RESTORING HOPE.

**1515 East 66th Street  
Richfield, MN 55423  
(612) 866-7643**

*All photos included in this Annual Report are photos of volunteers or individuals who have used our services, courtesy of Alison Lea Photography.*

**CONNECT WITH US:**

[www.nlfs.org](http://www.nlfs.org)



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/NewLifeFamilyServices



@NLFStweets