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Before I formed you in the womb I knew you (Jeremiah 1:5).

Dear Friends For Life,

Happy New Year! On behalf of the **Life Center of Santa Ana**, it is with grateful hearts that we share the latest **REALLY GOOD NEWS** with you. One big investment our center made early in 2023 was with purchasing the software program Next Level™. *"The product of Heartbeat International's relentless, compassionate support for the pregnancy help movement, the design was influenced by a team of pregnancy help leaders with decades of experience. It is all digital, easy to use, and built to manage client records and engage clients anytime from anywhere."* Our team began using the software in February and immediately appreciated not only the tracking of important numbers like how many pregnancy tests we were administering in a month, but how we could identify those clients at risk for abortion even before they entered our office. Thorough intake questions on current relationship status, as well as pregnancy history and spiritual life, helped us better prepare for the sharing of options information. As we look to release a brand new client website, also designed by *Heartbeat International*, and built to target abortion-minded women, our hope for this New Year is to serve more vulnerable women, replacing any fear they may have about their pregnancy with the HOPE and REAL SUPPORT our Life Center team can provide. Here are the 2023 numbers --they speak for themselves--this past year was full of **LIFE!**

With the Grace of God and your invaluable support, our team provided for **180** women in challenging pregnancies. Brand new car seats and pack-n-plays, to emergency housing, to gas gift cards, to brand new breast pumps and Happy Birthday Baby Packages, to everything a vulnerable woman needs to feel empowered to choose life, we tended to those needs and we did so with the love of Christ.

With our team trained in using *Heartbeat International's* LOVE approach, a life-saving, powerful method of sharing compassion, hope, and accurate options information with a woman in a crisis pregnancy, **103 babies were saved from abortion**. And of those 103 babies saved, **one** was gifted for adoption. We are so proud of this young mom's courage and heroic act of self-sacrificial LOVE. Abortion determined when we first encountered her last Spring, with ongoing emotional support, not only did she choose life for her son, she chose a **BETTER LIFE** for him.

The number of teen/young adult moms and dads consistently participating in our parenting program in 2023 was **thirty**. With a well-rounded program that includes *Baby Basics*, *Mommy & Me*, *Walking With Moms & Dads*, and our *First Thursday Luncheons*, our hope is to empower those at risk for abortion to choose life and become the best mothers and fathers that God is calling them to be. The opportunities to share the Gospel message at the center occurred on a daily basis. Whether it was on the phone with a potential client, sent via text, taught in one of our programs, or expressed in a Mentoring session, we want everyone to know Jesus and His perfect plan of Salvation. Lastly, the surrounding parishes joining in the Mission of **Walking With Moms and Dads** continues to climb. Everything from participating in the **Mother's Day Roses** to hosting a baby shower or a diaper drive, or spreading the awareness of the **REAL SUPPORT** we provide, the year bore many fruits and YOUR support is the reason for it all!

We recently received an urgent text message from a Priest that said, *"I found this message at the office door (of the church). I called the number and left a voice message encouraging her to reach out to the Life Center."* The Priest texted us a picture of the note which read, *"Dear Church, I am pregnant, homeless, and afraid. Please help me."* Pope Francis said *"Our Churches need to be islands of mercy amidst a sea of indifference."* Uniting our efforts in sharing the LOVE and REAL support that can be found, not only in our churches but in each one of us, we can be the hope and light of Christ. We can be that Church. In *Walking With Moms and Dads*, we can build the Kingdom of God and advance the Culture of LIFE!



Scan here to visit our
website & donate!

Meet baby Ollie!
His eyes read, "Thank you
for helping to save me."





Above Left: Our team was showered with LOVE by our Life Center Board of Directors in celebration of **Pregnancy Help Appreciation Week**. We feel so well supported in our work. **(L to R):** Megan, Aileen, Melissa & Rosa. **Above Right (L to R):** John Owen & Mike Zazulak, Grand Knight of Council 4922, deliver a generous check! **Below Left:** St. Timothy's sponsored several families for Christmas. This young family, awaiting the birth of their 2nd baby, felt the love of Christ in all the gifts received. **Below Right (L to R):** Susan Becker's *Walking With Purpose* Bible Study hosted a Christmas drive to gather gifts for the moms in our programs. Here she poses with Kim from our team who inventoried the many beautiful items! SO MUCH LOVE!

Above Left (L to R): Pastor support is KEY to the success of *Walking With Moms!* Holy Family Seal Beach's Jeanette (in green) and their Respect Life Ministry hosted a baby shower for our moms. Fr. Joseph celebrates with Ashley who shared a message of gratitude with the congregation. **Above Right (L to R):** Ron, Noreen, Olivia, Father Angelos, Blanca, Megan & Andrea of St. Kilian's WWM team take Fr. Angelos to breakfast to thank him for his support. **Below Middle:** Father Sy poses for a picture with moms & dads from our programs. Thirteen pregnant/newly parenting moms recently joined us for 12:15pm Mass at Holy Family Church, Orange. We share the Gospel message with LOVE!



Above & Below: South County Respect Life ladies hosted our December **First Thursday Luncheon** & it was **MERRY & BRIGHT!** From the table settings to the delish food to the beautiful gifts to the love of the season, the moms were filled with JOY.

Above R (L to R): Marena & Debbie; **Below** Virginia (far left) & Beth (3rd from right) pose with the moms & babies.

Above: Our team celebrated Christmas with a beautiful luncheon at the center. These women are the heart of the Mission and we are grateful for their time, talent and LOVE!

Above: Premier Women's Council received a grant for the center to embark on a life-changing literacy program! Tina, Alice, Laura, Susie & Michelle came bearing gifts of children's books, a bookshelf, bean bag chairs, Christmas bears and an overwhelming amount of much needed material goods for our families. We are GRATEFUL!



Above: Let's hear it for our teen **AMBASSADORS FOR LIFE!** **L to R:** Jazi & Kiley (Mater Dei), Lauren (J Serra), Dotty & Morgan (Santa Margarita) & Alec (Servite) meet regularly at the Life Center to brainstorm how to bring more awareness and LIFE into our high schools.

Above Left: REAL SUPPORT is found in Christ-centered relationships! Our *Walking with Dads & Moms Parenting Program* meets the 3rd Saturday of the month. The teen/young adult dads & moms learn a virtue, parenting skill, & Scripture verse each month. They spend time together as co-parents & then time apart in groups with the Mentor team. **Above Right:** Gio & Chrissy are regulars. This month the male Mentors worked together to provide a refrigerator for Gio & his family. In October they were displaced & lost everything due to a building fire. Gio said, "It was a tough thing to navigate but we stayed strong & everything got better once our son was born!"



Left: Mentor Kim poses with her Godchildren, two of the extraordinary blessings of her relationship with her Mentee, whom she first encountered while praying on the sidewalk at the abortion clinic. This beautiful lifesaving story of LOVE has only just begun!

Right: Terry from St. Thomas More delivers over \$3,000 in gift cards to Aileen. Collected from the Christmas Angel Tree, we were able to help so many families in need.



Above: Respect Life Reps were invited to meet with **LIVE ACTION's** outreach coordinator, Keeley Bowler, to learn about the many educational videos available. Uniting our efforts we can advance the culture of life. **L to R:** Monica (St. Kilian), Megan (Holy Family), Noreen (St. Kilian), Keeley (LIVE ACTION), Eleanor & Rachel (SVDP), Lucy (San Antonio) & Kim (SMDP).