

Thank you for showing nothing but God's love. We need a center and people with hearts like you to continue to spread God's love.

www.bpcpartners.org

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Bakersfield Pregnancy Center 1801 21st Street, Suite #1 Bakersfield, CA 93301

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Current Resident or

# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST Heroes 5K Run & Walk for Life

Mark your calendars for the center's first ever 5K Run! The run will take place alongside the Walk for Life event, which is held annually at Bakersfield Christian High School. Participants are encouraged to dress up as their favorite superhero!

"Our staff wanted to get people excited about the walk this year. Revamping the event will hopefully create more awareness and draw more participants," explains walk coordinator, Demi Wong.

Check in for 5K runners begins at 7:30am and check-in for walkers begins at 8:30. A free breakfast is provided, along with live music, bounce houses, and prizes! The cost to join the 5K run is \$25. Those who have experienced miscarriage or infant loss will also have an opportunity to walk with a balloon in memory of their little one. The event concludes at 10.

Participants are encouraged to sign up via our Facebook event page or by visiting our website, bpcpartners.org. Walkers and runners can create their own team and fundraising page online, as well as share their campaign on social media! Brochures are also available at the center. Walkers who raise at least \$250 will receive a free t-shirt, available for pick up before or at the event. Hope to see you there!





# 2017 SUMMER | FALL NEWSLETTER



cripture tells us in 2 Corinthian 5:17, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." From welcoming a new Executive Director to purchasing new, clean, waiting room chairs for our clients, this season at the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center has proven to be a reflection of the Lord's promise to make all things new.

Indeed, we are feeling the newness of His touch at the center, and so are our clients.

Johanna\* first joined our Earn While You Learn parenting classes in May of last year. She was almost 7 months pregnant with her sixth child and struggling to get clean from meth. Her children had been taken away, and, after losing her daughter to SIDS the year before, Johanna was also dealing with depression.

Feeling hopeless, Johanna admitted, "I looked into getting an abortion when I first found out I was pregnant, but I couldn't bring myself to do it."

In the midst of so much heartache and pain, Johanna confided to her peer counselor her deep desire to know and understand the love of God. Johanna's counselor gave her a bible and discussed God's character and infinite love. She also prayed with Johanna and followed up with her throughout her pregnancy as she returned to take parenting classes and earn items for her baby.

Almost two years later, Johanna returned to visit the center and share her story as a woman transformed by God's love.

"I'm doing great! I'm clean, I have a job, and I'm finally getting my children back," she expressed. "I'm now married to the father of my children and we are moving into a home!" Johanna even attends a local church with her family.

Time and again, the testimonies of our clients, like Johanna, so beautifully exhibit the faithfulness of God in meeting those who seek him. Even in the worst circumstances, he reminds us "Behold, I am doing a new thing... I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

\*Name has been changed to protect client confidentiality.

### **TOGETHER FOR LIFE**



### Following Tracks Psalm 119:133 "Establish my footsteps in Your word."

Taking on a new job can be challenging, especially when you follow in the footsteps of a faithful and successful leader like Linda Davis. I have often heard, "you have big shoes to fill", and this is very true. However, God has shown me that I am not called to fill the shoes, just follow the tracks. In the area that I live, Glennville, we are blessed with the opportunity to help gather cattle in the late summer and early fall from the Sierra National Forest, and bring them to their winter pastures in the lower county. An important element of gathering cattle in the dense forest is to be able to identify and follow the cattle tracks. Older, more experienced cattle who know the country, will have larger, deeper prints in the dirt. It is always a happy day when you find cattle tracks with young heifer or steers' tracks, because you know the older cattle will lead them in the right direction. However, when you see a lot of smaller tracks together, you can be sure these are yearling heifers and steers, that have no idea where to go and they will run away quickly at the first sign of a cowboy on his horse. You are going to have a long, hard day when this happens. Your only hope is to find some experienced cattle along the way to join the young group, giving them a wise leader they trust.

As I begin this new journey on a new trail, I am thankful for the tracks left behind by Linda and the staff at the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center. I may get confused or even lost a time or two, but their tracks will lead me safely to where I need to be as the new Executive Director.

How about you? Whose tracks are you following today? Is it a trustworthy leader, mentor or friend? Jesus said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matt 4:19. Are the tracks you're following leading you to Jesus? Are you following tracks that will lead you to be fruitful for the kingdom of God? If not, you are probably following young heifers, and you are going to have a hard, long journey. Ask God to help you find the right tracks to follow, and see how He will lead you to the place He has created for you.

I am thankful to serve in this place of hope and healing, where we have the opportunity to lead women in a difficult situation to the throne of God. I hope you will join us as we follow a good trail, with tracks going in the right direction.

Erin Rogers Executive Director

# THANK YOU FOR FILLING BOTTLES

Each summer, we launch our "Change For Life Baby Bottle Campaign". We ask local churches, communities, bible studies, and clubs to get involved in this fun and easy fundraiser by filling baby bottles with loose change, cash, and checks. Although the official campaign takes place from Mother's Day to Father's Day, our center recieves bottles filled to the brim all year long!

Since last year's campaign, we have distributed over 3,700 baby bottles and raised over \$23,000! It is amazing to see God use our leftover change for his purpose and glory. Thanks to those who have participated over the years! If you'd like to get involved by either hosting your own campaign or helping us count the money, please contact Dorian or Leigh Ann at 661-326-1915.





### **JOIN OUR CAUSE**

As our ministry expands to meet the needs of new parents, fathers, Spanish-speaking clients, and communities throughout Kern County, we find ourselves even more grateful for our local community partners.

Below are just some of the ways you can serve or become involved.

#### Volunteer

Our volunteers serve the BPC and its clients in many ways. Most are front line workers who answer calls as receptionists, or provide peer counseling as client advocates. Our volunteer nurses perform pregnancy tests and ultrasound scans. Male coaches help mentor new fathers. Other behind the scenes roles include serving as a board member, clerical assistant, graphic artist, or church liaison. We are currently searching for drivers for our mobile medical unit.

#### **Get Your Church Involved**

As a para-church organization, we recognize our need for local church support! Spread the word about our ministry by filling baby bottles with donations or hosting a presentation. Form a team for our annual Walk for Life. Hand out complimentary brochures provided by our center. Request a speaker to visit your pastor's group or bible study.

#### **Donate Items for Mothers and Babies**

Our boutique often needs new or gently used maternity clothing and supplies, preemie and infant clothing and supplies, furniture such as cribs, stollers or play pens, etc. You can host a baby shower for the center or stop by and drop your items off at the center.

#### **Become A Monthly Giver**

Your tax-deductible donations--along with our faithful volunteers--enable us to provide services for our clients. Becoming a monthly donor ensures our ability to continue serving families and their unborn children.

MAIL your donation to 1801 21st Street #1, 93301
GIVE ONLINE at www.bpcpartners.org

TEXT 'CENTER' to 41444

CALL 661-326-1915 to learn more about volunteering

### 2017 HIGHLIGHTS Jan - July

2,480 appointments have been made

745
pregnancy verifications were given

**581**of those tests were positive

24
clients chose to follow Jesus

545
clients discussed spiritual issues
with their peer counselor

412
ultrasounds were performed

89%

of abortion-vulnerable clients chose to continue their pregnancies after viewing an ultrasound

Thanks to our donors for making these services available to clients!