

From the Executive Director

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone! But, what a year it has been!

2017 was our busiest year yet - and we loved every minute of it. Here are some highlights of our year:

- Expanded STD testing to the community. As rates of sexually transmitted infections continue to increase, we saw the need to expand our free testing to areas that are most at-risk. *Read more about the program on page 2.*
- Expanded our Steps to Sexual Integrity Program. Our Sexual Integrity program has been a success since it began, but in 2017 we expanded to offer it to the farmworkers ministry, as well as the West Area Adult School. *Learn more about the expanded classes on page 2.*
- Expanded our services to **THREE** locations. 2017 started the ball rolling for the opening of our Bartow clinic in January 2018. We are so excited to have this location to help more women transform their fear into confidence!

We couldn't have done any of this without our incredibly generous donors. Your support over the last year helped us save 263 babies!

And to our hard-working and stellar staff, volunteers and board - thank you, thank you, thank you for how hard you worked this year. We pushed ourselves, but you always kept joyful, loving hearts!

We can't wait to see what 2018 has in store for us!

Together for life,
Marilyn Paul



2017 Numbers at a Glance

Patients Served: 351

Positive Pregnancy Tests: 314

STD Tests: 200

Lives Saved: 263

We are pleased to report that of our patients who were at-risk for abortion, **90%** chose life!!

Now Serving Bartow!

2017 laid the groundwork for one of our most exciting moments - the opening of our new clinic in Bartow. What started off as a simple appeal for financial support from some in the Bartow community quickly turned into an amazing opportunity to serve more women and save even more lives. We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who worked hard to help us make this clinic a reality. Your prayers and generosity paved the way, and we have been welcomed with open arms by everyone in Bartow. If you haven't had a chance to see our new clinic, located in the Bartow Church Service Center, we'd love to take you on a tour. Contact Marilyn at 863-682-5763 or mp@optionsforwomenphc.com to schedule.



The joy on Marilyn's face says it all! Thank you Bartow!
See more scenes from the opening on page 4.

What Our Patients Have to Say

“Who would have known that coming to Options for Women would have such a significant impact in my life? I went there just to get an ultrasound to check to see how far along this pregnancy was, as my husband and I had lost a child previously and we just wanted to see if this was a viable pregnancy. When we got there we were treated wonderfully by all the staff. After having my ultrasound done we were nervous as we still weren't sure if the pregnancy was viable yet (too early to tell). That's when we met the nurse and advocate. They took the time to talk to me and my husband about our options, and provided us with information on a ton of resources that were available if we needed them and how to contact them. I left there worried but happy to have gone.

Then I received an email. I hadn't spoken with them in months and assumed after my first visit I wouldn't be hearing from them again. But here I was staring at an email asking how I was doing. At the time my family was going through a very rough patch. I ended up very sick and was high risk. The stress alone was almost too much to bare and here I was being shown that we were not alone. From the moment I received that email, I have been in contact with the women who make Options for Women possible. Even when my son was born 5 weeks premature and with severe health issues, they stood by my side and were there for me in prayer and in thought. This is when I realized that Options for Women wasn't just a place for women to go get health care that can't afford it, or for women who need support. This is also a place for women to come together and be there for one another and I would not have been able to get through the stresses and the things that I've been through in the last 9 months without these women who stood by my side. They went above and beyond and I wasn't just a patient, I was a person. There needs to be more places like this! I tell all my friends about my experience with them and I recommend to everyone who may end up in a situation where they need some of the wonderful services that they offer!”



“I am so grateful that Options for Women holds STD testing at Florida Southern College. It is a great way to spread awareness of STD prevention and for students to gain knowledge on STDs. The pamphlets are very helpful; I have shown them to my fellow peers which help them learn something new as well. Since the STD testing is held on campus, the location is exceedingly convenient. I hope that Options for Women and Florida Southern continue their partnership in the future so that students may have access to the STD tests.”

Community STI Testing

The CDC released a troubling report on the rates of sexually transmitted infections, and Florida and Polk County continue to show increases in the rates of infection. Because the population of 15-24 year olds showed alarming increases in infection rates and because of the dangers untreated STIs can pose to a person's reproductive health, we felt it was important to offer our free STI testing to a broader segment of the community. We have formed partnerships with local colleges and other organizations to offer our testing directly on campus, thereby removing the burden of transportation, as well as finances. Along with free testing, we have the opportunity to also counsel students on making healthier life choices in the future.

Steps to Sexual Integrity Success

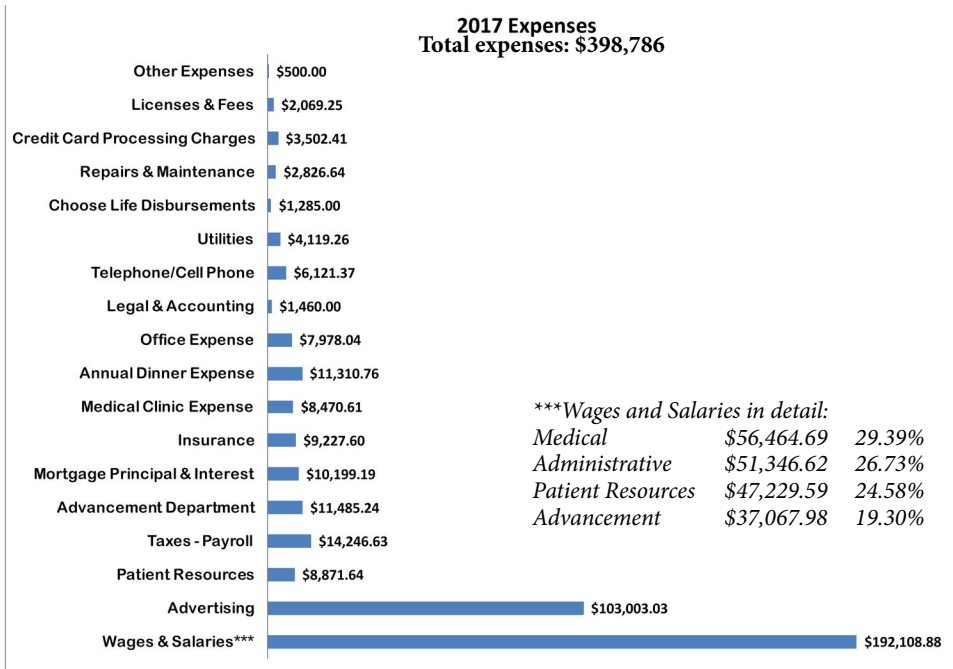
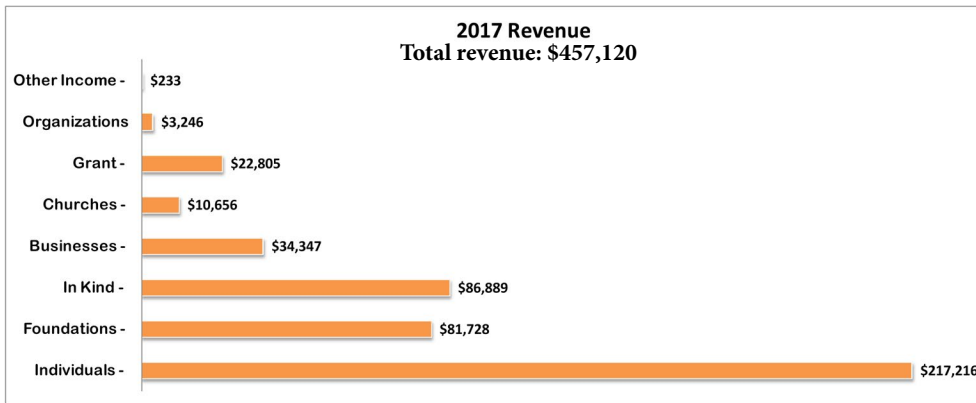
We are currently serving the Farm Workers Ministry, where we meet twice a month with a group of 25 women who have been exposed to wrong concepts and experiences in sexuality. We share biblical knowledge on the subject. It has been a fantastic experience to hear how useful the information has been to them. Participants believe that this knowledge can save the next generation from the traumatic experiences they had to endure, mainly for lacking the right information. They say knowledge is power and we can testify to how empowered these women have become. By the end of February, we were also welcomed at the West Area Adult School, where we present our class to women, as well as a group of men (the first time we've done a men's course). We have been at the school for four weeks and we are already getting very good responses from participants, including sincere thanks for bringing this information. We love “the talk” - we celebrate sex and we work hard to make sure this beautiful gift is embraced the way God intended.

Thank You To Our Volunteers!

Our volunteers play a crucial role in helping us provide our services to women in our community. From helping out behind the scenes, to working as advocates and nurses, our volunteers are amazing!



2017 Financials



We are so grateful to everyone who supports us through financial donations, and we work incredibly hard to be excellent stewards of every dollar we receive. All of the services we provide our patients are FREE of charge, including our community STD testing and Steps to Sexual Integrity course. If you have any questions about our financials, contact Emily Massarella at emm@optionsforwomenphc.com.

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Bartow Clinic Opening

We were honored to have Commissioner of Agriculture and hometown favorite Adam Putnam at our grand opening!



Thanks to generous donations, we have an ultrasound machine, exam table, and screen to view the ultrasound for our Bartow patients. The Libertore Fund for Children provided the funds for our ultrasound machine - thank you so much!



Scenes from the Last Year!



We were very busy last year! We were out in the community more than ever, sharing our mission, collecting baby bottles, and saving lives! We hosted tours for youth groups and other community members, and enjoyed sharing our mission whenever we could. We're looking forward to even more great activities in 2018!