

WELCOME TO OUR

# Quarterly Newsletter

*We're so glad you're here!*

## Why is an Executive Board Important Anyway?

### AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR UNSUNG HEROES

As the staff at the Center is busy seeing and ministering to clients, most days go by without considering what keeps our Center afloat. But, without this group of mostly unsung heroes, the Center would lack vision and leadership. Some falsely criticize the pro-life movement for lacking professionalism. Some even go as far as calling pregnancy centers “fake clinics.” But this could not be further from the truth! Pregnancy centers are well organized and have a stable hierarchy of leadership that promotes excellence in serving our clients.

At the top of that hierarchy is our Executive Board. This Board includes elected officers along with the Executive Director. They volunteer to serve our Center by providing leadership and direction. They uphold the mission of the Center which describes the role of First Choice Women’s Center as providing medical and educational services to those facing unplanned pregnancies, encouraging sexual integrity, and empowering individuals to make life-affirming choices. They set short-term and long-term goals for the future of our Center and then help implement them. They faithfully help steward the financial gifts you give that allow the Center to run smoothly to best care for those facing unplanned pregnancies. And they are fully committed to living out the Center’s official vision statement that sees every life as sacred, valued, and welcomed.

The importance of a good board cannot be overstated. Centers have faltered and closed because of poor leadership at the board level. We are thankful that the Lord has provided our Center with a well-run board staffed with members who give of their time, talent, and treasure to devote themselves to serving our clients.

Please take time to pray and thank God for our current board members: **John Oliver (Chair), Jason Jones, April Jackson, Desmond Watson, Phyllis Boyett, Pam Rogers, and Matt Barrett.** We could not do what we do without them!

# Meet the First Choice Team

*staff & volunteer spotlight!*



## Courtney Harry

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Courtney has worked at First Choice Women's Center for 11 years as our Office Manager. She is one of the first smiling faces our clients encounter after walking through the doors of the Center. She also handles donations and finances, and makes sure the office runs smoothly.

Over the last 11 years, Courtney has seen the Center add staff members as the number of clients increased. Her favorite part of working at the Center is building relationships with both clients and staff. She states, "I am truly blessed to work with some of my dearest friends!" Courtney also states how special it is to get to pray together and be the "hands and feet of Jesus to the women and men we serve."

She is married to Joseph and they have four children (Savannah, Colby, Charley and Caroline). She attends Rosemont Baptist Church.

## Audra Partin

### CLIENT ADVOCATE

As a Client Advocate, Audra meets with clients to counsel them. She also supports them through their ultrasound appointment. Her favorite part of her role at the Center is "hearing their stories and offering to pray with them."

If you are considering volunteering at the Center, Audra wants you to know, "If you have a heart for this ministry—whether women in crisis or a passion for the unborn—this will be your favorite day of the week. It is such a privilege to speak into women's lives at a crucial time."

Audra is originally from South Georgia but has called LaGrange her home for the last 12 years. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Rhett, and together they have three children (Rivers, Towson & Andi). She works part-time at Oakbridge Insurance and serves at First Choice as a Client Advocate. She attends First Baptist Church.



FIRST CHOICE WOMEN'S CENTER PROVIDES COMPASSION, HOPE AND HELP TO WOMEN IN

OUR COMMUNITY FACING UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES.

CLIENT ADVOCATES TYPICALLY SERVE ONCE A WEEK, WHERE THEY MEET WITH CLIENTS FOR PREGNANCY TEST

APPOINTMENTS, AS WELL AS TEACH OUR EARN WHILE YOU LEARN PARENTING CLASSES.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CLIENT ADVOCATE, CONTACT LISA ELLEN AT 706-884-3833.

# A Board Member's Experience

BY: JASON JONES

FIRST CHOICE BOARD MEMBER & PASTOR OF  
WESTERN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH



Throughout the 21 years that I have pastored, I have consistently preached for the cause of the sanctity of human life. Every year when the January remembrance comes, there is no doubt about what the sermon will be. So many applications does this theme have, and abortion is only a start. Of course the issue comes up frequently throughout the year as the Lord dictates. I believe it is a cause/position/theological understanding that all believers should hold. It is dear to me.

I have served on the boards of two pregnancy centers almost continually since 2010. In Tifton, I was privileged to work as the Director of Advancement for our center there, which involved donor relations, fundraising, church connections, and events. So, it was very natural to accept an invitation to serve on the board here at First Choice Women's Center. It is a chance to continue pouring into women's lives in the community and preserving the lives of the preborn. This board operates so smoothly and is full of godly men and women who are committed to Christ, the gospel, and the belief that human life is sacred. When board meetings are enjoyable, it is a great testimony to those who serve.

My time as a board member has allowed me to grow in my understanding of current issues and other perspectives, as we all bring so much to the table. As a pastor, I try to contribute that perspective as the board tries to reach out to pastors and churches for relationship and cooperative ministry. Getting to pray with and for our staff and counselors has been a true joy. Michelle, the center's director, is also a gift to the center for kingdom advancement and the preservation of life.



If you have an interest in being used by God to channel the love of Christ by serving on the board, we would love to explore those possibilities. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

*If you have a heart for the ministry of First Choice Women's Center and are interested in learning more about becoming a board member, please call Michelle at 706-884-3833.*

# How You Can Offer Support

*Thank you!*



## BABY BOUTIQUE DONATIONS

We are in need of new or gently used baby clothing, size newborn - 18 months for our Baby Boutique! This part of our ministry allows expecting mothers to shop for an array of needs using their "baby bucks." Clients work hard to earn these by attending our Earn While You Learn education classes, completing their homework, and participating in a Bible study every week. Contact us for drop-off, or come by anytime during our office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm).

## PURCHASE COFFEE WITH A PURPOSE

We are so excited about our new partnership with Seven Weeks Coffee! First Choice will receive 10% of coffee sales when you purchase from our link. Head to the website below to order and support us as we work together to protect life!

<https://sevenweekscoffee.com/?ref=FirstChoiceLaGrange>



## CONSIDER BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

If you are a member of a church, sunday school class, Bible study group, etc. interested in an easy way to support First Choice, consider the Baby Bottle Boomerang. We provide the bottles, you fill them with change, and then you send them right back!

## REP A CHOOSE LIFE PLATE

Take a quiet stand for life everywhere you drive, while also helping fund pregnancy centers! Get your Choose Life license plates.

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



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**Women's Center**



**Join our Prayer Team:**  
**Text PRAYER to 706.668.7525**