

WELCOME TO OUR
Quarterly Newsletter
We're so glad you're here!

**First Choice Women's Center
2024 Fundraiser Recap!**

We had a blast this year at our annual fundraiser! The venue was the beautiful Oakfuskee Conservation Center. We ate all kinds of delicious breakfast foods and enjoyed the sweeping views of West Point Lake. We want to take a moment and thank all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to attend our event.

Our keynote speaker this year was Rebekah Hagan. And, wow, she was phenomenal. Rebekah told her personal story of experiencing teenaged, unplanned pregnancies and a subsequent abortion. Fortunately, Rebekah was able to participate in the Abortion Pill Reversal procedure and her pregnancy was saved. She revealed how God's grace was poured out upon her through that experience, and she wove a lot of very helpful information into her story. We are still hearing testimonies from those who attended about how much they learned from Rebekah's story.

Thank you to all who came out to support our Center. We are so grateful for a community that sees what we do as important and worthy of your time and treasure. This year we were able to raise a record-breaking \$160,000!

These funds will enable us to continue to meet the needs of those who find themselves in unplanned pregnancies and to give them the good news of the gospel. When you give to First Choice, you partner with us in this battle to protect the sanctity of human life. We could not do what we do without you!



Thank you! to our Gold Sponsors:

**An Affair to Remember | Axis Dental Milling | Blackwell's Inc.
Bryant Electric | Bryant Security | Jackson Services | LEAD Advisors
Danny & Sharon Toth | West Georgia Vision**

Meet the First Choice Team

staff & volunteer spotlight!



Michelle Thompson

FIRST CHOICE WOMEN'S CENTER DIRECTOR

Michelle has served as First Choice Women's Center's Director for over 17 years. Her role at First Choice involves managing all aspects of the ministry such as client services, finances, development, and public relations. Michelle has watched the Center grow and change over the years. Her dream for First Choice is to acquire a larger facility to continue to expand and serve more clients.

Michelle states the best part of her role is the people she serves with including staff, volunteers, and board members. The most challenging part of her job is establishing solid partnerships with local churches. If you are considering volunteering at the Center, Michelle wants you to know that sharing the love of Jesus with women in need of a Savior is one of the most rewarding experiences.

She and her husband Scott have 2 children (Zack and Zoe). Zack attends Mercer University where he is a catcher on their baseball team. Zoe is a senior at LaGrange High School. She plans to attend UGA in the fall, which is Michelle's Alma Mater. Michelle is excited to have another Bulldog in the family!

Sue Brown

CLIENT ADVOCATE

Sue serves as a Client Advocate at First Choice. In her role, she provides emotional support, information, and referrals to women who are facing unplanned pregnancies. Sue says she has learned so much from volunteering at the Center, and says she was surprised to learn about how much adoption has changed for the better over the years. She informs her clients who are facing crisis pregnancies that making an adoption plan gives life and blessing to all involved. Sue would like you to know that volunteering at First Choice Women's Center is a rewarding experience and that "it is a wonderful place to help those facing a surprise pregnancy."

She and her husband, Teddy, have been married for 47 years and have three adult children and five grandchildren. She attends Rosemont Baptist Church where she and Teddy serve in multiple roles. Sue retired from Wellstar West Georgia after working as an RN for 46 years and served in the role of ICU Director. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, Bible study, exercising, and traveling.



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.

Common Misconceptions regarding the Abortion Law

BY: JULIE DIXON
STAFF NURSE



Another day, another misconception, and so the story goes.

Unfortunately, it seems that the loudest voices are the ones misrepresenting Georgia's law regarding abortion. At First Choice Women's Center, we believe that it is incumbent upon us as Christians to pursue truth in all matters. In John 14:6, Jesus claims that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. God equips the saints with the belt of truth. (Eph. 6:14) And, of course, not bearing false witness is described in the Ten Commandments. So, when considering the Georgia abortion law, we should demand truth and accuracy.

In 2019, the Georgia Legislature passed the Living Infants Fairness and Equality (LIFE) Act. The law provides that no abortion shall be performed if the unborn child has a detectable human heartbeat. There are two exception clauses in this act for cases of rape or incest or a medically futile pregnancy. If a pregnant woman meets either of these two criteria, the law will then extend to 20 weeks gestation.¹

So, what about miscarriage care? What about the treatment of ectopic pregnancies? If a woman has an abortion after the legal limit, will she go to jail if she seeks care at an emergency room? What if the mother's life is at stake?

The truthful answers to these questions can be found in the law itself. The Georgia Department of Public Health was tasked with creating a resource used to give informed consent to all women seeking abortion. This document is in the form of a booklet entitled, "Abortion: A Woman's Right to Know." It spells out the information the state has determined a woman must be made aware of in order for her to give proper informed consent. It specifically states, "The law does not prohibit the removal of a dead unborn child caused by a spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) or the removal of an ectopic pregnancy." When considering the life and health of the mother, the law states it does "not consider an act an abortion if there is a medical emergency in which an abortion is necessary in order to prevent the death of or substantial and irreversible physical impairment of the pregnant woman."² This law does not criminalize the mother even if she illegally obtains an abortion. It clearly states, "Any woman upon whom an abortion is performed in violation of (the law) may recover in a civil action from the person who engaged in such violation all damages available to her under Georgia law for any torts." The law actually provides her legal standing for personal financial compensation if she receives an illegal abortion.

**So, the law is clear. Abortion carries risks.
But these risks are inherent to the procedure and not the law.**

¹ [Dph.georgia.gov/womens-right-know-wrtk](https://dph.georgia.gov/womens-right-know-wrtk)

² www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20192020/187013

Charis

ABORTION RECOVERY

If you or someone you know have experienced the pain of abortion, we would love for you to join us for our confidential and nonjudgmental post-abortion bible study.

Classes are scheduled to begin on February 18, 2025.

Call Lisa at 706-884-3833 for more information.



JOIN US IN PRAYER

We invite you to pray with us as we seek the Lord's guidance in planning for a new location for First Choice Women's Center. This is a dream we have for the ministry, and your prayers would play a huge part in how the Lord would lead us. Add us to your prayer list or set a daily or weekly alarm on your phone to remember to intercede with and for us! We thank you in advance!



PURCHASE COFFEE WITH A PURPOSE

Have you heard about our partnership with Seven Weeks Coffee? First Choice will receive 10% of all coffee sales when you purchase with our QR code. Scan the code to head to the website and order to support us as we work together to protect life!

"Our mission is to promote Godly values, provide excellent coffee, and protect every beating heart."



NEED: DIAPER BAGS

Expecting mothers who participate in our Earn While You Learn classes have the opportunity to spend their "baby bucks" by shopping in our Baby Boutique. Our greatest current need for the boutique is new or gently used diaper bags. You can drop off donations any time during our regular business hours and our staff and clients would be deeply grateful!



CLIENT REVIEWS:

When asked what they liked best about their experience at First Choice, they stated:

- “
- How comfortable and nice they make the process from the beginning.
 - I liked that they were very attentive, informative and Christian based.
 - The friendly and helpful staff.
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