



Downtown Pregnancy Center

525 N. Ervay St.
Dallas, Texas 75201
Phone: 214-969-2433
Fax: 214-969-7869
E-Mail: ccline@firstdallas.org

We are on the web at
www.downtownpc.org/helpus

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Third Quarter 2008

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Handling the Pressure of a Tight Economy

It doesn't take an economist, or any type of mental giant, to figure out that we're living in somewhat tenuous financial times. With the higher gas prices has come the residual effect of rising prices in the grocery store and in all types of other places as well. While the experts remind us that by definition we are not in recession, we all certainly have felt the squeeze of a tightening economy.

Many of us are changing our driving habits and cutting back on certain purchases. We see evidence of changed behaviors as a reaction to the pressures felt from tightening our budgets. But, rather than see the tightening economy as choking the life out of us, I believe we can look around and see examples of how pressure has been positively used.

Have you ever marveled at the beauty of a butterfly in flight? That ability to fly is the end result of that creature being forced to struggle to free itself from a tight opening in a cocoon. Without that struggle its wings would not be strong enough or dry enough for it to fly. What about oil, that black gold? The way it is brought above ground so it can be useful is through applied pressure to force it from underground to the surface. And, the pressure on my personal pocketbook has translated into my daughter and I now carpooling with another family for our travel to her school and my workplace. The positive end result has been that in our fast paced society we have more time to spend conversing with friends and we sometimes even have impromptu business while driving.

At the DPC, we have seen evidence of the tightening economy touch our clients as well. We see a greater sense of desperation in women with unplanned pregnancies, grasping to find the funds to abort a child they are afraid that cannot afford to care for. Located in downtown Dallas, we are seeing an increasing number of homeless women coming in for pregnancy tests. Living on the streets provides no security, and many have been sexually assaulted and are afraid they are pregnant as a result. In this past July alone, we experienced a 112% increase in the number of client visits over July, 2007.

In these challenging economic times, for those of us in ministries that are completely dependent on financial gifts to keep our doors open, the natural tendency would be to cut

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Current Statistics

How God Has Moved January – July 2008

New Clients	475
Total Client Visits	1045
Gospel Presented	357
New Believers	63
Babies Saved	139

DPC Mission Statement

The Downtown Pregnancy Center is a Christ-centered ministry empowering women to affirm life by meeting their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Hours of Operation

Monday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DPC Board of Directors

Taber Bearden	Marc Bryant
Mike Congrove	June Hunt
Kandace Lindsey	Brenda Mahon
Jody Mow	Peggy Petty
Deron Wade	

DPC Staff

Carolyn Cline, Executive Director
Vicki Gosdin, Director of Development
Christi Johnson, Director of Client Services
Dana Patrick, Director of Clinic Services
Cindy Grucholski – Administrative Assistant

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:7



back on the free services we offer.

But, God has not given us a spirit of fear or timidity. He has not lessened our call to be a place for hope and light to those who are the “least of these” in our society. And,

He has abundantly blessed us with “butterflies” of our own; with women who have emerged from their struggles to lives that have been transformed by the touch of His Holy Spirit.

Yes, a tightening economy can be disconcerting. **But, it also creates for us a sense of urgency and a greater opportunity to reach more of our hurting world for Christ in whom we place our hope.** Our prayer is as you adjust your budget that you’ll do your best to remember us. We know some have even stepped up their giving to help fill the gap, realizing that some others have had to cut back their support.

We are incredibly thankful for your faithful support through your prayers, gifts of time, in-kind donations and monetary gifts. The DPC is growing dramatically in its outreach to women and families facing unplanned pregnancies. As a result, more lives are being transformed – and the lives of more children than ever before are being saved – because of the many who choose to support this ministry. I pray we never forget to say a heartfelt “thank you” to those who

give their resources so that this critical outreach thrives in our community.



Serving with Gratitude,

*Carolyn Cline
Executive Director*

Why Vote Pro-Life?

With upcoming elections before us, and much to consider regarding local, state and federal races, is it really that important to look at a candidate’s voting record regarding pro-life issues? We believe it is vastly important! Abortion is a defining issue and where one stands on this issue clearly shows their belief system. If one believes that God is the creator of all life and that man is created in God’s image, then one must agree that abortion is a violent ending of a human life, an attack on the sovereignty of God and the destruction of His image in the womb of the mother. Furthermore, it is an assault on the dignity and sacredness of man and on the value and respect accorded to him by God Himself. Abortion is a brutal rejection of the call to respect, protect, love and serve our neighbor. Surely we would not vote for anyone who rejects the value of offering protection and respect for those in their constituency – both those able to vote this November and those who would be able to vote in the future, if given a chance to have a future.

2009 - SAVE THE DATES!!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009

Annual PRAYER FOR LIFE held at the DPC. Calling all Prayer Warriors to enlist in this most important event! Courageous souls are needed to sign up for this assignment of praying for those making life and death decisions at the DPC in 2009.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2009

MARCH FOR LIFE – Beginning at the Guadalupe Cathedral on Ross Avenue and proceeding to the courthouse where Roe vs. Wade sadly made history, then returning, for the first time in history, to the First Baptist Church of Dallas. FBCD pastor Dr. Robert Jeffress will join with Catholic Bishops as denominations from around the city “take to the streets” for life. The Downtown Pregnancy Center will be open for tours and lunch will be available at the informational fair held at the Criswell Center in Centerstage at FBCD.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2009

The DPC Inaugural LOVE OF LIFE LADIES LUNCHEON – Held at the Adolphus Hotel. You won’t want to miss an enlightening program and a fun time for all women who love purses by participating in a special event, “Bags for Babies.”

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

Third annual GOLF ROUNDUP FOR LIFE - Held at the beautiful Stonebriar Country Club on the Fazio course. There will be a 1:30 PM shot-gun start with a great boxed lunch, games, prizes, and a fabulous awards dinner. This is always a very fun event so get a bucket of balls and practice your swing so that you can be in contention for some great prizes!

Heart Felt Thanks!

We’ve heard and read so many stories about difficult economic conditions; it is easy to sense a financial pinch everywhere we turn. This space seems so small and words seem so inadequate to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who continue to faithfully support the ministry of the Downtown Pregnancy Center! You no doubt see the news and hear the stories, but you’ve made a conscious choice to invest in the work here, partnering with us in the mission of touching hearts and saving lives.

In two words, “Thank you!” On this end, your choice is not being overlooked—and it is appreciated.

There is no small gift in God’s economy! We always delight in the “pennies from heaven” that are given from some of our youngest donors. We have seen this support come from all sources:



from the children who participate in our Baby Bottle Blessings campaigns by filling bottle “banks” with their pennies, nickels and dimes, from the FBA Bible students who compete to fill giant baby bottle banks and raised hundreds of dollars, from Boy and Girl Scout troops who put together big brother and sister bags, from the preschool class that held a diaper drive, and from one special



▲ Kristen (seated) with some enthusiastic customers.

ten year old young lady, Kristen Patrick, who felt a tug on her young heart to do something for the DPC.

Kristen came up to her mother, our staff member Dana Patrick, one morning this summer stating she had an idea for raising money for the DPC. She had a bag of candy and she decided she could “sell” this candy to other children in her summer day camp program. Her mom said that sounded like a good idea and planned to discuss it with her later after she okayed the project with the day camp directors. Unbeknownst to her mother, Kristen placed the candy in her backpack that same day and enthusiastically started her “sales” as

soon as she arrived at her summer program, collecting her receipts in an old baby bottle. As another mother dropped off her child, she recognized Kristen, saw what she was doing, and took her picture. Kristen raised \$22.70 and proudly presented it to the DPC. We are so delighted by her cheerful giving and with her entrepreneurial spirit!

For those looking for a way to bring children into the process of giving to the Downtown Pregnancy Center, consider your next restaurant trip as an opportunity. You may do this already, but if each person in a family of four orders water instead of a soft drink or tea, you may save as much as \$10-\$15 (when we consider tax and tip).

Why not remind children of the significance of this ministry and drink a “toast” to saving lives? The funds saved can be sent along to the center as a gift. If you let us know you are participating in this creative giving opportunity, we will send back a thank you letter that includes your children’s names (just send us their names) so they will know that they too, are making a valuable contribution to this ministry.



*Vicki Gosdin,
Director of Development*



▲ Client Jenna and newborn son, Jackson.



▲ Proud parents Jasmine & Jerry with baby Javon.



▲ Mom Carrie helps Beau take his first steps as he models his outfit from the Wee Care Shopppe.



▲ Gabrielle drops by for a visit with her newborn son.



▲ Supporter Amy Eubanks shows the beautiful cake she made for the prenatal class shower.



◀ The Spanish Bible study is growing on Thursday mornings!

Volunteer Bible teacher Joan Brown celebrates three quarters of a century ▼



Joan enjoys opening gifts from her Bible class students.. ▼



▲ Staffer Christi Johnson (standing) visits with client, Courtney, before prenatal class.



The Lord of Restoration

I have heard it said that our Lord is the God of second chances. I think we all understand that need for forgiveness and have wished that we could have a “do over” at some point in our lifetime. God showed Himself true as our merciful Lord in a very specific way to one of our clients who came in recently.

Bethany* had not been walking with the Lord for a while and had been separated from her husband. She feared she was pregnant about the same time she was trying to reconcile with her husband. As her pregnancy was confirmed at the center, she shared that the pregnancy was from a relationship other than her husband. Although she was a Christian, she had already begun contemplating abortion so that the pregnancy would not interfere with her plans and desire to get back with her husband.

During her visit to the Downtown Pregnancy Center she received the information that she was seeking on abortion and the risks involved. We also provided a sonogram the same day and, not only did she meet her baby for the first time, but also met its twin!!! After seeing her babies and hearing their two different heartbeats, her heart melted! She decided then that she was going to carry these babies, even if it cost

her. She wanted God back on the throne of her life, and laid the circumstances of her marriage and this unexpected high risk pregnancy at His feet.

In subsequent conversations, Bethany shared that she was continuing to be resolute in choosing life for the babies in her womb, but after confessing her unfaithfulness and the resulting pregnancy, her husband was struggling with continuing reconciliation. She asked that we would pray for God to give him direction and her strength. That request went out immediately on our prayer chain.

When I spoke with her a few weeks ago she thanked us for everything we had done for her. She also shared with me that her husband has decided to continue with the reconciliation and that he wants to raise the babies as his own. Praise the Lord; she has been given her second chance! And, the precious lives in her womb have been given two loving parents that are committed to raising their children in a Christian home.

God has been faithful to “bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of



▲ Sonogram of twins early in first trimester.

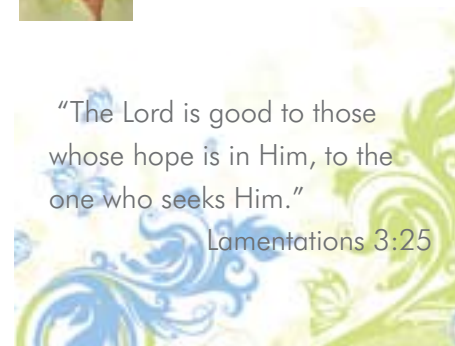
ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.” (Isaiah 61:3)

Please pray for this client and her family as they walk down the challenging road of reconciliation. Satan would like nothing more than to destroy this family with these circumstances. But, we know He can and will use the good, the bad and the ugly in each of our lives to bring Him honor and glory when we allow Him to do so.



Dana Patrick, RN,
Director of Client Services

“The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him.”
Lamentations 3:25



“Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places”

“He gave me my precious baby boy.” “As I express my

The lines from this old country song express a sentiment that is understood by many of us. And, while this expression represents the search of many of our clients, for one in particular, this search seemed almost never ending.

Tiffany Roberts came to the pregnancy center in January of this year for a

As a teenager Tiffany was drawn into easily acceptable friendships that were mostly drug and sex related. These so-called friendships always found Tiffany as the giver of herself and as a receiver of the world’s answers for pain – addictions and a broken heart. Tiffany shared with us that she always had

love for the Lord and my child, I want to be the right kind of mother and a good Christian example for him to follow.” This is the constant desire of Tiffany’s heart. We have watched her grow in the Lord and she declares that she is “not ashamed of the Gospel” and loves the Lord with all her heart. Tiffany wants her story of forgiveness and unconditional love from Jesus Christ to be told and has asked us to share her real name as testimony of what God has done for her.



▲ Tiffany (3rd from left) poses with her prenatal class members.

pregnancy test. Scared, confused and concerned about her health, Tiffany was worried about being pregnant.

Like many of us, Tiffany grew up in a small Texas town. As an infant she experienced a kidney abnormality, but, by the grace of God, the physicians were able to correct the malfunction with a mechanical kidney. This battle for life at an early age was only a sign of later struggles to come for Tiffany. At age 18 Tiffany experienced the devastating effects of her parents’ divorce. The pain of the break up of her family left Tiffany with a fierce search for security, significance, and finally, unconditional love.

family members who knew the Lord and encouraged her to learn more about Him. After years of Satan’s strong hold of addiction and after serving 40 days and nights of jail time, Tiffany accepted Christ gift of salvation. However, she never really grew in that relationship and she lived without the Lord being on the throne of her life.

After coming to the DPC, Tiffany was encouraged to carry her pregnancy and to see it as a gift from God. She also began to understand how much the Lord treasured her as well. Tiffany said “she never knew so much love and forgiveness” as she knows now. Tiffany says, “I love the Lord and He loves me”; and, as He is a giver of all good gifts,

Tiffany has chosen a path to help her to grow in the Lord and is now an active member of First Baptist Dallas, Celebrate Recovery, and a participant in our Earn While You Learn program. When I last spoke with Tiffany, she tearfully expressed the joy and acceptance she feels from the loving hearts of the volunteers and staff of our pregnancy center. Tiffany knows she will always be the child of a loving God, and not only that, but she has a purpose in His kingdom. Today we find Tiffany “Looking for Love in All the Right Places” and we praise God for another transformed life!



In Him,
Christi Johnson
Director of Client Services

