

Hope

PREGNANCY MINISTRIES

The mission of Hope Pregnancy Ministries is to honor Christ by providing an alternative to abortion through life affirming education and intervention, offering help and hope to women in need.



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A Servant’s Heart

by Michelle Reimer
Executive Director

In my nursing career, I have had the privilege of working with many people whom I respect. I have worked with Air Force colonels whose education and accomplishments were as impressive as the medals worn proudly on their chests; I have worked through the night with doctors who refused to give up hope for a dying patient. I’ve stood beside a surgeon who, with sweat pouring off his brow, labored tirelessly to save the life of a man...then shrugged off the praise of his peers. All of these people have inspired me, and motivated me to strive for professional excellence...they have inspired me to be better at what I *do*. But never before have I been as inspired by *people* as I am by the volunteers at Hope Pregnancy Ministries...people who make me want to be better at who I *am*.

Day after day, week after week, and year after year, the ministry of Hope is carried out primarily by the work of volunteers. I have been astounded by the commitment of people who, with no promise of reward or recognition, give of their time and energy to care for others. Our volunteers are the front line in caring for the women we serve. They hold their hands, laugh and cry with them, tell them hard truths about life and with each word and deed share the love of Christ with them. The men and women who serve at Hope Pregnancy Ministries do so without fanfare and without pay, with a heart for Jesus that calls them to *serve*.

Jesus talked about what it means to be a servant. In Matthew 20:26-28, Jesus said, “...whoever wants to

be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Jesus challenged our human idea of what it means to be important. He told all of us to strive for the only title that really matters, the one He chose and lived – servant. Jesus humbled himself by serving those who the world looked at as undeserving...and did it with compassion and love. That’s our calling...to sacrifice our own comfort, our own needs, and our own pride for others; in doing so, we’ll find out who Jesus wants us to *be*.

What is God calling you to do? Where will you serve? How will you fulfill your calling? Whether it’s at Hope Pregnancy Ministries or elsewhere, God has a plan for *you*...a way for you to serve Him by serving others. There are some feet to be washed...some dirty work to do...some unlovable people to love. These are the things that *matter*. This is where you will find who you really *are*.

BENEFITS OF *Volunteerism*

DID YOU KNOW?

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community. But did you know that it can have many benefits for you too? Here are some reasons to volunteer:

- **Learn or develop a new skill** – It's never too late to learn new skills, nor should you stop adding to your knowledge just because you are in unemployment or have finished your education.
- **Be part of your community** – Bridge the gap between society and the church by taking Christ to your community!
- **Motivation and sense of achievement** – People who volunteer report that they get back in satisfaction and joy more than they ever expend in inconvenience or effort – what you get back is immeasurable.
- **Boost your career options** - 73% of employers would recruit a candidate with volunteer experience over one without.
- **Volunteers are healthier... and live longer** - Research shows that those who engage in volunteer activities are less likely to suffer from ill health later in life and may be introduced into a positive reinforcing cycle of good health and future volunteering.
- **And the best reason to volunteer?** Because Jesus tells us in Mark that if we want to be first in the kingdom of God we must be the servant of all. Not just servants of those that might get us into higher places, but of everybody we meet. We must be last in order to be first. Bottom line? God will bless us when we serve others...and we, in turn, will bless the heart of God.



CHRISTMAS CARD UPDATE

Matching Donation Makes Impact

Christmas is a time for giving...and last year was no exception. Two friends of the ministry offered to match our Christmas donations, up to \$15,000 and our donors responded! In addition to the \$15,000 matching gift, our faithful and generous supporters blessed the ministry with \$23,604. We are so blessed to have such strong support from our community. Thank you all so much!

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT



Laura Rhodes

*HPRC
Volunteer*

HOPE PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER VOLUNTEER

My work at Hope Pregnancy Resource Center is born of my life experience. My mom was a teen mom in a day and age when the extended family stepped in and helped out in tough times. My parents were blessed with an extended family that lent their support to see them through those first few years, but our society isn't structured like that anymore...extended families often live thousands of miles away. Hope Pregnancy Resource Center closes that gap and offers support - *physically* with all that the baby needs, *emotionally* with education about parenting, and *spiritually* with prayer and reflections from the Bible.

It is one thing to say, as Christians, that a woman should have her baby, and not choose abortion. It is quite another thing to say that we, at Hope, will walk through a woman's pregnancy and the first 18 months of her child's life right alongside her. As mentors at the resource center, we spend two years getting to know each woman we serve and sharing our lives and the love of Christ with each of them. We celebrate first teeth and first steps together. We get slobbery kisses and chubby-faced grins from our client's babies. We serve appreciative women who realize how hard being a mother really is, but who are bolstered by our encouragement and preparation along the way. I began volunteering thinking I would serve these women (and the precious babies they are bringing into this world) and wound up being blessed by celebrating **life** with them.

I am overwhelmingly aware that God uses our training for His kingdom; however, in

this case the only training that is pertinent is that I am a woman! There is something about coming alongside a fellow double X chromosome carrier and just talking through the unique challenges those chromosomes and hormones bring to life! I am also an older woman - everyday I become more so I'm afraid! I can truly say to these women that, in most cases, "I've been there and done that!" in regards to sleepless nights, puking kids, and constipated toddlers, along with all of the other glamorous aspects of motherhood!

What matters most when serving in this ministry, and ultimately in God's kingdom, is that I made myself *available*. I went to Hope Pregnancy Ministries with open arms and an open heart. I prayed that God would somehow use me and give me the words needed to connect with the women we serve, and in some way show them the love of Christ through my own availability. In doing so, I have been blessed beyond measure.

vol•un•teer [vol-uh n-teer] –noun

1. a person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking.
2. a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.



HOW MUCH IS YOUR VOLUNTEER WORK WORTH?

Often we think that if we can't give financially to help a ministry, we can't help at all. Not so! Hope Pregnancy Ministries is blessed to have 28 volunteers, who give a total of approximately 120 hours per week to serve the cause of Christ! Without volunteers, Hope would need to hire staff and pay wages to cover this need. But at roughly 4 hours per week of volunteered time, each volunteer is giving a gift valued at around \$56 per week...\$224 per month...\$2,688 per year! That is a gift worth giving...a tool God can use to provide for the needs of the ministry, and provide ministry opportunities for willing hearts. *Imagine* if those hours were filled with *paid* positions...could this ministry survive?

Check out our new website!
www.hopepregnancyministries.org



Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

CLEAR CHOICE CLINIC VOLUNTEER



Kristin Veneman

CCC
Volunteer

Dr. Kristin Veneman is the newest volunteer Patient Advocate at Clear Choice Clinic. A pediatrician with a busy practice in Whitefish, Kristin is also the founder and Executive Director of *Growing in God's Love Childcare and Preschool*, and an active member of Whitefish Church of the Nazarene. She and Rob, her husband of 14 years, are the parents of four children ages 13, 11, 7 and 3. For a long time, she felt God calling her to volunteer at Hope, but thought she was too busy. She finally decided to take one day off from work per week to volunteer, and says it has been so rewarding! She "happens" to volunteer on the same day as the women's Bible study

at her church, so she now has the opportunity to participate in that, too...God planned that well!

Kristin was inspired to volunteer because of her own unplanned pregnancy in college. As she was entering medical school and her husband was shipping out with the US Marine Corps, she found herself pregnant. Feeling overwhelmed, she went to the local "pregnancy center" - Planned Parenthood - where she was convinced to have an abortion. She scheduled an appointment. Through the grace of God, she had a dream that made her realize she couldn't go through with the abortion. Her 13 year old son Kaleb is a daily reminder to her of God's grace in her life.

After experiencing the spirit of Christ at Clear Choice Clinic, Kristin wishes she would have had the opportunity to go to a crisis pregnancy center with loving, Christian women to help her. Her personal experience gives her such love and compassion toward the men and

women she serves that she gets tears in her eyes when she sees the little heartbeat on the ultrasound; Planned Parenthood wouldn't let her see her son's heartbeat. If they had, she says the decision - NO! - would have been made then and there.

She is grateful that God is already using her story, and that of her son, to testify to the beauty of choosing life. She recently stated, "I'm so blessed that our story is already being used to help others struggling through an unplanned pregnancy--God has used it for His glory! Wow...not only is God using me to help save babies and children after they're born, but now *before* they're born as well."



SANCTITY OF *Human Life* SUNDAY

We are most grateful to the following churches for participating in Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 24, 2010. The majority of these churches shared an impactful DVD message promoting Life. We appreciate your commitment to the cause of LIFE!

Active Word Ministries
Aletheia Fellowship
Bethel Baptist
Bible Baptist Church
Bigfork Chapel – Assembly of God
Calvary Chapel of Whitefish
Calvary Chapel of the Flathead Valley
Calvary Lutheran Church
Central Bible Church
Christ Church in the Valley
Christ Lutheran Church
Christian Center
Church at Creston – Lutheran
Church of Christ – Columbia Falls
Columbia Falls Assembly of God
Cornerstone Community Church
Crossroads Christian Fellowship
Dwelling Place

Easthaven Baptist Church
Faith Alliance Church
Faith Covenant Church
Fellowship Alliance Church
First Baptist Church of Bigfork
First Baptist Church of Kalispell
First Church of the Nazarene – Kalispell
Flathead Valley Cowboy Church
Fresh Life Church
Glacier Church
Grace Church
Happy Valley Missionary Baptist Church
Harvest Baptist Church
Headwaters Church
Kila Country Church
Little Brown Church
New Covenant Fellowship
North Valley Baptist Church
Northridge Lutheran Church
Salvation Army Church
St. Charles Borromeo
St. Matthew's Catholic Church
Swan Chapel
The River
Trinity Lutheran Church
Valley Community Church of God

Valley Victory Church
Whitefish Assembly of God
Whitefish Christian & Missionary Alliance
Whitefish Church of the Nazarene
Whitefish Foursquare Church

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Hope
PREGNANCY MINISTRIES

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at *Hope!*



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