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Dear Journey at First Baptist;

Thank you for your continued support of Yampa Valley Pregnancy Center. We appreciate that you recognize the value of our ministry here in the Yampa Valley.

2008 was a year of many changes for us. It is almost hard to believe that just a year ago found us recovering and rebuilding from the devastating fire that destroyed our office in November of 2007. We were offered housing in the auxiliary building at Faith Lutheran Church, and we gratefully accepted. At first we had expected it to be temporary housing, but we discovered that the situation worked so well that we are currently still there.

I would like to provide an overview of our ministry provisions for 2008, and I will include the statistics for the two years prior as well for comparison.

Basic summary of statistics for 2008:

Number of clients requesting Pregnancy Tests = 44
Number of client visits for Practical Needs = 272

Basic summary of statistics for 2007:

Number of clients requesting Pregnancy Tests = 63
Number of client visits for Practical Needs = 126

(Note: these statistics do not include clients for October and November; those records were lost in the fire)

Basic summary of statistics for 2006:

Number of clients requesting Pregnancy Tests = 43
Number of client visits for Practical Needs = 150

I would also like to comment further upon the statistics. Many times the perception of our clients is that they are simply "teens in trouble". However, further examination of the numbers reveal that out of the 44 pregnancy tests administered in 2008, only 5 clients were under age 18. 24 clients were between the ages of 18 and 25, and 15 were over age 25. Also, out of those 44 requests for pregnancy tests, 24 were single women, 16 were married, and 4 reported their status as divorced or separated.

Other interesting facts regarding the data on pregnancy tests are: Out of 44 tests administered, 10 were positive. And 39 clients provided an initial response that they would carry the child if their test was positive, and 4 indicated that they were undecided (with 1 client response being unanswered).

On the subject of meeting practical needs, I found it very interesting that client requests increased by over 80% in 2008. Practical Needs comprises our ministry area wherein we assist clients with tangible items such as clothing, diapers, baby formula, baby furniture, and other baby items. We do not currently record demographic data like age and marital status, but are working on a way to track that in the future.

We do, however, keep records breaking down those requests into categories of items. In the past year we had 103 requests for assistance in obtaining diapers, and 2371 diapers were dispensed. We fulfilled 62 requests for assistance with baby food and formula, and 160 requests for baby clothing and footwear. We provided blankets or bedding 27 times, and maternity clothing 26 times. There were 23 pieces of large baby furniture loaned out, along with 99 other miscellaneous items.

Our Earn While You Learn program was reinstated in February of last year, and we provided 73 individual EWYL classes. This is a very special program wherein clients register for classes offering pregnancy information, birth preparation, and baby care. Upon completion of each class, the client receives “baby bucks” which may be used to “purchase” brand new items that are theirs to keep to help them care for their baby.

I do not have a definitive answer as to why requests for Practical Needs increased so much in 2008. Some possibilities include that we are in a much more visible location (indeed some clients indicated they learned of us through seeing our sign); we received more coverage through newspaper articles; and we do suspect a greater level of “networking” by word of mouth in the local Hispanic community.

Our office is staffed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 1 – 4 pm, plus by appointment. We were very blessed to receive help from volunteers 126 times in 2008, whether they were able to share only an hour or two with us, or helped us on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. We sincerely appreciate each and every one of these special ladies. Without them, we could not handle the increased demand for our services.

If you have questions regarding any of the data included in this report, I would welcome your inquiries at 824-5204. Again, we appreciate your support, and pray that God would bless and reward your generosity.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Rudd, Director
Yampa Valley Pregnancy Center