

What's New At the Center

Teen Advisory Council Forming

We are forming a Teen Advisory Board of adults who will mentor high school, and eventually middle school, students to empower them to become a positive support system for their peers, and promote an awareness of the negative, unwise and unhealthy consequences that are part of substance abuse and premarital sexual activities. Our goal is to have the program in place for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Kathy Bockelman, 1-970-314-8539 or email her at: Lulubell217@yahoo.com.

A Basket of Love

A member of one of our churches in town has come up with what we think is a wonderful idea! We're calling it *A Basket of Love*. Once a month she will put out a big basket that the congregation will fill with the designated baby item for that month (diapers, wipes, jars of food, boxes of cereal, etc.) which will be brought to the Pregnancy & Family Center. It's a great way to partner with us in helping anyone raising infants and toddlers. If you would like more information on how to do this at your church, please call Vicki at the Center: 970-824-5204, or email yvpc@rocketmail.com.

Other Center News

Our Partnerships

We are partnering with two agencies in Craig to support their work and ministry with our work and ministry.

Love INC

We are offering 6 of our *Earn While You Learn* Life Skills lessons to everyone who takes Love INC's *Faith & Finance* classes. Besides providing great information on renting an apartment, buying a car, avoiding roommate conflicts and insurance issues, everyone receives a really cool gift incentive for staying for the elective lessons. We've done 2 sets of lessons so far and the response has been wonderful!

Bear River Young Life

We also partner with the Young Lives portion of BRYL by providing a place for their young moms to meet once a month and receive whatever practical need items they want. It's another way we are reaching out to teen and young adult moms while supporting the work of a partner agency and loving others in the name of Jesus.

Baby Bottle Fund Raising Drive

It's almost time for our annual Baby Bottle Drive! We will have bottle available at several churches and the Center starting on Mother's Day (May 14). If you take a bottle, please fill it with cash and/or coins (checks are OK too!) and return them on Father's Day (June 18). Please call the Center for more info!

Vicki's Vantage Point



I spent the first quarter of 2017 completing all kinds of reports: our annual report, reports to grant makers and the regular monthly reports to our board of directors. I am not a numbers person, so I find these reports very challenging to do, but rewarding to see. Our annual reports are on our website – so you can see them there. Click on About Us, then Financial Reports.

The numbers show we are serving more families each year. Last year we took care of 93 unduplicated families. They came for 308 practical needs visits. Forty of those moms and dads also took 315 *Earn While You Learn* lessons, and received over \$700 in perishable food (April 2016 through March 2017).

Even more meaningful are the stories of our moms and dads. We have a few moms who can stay at home with their babies because of the help we are giving. That means so much to them, and to me. It was very difficult for me to leave my infant with a sitter every day I had to work – even though she was fantastic. I am so blessed to be able to offer support for these moms!

More dads are coming in to get baby care items and/or take lessons. This is a big deal, and we affirm our dads and their care for their families. We just celebrated with one couple who got married, and another will be marrying soon. The Lord seems to be turning the hearts of fathers toward their children, and the hearts of children toward their fathers (Malachi 4:6).

It is an honor and a great privilege to be part of this work in our community. We appreciate all of you who partner with us in any way.

Yampa Valley Pregnancy & Family Center News

April 2017

A Brief History of the Center

In July 1984 First Baptist Church of Craig opened The Yampa Valley Crisis Pregnancy Center to meet the needs of the increasing number of pregnant teens in the county. We wanted teen-age girls to have a safe place to come so offered free pregnancy tests and counsel on how to tell their parents if they were pregnant. We also were there to support them in whatever way they wanted throughout their pregnancy and after the baby was born.

One of our goals from the beginning has been to serve as advocates for teens and women when they are facing an unplanned pregnancy – someone they can call with questions or concerns. In addition to free pregnancy testing, the Center provided free maternity and baby clothes, diapers, food and formula.

By 2004 the stigma of being an unwed mother had vanished. Fewer and fewer teens were coming in for tests and counsel, so we focused more and more on being a support for anyone raising an infant or toddler. In 2005 we added a 45-lesson *Earn While You Learn Program* (EWYL), a self-paced curriculum with modules on the stages of pregnancy, infant care and parenting skills.

Earn While You Learn opened the doors for the Center to become an even greater support for moms and dads in the community. We currently have 200 lessons on 7 topics. We are doing more than providing practical needs, we are building relationships and making a difference in the lives of parents and their infants and toddlers.

On November 25, 2007 our office at the Country Mall was completely destroyed by fire. The Pregnancy Center and eleven other businesses lost everything. Even before our Director, Debbie Rudd, had a chance to view the fire damage, First Lutheran Church of Craig offered us space in their Fellowship Hall. The community rallied to help with donations of clothes and other items new moms and dads would need. First National Bank of the Rockies established a relief account for the Center and KRAI added the Pregnancy Center to the list of agencies for in its annual Holiday Drive.

In the years since the fire, the Pregnancy Center has maintained a steady presence in the community. We stayed at Faith Lutheran Church for 7 years. The Center continued to offer pregnancy tests to women and infant and toddler food, diapers and clothes. Requests for pregnancy tests began to decline in 2010, and have continued to decline every year since then, probably because tests are readily available at local stores.

In late 2012, the board of directors and Katie Grobe, our Director, began a serious search for a new facility. It took a while, but we found a landlord who graciously offered us a space in the middle of downtown Craig for a price we felt we could afford. The move put us in close to the Department of Social Services offices and The Community Budget Center, which helped our moms and dads who rely on friends or a cab for a ride. Now they can get almost all the help they need from agencies within walking distance of each other.

We have come full circle, back to focusing on the reason we were formed. Teen pregnancies have remained high in Craig, and are now on the “radar screens” of other agencies as well, so we are forming our Teen Advisory Board and partnering with other agencies to address the issue.

Current Needs

(* = new)

- Gently used maternity and toddler clothes
- High chairs
- Strollers*
- Infant and toddler foods (fruits and veggies, toddler meals)
- **Volunteers***
- Regular monthly giving partners

I highlighted volunteers because we have recently lost two and are in need of someone to help Thursday and Saturday mornings so we can stay open, and are looking for people who can come other times so we can extend the hours we are open.

For more info on any of our needs, please call Vicki at the Center 970-824-5204.

Additional Ways to Give

You can be a financial partner even if funds are tight! Amazon.com has a program called **Amazon Smile** – they will donate a small portion of their profit on most items to the non-profit of your choice.

City Market has a similar program.

NOTE: If you were part of City Market’s program in the past **but have not signed up online**, you are no longer part of the program and whatever organization you supported has not been getting any donations based on your purchases! Once they set up their app and online program **everyone had to sign up again.**

We have instructions on how to sign up for either at our website:

yvpfcenter.org/financial_giving_options.

Both programs require on-line sign ups.

You can also bring in your used laser and ink jet cartridges for us to recycle.

We are working on having online giving at our website, but until then, we can give you information to make automatic deposits from your bank account to ours. Just call us 824-5204.

www.yvpfcenter.org
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