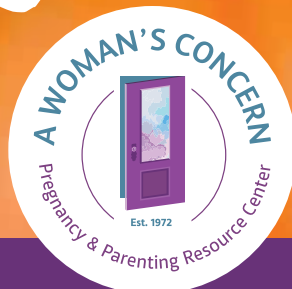


Compassion | Support | Education

Life Matters at AWC

Nourishing Life

Through Every Season



Perception vs. Reality

It seems evident in our world now more than ever that perception often becomes accepted as reality. Telling our stories is a powerful way to change minds and impact the cultural perceptions of what happens here at AWC.

Oddly enough, AWC and other pregnancy centers are seen as a threat by our current Pennsylvania state leadership. This, together with the strengthening of pro-abortion advocacy, has led to the cancelation of the state's Real Alternatives to Abortion funding at the end of this year. We now find ourselves in a reality where false claims fuel the desire to close centers like ours.

It can be frustrating to see the anger and vitriol projected at pregnancy centers on a daily basis when we know the truth of what *actually* happens behind our purple doors—the reality of life-saving and life-changing work happening one woman... one family... at a time.

We care for our community like no one else can; we provide for our community like no one else does... but we can't do it alone. We need you!

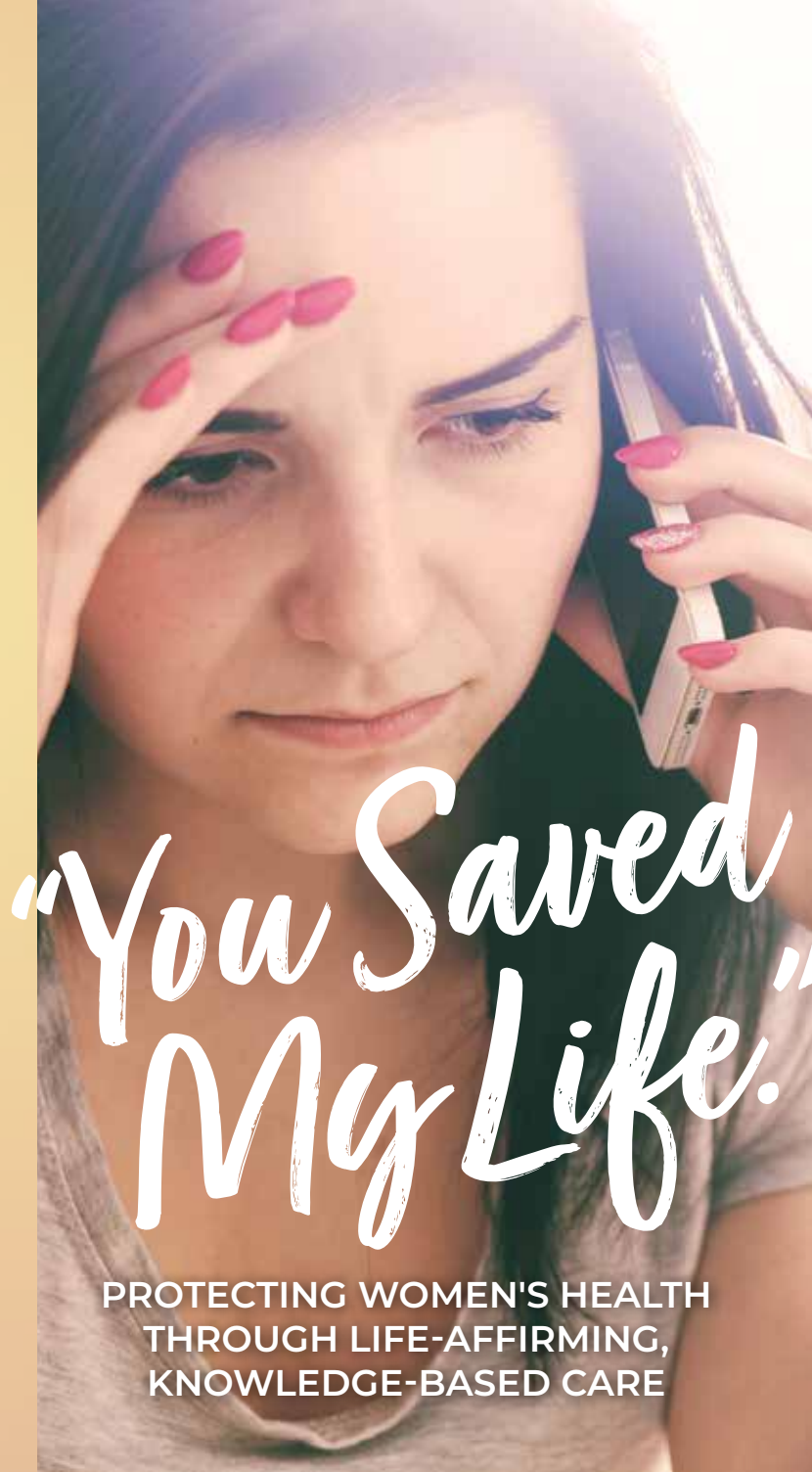
We must unite around our shared goal—building strong families that cherish Life. As we anticipate the end of Real Alternatives funding and fight to protect our center from harsh legislation that aims to limit and even halt our work, we must expand our base of support and magnify our external messaging. The desire to shut us down is evident. The fight to serve is real. It won't be easy, but with you by our side we will—without a doubt—continue to provide compassionate care for families.

We must share the stories of lives changed (and lives saved!) through our programs and services, so pull up a chair and read on. Let these stories and testimonies remind you of how AWC seeks to serve any woman experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, and of the high value we place on holistically supporting women and families in need.

I hope you'll be inspired to share these stories. Help us to spread the truth about AWC so that the cultural perception can shift. Just imagine the lives that will be transformed when people truly understand the magnitude of the impact our services can have on our community and our world.



Jill B. Hartman
Jill B. Hartman
Executive Director



PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH
THROUGH LIFE-AFFIRMING,
KNOWLEDGE-BASED CARE

Take Action

- Know your November election candidates, and don't forget to vote!
- Write to your local politicians to express AWC's importance.
- Share our messages on social media.
- Be informed! Medical oversight for women seeking abortion in PA is changing.

Monique* had taken two at-home-pregnancy tests, and both read positive. When she called our center the next day, it was with one goal in mind—to end her pregnancy with an abortion.

When AWC's receptionist Kara answered Monique's call, she shared that while AWC does not perform or refer for abortion, we could schedule an appointment to confirm her pregnancy. At a first visit to our center, Monique would be offered a professional grade pregnancy test and a limited ultrasound. Kara's compassion and knowledge helped Monique go from seeking an abortion to booking an appointment to learn more about her options.

However, Kara didn't end that call with only booking an appointment; she asked Monique the standard health questions to ensure her the best care experience at AWC. Her answers alerted Kara to several alarming symptoms, so Kara got permission to immediately connect Monique to a member of our professional medical team.

HER HEALTH MATTERS

AWC's Medical Services Manager Lea (also one of our sonographers) asked additional questions to clarify Monique's symptoms, building trust within minutes. That's when Monique felt comfortable enough to mention that a month prior she had taken the "morning after" pill. Lea began to wonder if Monique's symptoms were related to that pill, but was confused as to how her at-home-pregnancy tests could be positive—especially since the unusual symptoms she was having seemed to indicate she wasn't pregnant! Eventually Monique also shared she didn't have a primary care doctor who she could go to for help because she didn't really trust doctors.

Before ending the call, Lea advised Monique that if she was experiencing excessive cramping, bleeding, or both, between

then and her scheduled appointment at AWC, she should not wait for her appointment but go to the emergency room right away.

KNOWLEDGE SAVES LIVES

AWC's Client Services Director Terri called Monique a few days later to confirm her appointment. Monique shared that she had spent the last few days in the hospital and had nearly died. Her symptoms continued to worsen after her call to AWC, so she pushed aside her fear of doctors, followed our medical team's advice, and had gone to the emergency room.

One phone call made in search of an abortion changed everything.

At the hospital, Monique's ultrasound exam confirmed an ectopic pregnancy, which had caused hemorrhaging severe enough to require a blood transfusion.

Monique thanked the AWC team for essentially saving her life. Our team may not have been in the hospital room, but Monique knew that because we listened, asked questions, and empowered her to choose to know, her life was spared. One phone call made in search of an abortion changed everything.

If Monique's initial call had reached an abortion provider instead of AWC, she may have been given immediate access to the abortion pill. If she had concluded that her symptoms were due to the abortion pill, it's possible the ectopic pregnancy would have gone untreated until it was too late to save Monique's life.

As abortion medication becomes increasingly easy to obtain without medical oversight, tragic ends to situations like Monique's will likely become more and more common.

Today Monique now knows, if she finds herself in need of life-affirming health services, she can trust AWC to protect her health and empower her with truth. Our purple doors will always be open to her and the many others like her.

(*Names changed to protect the privacy of our patients and clients.)

TEACHING KNOWLEDGE & CONFIDENCE

Lamar* and Kendra* had been coming to AWC for unplanned pregnancy support and had taken our Labor and Delivery Class. When Kendra unexpectedly went into labor at home, Lamar was empowered to deliver their baby boy safely himself!



PREPARING COURAGEOUS PROTECTORS

Eleven fathers chose to attend a recent Men's Night CPR class in our Hope House. This class provided life-saving knowledge which enabled them to become more involved and to provide protection for their families.





INSIDE: **Stories of Lives Transformed!**

PLUS...How recent changes to medical oversight for abortion are putting women's health at serious risk.

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Friendsgiving
AT AWC

LEGACY OF LIFE GALA 2023

You're Invited!

NOVEMBER 18, 2023

at the Star Barn, Elizabethtown

6-10 PM | Doors open at 5:30



Purchase your tickets now for our Friendsgiving Gala and pre-order your Friendsgiving Cookbooks online.

FRIENDSOFAWC.COM



Dates to Remember

OCTOBER 15-17

Faithful Give

OCTOBER 16

PA March for Life

NOVEMBER 18

Friendsgiving Gala
at the Star Barn
Legacy of Life 2023

JANUARY 21, 2024

Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday

We're part of

FaithfulgiveSM

NEW for 2023! FaithfulGive is a three-day online giving event for Lancaster area organizations that are mission-aligned with Christian values. More info coming to your inbox soon!

October 15-17, 2023 | FaithfulGive.org