

Women's Pregnancy Center

1726 S Washington St, STE 70
Grand Forks, ND 58201

January 30, 2023 – SB 2195

Madam Chair Lee and Committee,

My name is Jill Chandler and I join you today from Grand Forks where I am the Director of the Women's Pregnancy Center.

Thank you for allowing me this time. I represent an organization that is very actively building a culture of LIFE in our state.

We are the practical helpers of the pro-life movement...the hands on, face-to-face help. We are the relationship builders...the connection makers...the parent-support producers.

We're here for those who face the fear and uncertainty that an unexpected pregnancy brings. Our registered nurses listen in unrushed appointments, provide pregnancy testing, and offer the factual medical information our clients need and deserve to make informed decisions.

The first trimester ultrasounds we provide grant new parents a window to the earliest stages of development. Every scan our nurses perform is read by a Diagnostic Radiology specialist at Altru Health System.

We also provide STD/STI Testing and Treatment to encourage healthy relationships before pregnancy. Our nurses become trusted allies as they answer questions and provide unconditional care.

Our Family Care program offers one-on-one weekly mentoring with over 250 class options from our parenting curriculum. We walk with our families until their child turns two...sometimes longer. We become an extension of their family, and sometimes, we're the only support system they have. We get the first photos from the hospital, and we also receive the text or phone call at the first sign of trouble. When our clients finish school or get a new job, we show up to cheer. We love celebrating milestones with our moms and dads.

The material support our clients "earn while they learn," covers much of the baby supplies needed the first two years. Our community of donors also rally to offer support like gas cards, groceries, public transportation passes, Christmas gifts...even new tires.

Everything we do is completely free of charge, and 95% of our annual budget is acquired through donations.

In 2021, we were granted Covid Rescue Funds. It was a much-needed gift following a year of missed fundraising opportunities. We used our allotted funds to take our Center to the next level of service.

- We contracted with a marketing firm to increase our online reach to potential clients. I like to save money, but because Google is anti-pregnancy help, it's necessary to work with the pros. We hope to continue that with the granting of more funds this session. We would also like to utilize billboards by UND. 95% of our clients are women (naturally), but since men are 50% of the pregnancy equation, we'd like to reach more of them.
- We increased our nursing hours to offer appointments M-F, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. I would like to staff some evening hours should we be granted additional funds.
- We provided an additional nurse with ultrasound training which consists of class curriculum and 75 scans with trained supervision.
- We increased staff and volunteer training to better accommodate our clients who face mental health and addiction challenges. Our need for training will continue as we serve more and more vulnerable clients.
- We rented a venue and brought in a panel of post-abortive women for a community event to teach about the true cost of abortion. We also hosted a post-abortive healing retreat. I would like to see similar retreats offered all over our state, should we receive funding.
- We used some funds for direct client care in our parent education program. With the proposed expansion of the Alternatives to Abortion program, we will be able to continue this. Again, we want to reach more dads. We presently have one male mentor who is hoping to work with additional dads as we increase our hours to accommodate working parents.
- Some of the funding was used to increase security measures in our current location following the overturning of Roe V. Wade.
- Finally, we expanded our space with the purchase of a building that is well-suited for our medical clinic. It will afford us an extra ultrasound room and an additional parent education room. The plan to renovate the building, create the Baby Boutique, update our technology, replace our phone system from 1997, and build better donor and client websites is on the to-do list for next year.

We are a small but mighty organization. We steward gifts well. I'm quite certain no one stretches a dime like someone who fundraises 95% of their annual budget. We know how to be accountable.

Thank you for your consideration. We enter this request with the desire to serve more families.

Please note I have given you our latest newsletter and our Commitment to Care and Competence statement. When you hear negative reviews about "crisis pregnancy centers," rest assured...they're not talking about ND.

Respectfully,

Jill Chandler, Executive Director
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Our Commitment of Care and Competence

- Clients are served without regard to age, gender, race, income, nationality, religious affiliation, disability, or other arbitrary circumstances. Women's Pregnancy Center does not proselytize.
- Clients are treated with kindness, compassion, and in a caring manner.
- Clients always receive honest and open answers.
- Client pregnancy tests are distributed and administered in accordance with all applicable laws.
- Client information is held in strict and absolute confidence. Releases and permissions are obtained appropriately. Client information is only disclosed as required by law and when necessary to protect the client or others against imminent harm.
- Clients receive accurate information about pregnancy, fetal development, lifestyle issues, and related concerns.
- We do not offer, recommend or refer for abortions, abortifacients or contraceptives. We are committed to offering accurate information about related risks and procedures.
- All advertising and communications are truthful and honest – accurately describing the services we offer.
- We provide a safe environment by screening all volunteers and staff interacting with clients.
- We are governed by a board of directors and operate in accordance with our articles of incorporation, by-laws, and stated purpose and mission.
- We comply with applicable legal and regulatory requirements regarding employment, fundraising, financial management, taxation, and public disclosure, including the filing of all applicable government reports in a timely manner.
- Medical services are provided in accordance with all applicable laws, and in accordance with pertinent medical standards, under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician.
- All staff, board members, and volunteers receive appropriate training to uphold these standards.