



Family Life Center

Life Affirming Resources for the Iron Range

FALL 2019

Hibbing Center

802 East Howard Street
Suite 3
Hibbing, MN 55746

HOURS

Tuesday 10AM-1PM
& 2:30-4:30 PM
Wednesday 10AM-1PM
Thursday 8-11AM

Virginia Center

820 9th Street North
Suite 130
Virginia, MN 55792

HOURS

Tuesdays 11AM-2PM

Ely Distribution Site

Ely Resource Center
111 South 4th Avenue East
Ely, MN 55731
Open During Resource Hours

218-262-5768



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kitty Bishop
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FAMILY LIFE CENTER NAME CHANGE UPDATE

Changing the name to Family Life Center is an ongoing process and progress is being made. The logo is the work of our talented Virginia client advocate, Wanda Lerol. Wanda is also working on the new sign in Hibbing. To keep costs down we are working with the owner of the Belmont Building and Missy's Pet Spa to have all three businesses one new sign on Howard Street. New brochures and posters are being proofed and will be distributed and posted printed throughout the communities of the Iron Range.

The positive feedback we have received from the public with the new name has been very positive and is meant to inform everyone that we serve all men and women.

It just so happened a couple of weeks ago a client who comes in weekly, was at the Center looking through clothing for their toddler when her husband came in to see how much longer she was going to be. I happened to be in the main room at the time setting up educational materials clients could take to earn points for our Learn to Earn Program. After introductions he more or less apologized for coming in and when I said he could come in anytime he was said he thought the center was only for women. His wife said that was her belief also. We want fathers to know they are always welcome and that single dads are able to access our services. We believe it is very important for fathers to take an active role in their child's life in every way possible. It just so happened that some of the materials I had been putting out were specifically for fathers. I asked if he also wanted to earn points towards the items they needed for their child. When I handed over the materials he immediately started reading them with a huge smile on this face.

We are dedicated to ensure every child conceived is granted life and to council women who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy explore options available for the future of this child. We are also dedicated to offer assistance, education and counseling for all men and women choosing to raising children in their homes.

BOARD MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

Family Life Center is seeking people who are interested in supporting our organization by being a board member. We would like representation from all communities throughout the Iron Range who believe in upholding the value of the life of every baby, born and preborn. If you consider this a truly important issue please consider this opportunity. You are welcome to contact any board member or Terri at the Center for more information. You are welcome to attend a meeting before making a decision to join. The time commitment is only 1-2 hours a month attending a meeting the third Tuesday of the month at noon in Hibbing.

Adoption Seminar



The Adoption Seminar put on by PROject Heartbeat on August 14th was very successful. We had a group of about 20 in attendance. The morning was full of information, sharing, and love. Thank you for all who participated and for those who prayed for the success of the seminar. The Family Life Center enjoyed the opportunity to help with the seminar planning by inviting Grace Berg from Adoption Minnesota and Sarah Kivela to speak, and we are thankful for the valuable information provided. Client advocates who volunteer to work in our Centers were able to attend the seminar and gained knowledge that will benefit clients and families of our communities.

Below is a copy of the article written by Leah Ryan which was in both the Mesabi and Hibbing Daily newspapers. Thank you Leah for a great report of the adoption seminar.

By LEAH RYAN MESABI DAILY NEWS

Aug 15, 2019

HIBBING — PROject Heartbeat, a new pro-life group recently formed by Hibbing and area residents, held an adoption seminar Wednesday as part of its broader mission to protect life in Minnesota. The group was formed this past March with the mission “to foster non-governmental programs that assist and promote adoption; provide support of other pro-life organizations; and furthering growth of Minnesotans understanding of right to Life.” The group was formed in response to legislation passed in other states that would allow late-term abortions. Concerned community members researched how to prevent these laws from enactment in Minnesota.

According to the group’s flyer, “...we found that a 1995 court ruling in Minnesota which gave our state one of the more extreme abortion policies in the nation. The shock of learning of the extreme abortion laws lead to the formation of PROject Heartbeat to [#SaveTheBabies](#) [#SupportBirthMoms](#) [#ProvideForTheChildren](#) [#PromoteAdoption](#) [#ReduceAbortion](#) [#HealTheFamily](#) [#PrayerInAction](#) [#VoteProLife](#).”

This group is open to public members who are pro-life. Although the group does not yet have set meeting dates, it has been meeting monthly and members stay informed through email and a Facebook group. “We are community members who want to figure out how to [#SaveTheBabies](#) by learning and sharing information,” said Cathy Timmerman, a group volunteer. “There is not a formal group leadership or membership or fees. We want to be independent of anyone or any agency telling us what to do or how to think so we just get together and support one another in our pledge to [#SaveTheBabies](#).”

On Wednesday, the group held an adoption seminar as part of its wider mission. Grace Berg, a birth parent counselor for Adoption Minnesota, began the meeting by presenting about her organization and the resources they provide to birth and adoptive parents. “We work with women everywhere,” Berg said. As a birth parent counselor, she travels throughout the state to meet with birth parents and walk them through their decision process. Adoption Minnesota is “licensed through the State of Minnesota as Well-spring Adoption Agency, Inc., and we are a non-profit organization,” said LaDonna L. Lemmenes, the group’s administrative assistant.

“This is a choice,” Berg repeated throughout her presentation. “I tell the birth parent, ‘I am your advocate. Tell me what you want and need me to do and I can do it for you. I’m here to help you.’”

The goal of Berg and Adoption Minnesota is to help the birth parents make the best decision for them. They provide the birth mother a workbook to help her discover her thoughts and feelings about her pregnancy and the future of her baby.

“This empowers women to make her decision and confidently decide what is right for her,” Berg said, explaining that the decision to choose adoption is reversible until 10 days after the paperwork has been signed. “You have to do what is right for you.”

Toward the end of her presentation, Berg talked to the group about how word choices made by the public can affect how a birth mother views her decisions. Using phrases like “giving up for adoption” has a negative connotation and can make a birth parent feel negative about the situation. Adoption is a choice — it is actively choosing a life path and has a positive connotation.

Group members nodded in agreement as Timmerman said the group is gathering to gain information so there are more informed members of the general public. “We need to normalize adoption,” she said, stating that the words used while discussing sensitive topics like this are important.

“This was a really unique opportunity,” Berg said of speaking to PROject Heartbeat. “Normally, I go to facilities [like Options for Women, and talk to employee groups] to talk about what adoption can be....It is different and empowering [for birth parents] to cut off before child protection services get involved.”

After the Adoption Minnesota presentation, several adoptive parents talked about their journeys. Sarah and Roger Kivela told about their adoption process through the private agency, Love Basket. “I always say she is strong, courageous and brave,” said Kivela of their birth mother’s choice to put her two children up for adoption. “She looked at what was best for the babies, for the rest of their lives.”

Kivela said that she has always told her children, from before they were old enough to understand, that they were adopted. “Becky and Jerry love you but couldn’t give you the best possible life,” she told them.

Several area foster parents were also in attendance and gave a view of fostering and adopting through St. Louis County. One adoptive parent through St. Louis County who was in attendance was Stephanie Bigelow. “I wanted to learn more about the adoption process and what is available in Minnesota. There is life after choosing adoption for the birth parents and the adoptive parents.

There is joy after choosing adoption for the birth parents and the adoptive parents.”

Blessings Received

Thank you to those who made donations by choosing our organization at Amazon Smiles for your Amazon purchases.

Thank you to our donors:

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Special Thanks to Open Door Church for the Baby Bottle Campaign held and the donation to Family Life Center.

*"thank you as
individuals, churches
and organizations
for your support"*

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Hebrews 13:16

CURRENT NEEDS

- Snow Pants & jackets size 2T-5T. Potty chairs, high Chairs, baby gates, safety items (outlet covers, cabinet locks, etc). We accept new or used (needs to be in good working condition). We do not accept unwashed, stained or torn items.
- Diapers in size 1 & 6
- Gift cards to Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Target - Cards in any amount are always appreciated. The card itself is not given to clients. Center staff use the cards to purchase necessary items, such as a certain kind of formula that a baby may need.
- Financial Assistance to meet the operating costs of the Centers.

Donations to Family Life Center

It is never pleasant to talk about money, but this summer has been especially dry when it comes to financial support for Family Life Center. The last newsletter addressed the reality that the needs of families does not decrease during the summer months. For many their money is stretched even further with older kids at home, not receiving breakfast and lunch at school. The needs and expenses of the Center also continue each month.

We are truly blessed by the donations we receive and appreciate each and every one for the support and thoughtfulness. This organization would not exist if not for your generosity - you make it possible for parents to choose life for their child knowing they will have some assistance with the child's needs. We operate solely on donations for our day to day expenses - rent of the Centers, utilities, one part-time salary, office supplies (this newsletter, brochures, flyers, postage, toilet paper, paper towels), pregnancy tests and all items needed for families that are not donated or that we run out of (mostly diapers and baby wipes).

Please use the enclosed envelope to make a donation to support the babies of our communities. A donation of any amount makes a difference if we all work together. For less than \$2.00 we can purchase a package of baby wipes, 12 outlet covers, a bottle of baby bath, shampoo or lotion, clearance clothing. If 8-9 people donate \$1.00 that money would buy a baby gate or a package of diapers. It is through your generosity that we are able to continue the services we offer for families and babies.

Another way families, churches, businesses or organization could help would be to hold a fundraiser, a Baby Bottle Campaign, a dinner, special collection, diaper/baby wipe drive or any event/fundraiser you may think of. Donations can be sent in the envelope enclosed. Again, we thank you and ask you to please pray for parents to choose life for their babies.

Please look for an article on our services in an upcoming issue of Hometown Focus.

MOTHER/SON SUPERHERO PARTY
There will not be a Mother/Son Superhero Party this fall due to the fact that the person who put on this fundraiser for us is unavailable to undertake this event. If someone or a group of people in the community wants to put on a special event for mothers and sons please call Terri at 218-262-5768. Thank you.

If for some reason a client cannot make it to one of the Centers during open hours special arrangements can be made. The Centers are also available for emergency situations. The answering machine has a cell number to contact in such an event.

Another change is the hours at the Hibbing Center. Due to early darkness and travel in the evening for volunteers we are changing the hours to 2:30-4:30 PM. The new hours will be Tuesday 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM & 2:30-4:30 PM; Wednesday 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM & Thursday 8:00 - 11:00 AM.

The Family Life Center is happy to announce we now have enough volunteers to extend the hours at the Virginia Center. Current hours are Tuesdays 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Very soon the hours will be 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Tuesdays. Hopefully with the change of hours more people will be able to access the services we offer.

New from the Centers



802 E Howard Street, Suite 3
Hibbing, MN 55746

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MISSION STATEMENT

*Family Life Center is a
life-affirming organization
dedicated to promoting healthy
choices for women and men &
protecting the well-being of
their children, pre-born and born,
by offering counseling,
information and assistance.*