

Saving Lives, Building Families

Family Life Services brings help and hope, one life at a time

Since its beginnings in the mid-1980s, hundreds of Christ the King parishioners have worked and volunteered for Family Life Services (FLS). Recently we asked Kathy Niemiec and Bonnie Mauch about their experiences with the ministry.

What is your role at FLS and what does it entail?

Kathy: I'm the staff RN Nurse Manager. My role is to help women in the first two trimesters of pregnancy to have their first ultrasound, receive prenatal vitamins, get medical insurance, enroll in the WIC (Women, Infants & Children) nutritional program, and help them make their first OB appointment for prenatal care.

Bonnie: I'm a volunteer counselor. I help women when they come for their initial visit for a pregnancy test. I also meet with other women with children and help them find the services they need.

How did you come to serve at FLS?

Kathy: Since I was young I've always had a passion for life and the poor. In 2011, as a widow, I needed to find work, so I prayed to God to lead me to a job where I could make a difference. On the next weekend, this FLS job appeared in our CTK bulletin. I interviewed for it that Tuesday and the following Tuesday I was hired!

Bonnie: The Holy Spirit, tugging on my heart, guided me to FLS. I was first introduced to the

Baby Bottle Boomerang program. Then I saw the little white house on Packard (where FLS used to be) and felt that I should check it out, but didn't. Then I helped at an event with another center and thought I should help out closer to home and see if FLS would want my help.

What prior work and/or volunteer experience helped prepare you for your position?

Kathy: As a Registered Nurse, I worked in Labor and Delivery and in Pediatrics at a children's hospital.

Bonnie: I love people and enjoy meeting women and men and showing them that the staff at FLS truly cares for them. I try to share God's love for them. I have had wonderful training sessions to help me prepare for volunteering at FLS. If anyone would have told me ten years ago that I would be working at a pregnancy center, I would have said, No way, I'm not prepared to do that. God puts you in a place where He can see you can make a difference, and He provides you with the skills you need if you ask Him.

Has anything surprised you as you've been serving there?

Kathy: What surprises me day after day is the incredible kindness and charity of our staff and volunteers for the women and families we serve.



Kathy Niemiec (l) and Bonnie Mauch are among the hundreds of Christ the King parishioners who have worked and volunteered over the years for Family Life Services.

They are full of joy and have hearts of gold in serving. In spite of the very sad things that can happen when a woman does choose abortion, and we grieve over this and for her, still our Lord is always with us because we pray for His forgiveness, love, and mercy. Being at peace with Him, we can then extend His peace to the women. That is why we are joyful!

Bonnie: It is such a blessing being there because I have met people from a different socio-economic background that I would not have been able to meet before. There is a very diverse group of women who have exposed me to other cultures and languages. I love how the staff is always working together and wants the best for the clients as well as the volunteers.

Do you have any stories you could share?

Kathy: We were doing an ultrasound for a lady who

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—Bonnie Mauch

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These staff and volunteers from the Thursday shift at FLS are among the many people working to form a "Team for Life," praying to the Holy Spirit for the women who come to the clinic and asking Him to guide all that they say and do so that the women will be able to choose life.

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was thinking she couldn't possibly take care of a second child. As she was having the ultrasound, she told us how she was teaching her 2-year-old son to say his prayers. As soon as we began to see her baby on the screen, we all noticed how her baby was "kneeling with hands folded in prayer." She burst out, "Look, my baby is praying!" With that reality in front of her, she decided she could take care of a second child and went on to give birth.

Bonnie: I worked with a woman who initially felt she couldn't have another baby, but she saw our sign on a bench while waiting for the bus and came to us. She had a beautiful baby girl. Another young woman came in abortion-minded. She was scared and told us she had had difficult pregnancies with both of her girls. She wasn't sure how she could handle another child. Our nurse and I spent time talking to her and we ended up referring her to our physician director and supported and prayed with her through making her decision. She now has a beautiful boy through an uneventful pregnancy.

Kathy: Then there was the ultrasound of a young college woman who had her life all planned out, and it didn't include a baby. As we did the ultrasound, we asked if she was ready to see her babies. She said, "Babies?" We said,

"Yes, here are your twins!" After she got over the shock of watching these precious 14-week-old babies tumbling around inside her, she got on the phone with their father, right there on the ultrasound table, to tell him! Miracles like this happen very often, and we delight that the Lord hears our prayers!

If there was one thing you could say to our readers, what would it be?

Kathy: If you ever know of a woman who is facing this question of giving life or having an abortion, bring her to FLS so we can give her real options. Then pray for her.

Bonnie: Please remember us and our mission and pray for us. I have been so blessed since I joined the FLS family. I have grown in my faith and my prayer life. Come join us!

A word about...

Family Life Services Clinic and Pregnancy Center

FLS Clinic and Pregnancy Center is an interdenominational Christian pro-life ministry to serve pregnant women and their families. Everything done through the ministry supports Catholic teachings regarding sexuality and family life.

Services provided include free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds; material needs

(maternity clothing, baby items, etc.); and community referrals (WIC, Medicaid, doctors, etc.). In addition, they offer parenting classes, miscarriage support, and abortion recovery.

FLS recently had to cut back temporarily on its hours on Fridays due to a lack of volunteers. There are countless ways men, women, and

students can volunteer. Not all volunteering is directly client-centered; it frequently supports the work done at the Center. Training is provided for all volunteer positions.

For more information or to volunteer, call 734-434-3088 or go to their new website, flsfriends.com, or their client website, familyliveservicesclinic.com.