

Championing the Gospel and Life

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At Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services, our desire is to be in continual alignment with Jesus. In fact, it's so vital to who we are as a ministry, that it's the beginning words of our mission statement... "We align with God"

From that centered posture our mission unfolds...

"to champion the gospel of Jesus Christ and the sacredness of human life through pregnancy services, strategic partnerships, and equipping resources."

We champion the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God created each and every person – and He wants each one to experience a saving, life-changing relationship with Jesus that starts now and continues forever. That's the deepest need we each have – including our clients.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He sought and saved us. Now He's moving *through* us – as His body – to extend His love and truth to the people SVPS serves. We see this happen in many ways – like when a client shares about a difficult relationship and her client advocate opens the Bible and shows her God's wisdom. And when couples like Maddie and Ben come to us...

From the moment they found out they were pregnant, Maddie and Ben wanted to be good parents. They came for prenatal education, and their client advocate taught them the stages of

their baby's development and how to bond with their baby. He also talked about Jesus and the importance of faith. Maddie and Ben listened, but they didn't respond.

Before long their son arrived--handsome, healthy, and a handful. Their client advocate continued to teach them parenting tips, and reminded them how important it is to teach their child about God. Their hearts – now softened with love for their new baby – were ready to receive the grace of Jesus and follow Him. Ben said, “I want to do that for our son.” That evening they both made the best parenting decision ever – they put their faith in Jesus!

We champion the gospel so clients like Ben and Maddie can be aligned in a saving, life-changing relationship with Christ.

We also champion the sacredness of human life.

In Pennsylvania in 2016, there were 30,881 lives lost to abortion. 635 of those lives would have been Lancaster and Lebanon county residents.

When a woman faces an unintended pregnancy, she can feel powerless and desperate – with no hope that there's a way out of the chaos. Abortion may appear to be her only choice. We're there to extend help and hope in the midst, so a woman can slow down and – like Dana – see that she has other options.

Here's Dana's story...

(Video)

Jesus pursued Dana, and she responded by choosing spiritual life for herself and physical life for her preborn daughter. She aligned herself with Him.

Our pregnancy services – like what you've just been hearing about – are where we daily champion the gospel and life. Our pregnancy services are the majority of what we do as a ministry. We have five client locations in Lancaster and Lebanon counties, and a team of over 100 volunteers who minister alongside our staff to serve almost 1,000 women and men each year.

Still... we want to reach many more people – because that's what Jesus wants!

That's why we're looking for even more effective ways to connect with people—right where they are—who need our help. We're building our online presence and building rapport with local community organizations to increase their awareness of SVPS.

Online... we have a two-prong approach.

The first prong is paid advertising. It reaches people in the very moment they're looking for an abortion. Each month, our ads come up in online searches nearly 5,000 times. That means when people in our area search for abortion-related information, 8 out of 10 times they'll see one of our ads. From there, they can click to learn more and choose to call, email, or text us.

This year hundreds of people have contacted us. We respond to their questions and concerns, and offer an appointment. Sometimes, they're so set on having an abortion that the conversation ends there... and we trust that God will keep pursuing them. Dozens of other people, though, have scheduled appointments. For those who keep the appointments, they learn about the help and practical support we provide.

As a direct result of the ad campaign, this year we know of at least three women who gained the courage to choose life for their babies. Their three babies join the other 530 babies that God has saved since our ministry began!

The second prong of our online approach is to make our client website more visible and accessible by search engine optimization, or SEO. SEO work is a detailed series of steps that evaluates things like the words we use on our site, and the way other websites link to us. Our goal is to optimize our client site so it appears on the first page of search results when someone looks for abortion-related information.

So we're building our online presence – and we're building rapport with community organizations.

We've always been community-minded and have been partnering with agencies to serve people locally. Now, our directors are increasingly reaching out to social service agencies, schools, and even doctors' offices to promote our services. Because we're funded by generous donors rather than government monies, no one is excluded from being able to receive our life-promoting, family-strengthening help. We're already receiving more client referrals through these stronger community connections.

And we're grateful that God is connecting us with more people who need our pregnancy services.

Next, I'd like to highlight another area of our mission – equipping resources.

Over the years, God's given us a passion to serve the Church by developing resources -- including ones to help teens walk in sexual integrity. A recent national report revealed that more than half of 18 year olds have already had sexual intercourse. It's clear that youth face tremendous pressure related to sex, whether they're outside the church – or part of the church.

This summer we released our new curriculum for leaders of teens called *Sexuality by Design*. It's a highly-customizable tool that uses biological and behavioral science to reinforce the truth of God's Word. Volume One has four lessons that focus on sources of influence that significantly affect youth - like social pressure and their own desires. For the next 5 minutes we'd like you to hear what's at the heart of *Sexuality by Design* through this video...

(video)

Our prayer is that God will use *Sexuality by Design* as a powerful and effective resource for leaders of youth – locally and across the nation. We're working on a marketing plan, and the curriculum is available at our website as a digital download or in print form. We also have copies on the back table if you'd like to take a look, or perhaps make a purchase.

Additional volumes of *Sexuality by Design* are on their way. The next one addresses the growing trend of pornography use among teens. The draft is already written and is being reviewed by our editor.

Through these equipping resources, we believe God will continue to help churches guide their youth to align with His design for sex.

At SVPS, we know that there are many people who've been hurt by past sexual choices – whether their own or other peoples'. God is a pursuing God – and in His immense grace, He redeems and restores. We witness that regularly in our clients' lives – including for women and men who've chosen abortion.

Last fall our director of post-abortion services, Carol Weaver, suddenly went home to be with Jesus. We grieved... And we trusted that God still wanted people who've experienced abortion to find His healing through SVPS. Statistically – in our communities – there are tens of thousands of people with an abortion decision in their past. In His faithfulness, He brought Vickie Kracke.

Vickie says, "As we serve post-abortive clients, the idea of replacing lies with truth is central. Abortion presents lies... That it's not a baby. That it won't negatively impact me." Vickie continues, "The truth is, children are God's creation and abortion has lasting consequences. The truth is also that God forgives and His truth changes us from the inside out."

A number of years ago, a young woman found healing in Jesus through our post-abortion services. She wanted to help other young moms and began volunteering with us as a client advocate. Recently, God brought Jalisa to us for a pregnancy test – and He linked her with [this](#) particular client advocate. Jalisa was distraught. She had no home, no support, and no money. She said, "Every area of my life is a wreck! I have to have an abortion!" The client advocate felt

prompted to say, “I had an abortion when I was your age. Would you like to hear about my experience?” Jalisa quickly responded yes, and leaned forward to listen. The advocate shared, and when she finished, Jalisa KNEW. She said, “I can’t have an abortion now!” She gladly accepted our offer of an ultrasound – and held tightly to those ultrasound photos while she enrolled in our prenatal classes! We’re continuing to support her as she figures out the next steps for herself and her baby, which may include an adoption plan.

What a beautiful story of God’s redemption in the client advocate’s life that He then used to bring truth to Jalisa!

Here’s one more story of redemption for this evening...

(Rachael video)

Jesus does really really love us... and He loves the people we serve. Thank you for being an essential part of what God is doing to bring our clients into the freedom and joy of aligning their lives with Him!