



# ABC Network

Empowering Women to Make Choices For a Lifetime

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## Welcoming Our New Executive Director

Please join us in welcoming our new Executive Director, Donnita Young, who joined our staff in August after a lengthy search process. One of the Center's supporters was praying for us in our search, and while in prayer Donnita's face came before her. This woman contacted Donnita to let her know about the position and the impression she had received. At that time, Donnita had been seeking God's guidance about the "next step" in her life. "I would never have known about the position if she hadn't called me," she notes.



visionary leader, launching many new programs and ministries over the course of her career. In addition to her church-based ministries, she also worked for several years developing and implementing programming in a facility for Alzheimer's patients.

Donnita grew up a pastor's daughter, and she began ministering in music while still a teenager. She met her husband, Eugene, at college; they have been married for over 25 years. Her hobbies include reading, music, taking a painting class, and playing with her grandchildren.

As most of you will recall, Wanda Dudek, our former executive director, resigned last October due to health concerns. Wanda is feeling much better now and remains actively involved with ABC.

During her interviews, Donnita immediately impressed our search committee. Of particular note is her heart for women and families, her gifts of leadership, public speaking, as well as her passion for prayer and God's transformative grace in our lives. She is a real prayer warrior and is currently involved with the Connecticut House of Prayer.

Donnita has a strong background of ministering directly and indirectly to women in a variety of life situations. She explains her approach as a focus on "equipping and empowering" people. She is a

son at ABC, and Donnita plans to jump in with both feet. At the end of September she will be joining Lynn Jaycox, Client Services Director; Ruthy Bennett, member of the board of directors; and possibly one or more of our volunteers, at the CareNet training conference in Nashville, Tennessee. In addition, she'll begin promoting ABC: speaking with individuals, churches and like-minded organizations that are interested in the ABC mission.

Donnita looks forward to meeting our supporting individuals and churches. If your church would like to arrange to have her come speak about the ongoing work and future vision of ABC Women's Center, please call the Center at 860-704-0078.



# ABC

**IN THIS  
ISSUE:**

◆ Banquet Highlights  
Page 2

◆ A call for volunteers  
Back Page



# ABC

# A Better Choice Women's Center, Inc.

## “Renewing Our Vision” Banquet Highlights

“Renewing Our Vision” was the theme for this year’s annual spring banquet which was held on May 3rd with 125 people in attendance. In addition to fellowship and great food, participants were entertained with several songs of faith performed by the worship team of Valley Brook Community Church.

A skit, entitled “Spared for a Purpose” was performed by the Christian teaching and entertainment ministry of Faith, Hope, Love & Laughter. The skit opens with a young woman seated in the livingroom of her parent’s home discussing the current abortion rate and noting the number of lives adversely affected. During the course of the conversation, her parents reveal to her, for the first time, that they were once in a situation where abortion could have been the chosen outcome. Young, unwed and with the odds stacked against them, they had found themselves with the unplanned pregnancy of their now grown-up daughter. They explained how her life was “spared for a purpose” in the face of such odds.

ABC Women’s Center clients graciously presented testimonials of how they were encouraged, supported and helped by the Center when they each found themselves with an unplanned pregnancy. Elsy came to the center juggling motherhood, work and college. In her presentation, Elsy described how

she continues to be blessed by the work of the Center, “ABC is a blessing for me and those around me. They help you without asking anything in return. It does not make a difference if you are black or white, Christian or Muslim, rich or poor. If you come to them, they will help you.” Elsy, in turn, has been sharing news about ABC with everyone she meets, including other students at Wesleyan College.

“It wasn’t as if I didn’t have people to go to,” explained another client, Marianella during her testimonial presentation, “it was but a matter of knowing how to approach them....Although I knew how I felt about abortion, I felt alone and couldn’t see the way through it all by myself. The (peer) counselors gave me the strength and courage to stand by my decision to keep my son....When you are in the midst of a problem, it is difficult to see your way out. (They) helped me find the perspective of a positive outcome to the situation.”

Director’s Awards were presented during the course of the evening to recognize those as outstanding volunteers. This year’s recipients were Margaret Detzler and Wanda Dudek. Although both have served the Center as executive directors, each volunteered numerous hours beyond the call of duty. Please take a moment to read the excerpts from their remarks that evening.

### Reminisces of the early years - Banquet remarks from Margaret Detzler



“I am so grateful to all those who made it possible for me to have so many happy years at ABC Women’s Center. When I first met the board, I was very impressed. They saw the vision clearly and had a burden. It was an opportunity to stem the tide of women’s clinics and the work being done there. When I went around for grants for the center, everyone gave me a very cold shoulder. I knew it would take God’s people to do the work. I began to enlist the help

of area churches. God intervened in incredible ways. Volunteers came by the ones, twos, tens and twenties. We trained them as fast as we could and they started peer counseling. I prayed clients would come. God sent them. People in the churches flooded us with donations. God did a wonderful work in those days.

“I’ll never forget the fun we had at the fairs in the summertime. We always had the best table. We had the church and childrens’ choirs which stole the show. We offered cookies and tiny plastic babies at our display, and people came to our table. The table staffers at the women’s clinic displays were furious because no one visited them. They were really put out because they had done all the advertising for the fair and we were getting all the attention! It was God’s way of letting the community know that we were there.

“Couldn’t have asked for more of a convenient location for the center, however, the attic was something of a joke. We didn’t have room in the office for all the donations, so we were constantly storing in the attic. Then tenants moved into the attic. Squirrels! That was not good! My husband who was chaplain of the fire department said, ‘Call the fire department.’ It was a great idea. The fire department came

and put out little cages with burgers and fries. The squirrels had a heyday! Then the firemen came and took the cages away, squirrels and all!

“There were little things that happened because we were still learning. Wanda came and straightened us all out! When Lynn came, I knew she was a keeper. She was the best gal to work with the girls and just let them talk their hearts out.

“The volunteers are really the core to the whole operation. I don’t know what girls coming to the center expect, but the volunteers are kind, gracious, and self-sacrificing in helping them solve their problems.

“Recall the passage in scripture where Jesus went into the synagogue and saw a woman who was bent over for fifteen years. Jesus had compassion on her and healed her. This is the attitude we have for the clients of ABC. These girls are robbed, victimized and abused. They all have stories to tell. They are people made in God’s image who just need to be freed from the bondage that enslaves them. This is what ABC offers and what sets the center apart from any other service available to in Middletown.

“It was wonderful to be a part of ABC. I thank each of you who are determined to carry on this ministry. Our country is still at a critical time. What are we going to do about same sex marriages, abortion, all of these issues? You know this is a battleground. We have to stand firm for what we know God is calling us to do. Are you equipping yourself to stand firm? Be a triumphant and victorious Christian. God bless you.”

*Editors note: Margaret and Wayne want you to know they still have their boots on. They went to China this summer to teach English. Pray a blessing on them as God leads them telling the world about Jesus.*

Still so many needs  
- Banquet remarks from  
Wanda Dudek



"It's a privilege to be here tonight. Since becoming the director in 1995, it's been a journey of perseverance, hope, fear, tears and a lot of gladness. Every time a young woman comes into the center, our heart skips a

beat. We cry when we learn that they haven't chosen life and we rejoice when they come in with their babies. Only heaven knows the true story of just how many lives have been saved.

"The Center has grown over the years. Margaret laid a wonderful foundation. The Center has always ministered to those in crisis pregnancy by providing material assistance. We never want to hear how we are a prolife organization but do not care for the babies after they are born. Through the testimonies you heard tonight, you know how we serve and provide.

"The ministry has grown to include an abstinence program provided to schools. We have a post abortion program for women hurting in that capacity, because most women do. Looking at the years ahead, we've only just begun. Even if Roe-vs-Wade were overturned today, there are still those millions of women who have aborted and are hurting, so our work in that need would continue.

"What must be accomplished is only limited by time, people and money. Last fall we laid the foundation to become a medical center equipped to provide free ultrasound to clients. Additionally, there are opportunities of opening a second center in another geographic area. There are needs, such as a program for the fathers of the unborn children who are not saved and those struggling with the effects of losing their child to abortion.

"Every city needs a place that will minister to the community and to the women facing the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy. It's the volunteers, the board of directors, the churches that support us, and the individuals that keep us going day after day, week after week, and year after year. You have been absolutely wonderful. It is not uncommon for centers to close within five years. And here we are celebrating 15 years!"

## Do you, or someone you know, suffer from PAS?



You don't have to be alone in your grief.

PAS is Post Abortion Syndrome and is characterized by an ongoing inability to process the painful thoughts and emotions, especially guilt, anger and grief, which arises from one or more unplanned pregnancies and subsequent abortions.

There is a continuing inability to identify, much less grieve, the loss that has been experienced. And a struggle to find peace with God, herself and others who were involved with the pregnancy and abortion decision.

Find confidential, healing help at  
ABC Women's Center.

Starting in September, we will be hosting our 11 week Bible Study/Support Group which offers healing and encouragement to women who have had an abortion(s). Linda Leiss and Lynn Jaycox co-facilitate this group. Please call Lynn at the Center if you would like to be a part of this life-changing, freedom-bringing Bible Study. The study will begin on Sept. 19th at 6:30 and will meet at the Center for 11 consecutive Monday nights until November 28st.

For further information  
call confidentially: 860-344-9292

## Banquet DVD now available

So you couldn't make it to the annual spring banquet, but still want to get in on all the fun? Or you made the banquet, but have a friend or church family who would enjoy viewing and hearing the testimonies of the brave women who shared their stories with us at the banquet that evening night. Thanks to the time and

talent donated by Tom Hickman of T. W. Hickman & Associates Family Video Productions, the Center now has a DVD video available. If you would like to borrow a copy, please call the Center business line at 860-704-0078 to request the DVD on loan.



**ABC** A Better Choice Women's Center, Inc.



# ABC A Better Choice Women's Center, Inc.

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Middletown, CT

Empowering Women to Make Choices For a Lifetime

Please send all correspondence to:  
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Middletown CT

Business Line: 860-704-0078  
Crisis Line: 860-344-9292  
On the web at:  
[www.ABCWomenscenter.com](http://www.ABCWomenscenter.com)

## The Mission of ABC

To provide clients with accurate and complete information regarding both prenatal development and abortion, assisting women to carry to term by providing emotional support and practical assistance. Through the provision of God's people and community at large, women may face the future with hope and plan constructively for themselves and their babies.

## Board Members & Other Volunteers Greatly Needed

We are urgently seeking Christians who are committed to the cause for life and support the mission of ABC Women's Center. We are always looking for new volunteer peer counselors, to meet one-on-one with the girls, teens and women the Lord brings through our doors. We also have a great need for people to help with administrative work. You may want to help coordinate our prayer ministry, or be on our emergency prayer chain. Perhaps you could come in to help sort clothing. Or you may have another gift or skill you'd like to offer to the Center or to our clients.

training session, which begins in October (*see below*).

At this time, we have a particular need for leaders to serve on the board of directors. The job description includes: establishing and reviewing policies, long range planning, setting & monitoring the budget, fundraising & promoting the center.

We are interested in recruiting board members with experience in medicine, accounting, marketing, development, theology, law, or human resources, but what we want most are the people God is calling to serve in a leadership capacity. Please pray and consider whether this could be you.

If you think you might fit in as a volunteer at ABC, please contact the Center at (860) 704-0078 or by email: [LauraMcLean@abcwomenscenter.com](mailto:LauraMcLean@abcwomenscenter.com).

Taking the 20 hour Volunteer Training is necessary when working with clients. If you have already taken the 20 hour ABC Volunteer Training, please give us a call. If you have not taken it, call us to sign up for the next

## Volunteer Training to Begin

Learn to work with women in crisis.

Five consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning

**October 4, 11, 18, 25 & November 1**

Total training time: 20 hours

Training held at the ABC Women's Center

**Call: 860-704-0078 to register today!**



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