



St. Juan Diego Women's Center

Help for Pregnant Women and their Babies

12 North White Road #5
San Jose, CA 95127
(408) 258-2008
www.jdwcenter.org
Patsy Gonzalez, editor

January / February 2015

Dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome Baby Isaac

Erika and Patsy, Partnership Extraordinaire

With Gratitude and Hope

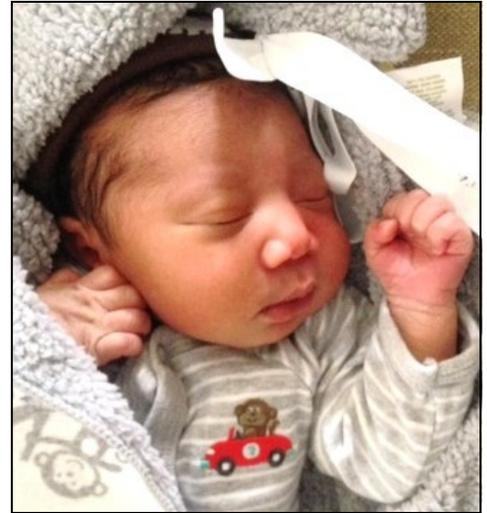
Walk for Life West Coast

Mission Statement

Our mission at St. Juan Diego Women's Center is to help young women in unplanned pregnancies and their unborn babies. We uphold the sacredness of life through our caring counselors, who provide education, emotional, and material support in a safe and loving Catholic environment. At St. Juan Diego Women's Center, everyone who walks through our door is always welcomed and treated like family. As such, we offer continued support to help mothers not only during, but also after their pregnancy.

Welcome, Baby Isaac

Seven months ago, our JD sidewalk counselor, Erika, reached out to a distraught young woman who felt she had no other recourse but to have an abortion. She was at the finish line of her MBA scholarship and was far away from her country in distant Africa. Henrietta felt very much alone and was totally unaware of any help available to her. The Juan Diego Center stepped forward to provide for her financial needs and the mentoring to keep her hopes up that her future would not only be promising but she would have someone to share her new life with. The SF Gabriel Project Angels came forward to provide her with support. Our SF angel, Sandy opened their home providing her with a caring and loving family. Sandy, the amazing strategist, provided invaluable advice at each step that Henrietta took.



Isaac

After wonderful Dr Gilbert Carroll negotiated a small apartment for her in San Jose to be closer to a job she had found, the SJ Gabriel Project Angels took flight and got very busy collecting furniture and household items, delivering and setting up her apartment. She was incredulous at the generosity and loving attention she received. Henrietta's angel, Angie, was there to take her to the hospital to deliver her baby. The icing on the cake was the arrival of her mother from Nigeria three weeks ago who is here to care for her and the baby.

It's truly amazing how the most complicated, seemingly overwhelming obstacles can be overcome by a loving God who never leaves a mother abandoned when she chooses life. He knows where to find His angels to carry out the task of ordering everything as He planned.

The birth of Isaac was a result of a beautiful collaboration of our San Francisco and San Jose Gabriel Projects and the St Juan Diego Women's Center. Abortion would never be an option if a pregnant mother knew where to turn when she needs support.

This little announcement comes with Henrietta's permission. She extends her gratitude to all those who were there to support her and to make her American dream possible.

Four ways you can support the St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center

Write a check. This is the easiest way. We can put your gift to work the day we receive it. Every gift makes a difference and every gift is appreciated.

Give a gift of stock. This is an easy and tax wise means. If you have appreciated stocks or bonds, you can deduct the current value of the gift. By donating the stocks outright, you do not pay capital gains tax on the gift.

Gift in kind. Almost new baby clothes, toiletry items or office equipment or other capital gift would be a "gift in kind". Under IRS rules, you set the approximate value and your gift is deductible.

Estate Gifts. Placing the St. Juan Diego Women's Center in your estate plans. You can place in your will or trust as a beneficiary for a set amount, or for a percentage of your estate.

Erika and Patsy, Partnership Extraordinaire

ERIKA: I used to be very much in the world believing the lie that an abortion was really a woman's right to choose but circumstances in my life gave me the chance to look at my beliefs differently. I was injured in an accident which laid me up for months, giving me the quiet moments to reflect on my life.

Soon after that experience, I saw my uncle outside the abortion clinics whom I had not seen in years. When I began to get better, I volunteered at the Millbrae Art & Wine Festival for San Mateo Pro-Life. I had to walk a ways to get to the booth and needed to ice my hip at the booth. I didn't know how I'd make it back to my car. Then Eleanor Rivera showed up with her wheelchair and Jessica Munn, Chairman of San Mateo Pro-Life, suggested Eleanor's husband, James, wheel me back to my car. As he was wheeling me back, I felt it was our Lord, being the gentleman that he is, wooing me into sidewalk counseling.

At first I'd go with my uncle to various Planned Parenthood businesses and stay half days, but when he told me that he used to stay a full day, when he was younger, I decided I should do the same. I learned a lot from a DVD I borrowed from Jessica Munn about a woman in southern California who has been sidewalk counseling for over 30 years.

When I feel a mother may decide on life, I call my "lifeline" partner Patsy Gonzalez, counselor extraordinaire of JDS, and she, with her God-given grace and ability to have women see the light of choosing life, helps me to pull through and with God's grace have saves! Laura Reyes from the St Juan Diego center is also available to speak to women in Spanish over the phone if the need arises. It gives credibility to what I'm saying that there is an actual center that helps women in crisis pregnancies and will be with them through it all.

I feel confident in referring women to JDS because unlike other pregnancy centers, they counsel women 24/7 not 9-5. It's in the middle of the night when the dark side starts tempting the women again to go through with their abortions. One such woman was wavering towards abortion again called me. I called Patsy and she drove to where the mother lived and took her out to dinner! As Patsy puts it, *"There's something that happens when you share a meal with someone. A bonding takes place and trust builds."* This mother would have definitely had an abortion if she were relying on a regular 9-5 pregnancy center. I see how much more effective a sidewalk counselor can be when a pregnancy center is teamed up with her efforts to reassure a woman in a crisis pregnancy outside the abortion clinic that there is real help for her out there and she is not alone.

PATSY: Having been on the sidewalk for some years, I would say sidewalk counseling is not only one of the most difficult challenges, but also a unique call. The next difficult challenge is telephone counseling because a counselor cannot pick up cues from body language or build a relationship through a physical dialogue. It is a gentle tone of voice, genuine sincerity and inspiration from the Holy Spirit that often gives a mother the courage to leave the abortion facility.

It has been a great privilege to be Erika's lifeline when she intercepts a mother walking into a facility for an abortion. It has given me a remarkable opportunity to develop my ability, with God's grace, to communicate our genuine concern and compassion to the mothers willing to talk on the phone. In a manner of speaking, it is almost like walking into a center to be reassured of support and resources available to address her fears until she is able to meet us in person. We have become a center "on site" to give counselors like Erika the confidence to know that all she assures a mother are not empty promises, that a mother is followed up and mentored until she is out of harm's way. We equip Erika with literature, cover her with monthly First Friday Masses for her success and we are in an instant a spiritual lifeline when a particular mother's decision hangs in the balance. In seconds, a prayer request goes out to all our supporters online to pray. We are a virtual center only a phone call away. We also have Vietnamese, Filipino and Spanish speaking counselors available.

Our unique partnership has increased our numbers of babies saved. Erika, our sidewalk counselor extraordinaire, has a dynamic, pro-life spirit that has yielded much fruit for the cause; she has been a great gift to our center.



Erika



Patsy & granddaughter Carolina

With Gratitude and Hope

Looking back at 2014, I am filled with gratitude for the many graces Our Lord has blest the St. Juan Diego Women’s Center. Last year with God’s grace, 57 abortion bound women counseled by our volunteers had a change of heart and chose life for their babies. In 2014, a total 297 families came to the center for help.

Last year, the center embarked on a pro-life Hispanic Outreach program in 4 churches to warn them of the attacks by the abortion industry on the Hispanic community and to inspire them to come out to pray and counsel outside the abortion clinics. The Spanish edition of “*Encounters with Angels*” was completed and printed. Several groups of prayer warriors from three different parishes have been faithfully praying in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion mill beside our center.

Last year, the center was responsible for inspiring 4 doctors and 4 pregnancy centers to be a part of the Abortion Pill Reversal program (APR). Through our partnership with the Culture of Life and Family Services (San Diego), 35 vials of progesterone were distributed to doctors for the abortion pill reversal protocol. Last July, Emily our first APR mother delivered a perfectly healthy son. The JDS center was involved in 5 abortion pill reversal cases.

Last year, we welcomed two new board members into the JDS Family, Rafael Betancourt and Romel Antonio. Their expertise, drive and commitment to the Gospel of Life are already making a marked difference.

Last year, the JDS center had a very successful banquet with 360 guests. Several educational seminars were also conducted: an APR seminar given by Dr. Delgado, Sidewalk Counseling Seminars given in Carmel (GPO) and in San Jose (GHS). Pro-life talks were given to the Catholic Daughters and St. Victor Parish confirmation class. JDS also gave a presentation after Mass at the following Parishes: Sacred Heart (Saratoga), Our Lady of Peace (Santa Clara) and St. Martin of Tours (San Jose).

Looking forward to 2015, I am filled with hope.

This January, at the Walk for Life San Francisco, two of the featured speakers at the JDS banquet, Dr. George Delgado and Becky Buell spoke at the rally before the Walk. The news of the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol was heard by a crowd of 50,000 in San Francisco and thousands more nationwide thru the EWTN coverage.

This year, we hope with Our Lady’s help, to double the babies saved last year.

This year, we hope to finalize the applications of the APR nurses who will volunteer at Real Option and Guadalupe Hope Society medical pregnancy resources centers.

This year, we hope to train 10 more Hispanic counselors and to give the Pro-life Spanish seminars to at least 6 parishes.

This year, we hope to support the establishment of two new Catholic PRC’s one in the Bay Area and another in South Sudan. This will show that our center is really “*A Center Without Borders*”.

This year, we hope to be a step closer to our goal of ending the scourge of abortion.

Walk for Life West Coast

The Walk for Life is an experience many consider a pro-life highlight of their year and a special way to offset the infamous Roe v Wade anniversary. There must have been, no doubt, as many stories as there were people marching that spring- like morning on the 24th of January. There were 50,000 participants this year, a number that has grown steadily with every passing year.

Our Juan Diego Center was kept very busy with so many people coming by our table to take literature and offer encouragement. On the 22nd of Jan, the infamous Roe v Wade anniversary, Erika turned away a young mother and her boyfriend outside PP at Valencia Street in San Francisco. They chose life. They came to the Walk for Life at our invitation because we knew that witnessing such an event would reaffirm their decision. Monica was astonished and very moved by the thousands of people walking to defend mothers like her. If only the marchers knew that such a mother they were there for was walking among them.



At the JDS table



Becky, baby Zeke with Eva and Debbie

We were so grateful that Eva Muntean (co-founder of the Walk for Life) decided to include Becky among her Walk for Life speakers after hearing her give her RU486 reversal testimony at our banquet last year. As a result, Becky has been invited to share her testimony at local pro-life banquets and for other out of state events. Her message is traveling far and wide.

Juan Diego Society

(St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center Newsletter)

*12 North White Road #5
San Jose, CA 95127*

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #4473

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Staff and Volunteers

Willie Lopus
Executive Director

Patsy Gonzalez
Lead Counselor

Laura Reyes
Counselor

Perla Marido
Hispanic Outreach Project Manager

Fr. Joseph Homick
Spiritual Advisor

Board of Directors

Romel Antonio

Ana Aspinall
Chairman

Rafael Betancourt

Patsy Gonzalez

Evelyn Reynolds

Tom Wagner

***THE ST. JUAN DIEGO WOMEN'S
CENTER IS SUPPORTED
ONLY BY YOU!***



The center relies **solely** on the generosity of individuals. The St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center can continue to help women in crisis pregnancies **only with your support.**

Please be generous. Together we shall save a baby.

No amount accompanied with love is too small.



All donations are tax-deductible.

Make checks payable to the Juan Diego Society.
Donate on line. Visit website: www.jdwcenter.org