

Help for Pregnant Women and their Babies

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#### **DECEMBER 2014: CHRISTMAS EDITION**

Dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn

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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.

# JUAN DIEGO'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: AN EVENT TO REMEMBER



After tremendous preparation, our phenomenal banquet, "A Center Without Borders" has become an unforgettable occasion. We are grateful to our emcees who seamlessly wove the program beautifully to its conclusion with wit and humor.

The star studded guest list included pro-life leaders that keep the flames of hope and enthusiasm alive in those that defend the unborn –the two distinguished doctors, Dr. George Delgado and Dr. Mary Davenport that created the protocol to reverse the RU486 abortion pill, Eva Muntean (co-founder and co-chairman of West Coast Walk for Life and Pastor Walter Hoye, pro-life hero and founder of Issues4Life Foundation. Our superb keynote speaker, Carol Everett, mesmerized our guests as she shared the abortion industry's chilling agenda that begins at the earliest stages of our children's development to create an abortion mentality. It starts by breaking down their innocence. She also proclaimed that even the most corrupt abortion purveyors (having been one herself) are not beyond the grace of a conversion.

Our theme —A Center Without Borders, was described by our director Willie Lapus, as a center with a "can do" spirit not restricted to its geographical borders. Its mission goes beyond its four walls and city to states nationwide — even extending as far as China and the Philippines when there was need to aid a mother. He described Juan Diego's spirit in his words," I think about what sets our center apart from other pro-life centers, and the answer is reflected in our mission statement: **everyone that walks through our doors is treated like family** during pregnancy and many times long after. We become their family when they have no family to speak of, or when they've been rejected by their mothers, fathers, husbands and boyfriends. We stop at nothing to protect them and their unborn child." (continued on page 2)

### IN HER WORDS: EMILY'S STORY

Editor's note: Just 12 months ago, Emily brought a new challenge to our center—that of providing the means to reverse the abortion she had begun with the abortion pill. Emily graciously shared her story with the guests at our banquet. We share a condensed version of her moving testimony so we may better understand what goes through a mother's mind as she struggles with the only choice she believes she can make.

When I discovered that I was pregnant, like most 19 year olds with an unplanned pregnancy, I was terrified. I was scared of what my parents would say or do, that I was going to be a disappointment and I was afraid about my financial future. I was certain I couldn't financially support and provide all the care a baby needed. (continued on page 2)



## JUAN DIEGO'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: AN EVENT TO REMEMBER (CONTINUED)



Carol Everett, Keynote Speaker

The center's efforts to train and provide close contact with sidewalks counselors on the front lines and its new outreach program to the Hispanic community that has been a prime target by the abortion industry also highlights the center's uniqueness and willingness to do anything, go anywhere and provide sacrificially whatever a mother needs to choose life. Those programs yielded many more babies saved and new volunteers to pray in front of the abortion mill next door to the center.

Emily Duerr and Becky Buell gave their testimonies of their journey from fear to joy when they found hope though the reversal website online to undo their chemical abortions. They both delivered beautiful, healthy, baby boys (Zeke and Zechariah) proving that interrupting the chemical abortion within 48 hrs after the first dose does not cause birth defects as claimed by the abortion industry. Emily was referred to our center by the San Diego based hotline to facilitate her treatments— which eventually led to Juan Diego's efforts to promote the protocol with other centers nationwide. In gratitude for the gift of their reversals, both mothers have offered to provide moral support for new mothers who have changed their minds. It was a thrilling moment for guests to witness Emily and Becky introduce their babies to the doctors and to personally thank them for giving them the gift of motherhood.



Dr. George Delgado

Dr. Delgado remarked that working with the Juan Diego Center had opened his eyes to the opportunity that the pregnancy resource centers could serve as the hub that would furnish invaluable support for mothers by keeping up their courage, paying for the antidote and liaising with doctors willing to provide the treatments. He expressed his gratitude for Juan Diego Center's efforts to spread the good news far and wide.

Patsy Gonzalez, head counselor and Juan Diego volunteer for 22 years, described the lengths the counselors go that makes our center so unique. She remarked, "When a mother chooses life, the hard work begins." The response to a mother's dilemma is a heroic love that compels a counselor to rise up to difficult and unusual challenges. "We have been godparents, Lamaze partners and marriage counselors...we have given driving lessons, put up Christmas trees, visited boyfriends in jail, and rescued a mother threatened with a beating by her husband if she didn't have an abortion. The pro-life movement is the new Underground Railroad that reaches out to pregnant women kept in bondage by society's notion that the only way out of her fears is an abortion. It is our new civil rights issue that begs us to defend our unwanted unborn children that are perceived as non-persons, unworthy to be citizens of this great nation".



Fr. Lawrence Goode

The candlelit dinner and inspiring stories touched many hearts, some remarking that in spite of its size of well over 300 guests, the banquet felt like a dinner around the family table. One guest remarked, "It was beyond inspiring". We are grateful for all our friends and supporters that make our work possible and most especially thankful for the best yield for the evening— Eva Muntean's invitation to make the RU486 a feature for January's Walk for Life that will open the doors to many more mothers to choose life.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all our supporters for making this truly an event to remember.

# IN HER WORDS: EMILY'S STORY (CONTINUED)

So I went to Planned Parenthood the following Friday after I found out. Every day that passed before my visit to the abortion clinic, I thought of telling my parents and trying to think of ways I could keep my baby. I had already bonded with the tiny person inside me but fear always overcame my rational thinking. I drove to the clinic that Friday. I was surprised to see a nurse so quickly and taken to a room. She had me sign waiver papers releasing the responsibility from Planned Parenthood if anything were to go wrong. Then she handed me the first pill that would cut off the baby's food supply. I stared at the pill in my hand and became overwhelmed with sadness and the feeling that I was making a terrible mistake. But yet again the fear I had of being pregnant overcame all other emotions and I took the pill.

On the drive home I was consumed with guilt and regret. I cried the whole way home. Ironically, it also poured rain the entire night. I felt like Jesus was crying for what I had done. When I got home, I told my sister what I had done and that I wanted to fix it and reverse it somehow. I called the reversal number my sister and I found online, I came in contact with Elizabeth Delgado who took my information and said she would call me back in an hour or two once she found something. They say the most sincere prayers come from hospital rooms, death beds and those in the midst of a tragedy. Well, I know that be true because during the time I was waiting for Elizabeth to call me back, I prayed for my baby's life harder than I have ever prayed for anything before.

I know God heard my prayer because Elizabeth called me back with the answer to my prayers –Patsy and Willie, from the St. Juan Diego Women's Center. In less than 12 hours from the time I took the first pill, I received my first treatment. Of course, I was nervous to go and get injected with a substance of which I knew nothing about the validity or safety of, but I decided I had to trust the solution that God had provided me with.

When I got to the St. Juan Diego Center, Patsy and Willie reassured me that they would do all they could to save my baby and that everything was going to be okay. I saw a model of a 6 week old baby which was the age of mine and I looked at how real and beautiful the baby was even when it was only six weeks old. When I saw that model, I couldn't believe that I almost ended my little baby's life. I came home that day and told my parents everything and about the reversal process I was undergoing. My mom was very receptive and came to meet the staff the next day and has supported me with love my entire pregnancy. She still supports me to this day.

Everything fell into place after that and I remember hearing my son's heartbeat for the for the first time around Thanksgiving. In July, I gave birth to a perfectly healthy, beautiful 9 1/2 pound baby named Ezekiel which means "God strengthens" because that's what God did. He protected and strengthened my baby against the abortion pill's effects through Dr Delgado and Dr Davenport's reversal process.

I am for forever changed into a new person because of my son and what I went through to bring him into this world. He is the absolute best thing that has ever happened to me and I am so blessed to have him as my son. God says children are a blessing and a gift from above, and I cannot agree more. I hope everyone when faced with the choice chooses life but thankfully, if they make a mistake like mine, there's a second chance, which is the reversal process.

### More Special Snapshots from Our Banquet



Renee Duerr & Baby Zeke



Emily and Becky with their babies



Dr. George Delgado

Willie V. Lapus

Pastor Walter Hoye II

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