

Our COVID Baby

When Ascension/St. Vincent's Printing Specialist Jeff Johnson received the order to print flyers for Emergency Pregnancy Services it was just another print order...until it wasn't.

This print order became personal.

In September of 2020, EPS launched Bright Course, a program that includes lessons on pregnancy, infancy, toddlers, parenting, life skills, and more. This would be a great program and EPS needed to get the word out. We needed to print flyers and get this message out to all who would benefit from this program. As part of the Mission of Ascension/St. Vincent's organization, we have access to their print shop and the order was placed. When Jeff saw this Bright Course flyer, he knew just the right person for this program.

Jeff's best friend's daughter, Teal, was expecting her first baby and was very concerned about caring properly for her new infant. Jeff gave the flyer to Teal, and she was very excited to participate in this program.

On October 16, 2020, Teal came in for her first appointment. She met with our Client Advocate, Dee and expressed great concern about parenting her baby as well as financial worries due to feared cutbacks or possible layoffs because of COVID. She and her husband, Josh were both very excited about the baby, but equally worried about ensuring the health, wellbeing and stability of their tiny new family. Dee assured them we could help. Teal received *The First 9 Months and Healthy Pregnancy* books and scheduled her next appointment.

Bright Course was the answer to Teal's worries. The course provided education with an added bonus of MOMMY MONEY! As moms progress through the course, they receive Mommy Money that they exchange for brand new items for their babies. EPS maintains a stock of used items for moms and babies, but Mommy Money buys brand new (*tags still on*) baby items. These baby items would further help Teal with financial assistance.

Teal began Bright Course with the Second Trimester and Second Trimester Expectations videos. She received her Mommy Money and purchased a pack of newborn diapers, wipes, baby toiletries and a baby towel; she also received a maternity shirt and 2 dresses.

In her next classes, she learned about Infant Expectations, Hygiene and Caring for Herself after Childbirth.

Often the client cannot come in for the classes and so Dee was able to send via text the following classes: Final Stretch, Baby's Secret World, Big Belly Mommy Hacks and Post-Partum Depression. Teal wasn't scheduled for a C-section, but wanted to watch the video anyway.

Subsequent lessons included: Shaken Baby Syndrome, SIDS, Car Seat Safety, and What's Safe in Pregnancy. Josh joined Teal for the Emotions of Pregnancy & Bonding with Your Unborn Baby lessons, and discussed trying to choose infant car seats and carriers, bonding with baby with music and talking to baby.

Josh and Teal's mom accompanied her for an ultrasound. Although our sonograms are not diagnostic, it was evident to Teal and Josh that they were having a baby girl! She was 28.2 weeks along in her pregnancy, and was due on March 1, 2021.

Teal was very diligent about her classes and came in for Your Third Trimester and Third Trimester Expectations.

Teal was able to purchase an abundance of new items for her baby: baby hats, baby girl outfits, onesies, diaper bag, toiletry items, sippy cup, baby pajamas and maternity clothes. This was a good program for Teal and her new baby girl.

In February of 2021, Teal became our FIRST EPS Bright Course graduate by completing her classes and earning her graduation gift, a brand-new Pack and Play.

Baby Everleigh was born prematurely on 2/25/21 at 6:22 am weighing 7 lbs 11 oz and was 20.5 inches long and the family is doing very well.

"I am a firm believer that everything happens for a reason and people come in your life at the precise time you need them. Emergency Pregnancy Services is so dear to me. They were there for me throughout my pregnancy and after the birth of my daughter, Everleigh. I not only received practical baby essentials and invaluable lessons for becoming a first-time mother, I also gained a lifelong friend in my counselor, Dee. I cannot thank this organization enough for the impact they have made on my life personally and the lives of so many women in the community. They have all of my love and support as they continue to fulfill their mission in empowering women every day." – Teal



Mommy and baby



Printing Specialist Jeff Johnson shows the flyer from EPS



Teal spends her Mommy Money in our Baby Boutique



Teal receives her Bright Course graduation gift, a brand new portable Pack and Play



Everleigh Mae is born

Jeanette's Journal



Jeanette Ghioto
Executive Director

Daylight Savings time had started, and it was a late night at the office for me and our Client Advocate, Dee. The weather was still cool and breezy – a sweater was definitely necessary to protect against the wind.

It was a Tuesday at about 6:40PM when the young woman came in. I knew that it would be a while for the pregnancy test and then the ultrasound, so I returned to my office upstairs with

the understanding we would go well beyond our 7pm closing. After some time, I walked downstairs to check the status, and as I walked by the ultrasound room I saw this precious image on the ultrasound screen. I snapped a photo and hurried into the counseling room just as the client was leaving the building. She was tall and thin and did not have a sweater; my first thought was that she would be cold as she went out into the evening air. I saw her blonde hair flying as she walked quickly out our front door.

“Dee, look at this!” I said waving my iPhone with the photo. The baby in the image looked like he or she was praying. Dee stopped typing the client notes and grew very quiet; without looking up from her computer screen, she finally said: “yes but she is having an abortion.” I felt the air go out of my chest as though someone had punched me in the stomach. These words came crushing down upon me. Dee continued, “she is out of work and has already had one abortion and has a child at home, and the father of the baby is never around. She feels overwhelmed and just cannot do this by herself.” Dee added: “I suggested adoption to her, but she said that was out of the question.” Her response was:

“I am a product of the foster care system and my foster parents looked good on paper too, I would never do that to my child!”

I immediately ran upstairs to my computer to access our Prayer Warrior text program. I crafted the message and sent the request to

PRAY that this mom chooses life. At that time, we had 100 prayer warriors. These prayer warriors are men and women, old and young, located in California, Georgia, Orange Park, Saint Johns and Jacksonville. Their only job is to PRAY that the mom chooses life. We prayed, and we waited.

Most often we do not know what decision the mom has made. While we do follow up calls and texts, most often we are unable to know what happens. But that would not be the case with this mom.

A few days later, Dee elatedly announced that the mom would choose life for her baby, and the father was excited. We, at EPS, would be there to guide her along with whatever professional referrals she might need, as well as pregnancy/baby needs, and our Bright Course educational program.

Dear Readers, that is why we are here, and why we need to be here. Without our love, support and wisdom in counseling these women, they might seek solutions to their crisis pregnancies that do not empower them to make fact-based decisions. That's our mission.

We cannot do this without your help. Enclosed is an envelope for your discernment.

No amount is too small.

Would you like to be a Prayer Warrior? Email me

jeanette.ghioto@ascension.org

Please pray for us!

In Life!



Ultrasound 13 weeks

Emergency Pregnancy Services
Prayer Warrior Team
Join us in praying for LIFE!

Receive quick text messages to pray for women to *choose life* when they are undecided about their crisis pregnancies.

Email your cell phone number to jeanette.ghioto@ascension.org



Our 12 Apostles for the Heartbeats...Our Firm Foundation...

*“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’
Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’” (Isaiah 6:8)*

The work of Emergency Pregnancy Services requires a level of professionalism and an environment of compassion and safety that ensures we achieve our mission of empowering women to make fact-based decisions regarding their pregnancy without judgment or pressure.

Women come to us in crisis. Women come to us struggling with unplanned pregnancies and experience pressures from many sides. These pressures include absent or abusive partners, unsupportive parents, their own poverty, and societal pressures.

Our 12 Apostles for the Heartbeats ensure that our staff is trained and has the best tools and resources available as well as providing an environment that is peaceful, warm and welcoming.

We cannot do this critical work without them.

As of this writing we have 11 Apostles for the Heartbeats. Please let me know if you would like to be a critical part of this firm foundation of hope and love that is pro-woman, pro-child and pro-life.

Jeanette Ghioto, ECRF
Executive Director



Our 12 Apostles for the Heartbeats

1. Elizabeth Edge
2. Aubrey Edge
3. Jill and Charlie Arnold
4. The George and Margaret Helow Family Foundation
5. Tammy and Jay Demetree
6. Chuck and Pat Parliament Foundation
7. Warren and Joanne Powers
8. Louise and Bill Gay
9. In Memory of Elizabeth*
10. In Memory of James*
11. James Williams
- 12.

** Elizabeth and James were both victims of abortion*

Apostles for the Heartbeats



By Elizabeth Edge, Apostle for the Heartbeats and Honorary Board Member

“Everyone shall stand in awe and confess the greatness of the miracles of God ... they will realize what amazing things He does.”
— Psalm 64:9

I became an apostle because of Jeanette. She is an image bearer of Christ in every sense of the word. One of my favorite quotes is from Tish

Warren’s book “Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life:” “Jesus’ real ministry was the person right in front of him.” I believe the true definition of a miracle is God breaking into the world in unexpected ways.

I also love the wisdom of Bible scholar N.T. Wright. In his book, “Matthew for Everyone,” he writes:

The phrases about ‘the son of man coming in his kingdom’ and the like are not about what we call the ‘second coming’ of Jesus. They are about his vindication, following his suffering. They are fulfilled when he rises from the dead and is granted ‘all authority in heaven and on earth.’

To those who follow him today, Jesus makes equally large promises. He is already the risen and exalted Lord of the world. We don’t have to wait, as they did, for his vindication. It’s already happened. It remains true that to follow him we have to learn to think inside out, in looking-glass fashion: what the world counts as great is foolishness, and what the world counts as folly is the true wisdom. Cling to your life and you’ll lose it; give everything you’ve got to following Jesus, including life itself, and you’ll win it. In every generation there are, it seems, a few people who are prepared to take Jesus seriously, at his word. What would it be like if you were one of them?

Jeanette is one of them. My husband Aubrey and I had been board members for many years at EPS. During that time, EPS grew from one to three locations in just two years. Still, we knew the obstacles this mission would face due to the falsely politicized nature of abortion, artificially restricting private and corporate support of this mission.

When we joined the board, we immediately recognized that we really needed to secure about 15-20 families that would pledge significant, sustaining stewardship. A tall order for sure, and we quickly realized we should just be satisfied with 100% board financial commitment!

When Jeanette became director, she asked to meet us both for lunch. We expressed once again our belief that this mission was different, and therefore would need a different approach to financial stability. If Jeanette could cover her operating costs through the financial commitment of about 20 supporters, she would then be free to focus her energy on the mission work.

To say we were blown away by Jeanette’s vision and passion at that very first lunch meeting is an understatement! The next day, she sent us an email and told us that after reflection, she decided to create the “12 Apostles of the Heartbeats.” We immediately thought, wow, how bold to set that goal even higher with only 12 versus 20 stewards!

Jeanette has secured 11 of the 12 at this writing. And when she is tempted to become discouraged, I know she trusts these words of N.T. Wright:

Jesus surprises people and overturns expectations. He didn’t go when the sisters asked him [to heal Lazarus]. He did eventually go, although the disciples warned him not to. He spoke about ‘sleep’, meaning death, and the disciples thought he meant ordinary sleep. And, in the middle (John 11:9), he told them a strange little saying that people who walk in the daytime don’t trip up, but people who walk around in the darkness do. What did he mean?

He seems to have meant that the only way to know where you were going was to follow him. If you try to steer your course by your own understanding, you’ll trip up, because you’ll be in the dark. But if you stick close to him, and see the situation from his point of view, then, even if it means days and perhaps years of puzzlement, wondering why nothing seems to be happening, you will come out at the right place in the end.

I am so blessed to have Jeanette as a sister in Christ. The world tries its best to make the Word of God formulaic and predictable, but she refuses to settle for the constraints the world places on her mission work. Her faith does not despair of reality, it defies it! What a privilege it is for Aubrey and me to walk alongside as “apostles” in prayerful support of what God has clearly called Jeanette to lead.

(Continued on next page.)

God is at work at EPS because Jeanette is willing to submit to His great plans and purposes. How blessed we are to be able to respond to His call:

*'Tis not that I did choose Thee,
For Lord, that could not be;
This heart would still refuse Thee,
Hadst Thou not chosen me ...
"My heart owns none before Thee,
For Thy rich grace I thirst;
This knowing, if I love Thee,
Thou must have loved me first.*

— Josiah Conder

God loved us first and in His reckless love, He chases after us in the gospel. Is it possible that He is calling you to be Jeanette's eleventh or twelfth apostle? Consider the words of Kimberly Hahn in her podcast, "Openness to Life," regarding the role of believers in the lives of babies and children:

"We are called to be living sacrifices, to nurture [these babies'] souls as well as their bodies. In the process we get opportunities to grow in virtue, to grow in faith. Openness to new life is an integral part of our witness to the world, reflecting that beautiful relationship between Christ and the Church. Can you imagine the Church ever saying to Jesus, 'No more baptisms, we just can't handle it! Don't send any more spiritual babies our way!' Or Jesus saying, 'No, no, no, there was a limit to who I was willing to die for!' Of course not. Our Lord and the Church open their hearts to each other and welcome all of us into the fold, and likewise, we are called to reflect that kind of unconditional love."

God does not ask us to do this alone. "He does ask us to be living sacrifices," Hahn continues. "And you know the hard part about being



In 2010 Elizabeth invited Pam Tebow to come and speak at the EPS Stories of Hope Event that was a very successful evening for Life!
L-R: Sean & Mary Maguire, (Elizabeth's parents), Pam Tebow, Elizabeth and Aubrey Edge

a living sacrifice is, we're not dead yet, and so we give ourselves to the Lord and we lay down on the altar. And all of sudden the sacrifice begins to be painful, difficult, challenging and we're tempted to crawl off the altar. And our Lord, in his deep, deep love for us, says, 'Come on honey, you want to crawl back up on that altar. You want to stay there. You want to give yourself to me completely.'

Jesus' apostles were ordinary people who followed an extraordinary call.

Please join Jeanette in this extraordinary call.



Community Connections...Networking for Life

It takes an entire community to educate, advertise and support the Mission of Emergency Pregnancy Services. As the Bible says: *"we are many parts but all one body"* (1 Corinthians 12:12)



Working with the Youth Directors to discuss forming a Teen Youth Advisory Board for EPS



St. Patrick's on Jacksonville's Northside hosts an EPS banner, our thanks to pastor Father Christopher Liguori for sharing our mission



Meeting with the Women's Guild of St. Paul Riverside



Thanks to Father Remek Blaszkowski, Pastor of San Jose Catholic Church, for hosting one of our EPS banners. (L-R) Father Remek, and 4 of our Apostles for the Heartbeats, Charlie & Jill Arnold and Tammy & Jay Demetree



Sharing the EPS Mission with the Catholic Women's Club

Legacy of Life - Yesterday and Today

Emergency Pregnancy Services has been serving our community since 1974... and has truly created a Legacy of Lives



Heather noticed our name tag at Zoës and she immediately said: "EPS helped me with all three of my babies, the oldest is now 12, I couldn't have done it without them."



Eric was SO excited to place his baby's heart sticker on our Legacy of Life Due Dates Calendar for 2021



Tempest came to clean, saw our calendars and shared that EPS had helped her with her babies and found one of her due dates on our calendar back in 2015



Congratulations Katie on graduating from our Bright Course Earn While You Learn Program



Little Levy came early so Candace and Jaylon came back for classes to learn how to care for their new son



Leah is having twins

Riverside's Makeover

Thanks to a grant from the Powers Family Foundation and the donations of time, talent and treasure from others, our Riverside office is getting a new look. As of this publication, everything is still in progress so come visit or look for the completion photos in our next Footprints.



Nancy Powers inspects the painting of contractors with Optimum Painting, Chris and Larry – well done!



Medexcel Lead Mechanic, Cosmo Trinca, observes as supervisor Kevin Darnel reviews plans for the new business cubicles with CCS workers Brian and Ramos • CCS donated the construction of the wall and the cubicles • Medexcel provided the butcher block desk top



EPS Board of Director, Angel Corrales, left, and his son Gabe, above, painted our upstairs hall for the display of our Legacy of Life calendars



Teresa Stokes reframed and refurbished 20+ years of calendars that display the hearts of babies born, thanks to the mission of Emergency Pregnancy Services



Tim with Medexcel installed all new blinds throughout our office

Our Volunteers: Doing All Things With Great Love....



Melissa Gunkle photographed our staff



Merle Jenkins, with First Coast Lawns, donated and spread mulch to beautify our Arlington office



Sandy Duggan planted new flowers on the front porch planters at Riverside



Mariela McSoley photographs our moms and their babies

Mariela
McSoley
Photography

PHONE: 954-494-8033
email: me@mcsoleyphotography.com
Follow me in:
facebook.com/mcsoleyphotography
Instagram: @Marielamcsoleyphoto



Christ the King Youth Group did a yard clean-up at our Riverside office

Sharing Diapers

From time to time we at EPS receive an abundance of diaper donations. When this happens, we reach out and share. At Christmas we were very blessed and sent diapers to the Alpha Omega House in St. Augustine and The Inn Ministries on Jacksonville's west side. Both are maternity homes.

Most recently we shared diapers with Robin Shipley, Founder and Executive Director of Foster Hope serving Clay County for the babies in foster care.

It is so important to ensure the healthy bottoms of the babies and the peace of mind of the moms in our community.



Alpha Omega House



The Inn Ministries



Robin Shipley, Founder and Executive Director of Foster Hope – Serving Clay County

*Happy
Mother's Day*

**Happy
Father's Day**



**MOTHERHOOD IS A
PROUD PROFESSION.**



**A dad is a hero
for life!**

Visitors to Emergency Pregnancy Services

Welcome! *May All Who Come as Guests, Leave as Friends.*



Susan Egan with the Knights and Dames of Malta, American Association



Jill Alderfer, Youth Director for Christ the King Catholic Church



Robin Shipley, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries with the Diocese of St. Augustine with her two foster sons



Beth Merchant, one of our new Board of Directors



Greg Wolfe, Vice-chair of our Board of Directors



Barbara Fryman, Benefactor



Jennifer Smith, Director of Nursing - Acute Care/Family Birthplace - Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside



New Board of Directors, Angel and Amy Corrales tour our Riverside office

Time, Talent and Treasure

Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference



Thanks to Gili's Restaurant and Louise and Bill Gay for hosting a staff appreciation lunch. Gili Ben Simone, his wife Ricki (in front of him), Jeanette Ghioto, Ricki Ben Simone, Andriea, Kiersten, Jessica, Tamara, Jamie and Dee.



Wendy and Mike LeBlanc offered their Lenten alms for our mission



Gordon and Norma Scott share their donations for our mission



The St. Theresa Circle of the Council of Catholic Women from St. Paul's in Jacksonville Beach created an abundance of Mommy Bags: (L-R) Norma Scott, Patty Thomas, Jane Lewis, Aurora Schmincke, Ann Mary McCarthy, Terry Lyons, Virginia Maxten, Agnes Jazwinski, Judy Rees, Marie Griggin



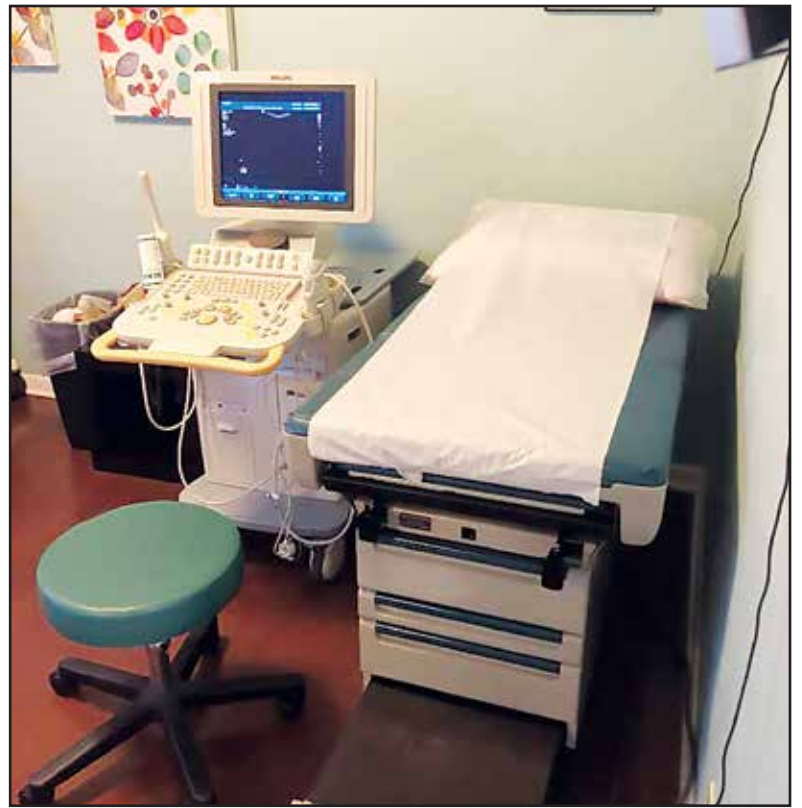
Bishop John J. Snyder's St. Vincent de Paul Student Society staged a penny war during Catholic School's week for our mission and raised \$350, Principal and Spiritual Advisor Deacon David Yazdiya and club sponsors Joy Gallagher and Dominique Cook



The Gunkle family sweetened our Christmas with these delicious chocolates



Mary Ann Keegan created hand colored cards of inspiration for our clients, and they love them!



Dr. & Mrs. Felix Acholonu donated a 4-d ultrasound machine to our Arlington Office



Knights of Malta – American Association – created Mommy Bags



Angel Corrales replaced the planters at our Riverside office



Mrs. Carol is always looking out for us



In addition to being a mission, we are a business and we always need office supplies – check out our Amazon wish list on our website www.emergencypregnancyservices.org



Stephen Turner sold all of his childhood toys to give alms for our work



Thanks to Bishop Larkin Council #4727, Knights of Columbus for their faithful support



Many responded to our need for diaper bags

YOU can donate to us while also getting what you need!

Here's how...

Set us up as your charitable organization on AmazonSmile.

You must shop through <http://smile.amazon.com> and select

Emergency Pregnancy Services of Jacksonville Inc. to allow the 0.5% of your eligible purchase to be donated to us.



You may go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1728078> and it will automatically have Emergency Pregnancy Services selected for you. You must have an Amazon account set-up for you to start shopping through <http://smile.amazon.com> or <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1728078>.

After you have signed in through your Amazon account, you complete your online shopping like you normally would, but this time your purchase will help Emergency Pregnancy Services.

Let your friends know too! PLEASE SHARE!

CHECK OUT OUR...

amazon.com[®]

WISH LIST

<https://a.co/a2uOb7y>

Emergency Pregnancy Services



Yolanda Bradley

★★★★★ 12 weeks ago

Was one of the best places I went to when I say they make you feel welcome they do I love their personalities and everything thank y'all for y'all's help I really appreciate y'all 🥰🥰



leah jones

★★★★★ 13 weeks ago

I found Emergency Pregnancy Services while searching on the internet and I have to say that it is by far one of my most favorite unexpected finds! I love the work that they do here. The staff was extremely kind, helpful and informative. I wish I could have known about them sooner. Overall 5/5 stars, would definitely recommend



Jasmine Cooper 24 weeks ago

★★★★★

This place was amazing. I enjoyed my experience there 😊 it was very helpful and staff was nice!

Did you know that we earned a 2021 Gold Seal of Transparency?



- Organization mission and contact details
- Donation information
- Leadership information
- Program information
- Brand details (website, social media, logo)
- Audited financial report
- Board Chair name and leadership demographics

Learn more about our organization's impact through our #NonprofitProfile on @CandadDotOrg:
<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/59-1728078>

Your Seasons of Support!

Fall & Winter



463
Pregnancy Related
Discussions

84%
Positive Pregnancy
Tests Administered

87%
Chose Life
for their Babies

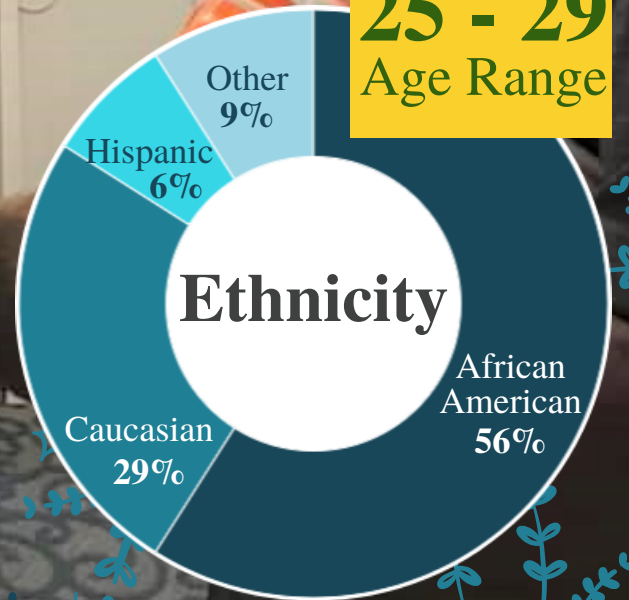
737
visits

105
Pregnancy
Education Classes

350
"Mommy Bags"
given

129
ultrasounds
performed

30% were
25 - 29
Age Range



14
Newborn
Layettes
Given

Board of Directors

Jill Arnold
Amy Corrales, BSN RN
Angel Corrales, EPA
Fr. Leonard Chuwa, MA, BCC, PhD
Patricia Cronk
Scott Fryman, BBA
Louise Gay, PhD
Bill Gay, Jr.
Chris Gibson, CPA
Lisa Harkness
Ted Harkness
Autumn Martinage, MBA
Beth Merchant, MBA, MHA
Mollie O'Neill, MSN RN
Diane Helow-Parker
Mark Scruby, J.D.
Leslie Waldburg
Dr. Greg Wolfe

Honorary Board Members

Maria Victoria Acosta-Rua, M.D.
John Caven
Aubrey Edge
Elizabeth Edge
Jay Demetree
Rick Mullaney
Congressman John Rutherford
Robert Shircliff (deceased)

For Crisis Pregnancy Services call or text 904-308-7510
For more information email Jeanette Ghioto jeanette.ghiotto@ascension.org
Visit us at www.emergencypregnancyservices.org
Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/EmergencyPregnancyServices/



BREAKFAST FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021
10 AM-11:30 AM

REGISTER to join the **FREE**  **LIVE STREAM**

1. Go to our website at www.EmergencyPregnancyServices.org
2. Click on the "EVENTS" Tab.
3. Click "**Get Your Ticket Today!**" to register for our FREE live stream.

Be sure to check out our "Priceless List" at the bottom of the "EVENTS" Tab.

You can help us with continuing to make our mission thrive in our community.

No donation is too small!

Emergency Pregnancy Services - Serving from 3 locations - Call or text 904-308-7510

Arlington
Monday-Friday
9am-4pm
6903 Merrill Road
Jacksonville, FL 32277

Riverside
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9a-4p
Tuesday and Thursday: noon-7pm
1st & 3rd Saturday: 9am-noon
1637 King Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

Orange Park
Tuesday-Thursday
9am-4pm
2300 Park Ave, Ste. 204
Orange Park, FL 32073