

2020 - The Year in Review

To Parent??? to Place for Adoption??? Such a Hard Decision...

Kiersten's Client

Leica came to our Orange Park office for a pregnancy test in August of 2020 and was totally undecided about her pregnancy. She was in a very challenging relationship with the father of her baby who was not interested in having another child as he had two children from his marriage and was totally unsupportive. This was so very disheartening for her. Leica's mom convinced her that abortion was not an option. Together, we discussed both parenting her baby and adoption. I shared with her how very impressed I was with her thought process. She was being thorough, logical, smart and unselfish. I encouraged Leica to continue the same focus and stay positive. At the end of our first counseling/test visit, I suggested Leica choose a baby hat along with her "Mommy Bag" and paperwork.

After about a month, Leica was ready to discuss adoption as an option. We scheduled a meeting with Love Adoption Life to answer further questions. By that time, her boyfriend had left her and moved out of state and cut off all communication. Leica was temporarily homeless and had to move into her brother's house with his pregnant girlfriend and her nephew. Through all this upheaval, she was working as a cashier and working toward her AA Degree that she would complete by March of 2021.

At our next meeting Leica shared her concerns about being a single mom and being financially stable. We reviewed both parenting and adoption — what would each look like for her? Leica's mom was supportive of whatever decision Leica would make. By the end of the meeting, we came up with a plan for her to "make moves" as if she were planning to parent the baby. This would allow her to be 100% confident that it was the best option. Leica started "making moves" and feeling as if she was making progress and not at a "stand still". She remained positive and focused.

Leica found out she was having a baby boy. Ironically, the infant hat she chose at her first visit with me was blue. Also, her due date is my birthday, March 26th. Please pray for Leica and a healthy, happy delivery and for the wisdom to know what is best for her baby.



This Would Be Her Second Abortion...the Power of the Ultrasound

Jamie's Client



"Lynn*" came into our Arlington office totally distraught. The burden of an unplanned pregnancy can weigh very heavily. She was just not sure what to do. "Lynn" had 4 children ranging from 18 months to 15 years and was having terrible financial struggles and did not feel she could bring another baby into her life. "Lynn" had a previous abortion that had really taken a toll on her emotionally. Data shows that women who do not receive counseling from a first abortion will most likely have a second abortion. We talked about how hard the previous abortion was for her, and that financial issues can change but a decision for abortion was permanent. She agreed to an ultrasound. The baby was 13 weeks along and was very active. We could see the heartbeat, arms and legs moving all around. This vivid image of her baby changed her mood almost immediately and she was willing to discuss parenting her baby. She was given information about Medicaid and was referred to one of the Ascension/St. Vincent's doctors for her prenatal care.

"Lynn" stays in touch and is very happy to have someone to talk to about the challenges in her life. So far, her pregnancy is going well. Please keep her in your prayers.

*Name changed.

Jeanette's Journal

Executive Director's Report



By Jeanette Ghioto

Hello, my dear friends for Life, my name is Jeanette Ghioto and I am the new director with Emergency Pregnancy Services. This has been an incredible journey and I would like to share it with you.

If you are reading this right here, right now – then we have something in common – we want to help women in crisis pregnancies to make the best decisions for themselves and their babies. We pray for this. My husband and I

began praying a more specific prayer last year: that our Lord would please send someone to accompany women in crisis pregnancies to the birth of their babies. Little did I know He would send me. Note to all: be careful what you pray for. Please let me share...

When COVID hit earlier this year, I was working with the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Augustine, Florida. They are an elderly congregation of Sisters who have served in Florida for 150 years. On March 20th they came to me and said they had to mitigate the risk of the virus coming into the Motherhouse by reducing the lay staff. We all cried – I love them – but I truly understood. With a median age of 79 years and with Sisters in their 90's – this virus would kill them, and they continue to be a blessing to so many people. So, I planned to retire.

In the midst of my retirement planning, my old friend Nancy Powers let me know that EPS was looking for a new director. I have known about the work of EPS for many years, so I made an inquiry. Within a couple of weeks, I was hired, but I must admit as I thought more and more about this role, I became very apprehensive; to be honest, I was scared.

I spoke with my spiritual director/confessor about my apprehensions. I told Father Joseph that Satan would surely be after me in this work. We all know that he does not want these babies to live – but rather to die in the agony of abortion. Father Joseph reminded me that Our Lady had crushed Satan's head and that I was not to be fearful. I had seen the statues of Our Lady with her bare feet on the head of the serpent (*at right*) and I knew he was right. But I still was not sure. God



knows I am a little hard headed at times. So, early the next morning, as I was walking in my neighborhood on my predawn Rosary walk, my flashlight caught the reflection of something that was very brightly colored in the middle of the road. As I got closer, I saw that it was a snake. I approached very cautiously and realized it was a dead snake. As I got even closer and looked down upon it, I saw that it was a dead snake with a crushed head. This was unbelievable. I texted a photo (*below, left*) to Nancy and asked her to describe what she was seeing. She confirmed it was a snake with a crushed head.

God has never spoken so clearly to me.

This work must go on and I know I have been called to lead it and I know that God is in this mission. I also know that I cannot do this without your help. We are all many parts of the same body coming together in mission to ensure that the tiny bodies of the babies in the wombs can someday join us.

As we enter this season of the birth of our Savior, please consider honoring Him with your kind generosity to our mission. No gift is too small to save the tiny babies nestled in the wombs of the mommies. Please help me to help them to live. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. We cannot do this without you.

Please pray for us!

In life,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanette".

Jeanette Ghioto, ECRF
Executive Director



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 10 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 | 7. Warren and Joanne Powers |
| 2. Aubrey Edge | 8. Louise and Bill Gay |
| 3. Jill and Charlie Arnold | 9. In Precious Memory
of Elizabeth |
| 4. The George and Margaret
Helow Family Foundation | 10. In Precious Memory
of James |
| 5. Tammy and Jay Demetree | |
| 6. Anonymous | |



Community Connections

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)



Honorary EPS Board of Director and Congressman John Rutherford, for sharing his passion and support for EPS and the sanctity of life with Apostle for the Heartbeats, Bill Gay and Executive Director Jeanette Ghioto



Board Chair Trish Cronk and her husband Joe for sponsoring our Earn While You Learn Bright Course training class. These classes empower our moms and dads to be better parents



San Juan del Rio Council of Catholic Women for inviting us to share our Mission



Dr. & Mrs. Felix Acholonu for donating an entire set of director's office furniture, new waiting room chairs and an ultrasound machine



Christie Detrude, Owner of the Catholic Store, for displaying our sign



Terry Parker High School (near our Arlington office) who invited us to sponsor their sports "T" Shirts



Deacon Bob DeLuca, Director of Campus Ministry at Bishop Kenny High School for meeting with Executive Director, Jeanette Ghioto

EPS Banners, sponsored by EPS Board of Directors member, Mark Scruby and his wife Virginia Hall, are displayed throughout our community — 12 women have seen our banners and come in for help.

EPS Banners = 12 Clients

Church	Pastor	Location
Heritage Baptist Church	Melisse & Dallas Kager	Orange Park
St. Catherine of Siena	Father Ignatius Plathanam	Orange Park
St. Luke	Father Andy Blaszkowski	Middleburg
St. Paul Riverside	Father George Vaniyapurackal	Riverside
St. Pius/Catholic Charities	Father Bernadine Eikhuemelo	Northside
Christ the King	Father James Boddie	Arlington
Resurrection	Father Peter Akin-Otiko	Arlington
San Juan del Rio	Father John Tetlow	Saint Johns
Our Lady of Consolation	Father Dung Bui	Callahan
Holy Spirit	Father Amar Nagothu	East Arlington



Fr. Ignatius Plathanam and Fr. Maurice, St. Catherine, Orange Park



Father George Vaniyapurackal, St. Paul Catholic Church, Riverside



Melisse & Dallas Kager, Heritage Baptist Church, Orange Park



Father Dung Bui, Our Lady of Consolation, Callahan



Father Peter Akin-Otiko, Resurrection, Arlington



Partnering with Catholic Charities at St. Pius Church

Meet the Staff of Emergency Pregnancy Services

In 2021, the 8 staff members of EPS will have served a collective 62 years counseling women in crisis pregnancies. Their job descriptions include: answering phones and texts, providing diapers and baby items to moms in need; teaching moms to be better moms; counseling abortion minded moms to choose life; educating women about healthcare; administering life affirming ultrasounds, and so much more... Our staff listens to some of the most heartbreaking stories from these women who are in crisis and provides the necessary referrals to organizations that can further help them. This is very hard work and this staff is very dedicated – often going over and above to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our moms and their babies.

Due to COVID directives from our parent company, Ascension/St. Vincent's, we have been unable to have volunteers.

Our 7 front line staff have done all this very hard work. Please keep them in your prayers.



Andria Thompson

Client Specialist/Receptionist

Andria started as a volunteer with EPS in August of 2010 and came to us from Work Source which is a career path organization in Jacksonville. During one of her volunteer shifts, the director overheard her speaking with a client and recognized the true empathy she had together with an ability to really connect with the client. She offered Andria a position and she is now our Client Specialist-Receptionist. She is the face and voice of EPS for

all clients who walk in or call over the phone. She greets the clients and checks them in before they meet with the Client Advocate counselors. She also manages our materials closet. Clients receive maternity clothing and clothing for their babies as well as diapers, formula and baby food.

She has 2 grown daughters and loves watching the old-time television shows.

“I love listening and talking to the women who come in – no two stories are alike and often we are able to share ideas. Recently, I was able to help a young mom get her 5-year-old child started in the Head Start program. It is truly gratifying to be able to help.”



Dejah D'Amour (Dee)

Client Advocate/Sonographer

Dee has been with EPS for 5 years. She graduated from Ultrasound school with a specialty in OB/GYN because she loves working with women and their unborn babies. She has a beautiful 13-year-old daughter and in her words “bringing her into this world was a Godsend.” But sadly, her twin brother Ethan James, passed in utero at 32 weeks gestation due to a clotting issue that was found by doctors after delivery.

“I never anticipated going that far in my pregnancy and experiencing loss so great. It was a journey and while it was difficult it led me to my career with EPS. I am so blessed to be able to offer prenatal counseling and education to young women who do not have the luxury of dependable support in their lives. We strive to empower these young women to take value in themselves to prepare them for motherhood and parenting. I am very proud to be a part of a wonderful and selfless team of women.”



Jamie Benda

Client Advocate/Sonographer

Jamie is one of our client advocate counselors who is a credentialed ultrasound technician. She has been with us for 4 years and her quiet calm demeanor is a great blessing to women in crisis. She is a mom of three children, 2 teenaged daughters and a young 4-year-old son and enjoys spending time with her family; and, in her spare time enjoys reading, doing arts and crafts, and learning/practicing to groom their family pet, a Goldendoodle.

“Every day, I have the opportunity to help women by giving them information to be healthy moms and have healthy babies. I can do ultrasounds in a more personal and intimate way with these women. Some days, counseling is very hard work, but most days are very rewarding, as I am able to make a difference for these women and their babies.”



Jeanette Ghioto

Executive Director

Jeanette is the new executive director with EPS and is just 6 months young. She is the mom and step-mom to 6 adult children who have blessed her with 16 grandchildren, 11 boys and 5 girls.

She loves snook fishing in the Gulf and mountain cabins in the fall. After retiring from AT&T in 1998, Jeanette served various ministries in the community: Catholic Charities, the Diocese of St. Augustine, Sulzbacher

Center for the Homeless, San Juan del Rio Catholic Church and most recently with the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Augustine. On her way to retirement, God had another plan and she started with EPS in May of 2020.

“No woman should have to face an unplanned pregnancy alone. I am honored to lead this team of dedicated women who are the light in what seems to be a very dark time. This staff is beyond committed to this mission and I cherish every moment that helps women choose life.”

Employee photos courtesy of Melissa Lorraine Photography:

melissalorrainephotography@gmail.com



Jessica Thomas

Manager of Operations

Jessica has served the longest at EPS. 14 1/2 years ago she started as the receptionist and then became a pregnancy counselor for several years. In 2014 she became the Manager of Operations ensuring we have sufficient coverage at our three locations and staff has whatever they need to best serve our clients. She is the mom of 19-year-old twin boys. She also has both a stepson and a daughter-in-law who are proud parents of her pride

and joy, a 2 1/2 year old granddaughter. She will welcome a grandson in April of 2021.

“I am very passionate about my job and what I do at EPS. I absolutely love our mission and what we stand for. There is nothing more rewarding than touching the lives of others and making a difference in their lives, especially when they are going through something as difficult as an unplanned pregnancy. I definitely know, in my heart that this is where I am called to be and to help lead.”



Kiersten McGuiness

Client Advocate/Sonographer

Kiersten has been with EPS for 11 years. She has been married to her high school sweetheart for 10 years and has 2 children, an 8-year-old son and a 5-year-old daughter. She is one of our Client Advocates who also does the life affirming ultrasounds. When she first interviewed for her ultrasound training she wanted to help be “the window for the mom to see her baby”. She soon discovered there was much more to this very important job than just a picture

and loves every minute. After ultrasound school she was offered a job at the hospital but really felt God calling her to EPS and she started PRN and soon became full time.

“I love being able to help and give women hope in their time of crisis. Being able to listen to these women and empower them is what I strive to do every day I'm at EPS.”



Mary Stinson, R.N.

Client Advocate

Mary works part time for EPS and is a Registered Nurse (RN), International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). She taught Childbirth Education for 7 years. She has been practicing for 29 years and has been with St. Vincent's for 21 years. She joined Emergency Pregnancy Services in 2015. She continues to work with Seton Center for Women and infants Health, along

with EPS.

She has been married for 30 years and is the mother of two and a grandmother of three.

Working with our moms in crisis is a blessing for Mary as she says it is “a calling dear to my heart.”



Tamara Williams

Client Specialist/Receptionist

Tamara Williams came to us 6 years ago as a volunteer. She is one of our Client Specialists who serves as the calming voice over the phone and smile at the door welcoming clients into our office in Arlington. She graduated from Florida Technical College (FTC) in 2011 as a Clinical Medical Assistant and is the mom to two young sons, Tyler and Trysten. In her spare time, she loves to read and to travel. Her most memorable

experience was visiting her brother in Chicago when he graduated from basic training and she saw snow for the first time which was a real treat for this southern girl.

“I love my job at EPS because it gives me the opportunity to help our clients succeed and become strong and loving mothers to their babies and help their families. I also work with a great bunch of ladies who empower women every day.”



Creative Volunteers and Donors

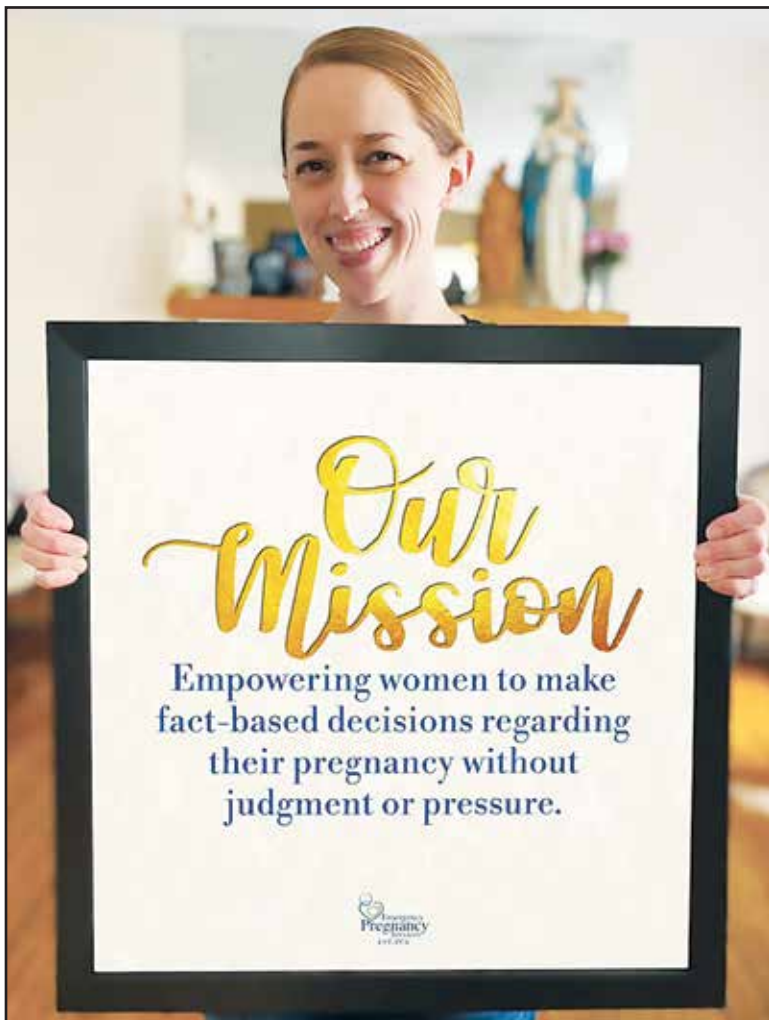
PLEASE NOTE: Every precaution is taken to ensure the safety and good health of our staff and our visitors. During these difficult COVID times, many people have come forward in very creative ways to help us.



Alee crafts friendship bracelets for our new moms. Her theme is “a baby is a friend forever”. Our moms love their bracelets



Former Jacksonville Jaguar, John Chick, power washed our old 1939 Riverside office



Christina Ghioto created a work of art from our Mission Statement for display throughout our three locations



Former Executive Director, Sandy Duggan, beautifies our Riverside office with lovely plants and fall decorations



Sarah Catherine Bradley sewed masks for our clients



Shelby Small helped to organize our donations closet in Riverside



Bob Hohman donated bags of clothes



Doug Link and Joe Farina replaced our client's restroom floor. Joe built a new vanity.



Donors Nicole & Dan Patin and Martha & Walt Edwards replaced our broken ultrasound monitor in Riverside and replaced the monitor in Arlington



Dawn Lockhart donated a new chandelier for our client waiting room



Caroline McClellan painted our Mission Statement on canvas



Gernalyn Ryan and Nan Duffy with Catholic Charities Caring Choices Ministry provided Adoptions Placement training



Shirley Fiano facilitated a Day of Retreat for the Staff wherein we identified our various communications styles and are on our way to becoming a high performing team



Angel Corrales painted our client restroom



Gabriel, his son, painted our new restroom door



Ladies of the St. Therese Circle of St. Paul's Church in Jacksonville Beach made baby blankets



Thanks to Father Philip Timlin from Mary Queen of Heaven in Argyle and parishioners for this mountain of diapers and wipes. (l-r) volunteer Irene Smith and staff members Deb Novotny and Sara Creech help to load them up



Steve Hart, owner of Paint it Right, donated paint and his time to paint the reception and waiting rooms in our Arlington office



Ghioto Family table was donated for our Bright Course classroom wherein students like Isabel and John learn how to become great parents with our Bright Course Earn While You Learn program



Father Leonard Chua, Director of Ethics Formation with St. Vincent's Health Ministries, reviewed the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Healthcare Services. Father Leonard reviewed these directives with the staff and with the Board of Directors.



Deacon Steve Arnold offered the opening prayer for our staff day of retreat

Our thanks to **Mussallem Galleries** for this stunning carpet for our Reception Room in Riverside



Mike and Marcia Rogero donated a Koala Kare changing table for our newly remodeled client restroom



Sophia Joos created water color paintings of flowers to brighten our three offices



Trudy Hudson steamed our new blackout curtains for our ultrasound room in Riverside



Carpet before



Carpet after



Our thanks to the **Powers Family Foundation** for a grant that replaced all of our 15 year old carpet and installed a new washer/dryer combination to launder our donations.

Ambassadors of Hope

Thanks to a very generous benefactor, 100 EPS masks were distributed throughout our community to share our message of hope for anyone who might need to see our contact information.

Some of our Ambassadors:



Anne Cole



Henry and Bernie Klepac



Jamie Medley



Jennifer Clark



Love Adoption Life



Mrs. Carol Farley



Norma Chambers, Director of Physician Practice Specialty (center), Jessica Thomas (left) and Jamie Benda



Staci Duncan, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

EPS Welcomes Visitors

PLEASE NOTE: All COVID precautions are taken to ensure the safety of all visitor, staff and clients

Medical Residents from Ascension/St. Vincent's



Faradia Pierre



Elisha Mahilal



Yvonne Kamau



Kelsey Williams



The Powers Family: Nancy Powers, Maggie Trull and Jane Collins



Marjorie and Bill Higgins, Respect Life Committee from St. Luke's Parish, tour our Orange Park office



Deacon Larry Hart from St. Catherine's Church



Father James Boddie from Christ the King Church



Pastor Jerry Nordsiek, Jr. of Advent Lutheran Church



Becket and Christina Ghioto inspect the Bright Course Baby Boutique



Samantha and Sophia Joos



Wendy LeBlanc and Cindy Delaparte



Teresa Stokes, Jennifer Smith, Director of Nursing - Acute Care/
Family Birthplace and nurse manager Lauren Ashworth tour the
Riverside office



Cindy Delaparte visits and brings a filled baby bottle and takes more to
share and fill up



"Bag Lady" Duncan Sawyer visits from time to time making sure we
have bags to help our moms carry their baby items home

Mommy Bags

Every new mommy receives a Mommy Bag with basic needs items for her new baby. These bags can be purchased or assembled for donation to EPS.

Students who assembled Mommy Bags for Service Hours:



Sarah Cate, Liam and Nicholas Bradley



Katherine Iseley



Olivia Ryno from Horsahm, PA, assembled bags and mailed them to us



Mrs. Carol Farley used her Amazon Smile to purchase Mommy Bags, doubling her blessing to us and our moms.



Members of the BLAZE Bible Study group from Our Lady Star of the Sea created 18 Mommy Bags

Look what your generosity did in 2020!

862

Pregnancy Related Discussions

1,135
visits

139
ultrasounds performed

82%

Positive Pregnancy Tests Administered

50

Zip Codes Served

88%

Chose Life for their Babies

September-November

18

Pregnancy Education Classes

July-November

over 200

"Mommy Bags" given

14

Newborn Layettes Given

1,009
Children Clothing



MORE THAN 1,135
BABY ITEMS GIVEN

10,981
Diapers

30% were **25 - 29**
Age Range

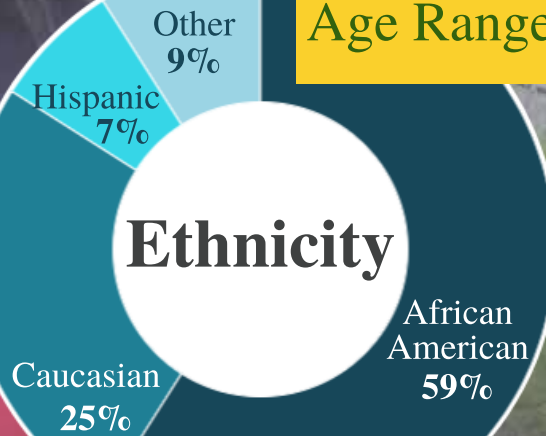
156
Maternity Clothing



244
Packs of Baby Wipes



Ethnicity



*COVID-19 Closures occurred March - May



Board of Directors

Jill Arnold
Patricia Cronk (Chair)
Chris Gibson
Autumn Martinage
Diane Helow Parker
Mark Scruby
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*
** In Memoriam*

Website: www.emergencypregnancyservices.org

Facebook: [@EmergencyPregnancyServices](https://www.facebook.com/EmergencyPregnancyServices)

Blessing of Our Riverside Office



Our heartfelt thanks to Father Leonard Chuwa, Director of Spiritual Care, for blessing our Riverside Office. Joining us were 2021 Breakfast for Life sponsors Roger and Carol Tompkins and Apostles for the Heartbeats, Louise and Bill Gay.

