



## BORN FOR LIFE FALL DINNER

We were grateful to host a full house at the annual Fall Dinner with 520 guests in attendance--a beautiful testament to the support for life in West Michigan!

Prior to the event we were fortunate to welcome the event keynote speaker, Father John Riccardo, and his team to HELP for a tour of the renovated and expanded space. Almost immediately after walking through the doors of HELP, Father John and his team turned to one another, smiled, recognizing how the thoughtfully designed, inviting space clearly communicates to every person walking in, "we were expecting you, we have prepared a space just for you."

Much of Father John's message at the event was centered around the mission of the Church, that it is not only to evangelize, it is to also recreate--ours is the task of cooperating with the Holy Spirit, using the gifts that He's given to us and going out into every area of life and transform it in such a way so as to bring it ever more into conformity with all God created it to be.

Father John also gave everyone homework--if you have not been to tour HELP, stop by anytime or contact Paula to set up a visit! Thank you, Father John, for sharing your mission strengthening message, Cristina Brown, for graciously guiding the evening as the event emcee, and Father Robert Sirico, for offering a powerful, life-giving message and blessing of the event.

A wholehearted *thank you* to each of you for supporting HELP through your prayers, volunteerism, material, and financial gifts. Your support makes it possible for us to recreate what it means to support women in an unplanned pregnancy--to not simply help, but walk alongside women, anticipating their needs and providing transformative services that help them envision and embrace a future bringing new life into the world.

You were born for this--you were born for LIFE!



Choosing & Cherishing Life Since 1973



*Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
please intercede for us as our  
patron and mother.  
Under your mantel we place  
HELP's mission for the women  
and families we serve.  
As Mother of the America's,  
we implore your help in every  
need. Mary most holy,  
pray for us!*



## OUR MISSION

HELP Pregnancy Aid, Inc.  
is a non-profit organization  
dedicated to providing  
life-giving support and  
services to women  
and families.



705 Bridge St., N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
Phone/Text 616-459-9139  
info@HelpPregnancy.org  
Monday-Thursday 9:30a-3:30p  
SupportHelpPregnancy.org



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



"All Glory be to God" is the first thing that comes to my mind when I reflect on the past several years here at HELP—from the design stage of our expansion and renovation project, to the Expanding our Possibilities capital campaign, to the construction groundbreaking ceremony, to the Ribbon Cutting celebration and blessing of our new space July 1, 2024. It was a time of catching up with the culture, exploring and understanding where our services could operate to their full capacity, opening our doors wider, and putting our best mission out to the community. I want to thank Rob McBrien, our board chair and all HELP Board Members who blow-the-wind into the sail of the mission, continuing the work, staying vigilant to the needs of women, and remaining focused on addressing the question "what is the source of the circumstances that brings on thoughts of an abortion as the only choice?"

One way of staying vigilant is a newly established Client Advisory Committee, a group of women who have utilized HELP services and are now out serving the community in various ways. The committee members have a pulse on the culture and want to make a difference, to give back and be a part of something bigger than themselves. As we have been meeting, we are pressing into the needs of the women we serve, bringing awareness to a wide range of topics through our conversations, including housing, transportation, affordable daycare, post-abortion support, and mental health services.

We look forward to the work of this committee helping to guide the path as together we identify, address, and find solutions for those circumstances that bring on thoughts of an abortion as the only choice.

I pray as you turn the pages of this newsletter you will see that the investment you've made has lived up to your expectations in bringing loving embraces to those in our community providing comfort and hope where it is most needed.

HELP only happens because of you!

*Paula Veneklase*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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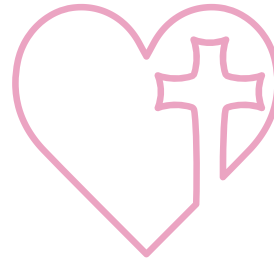


# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS!

## Memorials

Frederic (Fred) Andersen  
Rita DeFouw  
Rosemary Frey

Dorothy Deja  
Donna Miller



## Gifts in Honor of & in Memory of

All the Unborn and the Innocents  
Betsy Hayes, Audra Welch, & Olivia Nowak  
Birth of Eden Boldt  
Carl Zerfas  
Cody Dorman—Inspiring, Amazing Boy  
David & Lisa Martin's 40th Anniversary  
Elaine M. Corbat  
Ella Mae Beck  
Fred Barkwell  
Helen A. Varner  
Irene Hascher & Louis Schaub  
Julie Mollan  
Ken & Ann Malewitz  
Kyrán Eardley  
Lenderink Tree Farm 4th of July  
Celebration  
Margaret Duba  
Mary Ellen Courtade

Mothers Who Chose Life  
Noreen Duba  
Pam Robertson  
Patricia Burch  
Patricia Koltak  
Phil Dykema  
Robert & Christine  
Ron Nicewander  
Rose Bouwhuis  
Rosemary Jansen & Delaine Quam  
Sacred Heart Walk-A-Thon  
Sandy Lowery  
Sue Jones  
Susanne Doherty  
Thomas Plesco  
West Catholic Cross Country

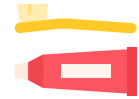


“ Thank you for making me feel like I can trust HELP and belong. ”

*Client Quote*



THANK YOU TO  
DR. JOHN FREY FOR  
SUPPORTING FAMILIES  
WITH TOOTHBRUSH AND  
TOOTHPASTE DONATIONS!



## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

A heartfelt thank you to the Community of St. John Girls' Camp who volunteered their time helping us prepare to welcome guests of the Ribbon Cutting celebration!



We are grateful to the Catholic Central students who devoted their time volunteering at HELP for the Catholic Central annual Servathon! You are a blessing to the mothers and families we serve!



# YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



## *Lori's Stories*

Emily\*, seventeen years old and in her senior year of high school, sat on her bed in disbelief holding a positive pregnancy test. A second at-home pregnancy test confirmed she was pregnant. The next day, after working up the courage, Emily shared the information with the father of the baby, Brad\*, a friend of a friend she'd met just three weeks earlier. He didn't believe it was his baby—that it was possible to have a positive pregnancy test so soon.

After many sleepless nights and difficult exchanges with Brad, Emily made an appointment to have an ultrasound at HELP. I welcomed Emily and Brad to the mentoring room in HELP's health and wellness wing, grateful for the peaceful, confidential space. The two of them were able to freely share their story, ask questions, and receive answers and information about a woman's reproductive cycle and learn that yes, it is possible to conceive and have a positive urine pregnancy test 2 weeks after conception.

The ultrasound confirmed the gestational age of the baby growing within Emily, and they were able to see the flicker of the baby's heartbeat on the monitor. Brad stood there in the ultrasound room and tried to convince Emily to abort the pregnancy, that he wanted to start his family on his terms and it was not what he wanted at this point in his life. My heart broke for this young mother who, having seen the heartbeat of the life growing inside of her, was sitting there in silence, desperate for comfort. She wanted his support and never received it.

The pressure to abort was not going to stop Emily from following through with the pregnancy and bringing this precious life into the world. While the path to achieving her goals in life shifted a bit, Emily is happy with her decision to parent, even if it means being a single mom.

She left HELP that day with hope, reassured knowing we are here with open, loving arms to help support her and her child.

*Lori*

\*Names have been changed

## CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

### *Kim McDonough*

After raising their family in the suburbs of Grand Rapids, Kim and her husband, Ray, moved downtown Grand Rapids. Kim wanted to become involved in the downtown community and began to explore volunteer opportunities. She found HELP Pregnancy Aid online and made an appointment to visit the center to learn more about the mission; that was nearly ten years ago.

Kim has devoted her time as a Client Volunteer Advocate, providing life-supporting information to mothers in an unexpected pregnancy; as Co-chair of the HELP Expanding Our Possibilities capital campaign; currently as a front desk receptionist welcoming clients; and board member, helping to guide the center to a sustainable, life-giving, and successful future.

Dependable, adaptable, and willing to step out of her comfort zone, Kim is an invaluable member of our team. In her own words, "I take my volunteer role very seriously. It's so important that we're here, a reliable, consistent presence with our doors always open."

In sharing time alongside the women who turn to HELP for support, God has opened Kim's eyes wider and softened her heart in many ways. Learning the obstacles many face with simply getting to their appointment—taking the bus with several transfers, using precious dollars for a taxi or gas, or asking for a ride from a family member or friend. There is more need in the community than she had ever imagined.

Kim views her volunteering as a gift and would encourage others to take that first step to get involved in something they hold dear—bring a face to the other side, offering the smile, the welcoming hello; share God's love and make a difference in the lives of others.

Please contact Amy Oatley at 616.459.9139 if you interested in becoming a volunteer at HELP.



# WRIGHT CONNECTION EDUCATIONAL CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Educational programs for clients, led by professionals throughout our community, are offered in the Wright Connection, an inviting living-room style space.

*Classes, programs, and group gatherings include:*

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ask the Pediatrician                | Healed and Set Free        |
| Baby Scholars Program               | Kids Dental Care           |
| Bible Study                         | Miscarriage Support        |
| Breastfeeding Group                 | Real Food for Rookies      |
| Budget Basics for a Brighter Future | Refresh and Reset for Moms |
| Childbirth Classes                  | Special Treasures          |
| English as a Second Language        | Story Time                 |
| FEMM Your Body Your Beauty          | Today's Mom                |



## BABY SCHOLARS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AT HELP



We are grateful for our partnership with Strong Beginnings Baby Scholars program and their Community Health Workers, Leticia Delapaz and Ame Stanley, who lead the Strong Beginnings Baby Scholars educational program in both Spanish and English here at HELP. The program is designed to equip parents of children five months to four years with support, education, and resources to help their children reach their full potential.

The program focuses on helping parents become the best teachers they can be, so their children can succeed in school and in life. Leticia and Ame coach HELP clients, building awareness of how important those first three years of life are, equipping them with information for the different situations as their child grows, and offering new tools for the different stages of their child's life. Taking into account HELP's clients cultural background and unique circumstances to provide individualized care, the ten week program shows parents how positive parent and child interactions can help their baby's language, social, and cognitive development.

Baby Scholars is one of HELP's community partnerships that allows us to walk alongside our clients and offer support each step of the way.

## SERVING MORE WOMEN & FAMILIES!

Comparison { January to September 2023  
January to September 2024



[Visit [SupportHelpPregnancy.org/center-reports](https://SupportHelpPregnancy.org/center-reports) to view the 2023-24 Impact Report!]



# RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION!



*All Glory be to God*

Over 200 community members joined us July 1, 2024 for the ribbon cutting ceremony and blessing of the renovated and expanded space!

Contact Paula at 616.459.9139 if you would like to take a tour of the new space--she would love to show it off!



## JOIN THE FUN—DRAISING!

*Designer*  
**PURSE**

**BINGO**

*when* FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025

*where* WATERMARK COUNTRY CLUB  
1600 GALBRAITH AVE SE

*time* 11:00AM



Individual Ticket \$45 | Table of 10 \$450

Ticket includes lunch and two bingo cards. Additional cards available for purchase at \$10 per card.

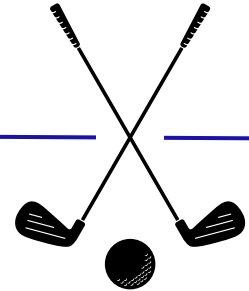
A total of 5 rounds of bingo will be played at the luncheon.

Visit [SupportHelpPregnancy.org](https://SupportHelpPregnancy.org), call 616.459.9139, email [cherieq@helppregnancy.org](mailto:cherieq@helppregnancy.org), or scan the QR code to make your reservation and learn about becoming an event sponsor!





2025 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF OUTING  
 MAY 24, 2025  
 THE FALLS AT BARBER CREEK



*Ways You Can Help Support the Event*

- GET A FOURSOME TOGETHER AND GOLF
- BE A HOLE SPONSOR FOR A \$100 MINIMUM DONATION
- DONATE A GIFT FOR THE AUCTION
- DONATE A LARGE RAFFLE ITEM
- UNDERWRITE THE STEAK DINNER

For more information contact Ed Forgeron at 616.871.4366 or Ken Visger at 616.458.1018



**REGISTRATION AT 8:00AM**

**Four person golf scramble at the Falls at Barber Creek**

**Saturday, May 25, 2025**

**8:00AM Registration | 9:00AM Start**

**\$100 fee per player--\$400 fee for foursome**

Team Captain Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3 name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4 name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

DINNER ONLY (\$25):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of Meals \_\_\_\_\_

**HOLE SPONSOR**

Advertise your business

Receive recognition for your donation

\$100 minimum donation for sponsorship

Name or business to be displayed on sign:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

~~~~~ Your donation includes personalized sign to be displayed on one of the 18 tee boxes ~~~~~

**Registration and Sponsor Payment Due May 4, 2025**

Check Made Payable to: K of C Council #10992

Mail check to: K of C Golf Scramble, c/o Holy Family Parish

425 S. State Street, Sparta, MI 49345



HELP PREGNANCY AID  
705 BRIDGE ST NW  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504

NONPROFIT ORG  
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A heartfelt *thank you* to our 2024 Fall Dinner Sponsors

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*Champion Sponsors*



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PODIATRIST



*Defender Sponsors*

Tim May



*Advocate Sponsors*



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