

ORIENTATION INFORMATION

VISION

To be a freely accessible presence in the community promoting life and sexual purity.

MISSION

Your Loving Choices is a Christian ministry promoting life as given from God, offering loving support to those facing unplanned pregnancies, providing education about the life-giving options of adoption and parenting, conveying God's healing to those traumatized by abortion, and advocating abstinence as the only true prevention of sexual crises.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Your Loving Choices is to educate pregnant women about the alternatives to abortion, and to enable them to carry their babies to term, while at the same time demonstrating Christ's love.

GOALS

The Goals of Your Loving Choices are:

- To present women and men facing unplanned pregnancies with all available choices.
- To help them explore the consequences of each choice, for their lives and the lives of their children.
- To enable them to make informed, conscious decisions.
- To support them in actively carrying out their plans for parenting or adoption.
- To offer loving, non-judgmental support to women who have been through an abortion experience.
- To demonstrate Christ's love and forgiveness to all clients.

SERVICES

The services offered by Your Loving Choices include:

1. Free pregnancy tests
2. Options education (parenting, adoption, abstinence, abortion)
3. Post-abortion healing peer counseling
4. Education on fetal development
5. Referrals to community resources
6. Support for extended family
7. Abstinence presentations for your school, youth group, or community organization
8. Community, club, and church speakers

POSITIVE/NEGATIVE TERMINOLOGY

Often, the terms we use in speaking with others on the subjects of abortion, adoption or unplanned pregnancy may be emotionally and/or politically charged words. They may carry undue negative connotations that YLC may wish to avoid.

AVOID

pro-life/pro-choice
keeping her baby
giving her baby up
real parents, natural parents
adoptee
murder
unwanted child

PREFERRED

alternatives to abortion
parenting her child
making an adoption plan
birth parents
the child
ending a life
unplanned, untimely pregnancy

POLICIES

1. Prayer is the essential first step in any phase of this ministry.
2. Scripture, and the actions and attitudes of Jesus Christ contained therein, are our ultimate authority and model.
3. We will always speak the truth in love.
4. Confidentiality is a basic right of each client and will be respectfully upheld.
5. We will encourage the clients to establish good communications with their families.
6. We will strive for open, honest, non-judgmental communications with Your Loving Choices.
7. The client will initiate her/his relationship with Your Loving Choices.
8. Services should include the baby's father and grandparents whenever possible.
9. We will present each client with a variety of choices, no matter how firm she seems in her initial planning.
10. We will strive to present updated, accurate facts to enable clients to make informed decisions.
11. We will always respect the client's freedom to make choices.
12. Our role is to present alternatives and information, not to tell clients what they should do.
13. Your Loving Choices volunteers and staff will not make choices for clients.
14. We will not be forceful or coercive with any philosophy or practice.
15. We will treat the client with Christ's unconditional love, no matter what choices she makes.
16. Spiritual issues will be discussed only upon the client's indication of willingness.
17. We will not make referrals for, or in any way assist a client in obtaining an abortion.
18. Your Loving Choices does not place babies for adoption.
19. The client choosing adoption can place her baby through an agency of her choice, or through a lawyer with a family of her choice.
20. Clients and volunteers have permission to cry in this program.
21. All volunteers must be willing to participate in on-going training, through in-service programs and through reading suggested materials.
22. All volunteers must be willing to attend updating training meetings.
23. Volunteers serving with direct client contact will provide Your Loving Choices with proof that no record exists in the PA Department of Public Welfare's statewide Central Registry listing the applicant as a perpetrator of an Indicated or Founded report of child abuse or an Indicated or Founded report for school employees, and that no record exists in the PA State Police Central Repository. A copy of the Child Abuse History Clearance will be kept on file at Your Loving Choices.
24. Uses of politically oriented terms, such as "pro-life" and "pro-choice", will be avoided to ensure that all clients feel welcome at our center.
25. Your Loving Choices, does not endorse any political candidates or agendas. Employees or volunteers may NOT use YLC's name in anyway (letters, marches, placards, etc.) as an endorsement. Revised 6/98
26. Any newspaper articles, letters to the editor, or other public statements that mention Your Loving Choices, must be approved by the Board of Directors through the Executive Director prior to publication.
27. Volunteers will make their own arrangements for childcare while working at the center.

PHILOSOPHY

1. We believe that life begins at conception, and therefore that abortion, in any circumstances, is taking a life.
2. We take a strong stand against the *practice* of abortion and against *policies* allowing those practices to continue.
3. However, we offer the love of Christ and His forgiveness to those *individuals* involved in abortion.
4. We believe there are many victims in an abortion and offer loving support to the survivors.
5. We affirm that pregnancy always involves a child; therefore the key issues are, "Will the child be allowed to live?" and "Who will raise that child?"
6. We believe that women, couples, or families facing an unplanned pregnancy should have access to full information about all their options.
7. We believe that good pregnancy alternatives support and education starts with respect for the women involved, whatever the age or circumstances.
8. We believe that crisis pregnancy always involves the grief process and must be handled accordingly.
9. We believe that the key word is *plan*, to ensure a more stable future for all involved.
10. We affirm that client responsibility is a key ingredient to the success of both this program and the client's plans.
11. We believe that training and active preparation for parenting will help reduce the risk of child abuse, neglect, and the possibility of school dropout.
12. We believe that adoption is a positive and loving alternative to abortion, and needs to be presented as such.
13. We believe that there are no unwanted children, only untimely pregnancies.
14. We affirm that both agency and independent adoption are legal options in Pennsylvania, and will make referrals accordingly, based upon the client's requests.
15. We believe that adoption is a life-long process, and offer education and support accordingly.
16. We believe that abstinence until marriage and faithfulness in marriage, according to God's plan, is the only way to "Safe Sex."
17. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Creator of Life and Forgiver of Sins, and that each client has the right to be introduced to Him as their personal Savior and Lord.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

***RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT:** Greet clients and answer help line during office hours. Assist YLC staff with office work (photocopying, folding, preparing mailings, etc.) as needed. Time Commitment: initial volunteer training, office procedures and protocol training; on-going in-service training, flexible schedules available.

***PEER COUNSELOR:** Work face-to-face with clients. Time Commitment: initial volunteer training, on-going in-service training, and independent sessions with clients; on-duty schedule is flexible.

CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION LIASION: Have announcements put in your church bulletin of upcoming YLC events, prayer requests, etc. Be the active liaison for the YLC annual walk-a-thon.

***CLIENT SHOPPER:** YLC has a gift shop where clients go to spend their income from our Earn While You Learn Program. It would be a great help to staff and counselors if we had a few caring people who would take our clients into the gift shop and guide them through shopping time.

PRAYER CHAIN: Be a prayer partner and receive the monthly prayer calendar, be available to call for immediate prayer needs, and be in prayer daily for the center and its clients.

ROUTINE CLEANING OF THE YLC FACILITY: Do routine cleaning of the center including vacuuming, dusting, etc. Time Commitment: preferably 2 times a month, but at least once a month.

THOROUGH CLEANING OF THE YLC FACILITY: Do more detailed "spring cleaning" of the center including shampooing carpets and washing windows. (YLC will rent equipment as needed.) Time Commitment: two times per year, preferably spring and fall.

MAINTENANCE OF THE YLC FACILITY: Perform "odd jobs" at the center. These tasks would be in the realm of general household repair (repairing leaking faucets, hanging shelves, etc.) Time Commitment: as needed throughout the year.

Gift Shop Coordinator: Works in gift shop organizing and putting out seasonal clothing and etc. Washing and sorting clothing as donated. An assistant would also be helpful.

Assistant for Gift Shop : see above description.

***BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Responsible for business and policy decisions. By Board invitation only.

PREPARE MASS MAILINGS: Prepare newsletters, prayer calendars, and other materials for mass mailings. No typing required—just collating, stapling, stamping, labeling, and sorting.

Please note: All volunteers are required to have a signed Confidentiality Agreement on file at Your Loving Choices.

Positions indicated with an " * " require a Child Abuse History Clearance & Background Check on file at Your Loving Choices.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

Your Loving Choices is an outreach ministry of Jesus Christ through His church. Therefore, Your Loving Choices, embodied in its staff and volunteers, is committed to presenting the Gospel of our Lord to people facing crisis pregnancies both in word and in deed. Commensurate with this purpose, those who labor as Your Loving Choices board members, directors, staff and volunteers are expected to know Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Your Loving Choices is committed to providing clients with accurate and complete information about both prenatal development and abortion.

Your Loving Choices is committed to integrity in dealing with clients, earning their trust and providing promised information and services. Your Loving Choices denounces any form of deception in its corporate advertising or individual conversations with clients.

Your Loving Choices is committed to assisting women to carry to term by providing emotional support and practical assistance. Through the provision of God's people and the community at large, women may face the future with hope, and plan constructively for themselves and their babies.

Your Loving Choices does not discriminate in providing services because of race, creed, color, national origin, age or marital status of its clients.

Your Loving Choices does not recommend, provide, or refer for abortion or abortifacients.

Your Loving Choices offers assistance free of charge at all times.

Your Loving Choices is committed to creating an awareness within the local community of the needs of pregnant women, and of the fact that abortion only compounds human need rather than resolving it.

Your Loving Choices does not recommend, provide, or refer single women for contraceptives. (Married women seeking contraceptive information should be urged to seek counsel, along with their husbands, from their pastor or physician.)

Your Loving Choices recognizes the validity of adoption as one alternative to abortion, but is not biased toward adoption when compared to other life-saving alternatives. Your Loving Choices is independent of adoption agencies, relating to them in the same manner as to other helpful referral sources. Your Loving Choices receives no payment of any kind from these agencies, does not enter into contractual relationships with them, and does not share combined office space. Adoption agencies are not established under the auspices of Your Loving Choices. Your Loving Choices neither initiates nor facilitates independent adoptions, though it may refer for independent adoptions in states where it is legal.

SIGNATURE

DATE

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through his shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential, and that the salvation is received through faith in Jesus Christ as savior and lord and not as a result of good works.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life and to perform good works.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in Biblical sexuality, that marriage is intended by God as a covenant relationship between one natural-born man and one natural-born woman, and all sexual intercourse outside of marriage is sin.

SIGNATURE

DATE

GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS

The primary goal of this ministry is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ in both word and action to clients. In light of this goal, volunteers are encouraged to remember the following:

We are worshipping and serving Jesus Christ. We are not in the ministry strictly to serve clients, but also to worship and serve Him. In worshipping and serving Him, He shall enable us to minister to those who come to the center.

Volunteers must be faithfully in prayer, studying the Word and in fellowship in a local church.

God is as interested in transforming volunteers' lives through the work of the center as He is in the salvation and transformation of the women and men who come to the center.

Honoring God as we serve Him is the goal of the ministry. While we record the number of clients who come in and the number of clients who do or do not have abortions, this must not become the center's definition of success.

God is teaching us through all the circumstances of daily operation and outreach, as well as serving on the boards and in committees. The "hands-on" part of the ministry is not the only area God will use for transformation. Being faithful when there are no clients and finishing up office work (sorting clothes, etc.) are a test of commitment.

God will use the center to rework priorities in your life, test and strengthen you and reshape relationships.

Take the temperature of your home life often. No ministry is more important than your family. Lines of communication need to stay open continually as your involvement in the ministry develops. Be realistic with your time commitment before the Lord.

The ministry is always growing and changing. Be flexible and open to God's leading at all times.

God will teach you patience and will give you the strength to deal with the challenges of the ministry as you submit to Him in prayer, Bible study, and worship.

Do not compare your progress of development with other volunteers. You have a unique set of gifts that He will strengthen and refine. He uses different pressures and experiences to transform each person.

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

In case of emergency, I, _____, give Your Loving Choices permission to contact one or more of the following people:

(Please include at least one person that does not live with you.)

.....
Contact 1:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Contact Numbers—Home: _____ Other: _____

.....
Contact 2:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Contact Numbers—Home: _____ Other: _____

.....
Contact 3:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Contact Numbers—Home: _____ Other: _____

.....
Please list any details you would like an EMS worker to know before treating you. (i.e., allergies, medications you are taking that may react to medical treatment, etc.) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

VOLUNTEER PLEDGE

Recognizing that Your Loving Choices is a Christian ministry, I openly acknowledge my personal faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I have read the Statement of Faith and am in complete agreement with all statements in it.

I believe in the sanctity of human life as taught in the Bible and, therefore, reject abortion as an acceptable option for any woman facing a crisis pregnancy, except to save the life of the mother in some cases (e.g. tubal pregnancy).

I believe in chastity outside of marriage and in the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman as taught in the Bible. Therefore, I commit to a lifestyle of sexual purity.

I agree to be faithful in prayer, studying the Word, and in fellowship in a local church.

I accept the responsibility to act as an advocate on behalf of the clients under my care; to give accurate information, emotional support, and spiritual guidance. I will keep all information on center clients in the strictest confidence, in accordance with center policies. I will consistently uphold the center's policies relating to confidentiality, even after I am no longer a volunteer.

Understanding the vital role volunteers play in the work of the center, I commit myself to faithfully serve on a regular basis (as agreed upon with the Executive Director of the center). Additionally, I agree to enter into my role as a volunteer without any expectation of receiving any compensation for the services that I perform.

I have read, understand, and agree with the center's Statement of Principle and will at all times uphold it, as well as all policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors and Executive Director.

Volunteer Signature

Date

Executive Director Signature

Date

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

The service that Your Loving Choices, Inc. provides necessitates that certain personal information about our clients be collected and recorded. Due to the nature of our services and to the importance of establishing and maintaining our client's trust, it is imperative that we adhere to a strict policy of confidentiality.

I understand that any information available to me about Your Loving Choices clients (past, present, and future) including their identity or details about their specific cases must be kept in strictest confidence. Identifying information may not be discussed except with other volunteers from Your Loving Choices when necessary, unless there is a signed release statement from the client. The only exception is in the reporting of incidents that Your Loving Choices is mandated by law to report (i.e., child abuse).

Print Your Name _____

Signature _____

Director of Center _____

Date _____