



Ministry Update

*As given by Amanda Clark, Executive Director, at the
Richland Pregnancy Services Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday, November 14, 2019*

Good Evening! It is an honor to stand before you all tonight as I represent this ministry. I feel very privileged and humbled that I can serve in this capacity at Richland Pregnancy Services. I am a new face to most of you in this room, and the most important thing for you to know about me is that I love Jesus with all of my heart, mind, soul, and strength, and I want others to know him and to love him, if not more, than I do. That is my heart's desire for every client that walks through our door.

If you were fortunate to have attended our banquet last year, you may remember it being mentioned that within the year, the ministry was planning to rebrand its image and implement a new marketing plan. I would like to announce that we have done this with our updated websites and social media platforms. We must keep all of our marketing and communication to our clients looking professional and in ways that they can easily find us because we want to be the first stop they make when experiencing an unplanned pregnancy instead of the abortion clinic.

With our new marketing and rebranding phase, we now have a new logo! We wanted our new logo to look simple and clean, but we also wanted it to convey a message of what we stand for. If you look closely at the circle that surrounds our name, you will see the circle is actually made of arrows. Why arrows?

Psalm 127: 3-5 states,

*"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.*

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,

So are the children of one's youth.

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them"

The Lord views children as an important part of the family unit. They are called a “reward” and a “heritage.” We know as Christians that it is our duty as parents to recognize the privilege of raising children whom God has blessed with unique gifts, talents and personalities; however, many of our clients do not come from a background of faith and may not know this.

These children that are being saved from abortion because of Richland Pregnancy Services are one day going to grow up. Their moms and dads are raising unique individuals who will someday be let loose to fly with precision and accuracy at the target set before them by the Lord.

What separates our ministry from a social-service agency is that we do not just give out diapers and formula, but everything we do is for God’s glory and to build His kingdom. We want our clients to know Him! We walk with this mom and dad for the first two years of their parenting journey through our Mom-to-Mom and Dad-to-Dad mentoring programs.

Once our clients chose life, we don’t send them out the door and wish them a good life. We want to make sure that they are fully equipped so that they can raise these children the best they can, and when it is their time to let that “arrow go forth”, that child will go in the direction that God had planned for that child.

What separates our ministry from a right-to-life organization is that whether abortion becomes illegal or not, we want abortion to be unthinkable because our clients know that their child is created by the hand of God inwardly and perfectly in His image. What separates us from other pro-life organizations is that our focus is on the mother and father of that child. We are family-focused and not just baby-focused. Through our free services, we want to build strong families that are living the abundant life that Jesus died to give them. This is why we are a Pro-Abundant Life ministry.

We have big dreams here at Richland Pregnancy Services! We want to reach as many people as we can with our caring and confidential services, and it has been made clear to us that when we team up with like-minded organizations and ministries, we can do far more together than we could by ourselves. This is why, I am excited to share with you all tonight the collaborations that you can look forward to seeing in 2020:

- **Mansfield Christian School’s Independent Studies program** has adopted Richland Pregnancy Services this year as a ministry they want to help. These students are going to be making cookies for our clients next month and will continue to do service projects throughout the school year to bless our clients. We look forward to this relationship with these students.
- **The Little Buckeye Children Museum** – I have been blessed to meet with their Executive Director, as he and I are working on a collaboration to reach more fathers in Richland County. We are in the process of having a

Fatherhood Program at the Little Buckeye Children's Museum. While our Dad Mentors teach the fathers, the children of the fathers can play in the museum. Once the fathers complete this program, they will receive a one-year family membership to the Little Buckeye Children's Museum as well as graduation gifts from us.

- **Galion City Health Department** – We are collaborating to better serve our STD/STI clients that test positive out at our OSU Mansfield office. We have office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays on campus. If any of our clients test positive for a STD/STI, the Galion City Health Department will treat them when they are in on Thursday at no charge! This allows the clients to still get the initial appointment with our nurse manager in which we can share the gospel during this appointment, and then they can be treated for free by the Galion City Health Department.
- **Richland County Juvenile Detention Center** – We just began this partnership this past month. We have been asked to come in once a month to discuss healthy life choices with the teenagers there. Many of these teenagers have never had these topics shared with them before in an educational and compassionate way.
- **Ocie Hill Office** – As beautiful as our main office is, I do not think we are seeing all of the clients that are in need of our assistance. I believe there are more moms we can help and more babies we can save from abortion. This is why Richland Pregnancy Services recently submitted an application to lease an office at the Ocie Hill Community Center in downtown Mansfield. We submitted our paperwork just over two months ago, and we should have a definite answer this upcoming week. We were told we were safe to say tonight that we are going there. We exist to help as many men and women as possible so that we can save the physical life of unborn children, help build strong families, and give the hope of abundant life through Jesus Christ. If we do not think we are seeing everyone come through our doors that need our help then we are going to go to them.

And our last collaboration that we look forward to partnering with in 2020 is with You, the Church – As a “Pro-Abundant Life” ministry, our mission is two-fold:

- **Save the lives of unborn children**
- **Make disciples of Jesus Christ**

I would like to take this one step further and add, “**Help get our clients plugged into local bible-believing churches to disciple them and their family**”.

When a client comes into our office for their appointment, we have the opportunity to share the Gospel with them as long as they give us permission to speak about spiritual topics. For those clients that want a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

and want to be a new creature in Christ, we need the church to come alongside us! We can pray with these clients and do bible studies with them for the first two years of their child's life, but eventually they are going to leave our care. Our hope is when they begin to hunger the things of God, we have churches to plug them into right away. As a parachurch ministry, we are not the church! We come alongside the church to reach those in need of our services. This is why I am excited to announce that there are programs that local churches can do to help disciple our clients. Our clients are afraid to go into the doors of a church because they fear they will be judged. This needs to stop. Our clients should know that they can run to the church in the midst of their crisis because we know the One that heals, restores, and redeems.

The first program a local church can be involved in is:

Making Life Disciples – men and women from local churches train to become Life Disciples. When a client wants to learn more about walking in their faith, we contact a life disciple from a local church to mentor this client and just be a listening ear as well. As they continue to meet, the Life Disciple invites the client to church. When this occurs, the Life Disciple is no longer a volunteer of Richland Pregnancy Services but is helping on behalf of their church.

The second program is:

Embrace Grace – A program for pregnant women that are not married. This 12-week program must be held at a local church. It is a discipleship program for these pregnant women to know their worth in God's eyes. It is finished with a Princess Day in which they are celebrated as Daughters' of God and also a baby shower that the church holds for them. Many of these women do not have the means in their family to have a baby shower. By having the church shower them with gifts, they learn to run to the church rather than run away from the church. I have personally led 4 semesters of this program and have watched moms get saved, rededicate their lives to Christ, get plugged into the local church that hosted the group, and get married because of what they and their boyfriend learned from this program. The vision is that spiritually healthy Mommies have spiritually healthy babies.

The 3rd Program Is:

Embrace Life – A 24-week program in which a local church holds a weekly meeting for single moms. This allows the church to love on these moms and disciple them in how to take care of their children and their selves. Again, teaching these women that the church is a safe place. For many, this is their first time in a church or in a church.

We look forward to partnering with the Body of Christ locally to get our clients plugged into local churches so that our clients can have a church family to help disciple them, fellowship with them, walk with them, and come alongside them in their parenting journey and beyond.

You have heard what we have been up to the past year, what we look forward to in 2020, and lastly, I would like to share my long-term vision for the ministry of Richland Pregnancy Services, which is one that I recite almost daily as my affirmation over the center:

“Richland Pregnancy Services is a beacon of light in Richland County. We give hope to the hopeless and help to the down and out. We speak life over our clients with the truth of God’s holy word. We see women and men choose life for their unborn child and become strong, healthy moms and dads. We see churches team up with us so that we can refer our clients to churches that will love and disciple them. We work together with the Body of Christ to do all that we do with a spirit of excellence and for God’s glory. We all strive to do our best to advance the Kingdom of God through this ministry.”

Thank you very much for your time!