



Spring 2023 Newsletter

### Staff

Amy Kahl

*Executive Director*

Nancy Thorne, RN, MSN

*Nurse Manager*

Amy Lee

*Client Service Director*

Sydney Gribowskas  
*Volunteer Coordinator*

Raelene Harris  
*Director of Development*

Lynne Smith MSN, CNP  
*Staff Nurse*

Dick Stedman  
*Dad-to-Dad Director*

Jill Hurlow & Elisha Burson  
*Office Assistants*

Jenny Lykins  
*Financial Assistant*

### Volunteer Medical Personnel

Dr. Jeremy L. Riehm D.O.  
*Medical Director*

Dr. John Huddle, DO  
*Volunteer Physician*

Dr. Marilyn Kindig, MD  
*Volunteer Physician*

Melissa Ott CNP-C  
*Volunteer Nurse Practitioner*

### Board of Directors

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*Board President*

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DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC

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Brandon Furr

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## God Overcomes Every Barrier- Including Language!

*by Raelene Harris, Director of Development*

In January, RPS received a referral for a client, Katherine, who is originally from Nicaragua and had just moved to Mansfield. On such short notice, it was difficult to find a translator who was fluent in Spanish. However, I have had a bit of experience with the language from different mission trips. Although I felt ill-equipped, I decided to do the best I could. After all, the Lord is glorified in our weaknesses!

Katherine and her boyfriend, Giovanni, came to RPS seeking a pregnancy test. Through a combination of broken Spanish, Google translate, and a lot of hand gestures, Katherine was able to receive a free pregnancy test and an ultrasound shortly after. We were also able to help translate for her in booking a much-needed doctor's appointment.

Katherine and Giovanni are enrolled in mentoring where an RPS volunteer, who is fluent in Spanish, has been able to translate their sessions. RPS has also been able to provide client educational resources in Spanish. Katherine and Giovanni have been using the "Mom Money" earned during their mentor sessions to buy clothing, formula, and diapers from the boutique in preparation for their little one! On March 31, 2023, Katherine gave birth to a healthy baby boy weighing 7lbs! Katherine and Giovanni recently brought their son into the office to meet the staff, and he was dressed in clothes from the boutique!

Katherine expressed her gratitude saying, "Everyone has treated me very nicely and made me feel very good from the first moment I came in and learned I was going to be a mother. I learned practical things that have helped me a lot. My pregnancy has been the best thing that could happen to me! I am a very happy mom. Thank you!"

It has been such a joy to see Katherine and Giovanni receive the support, care, and resources they needed to welcome their son into this world. This is only possible through **your** support, prayers, and time. Thank **you**, on behalf of Katherine, Giovanni, and their son, for supporting life-changing work. Please keep Katherine and Giovanni in your prayers as they continue to participate in the mentoring program and as they begin their journey as parents!



*Katherine, Giovanni & their son Giovanni Jr.*

Richland Pregnancy Services

1560 W. Fourth Street, Mansfield, OH 44906

[www.friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com](http://www.friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com)

# God is Doing a New Thing!

## An update from the Director

I'm an 80's kid. I grew up in the 1980's and 1990's. That was a fun time for Christian music as all kinds of new styles of Christian music were coming out. I remember very clearly the first time I heard the band DC Talk. I was at an Ohio Teens for Christ conference and a small table was blasting the song "New Thing". I was hooked! The lyrics are of course based on Isaiah 43:19, "**Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**"

Just as that time in history was exciting for Christian music, it is an incredible blessing to be a part of the ministry of Richland Pregnancy Services at this time in history. We are seeing God work and renew the ministry in so many ways. One of the ways we are seeing God work is through the new staff members He has brought on board!

In March we welcomed **Elisha Burson** as our new office assistant. Elisha has been volunteering at RPS for three years prior to joining the staff. Her heart is already so full for the ministry of RPS. For her Senior Project, Elisha planned and hosted a baby shower for RPS clients! Her project was selected to be presented to the Board of Directors at Pioneer Career Center. We are so excited to see how God is raising up the next generation of pro-abundant life leaders at RPS!



We also welcomed back a familiar face as **Amy Lee** has returned to RPS in the role of Client Service Director. What a blessing to have the combination of Amy's twelve years of previous experience at RPS as well as her fresh eyes for the programs after a few years away from the position. Amy has remained connected to RPS through volunteering and helping to teach new volunteer training.



In addition to God bringing Elisha and Amy to RPS, He has provided for a new position in the ministry. **Sydney Gribowskas**, who has served in the role of administrative assistant for four years, has taken on the brand new position of Volunteer Coordinator.



As we see God moving in the ministry of Richland Pregnancy Services, we know that our call to reach those considering abortion with the Good News of Jesus Christ and the grace He gives continues.

We are able to do that because of your generous support through prayer, financial donations, volunteering and material support. Thank you never seems like enough as we see lives changed and saved because of your support.

I hope as you read through this newsletter you will be blessed to know how God is working in this ministry because of you!

I also hope to see all of you at **Walk for Life!** It will be here before we know it and you can sign up today or give at [friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com/events/walkforlife](http://friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com/events/walkforlife)

In His Service,



## Mark Your Calendars...

### Change for Life Mother's Day Kick-Off

**Sunday May 14th**

The second round of Change for Life Baby Bottles starts. If your church would like to get involved or if you have any questions, contact

Raelene at [raelene@richlandpregnancy.com](mailto:raelene@richlandpregnancy.com)

### Landree Rennpage Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser

**5/5 from 7-11pm at Mansfield Knights of Columbus Hall**

Address:

1114 Park Ave W.  
Mansfield, OH 44906

Tickets are one for \$15 and two for \$25. For questions, contact Knights of Columbus Council #687 at 419-529-5532.

## Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors

### Premier Sponsors



### Share n' Dipity Bakery

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## Landree's Legacy for Life

Landree Rennpage was a warrior for LIFE!

Landree was active at St. Peter's church and was involved with the Respect Life group there. She began supporting RPS financially when she was just 19 years old, and became a monthly donor until her life was tragically ended in a car accident in November 2016, just three days before her 32nd birthday.

Following Landree's sudden passing, her family established the **Landree's Legacy for Life fund** at Richland Pregnancy Services to remember Landree and her commitment to abundant life. This fund is designed to grow over time and be used, in perpetuity, to support the mission of RPS.



***In addition to your regular support of RPS,  
I invite you to consider making a donation to the Landree's Legacy for Life Fund.***

As this endowed fund grows, it will provide an ongoing source of income that will give RPS greater financial stability and enable the development of new services.

**Here are three tax-efficient ways you can contribute to this fund:**

### 1. Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

A QCD is a distribution directly from your IRA to RPS. This is a powerful tool available to individuals over 70 ½. It removes assets from your IRA without causing a taxable distribution. If you have required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your IRA, a QCD will count towards your RMD. Contact the financial institution that handles your IRA and let them know you're interested in a QCD.

### 2. Donate Appreciated Stock

If you have stock that has gone up in value you will owe capital gains tax if you sell the asset. However, if you donate the stock directly to RPS, you can receive a double benefit. First, you avoid paying capital gains tax by selling the stock and second, you receive a tax-deduction for the value of the stock on the day it was donated. This applies to any appreciated asset: stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs and more.

### 3. Designate RPS as a Beneficiary of your IRA

New laws require most beneficiaries of IRAs to distribute the account completely within 10 years of inheritance. Depending on your beneficiaries' circumstance, this could cause an unexpected tax burden. Consider leaving your beneficiaries assets that can be inherited tax-free such as a brokerage account or life insurance and designate RPS as a beneficiary of your IRA.

You can also set RPS as a partial beneficiary such as 10%, 20%, etc.

Written by Tim Hilterman, CFP®, CAP®

*Please contact RPS to learn more about any of these opportunities.*



# Upcoming Events

Change for Life  
Anytime in 2023!

Volunteer Appreciation Week  
April 16th - 22nd

Walk for Life  
Saturday, June 3rd at North  
Lake Park



To give a gift  
to RPS  
scan the code  
or visit

[friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com](http://friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com)



1560 West Fourth Street  
Mansfield, OH 44906

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Register by  
May 10th to  
receive a  
**FREE  
T-Shirt**

# WALK FOR LIFE

Saturday, June 3rd  
10:00 am

North Lake Park  
Mansfield



Registration Opens at  
9am



Register at  
[friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com/events/  
walkforlife](http://friendsofrichlandpregnancy.com/events/walkforlife)

## It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men...

~ Frederick Douglass

I recently came across this quote from Frederick Douglass and was amazed at the simple, yet profound truth these few words offer. Douglass wasn't arguing for a culture or practice that chooses to not repair 'broken' men. Instead, he was pointing out the importance of engaging and intervening in the raising, molding, and building of young men so that we can curtail the ramifications that are very real when a society turns its back on 'broken' men. It's easy to cast stones or pontificate on all the ills facing society. It's much harder to roll our proverbial sleeves up and be a part of the solution. This is what I, and a host of others, seek to do on a monthly basis with prospective dads in our community. Dads that are nervous, scared, and desiring to step up even though they are doing so without a template or proper knowledge to be the dad and man they need to be.



These men are searching for community. They want to be the dad they didn't have, but they are nervous and afraid of failing. They long to alter the trajectory of their families, but they lack the ability, in some cases, to look toward the future and see these desires as achievable.

Seeking solutions and engaging our neighbors is a daunting task, but it is a necessary task if we truly want to see a society that is flooded with dads that lead, protect, and love their children. We are unapologetically calling these men to action. Our culture struggles with this because our culture refuses to take a look in the mirror and admit that dads are needed. We, on the other hand, understand the important role these men play and we want to assist in raising up strong children, and, yes, even seek to repair 'broken' men.

What does this look like in practice? The formula is a simple one. Will you be a hero, a villain, or a ghost? Now, the formula or question may be simple, but achieving and answering this challenging question will require a lot of work, soul-searching, and consistent effort. This doesn't happen overnight and it certainly doesn't happen in a vacuum. This requires a heart, mind, and trajectory shift. This, for many, seems so foreign and unnatural, but it must happen if we want to see desired changes.

The hero, villain, ghost mindset has done wonders for the dads we are serving. I pose this question to these men often because I want them to wrestle with the difficult things in life. I want them to desire to be a hero and understand there will be days where they are a villain and fight with all they have to not be a ghost. The hero I am describing here is not one that leaps over tall buildings or swoops in to save the day. No, the hero I am describing is one that loves unconditionally, leads sacrificially, and fathers unapologetically. Hero dads change diapers, swaddle their babies, and are a part of the solution. I could continue this line of thinking, but ultimately a hero dad will be a constant presence that is wanted and needed.



Eric & Isaiah,  
RPS Dad-to-Dad participant

A villain, on the other hand, is a father (notice I don't refer to villains as dads ...that's on purpose), that may be present, but his presence isn't wanted and only brings chaos. He doesn't love unconditionally, lead sacrificially, or father unapologetically. He creates problems where none exist. He refuses to tackle the hard things or participate in the rearing of his children. We, unfortunately, see a lot of villains in our culture today.

A ghost father is self-explanatory. These fathers are nowhere to be found. They choose to neglect, run, and disappear. They don't see fatherhood as a responsibility or something worth pursuing. They are here today and gone tomorrow.

There are certainly days where we slip up or retreat and may feel as if we have bounced out of the hero category into one of the others. This hiccup in our fathering doesn't define us. Instead, a hero dad will recognize these slips, correct course, and make things right.

(continued)

## It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men (Continued)

I often tell dads that they have an opportunity to change the trajectory of their families for generations to come. I have them think hundreds of years in the future. I paint a picture for them as their great, great-grandkids sit in a living room telling stories of the portrait of the man that hangs proudly above their mantle. This man, their great, great-granddad, did the hard thing and changed their lives forever. I want these guys to understand and appreciate just how important their role is. I want them to accept the responsibility and challenge of being a hero dad. I want them to understand that there will be days where we fail, but those days don't define our futures.

We can either be a part of the problem or a part of the solution. We choose the latter. We choose to do the hard things and work toward a future where children are loved, dads are engaged, and men are accepting the challenge in front of them. This is the path forward... are we prepared to work toward that end?

*Written by Andrew Wood, Executive Director of Hope Resource Center in Knoxville, TN and Vice President of the Tennessee Pregnancy Center Network. He hosts a weekly podcast, A Conversation on Life, and often speaks and writes on the issue of life around the country.*

If you would like more information about volunteering as a Dad Mentor at Richland Pregnancy Services, please contact Sydney Gribowskas at (419) 522-8863, ext. 202 or [sydney@richlandpregnancy.com](mailto:sydney@richlandpregnancy.com)

## Wish List

### BOUTIQUE

- Full-Size Baby Hygiene items
- Bottles (New 8 oz size)
- Car seats (new)
- Car seats for preemies (3lb weight approved)
- Diapers (Most needed are size 4,5 & 6)
- High-chairs
- Swings

### OFFICE SUPPLIES

- Clorox wipes
- Copy paper
- Epsom WF-212 XL print cartridge
- Mass mailing folding machine
- Postage stamps

### CLIENT NEEDS

- Bottled water
- Mini cans of ginger ale
- Individual snacks for Parenting Class
- Travel-size toiletries
- \$10 gas and grocery gift cards

### DONATION HOURS

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Monday             | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm |
| Tuesday            | 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| Wednesday          | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm |
| Thursday           | 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| 1st & 3rd Friday   | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm |
| 2nd & 4th Saturday | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm |

### QUESTIONS?

[info@richlandpregnancy.com](mailto:info@richlandpregnancy.com)  
419-522-8863

## Ministry Milestones

by Sydney Gribowskas, Volunteer Coordinator

***"To everything there is a season,***

***A time for every purpose under heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1***

God has been so good to Richland Pregnancy Services. Always bringing just the right people to fill roles just when and where they are needed. For the past 30 years, Doreen Roller and Lois Galat have been a consistent presence at Richland Pregnancy Services. Both have served on staff and in volunteer positions through the years. Both Doreen and Lois have announced their retirement from weekly volunteering at RPS.

**Doreen Roller** served on staff as the Administrative Assistant, and has also been a Client Advocate, touching many lives during that time. Doreen spent time connecting with clients, hearing their story, and sharing such needed wisdom every time she was in- to clients and to everyone else around her. Doreen will be greatly missed at RPS, but we are grateful for her sharing her talents and servant heart every time she stepped in the office.



**Lois Galat** has served in many different areas throughout that time. Lois has worked on the RPS helpline, as a Client Advocate, as an ultrasound assistant, and even as a boutique worker. She has shared so much love and wisdom during her time serving here, and she has trained many other volunteers to do the same. We will all miss seeing Lois and her smiling face every week, but we are grateful for all that she has done in this ministry.



We are grateful for both of these wonderful godly women and we know that their influence will continue to be felt in this ministry for years to come. Thank you Doreen and Lois and may God bless you both!