

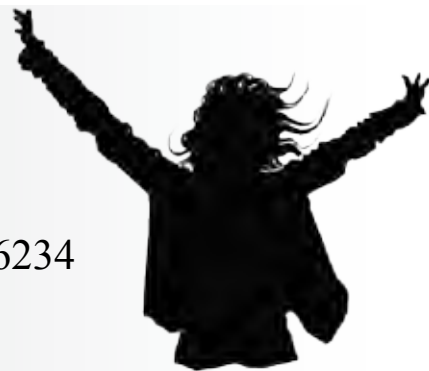
WISE CHOICES

PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

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Summer 2009

“Empowering women to make life affirming choices”

Message from the Executive Director: Want to change lives? This is the place.

Let's face the truth: we all want to make a difference in this world. God put that desire in each of us, and if we are following Him, we look for the places He is at work so we can join Him.

The good news is that the Lord is working many places—like right here at Wise Choices. We're watching in wonder as He touches lives and there are only better things to come. Our client load is increasing daily and somehow (we stand amazed), He meets our needs.

We're a team here, that includes volunteers, financial supporters, board members, and prayer warriors. This ministry isn't about one person—or even a few. Everyone is playing a part, and everyone is making a difference. So far this year, we have seen 31 young ladies pray to receive Christ and 63 changed from abortion-minded to carrying their babies to term. By helping Wise Choices, you are providing a way to carry on this legacy of life.

One way you can have an impact is through a financial gift. At this time, we have several key needs as we start the second half of 2009. You'll see them throughout this newsletter, and if you haven't already, we'd like you to consider taking part in this ministry financially.

You'll find an envelope enclosed with this publication, and it's for you—should you choose to join us. Because of Him, we're a winning team. Join us in the victory that **empowers women to make life affirming choices.**

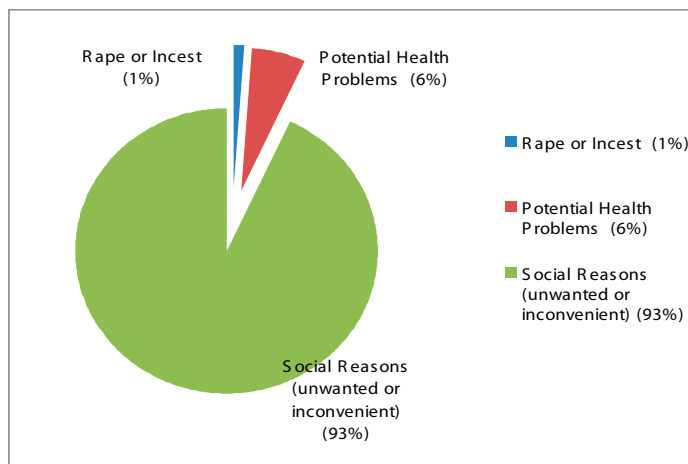


Branda Thomas

Current Abortion Statistics

- The number of annual reported abortions in the U.S. peaked in 1990 at 1.4 million abortions before dropping in subsequent years.
- Unintended pregnancy increased by 29% among poor women while decreasing 20% among higher-income women.
- More than **one million** abortions are performed in the U.S. each year.
- Based on current abortion rates, about **one in three** women will have an abortion by age 45.
- **Forty-four percent** of women who had abortions in the U.S. had at least one previous abortion.
- Eighty-two percent of women who had abortions in the U.S. were unmarried.
- Fifty percent of U.S. women having abortions are younger than 25 years old

Most Common Reasons for Abortion



Wise Choices PRC Statistics 2007, 2008 and projected for 2009

	2007	2008	% increase from 2007 to 2008	Projected for 2009	% increase from 2008 to 2009	TOTAL
Total Activity	2024	2426	20%	2729	12%	
Pregnancy Tests	253	304	20%	444	46%	
Sonograms	126	197	56%	299	52%	
Babies Saved due to Sonogram	37	57		113		207
Diapers	14,544	14,616	0.4%	16,080	10%	
Closet/Boutique	593	584	-1.5%	612	5%	
Classes	414	477	15%	495	4%	
Referrals	43	82	91%	137	76%	
Professions of Faith	14	19		31 so far with 50 projected		83

Needs:

- A. With increase of 46% in pregnancy tests and 52% in Sonograms, our budget for medical will probably be over budget this year and almost double next year.
- B. Our contract with Jeffrey Dean is for the first ½ of 2010 (unless extended) for an additional cost of \$8,500 for community/school services and events.
- C. Although our classes have only seen an increase of 4%, we believe that by updating and keeping current with technology and educational information we can provide the best training possible with the Earn While You Learn Program. This would be an additional increase in budget.
- D. Expenses for Diapers and Resources projected at a 10% increase for this year and another increase for 2010.
- E. Volunteers to work in Resource Center in the afternoons with Marie Duncan.

Training – March 2009

The staff and volunteers were treated to an informational training by Christian Homes & Family Services with Kelly Vaughn and Taylor Engel. Our host this year was First Baptist Decatur in their Family Life Center. This adoption agency places children in Christian homes with a choice given to the birth mother as to an open or closed adoption. Adoption now has many more options than even a few years ago. Birth mothers can choose the family/home they want for their child and the amount of involvement in the life of the child. For more information you can go to www.christianhomes.com.



Branda Thomas, Taylor Engel, Susan Beggs, Kelly Vaughn

Sanctity of Human Life

God told us in Psalm 139:13-16,

“For You created my inmost being, You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.”

God’s Word is clear on His love for you at any time during your development (conception to death). I don’t think we appreciate how much He values life and how He has put humans together in such a special and unique way.

If someone asks you why you are pro-life, be willing to stand firm on your convictions and give a good accounting of why you believe abortion is wrong. Here is a great “short” answer:

- 10 Second Pro-Life answer
 - If the unborn is growing, it must be alive.
 - If it has human parents, it must be human.
 - And living humans like you and I are valuable aren’t they?
- From conception all that is added to the unborn is a proper environment and adequate nutrition. These are the same things all of us need to survive no matter what stage of development we are in.



Spring Fling with Deborah King

Wise Choices was privileged to have Deborah King as our speaker for the annual Wise Choices "Spring Fling." The event, provided as a treat for the volunteers, was outstanding and extremely informative.



DEBORAH KING
Final Touch Finishing School
Developing Skills for Life

Deborah King is President of Final Touch Finishing School, Inc., which she founded in Seattle, Washington in 1989. At a young age, Deborah knew she wanted to help others project the best image possible. Her passion has always been to equip people from all walks of life with the necessary

skills to be able to move confidently from informal to formal situations with ease and grace. She teaches how to evaluate situations and know what is appropriate dress and behavior.

Considered the Queen of Etiquette, Deborah's warm teaching style is based on the simplicity of kindness and respect for self, others and property. She instills a greater sense of potential and increased confidence in all circumstances.

Deborah is a certified etiquette and image consultant, an active member of the Association of Image Consultants International, the National Speakers Association, and an affiliate with the Conselle Institute of Image Management. She travels extensively throughout the United States and internationally, teaching her principles of etiquette and poise to individuals from five to seventy-five, working out of offices in Seattle and Dallas. She has been a resident of Decatur, TX in Wise County for eight years and contributes a monthly column to Wise Youth Today.

Wise Choices feels blessed to have such a wonderful friend who volunteers her valuable time and talents for our many volunteers. In the past she has provided Saturday training for clients and opened her home for our Prayer Dessert before the 2009 Gala. For more information you can email Deborah at deborah@finaltouchschool.com or check out her website at www.finaltouchschool.com.

A Huge Thank You to Our Young Volunteers

What a wonderful treat it was last week when 10 young men and 13 young women from Irving Baptist Church came and volunteered at Wise Choices. They were working in conjunction

Lifehouse Decatur. God mysterious we were in need of a overhaul for Center yard. few storms havoc and limbs down in along with



w i t h Church from provides in ways as desperate landscaping the Resource Center. The past had wreaked we had huge the front yard various other

items that needed attention. The young men worked about 5 solid hours and even washed the windows on the outside! The young ladies were here in the afternoon, and helped by counting change from the Baby Bottle Drive along with counting and sorting diapers in the Resource Center.

Also, it wasn't but a few months ago, we had a group of young people from First Baptist Church Decatur who cleaned the Resource Center yard and took out tree limbs from the back yard, and cleaned out a large overgrown area on the south side of the front yard.

We thank them all for being fellow workers in God's Kingdom.

James 2:26 – "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

Countryside Baptist Church Youth

Countryside Baptist Church Youth presented a check for \$1,500 to Wise Choices in May. They raised most of this money in a bake sale they had after church and one large generous donation helped top off their fundraiser.



Branda Thomas, Amber Webb and Shane Monds

WE GIVE THEM A BIG WHOPPING THANK YOU!

Jeffrey Dean Visits Local Schools

While Jeffrey Dean was here in April, he talked to hundreds of students in our local schools, conducted a well received “Plugged-In Parenting” event with over 350 in attendance (a record for the school district), and participated in a Youth Rally sponsored by Aurora Baptist Church. During the youth rally 12 young people choose to receive Christ as their savior. From the feedback we have received, the whole week was a huge success. Here were a few of the comments given on our event survey:

“... students had very strong, positive reactions to Jeffrey.”

“... teachers loved him!”

“... the response of the kids was outstanding... I want all of our students to attend...”

“... one of the best speakers for kids I have ever heard.”

“... it is often difficult for small schools/communities to coordinate speakers for the students. By having Wise Choices make arrangements for several different schools, it makes unique opportunities available for us.”



We have been blown away by the overwhelming response to Jeffrey Dean and requests for his return to Wise County. We received a letter from an Associate Principal that stated:

“We were approached by an outside charity agency, Wise Choices of Wise County, which wanted to provide us with a speaker. We did not know Jeffrey Dean and we were very busy, so we didn’t accept the offer. Lucky for us, Wise Choices was persistent, they called and e-mailed repeatedly until we finally met with them and agreed to bring Jeffrey to school... Jeffrey spoke to only 800 of our 3200 students (a decision I regret but will be rectified when he comes back next year...) The message and the response of the students were both incredible... This sounds corny but a student came up to me after the presentation and told me, ‘My life was changed today.’ That is the power of Jeffrey Dean.”

Letter from Jeffrey Dean

Dear Friends,

All of us at Jeffrey Dean Ministries are excited about our partnership with Wise Choices PRC. You may be aware that this past spring we were in schools throughout Wise County addressing students to live boldly for what is pure and right. After speaking in one high school, a senior girl spoke with me and told me that she had been sexually active since she was a freshman, having had sex with nine guys. How sad to hear her story. Yet, how encouraging to hear her say, “After hearing you speak Jeffrey, I now know that no guy is worth a compromise of who I am. I will never again go there with another guy until I get married.” I hope she sticks to that conviction.

During this week I was also privileged to speak at Aurora Baptist Church. It was incredible to see God move and we believe over 10 teens prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior that night! Praise the Lord.

You may also be aware that Wise Choices has established a website, www.wisechoicestoday.com, just for the teens with whom we come in contact throughout your community. At this site, teens will have access to my blog and will read updated articles from me promoting the values and the mission of Wise Choices. I encourage you to periodically check out this site.

We have much work left to do throughout the next 12 months. Please continue to pray for Branda, Tanya and Jeffrey Dean Ministries as we work to engage Wise County teens via the website, our blog, and throughout your schools and churches. As a supporter of Wise Choices, I want to thank you for your willingness to partner with this anointed ministry. Because of your generosity, teens throughout your community will be changed forever!

For teens,

Jeffrey Dean

A Hope and a Future – Two “Very” Different Client Stories

Client one-

It was four years ago when a very challenging client came to have a pregnancy test and received the good news that she was pregnant. She was married and wanted to start a family. For the next 9 months she came in to watch videos, and visit with our client advocates. She earned coupons and started to get items for her new arrival, a beautiful little girl. Although she did not need our services again, she continued to call and visit us for the next four years. Building relationships is part of what we do.

She needed a friend - someone to love her right where she was. She was an angry young lady who did not believe in a loving and caring God. She wanted no part of a relationship with Christ and was very vocal about her feelings. We listened and shared the amazing love and grace of the Lord at every opportunity. When she would let us, we went over scripture, planting the seed and waiting for the harvest.

A year ago, she became very ill and her anger reached a new level. She felt alone and without hope. One day on the way to Dallas, one of our staff members felt a sense of urgency to call her. The client was having a rough day and the staff member shared with her the hope found by trusting Christ for eternal life. When asked, “Is there anything keeping you from trusting Christ?” she said, “No, I need to trust in something.” Through tears, the client prayed with the staff member and she became a new creation. After this profession of faith we saw a total transformation in her attitude.

She began experiencing hope and love for those around her. This story of hope however has a bittersweet ending. This year our client died of her illness. We will miss being able to see her grow in her walk with Christ. We rejoice in 2 Corinthians 5:8, “... to be absent from the body is to be present with Christ.”

Client two-

Two weeks ago, a client came in who was abortion vulnerable. She had a lot of pressures in her life - one of which included a roommate who said if she had the baby she would have to move out. She was scheduled to come in to have a sonogram but did not show up for her appointment. We called and left a reminder message. When she called back she said she had no way to get here and was not sure if she could have the baby. Abortion had become a real alternative for her.

Arrangements were made for TAPS to pick her up, and she had the sonogram. After visiting with two of our client advocates and a representative from Christian Homes, an adoption agency, she now had some options. It was a lot of information to process and she went home with a new hope and a plan to have the baby. She is considering placing her baby for adoption and will be meeting with the case manager from Christian Homes to develop a care plan for the baby. This baby now has a hope and a future.

Please be in prayer for all our clients as we empower them to make life-affirming choices.

Dave Ramsey Helps Wise Choices

This summer, Wise Choices began offering an exciting new class to our clients. In March, we applied for and received a grant from “Share It!”, the non-profit arm of Financial Peace University, Inc. They provided us with three sets of video curriculum along with workbooks for 50 students. On June 8th, we began offering a weekly class called Foundations in Personal Finance by Dave Ramsey.

Ramsey is an internationally recognized financial expert and New York Times best selling author. The curriculum his organization donated is specially

designed for high school students. It has interviews with teens and special sections about financial basics like “How to Balance a Checkbook.” The video lessons, workbooks and classroom instruction teach our clients how to budget, save, stay out of debt and build wealth. Through August, our clients will be able to earn coupons, in the Earn While You Learn Program, while learning how to become financially independent. Then, when school starts for the 2009-10 school year, we will also incorporate these lessons into classes we teach in local high schools for pregnant and parenting teens.