

The Pregnancy Care Center of New York

Newsletter

December 2023

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Pregnancy Care Center Mission:

Acknowledging that every human life begins at conception and is worthy of protection, the mission of the PCC of NY is to offer servant-hearted love, hope, and help to anyone considering abortion by presenting them with realistic alternatives and Christ-centered support through our life affirming network of counselors, churches, and individuals. Referrals for abortion will not be offered.



Board of Directors' Message

Earlier this month, the exciting news of the lease signing for our lease signing for our future Pregnancy Care Center was made public. The myriad of possible outreach opportunities was immediately in sight: a place to physically meet and counsel women in a crisis pregnancy, a place in which to advocate for the unborn, a place where Jesus Christ might be shown to those who need Him so dearly, and much more.

There has been, and still is, much discussion regarding this news. For example, why does the PCC need a new facility at all (ignoring the fact that it is difficult for an organization to call itself a Center without actually being located somewhere). Is this the best site? How will this space be effectively utilized and maintained? And, of course, why did this take so long to happen? Since the space (and time) are not sufficient to address all these questions extensively, I just wanted to make a couple of observations. Most are familiar with the popular Christian adage "God always answers prayer- the response will be yes, no, or wait." And of course, God's silence is equated with wait. In our flesh, we have a problem with wait but there is more to it. Amidst the silence, it is sometimes difficult to discern "no" from "wait". Often much patience and much prayer are required to hear God's answers. And these things have not been lacking among those

Executive Director's Message

Arlene Rutuelo

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Faith in Action = Chris Slattery

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfected of faith."

Hebrews 12:1



Pro-life pioneer Chris Slattery passed away in the early hours of November 22 at Calvary Hospice in Bronx, N.Y., after battling cancer. He was 68.

The founder of the EMC (Expectant Mother Care) network of New York pregnancy help centers, he is credited with saving tens of thousands of lives and training generations of pro-life activists, and he is being remembered as a hero and champion of pro-life advocacy.

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who serve at and support the PCC.

This calls to mind King David's plan to build the temple in Jerusalem. He reasoned, quite logically, that God dwelling in a tent was not justifiable while David was living in a magnificent palace. How could that be wrong when, after all, David was the man after God's own heart. When David inquired of the prophet Nathan whether to proceed, God's answer was "not at this time." God already had a plan in place, that David's son Solomon would be the one to build the temple. The job was one for a man of peace such as Solomon and not for a man of war as was David. Otherwise, the temple could not have been a house of prayer for people of all tribes and nations. To David's credit, he had the wisdom in this matter to operate on God's schedule and not his own.

God's purposes are right, and His timing is perfect. We might be unable to hear God's words through a prophet the way David did, but we do have access to Him through Christ, our Savior. We can pray with confidence that this new, future Pregnancy Care Center will be God's gift to the community and to many hurting people. Merry Christmas, Staten Island

Outreach Coordinator – Jessica Bocaya

This month we celebrate the birth of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. He was kept safely in the womb of his mother Mary. Mary responded to the call of motherhood with total obedience and submission, Mary said to the Angel Gabriel, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

This month, two young moms made the brave decision to choose life for their babies. One mom of four, was wrestling with having her baby because she took a live vaccine, and the nurse warned her that it could harm her baby and advised her to have an abortion. I'm thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to intervene at the perfect time as we shared a cab together in route to a meeting we each had. It was our first-time meeting and as I had introduced myself, I felt the Lord nudging me to go deeper and share exactly what I do for the pregnancy center and how I got involved. After sharing, she told me what she was going through, facing an unplanned pregnancy and unsure of how she will handle a fifth child in her situation. I shared the love of Jesus with her, reassured her, and told her we would support her in the decision to choose life. We exchanged numbers and we have continued our relationship. She is keeping her baby, she has met with a doctor who gave her comfort, and she is no longer afraid. She is thankful to have taken next steps and not given up. We look forward to her baby coming into the world!

Our second mom is a fifteen year old girl. She called me from inside her church, hiding from her mom who had found out she was pregnant and was forcing her to have an abortion.

"Chris' legacy will echo into eternity with an estimated 43,000 babies alive today who otherwise would have been aborted- enough to fill his beloved Yankee Stadium," a release from CompassCare Pregnancy Services said.

As we mourn the death of a true Superhero of Life, we pray that each Pregnancy Center in New York would be granted by the Lord added boldness and the supernatural courage that Chris displayed.

Faith in action is how Chris lived, may we all follow in his footsteps in protecting the unborn.

Rest in Eternal Peace Chris, you will be missed!



We spoke for a long time, and I continued to share words of comfort and hope with her. By the end of our conversation, I told her that she would be making a decision that she would have to live with forever. We prayed together and once I finished praying, I just heard “hallelujah, praise the Lord, glory, glory” over and over and over again. The young lady was rejoicing and crying all at the same time. She started praying and took over the prayer! I was shocked! I never had experienced this before with our clients. Usually once I finish praying, they simply say, “amen” or nothing at all. It felt and sounded as if a load was lifted off of her. She thanked me saying that this was all she needed and she was so happy. She said she knew that she should take responsibility and do the right thing. The following day, I got a call from her and she said, her mom gave her an ultimatum to either have this abortion, or go into a group home. My heart was beating fast, I wasn’t sure where she was going with this conversation. After a moment of silence, she said, Mrs. Jessica, can you help me find a group home?

Wow! This young lady is so brave. I’m so amazed at how God is at work in her life. We’ve already put several meetings, churches and community partners in place to help support her. There is a family willing to take her in as well. God is good. He will ALWAYS make a way!

Featured Pastor’s Corner (We will be highlighting a different pastor every month)

Look to the Child

“For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6



Pastor Michael Luciano
Lead Pastor of Gateway Church

Our first Christmas as parents was memorable. My wife and I couldn’t wait to celebrate the birth of our savior and the joy of the season with our new baby. Our son had so many presents that year beneath the tree; and the tree itself was huge, illuminated with the most stunning lights and glistening ornaments. We experienced all the excitement and anticipation that any new parent goes through when they get to share the unique wonder and joy of Christmas with the child they love.

I don’t remember what we gave my son that year, probably more diapers and burping rags, but I do remember taking a special photo of him beneath that massive Fraser fir. We wanted a picture with just him and all the holiday lights, stockings, and extravagances all around him. We propped him up and snapped several pictures on my new iPhone 3G. I thought I was so technologically advanced with my fancy new phone!

The final picture came out great. The tree looked beautiful and the staging of the gifts and decorations in the living room by my wife were done to the highest of JC Penney portrait standards. Yet, I couldn’t help but notice when I printed the picture that the focal point was not the tree, gifts, glitter, and other holiday decor. It was the child. My eyes were drawn to the child. And when we shared that picture with friends and family, they all said the same thing, “Look at the baby!” All eyes were on the child...



The prophet Isaiah, under very different circumstances, hundreds of years before Christ's birth reminds us of this very thing: look to the child. The nation of Israel found itself in a time of great national and religious turmoil when Isaiah records his prophecy in Isaiah 9:6. The Assyrian army was surrounding them, ready to pounce and destroy. Who could survive the power of such a formidable enemy? Into this most morose of circumstances Isaiah pens his stirring foresight, words so powerful and moving that poets and composers like Handel and others still try to capture and share its depth: For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." Look to the child.

This child is a *Wonderful Counselor* who advises us concerning God and life. **Look to the child!** This child is a *Mighty God* demonstrating the humble power of divine strength. **Look to the child!** This child is an *Eternal Father*, our enduring provider and protector. **Look to the child!** This child is the *Prince of Peace*, who reconciles us to God and each other. **Look to the child!**

This Christmas, amidst all the distractions of the season, look to the child. This Christmas, amidst the darkness around us in our personal lives and on the world stage, may we keep our eyes on the child... on Jesus. This child who would grow up to live, die, and rise again for you and for me. This child, Jesus, who would save His people from their sins. Keep your eyes on Him. **Look to the child!** No matter the darkness and distractions of this world, may we never lose sight of the baby whose resurrected life means life eternal for all! Celebrate and focus on the child this Christmas. He is the focal point of the big picture!

Volunteers of the Month

Josiah and Eliana Couch have been familiar with the Pregnancy Care Center since they moved here over 7 years ago. They have seen the Flea Market sale close up and walked/rode scooters in the Walk for Life events. So this year it is not surprising that they were more hands on. Josiah helped carry the newfound treasures of customer's out to their car after the Flea Market sale. Eliana helped with snacks and cleanup at the Walk for life this year. Both of them understand the value of unborn life, and both are glad to help, even in small ways. God bless them and all our volunteers for their labor in love for the unborn to the glory of God!



Prayer Corner

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the fifteen-year-old girl facing an unplanned pregnancy. Pray that the Lord will give her favor as she chooses life for her baby. Pray also that God would soften the heart of her mother and grandmother so that they can come alongside her and support her.
- Pray for one of our clients that just had a miscarriage. She had an unplanned pregnancy and we supported her through it. She decided to choose life for her baby. Sadly, several days later, she lost the baby. Please pray that the Lord would comfort her during this difficult time.



- Pray for the future of the Pregnancy Care Center as we enter into the New Year!

Praise Reports:

- Baby Jason was released from the hospital and was home just in time to celebrate his very first birthday! What a miracle! Stacey is excited to have Jason at home to celebrate Christmas this year for the first time, as a family.
- Our annual Christmas party was such a blessing to the Stapleton community!!! Hundreds of coats, toys and baby items were given out to children and families in need. We are thankful to those that partnered with us in sharing the love of Jesus on that day!
- We have signed the lease to our new location! We found a home for the PCC! Praise God - the Lord has given us favor at every turn and we can't wait to open our doors once the center is ready!
- Our campaign for the funding to furnish our new location was released on giving Tuesday and praise the Lord, we've already begun to receive donor contributions! God is good!

News Alert from Albany Update

12/10/2023 News from Albany Update- New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms.

<https://www.albanyupdate.com>

MORE AND MORE, NEW YORK FAMILIES CHOOSE HOMESCHOOLING

During the COVID-19 pandemic, homeschooling enrollment in New York dramatically increased. Since the end of the pandemic, homeschooling enrollment has dipped here in the Empire State, but the decrease has been fairly slight. While pandemic-era restrictions may have given some parents the initial motivation to try homeschooling, it appears that many families liked homeschooling well enough to continue with it even after the pandemic was over.

As a recent report by Emily D'Vertola of the Empire Center notes, data from the Washington Post show that homeschooling enrollment has increased 50% across the nation since the 2017-2018 schoolyear. In New York, however, homeschooling has more than doubled during that same time period. The growth of homeschooling is especially noticeable in New York City. Since 2017-2018, homeschooling enrollment more than tripled in 24 of New York City's 33 school districts. In 2022, more than 50,000 students in New York were homeschooled; more than 14,000 of those students resided in New York City.

Statewide, homeschooling enrollment in New York has grown 178% during the past 10 years. By comparison, charter school enrollment has grown 125%, nonpublic school enrollment has decreased 8%, and traditional public school enrollment has dipped by 13%.

New York is typically viewed as a "high-regulation state" for homeschoolers. In addition, homeschoolers cannot receive New York State high school diplomas or participate in public school activities like clubs or sports.

Thirty-two states allow parents to direct all or a portion of their children's education funding to nonpublic schools or to the costs of homeschooling; New York, however, is one of the 18 states that fails to do so. As D'Vertola observed, it is remarkable that homeschooling has become so popular in a state whose government is so hostile to it.



Many Christian families in New York homeschool their children. As New York's public schools continue to degenerate into ineffectiveness, chaos, and transgender extremism, it is likely that many more Christian families will choose homeschooling. Homeschooling and other educational alternatives, including Christian schools, are a good thing. They put parents in the driver's seat regarding their children's education—and that is exactly where parents belong.

2023 Christmas Party for Clients & Coat Drive

Partnered with Gateway Academy and Transforming Word Christian Center

We were able to bless the Stapleton community with over 600 children's coats, toys, baby items, food and snacks. The most important part was Pastor Chris as he lifted up the name of Jesus and shared the Gospel message all afternoon. Be encouraged!

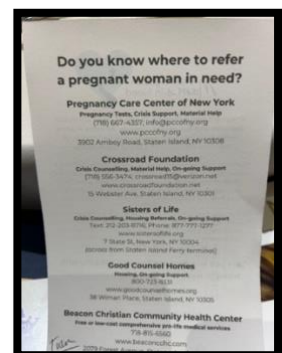


Feminine Genius Brunch

The Pregnancy Care Center spent the day with the **Sisters of Life** at their Feminine Genius Brunch at the Garden Hilton Inn this month.

What a fantastic day!

Met so many wonderful women that are passionate for Life!





Dear Supporters of the PCC of NY,

We are thrilled to announce that we have signed a lease agreement for a place where we will be able to minister to pregnant women needing our care!

It is at 235 Dongan Hills Avenue. Unit 2E

We believe that the Lord has paved the way for this. We are humbled by this decision as it is a big step forward for us. We are also grateful to God and all our supporters who are making this possible.

How great it will be to invite women to a place where they can be cared for by God in their time of need.

May the Lord continue to lead and provide so that we may continue to do good in His name!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Paul Couch
For the PCC Board

Arlene Rutuelo
Executive Director



EXCITING NEWS

We have a mobile Billboard driving around Staten Island!
Let us know if you see it!!

A Special Thank You to Nick Tortora for this blessing



**PREGNANCY
CARE
CENTER OF NY**

LET US HELP YOU CHOOSE LIFE

☎ 718-667-HELP (4357) 🌐 PCCOFNY.ORG



**Pregnancy Care Center of New York
Training Seminar Part 2**

Rescheduled

**Gateway Church
200 Boscombe Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10309**

**New Date
Saturday, January 13,
2024
1pm-4pm**

If you know someone that missed the first session and would love to attend this one, please invite them!

Please bring a snack to share with everyone. Looking forward to seeing all of our volunteers again!

Please RSVP via email to Arlene@pccofny.org



Food for thought:

Proverbs 10:19 NKJV

"In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise."

Quote: "For many people, the more they talk the more they will sin. There is much more potential sin in talking than in listening. Many of us could bless others, and keep ourselves from sin, simply by speaking less and restraining our lips."

~ David Guzik

2023 Donations are Welcome

Another easy way to increase your donation is by asking if your employer offers matching contributions to charities. Your donation of \$100 can become \$200 at no cost to you.



You can donate by going to our website: <https://www.pccofny.org> or our App and go to DONATE. All donations are tax deductible. You can make a one-time gift or set up regular monthly support on our secure site. If you prefer send a check, please send to: PO Box 141128, SINY 10314.

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