

# The Pregnancy Care Center of New York

Newsletter

August 2024

Edition 8, Volume 3

## *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*

Very often our work at the PCC is reflected in the lives of our clients. We make an initial contact with someone in a crisis pregnancy either at an event, by phone call or by email. And these women and their unborn babies become the focus of our thoughts and prayers. For those clients who are interested in our services, we offer practical assistance, information and referrals. We can also offer spiritual and emotional support if the client is interested. For those clients who choose to carry their babies to term, we are blessed to rejoice with them and to come alongside them as they navigate this new, exciting, and yes, sometimes terrifying journey

There are others, however, who are impacted by our ministry at the PCC: those individuals who are affected by the work they do for our Center- our volunteers! One of the most rewarding parts of ministry is the fellowship that is created among like-minded people coming together to get a job done and the growth and impact of giving of your time and talents.

One of our current volunteers is Ashlie Boni, who has been volunteering with the PCC for two years now. She has been faithful in her service and assists at our events by setting up donated items, helping expectant moms choose items for their babies, and interacting with the public by sharing information. Ashlie is interested in becoming a phone counselor and is looking forward to completing the last of her training classes soon.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Executive Director's Message*



*Arlene Rutuelo*

o o o

Recently, the PCCofNY hosted a *Prayer of Dedication Service* for the Pregnancy Care Center's new office space. This dedication was led by Pastor Paul Couch of Bethany Lutheran Brethren Church. We were joined by Board members, staff, Pastors from Staten Island and Brooklyn, leaders, volunteers, and prayer warriors.

I wanted to share this with you, as you continue to pray for us, as we come to the end of the construction. Be on the lookout for the announcement of the official Grand Opening in the fall!

### **Unless the Lord Builds the House Psalm 127**

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.  
Unless the Lord watches over the  
city, the watchman stays awake in  
vain.

It is in vain that your side up early  
and go late to rest, eating the bread  
of anxious toil; for he gives to his  
beloved sleep.

Behold, children are a heritage from  
the Lord, the fruit of the womb a  
reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children of one's youth.  
Blessed is the man who fills his  
quiver with them!

He shall not be put to shame when  
he speaks with his enemies in the  
gate.



I had the opportunity to speak to Ashlie about her volunteerism and what was the motivating factor that made her come forward to serve.

Ashlie grew up in a home with an alcoholic dad, which didn't make for an easy childhood. A neighbor began inviting the family to attend a Christian church here on Staten Island and Ashlie came to faith as a child. She had a desire to see her parents come to Christ and she would spend time talking to them about God. Her parents eventually came to Christ; her dad enjoyed many years of sobriety and faithful living even though he later battled with alcoholism again. When Ashlie was 19 years old, she had an unplanned pregnancy and did not receive any support from the baby's father. Feeling overwhelmed with her new responsibilities, Ashlie was blessed by the generosity of her mother's co-workers, who had set up a Christmas tree with storks on it. Each stork represented gifts that a local Catholic congregation pledged to give to Ashlie's baby. When Ashlie entered her home one day, the house was filled with presented from floor to ceiling with everything that she needed to take care of her new son.

Ashlie recognizes that God stepped into her life at a scary and uncertain time to provide for all her needs, and now she enjoys seeing the lives of our clients touched by the generosity of our donors. When Ashlie sees the joy and the relief in the eyes of a new mom, she remembers God's hand in her life. She knows she has been blessed and is grateful for the opportunity to give back a small portion of all that she has received.

## *Outreach Coordinator- Jessica Bocaya*

We are so thankful to our supporting churches, partners and volunteers. This past month, we had a God sized opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our client. This client came to us as a referral from the Christ Pentecostal Church. It was an honor to be entrusted with this clients petition for prayer and we swiftly responded to answer the call! This client was in need of support in many ways and thanks to the partnerships we have in place with organizations like Good Counsel Homes that offer housing for pregnant moms, Safe Horizon who advocate for women in crisis situations, we have been able to support our client and offer her the help she so desperately needed. Our client expressed her longing to go to church but her hesitation was revisiting alone. We are so thankful for spiritual moms in place that are so loving and willing to receive these moms with open arms. We were able to connect our client with a church mom- Vivian Comparato!

*(Continued on page 3)*

### **Time of Prayer:**

#### **1. Prayer for Reception**

Romans 15:7- Therefore welcome one another as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.

#### **2. Prayer for Office**

Psalm 19:14- Let the words of my mouth and mediation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD my rock and my redeemer.

#### **3. Prayer for Counseling Room**

Colossians 4:6- Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

#### **4. Prayer for Ultrasound Room**

Psalm 139:15- My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

#### **5. Prayer for Baby Boutique**

Philippians 4:19- And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

#### **6. Prayer of Dedication & Benediction**

We rejoice in the new direction the Lord is providing for the PCCofNY with our new office space.

We covet your continue prayers!



We provided beautiful gifts for Vivian to share with the client for her baby on the way and the two enjoyed the church service on Sunday morning together. Our client was overwhelmed with gratitude for the support and the love she received at CPC Church and she is looking forward to continuing to attend. Praise the Lord for this divine appointment!

## *Prayer Requests & Praise Reports*

Prayer:

- Please pray for clients that are facing crisis: domestic violence, housing needs, income needs
- Please pray for the financing to continue for the furnishing of our new center
- Please pray for the baby bottle coin counting to be successful- the banks no longer offer free coin counting- we will be hosting a coin counting event soon

*Philippians 4:19*

*But my God shall apply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*

- Please pray for volunteers- We need more church moms like Vivian! We need more laborers to help with setting up and breaking down of events. We need volunteers that are willing to be involved with special events such as our upcoming fundraisers.

*Luke 10:2*

*And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

Praise:

- We thank God for the volunteers we currently have that are faithful and have worked tirelessly to help us facilitate our events
- We praise God for the donors of the professional coin counting machine! Moving forward, we hope to be able to count our own coins and eliminate the need to go to the banks. This will help us to be able to collect year round.

## *Volunteering*

The PCCofNY is looking for volunteers for our outreach events!

Send an email to [info@pccofny.org](mailto:info@pccofny.org) to join our team!



## *In Honor of Louise Phillips*

*"Well done my good and faithful servant! Well done!"*

We have been so saddened to hear about the passing of Louise Phillips, a woman who served at the Pregnancy Care Center of NY and many other organizations focused on ministering to the women and families in need on Staten Island. We had the pleasure of honoring Louise at our 22nd Annual Spring Gala in 2023.

Here is a quote from her obituary which can be found online:

"A woman of deep faith, Louise touched the lives of countless friends and family around her in ways big and small. Beyond always helping close family, friends, and neighbors, she also served in many capacities for Salem Church, Pregnancy Care Center, Urban Hope NYC and other organizations focusing on ministering to women and children. Her commitment to her Savior, Jesus Christ, was evident in her words and actions. Louise lived a life of service, not only to her family and church, but to her community. Her legacy of service, faith and compassion continues through her family and all that knew and loved her.

Although Louise's passing leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew her, her profound impact on her family, church, and community will be felt for generations to come. As we mourn the loss of a truly Christ-like woman, we also celebrate a life well lived-a life devoted to living out the Gospel message."

We are all praying for her family during this time.



## Highlights



*We are still collecting the Baby Bottles! The coins are rolling in! Praise the Lord!*

*Pictured here is Pastor Ron from ICC*



*Our very own Sonia Justiniano and Jessica Bocaya had the opportunity to minister at a women's fellowship in a local park.*

*What a beautiful way of coming together!*

*From Sonia:*

*"Thank you, Oasis of Salvation Church women's ministry for allowing the PCC of NY to share how God has opened the doors for us to provide expanded services to women at our new location. Your encouragement and support is greatly appreciated."*



## *In The Media*

### The FACE Act Shouldn't Be Used to Intimidate Pro-Life Advocates

The Biden administration's Department of Justice is unequally applying a federal law.

As a devout Catholic, Mark Houck believes every human life is precious, created by God, and worthy of protection. It was this belief that led him to often pray with his 12-year-old son outside a Philadelphia abortion facility.

In October 2021, a Planned Parenthood escort [repeatedly got in the face of Houck](#) and his son while making vulgar comments toward them, witnesses said. Houck allegedly responded by pushing the abortion escort in an effort to protect his son. While state and local authorities found no cause to prosecute Houck over the incident, the Department of Justice [felt differently](#).

When Houck learned that he may be prosecuted, he offered to turn himself in if he were indicted for any crimes. Instead, his attorney said, the FBI sent "twenty heavily armed federal agents" to Houck's house in the early morning hours, pointed at least five guns at him, his wife, and his children, and then arrested him. The FBI later attempted to quell concerns about the report by claiming it was an "overstatement" and that the tactics used were "in line with standard practices."

A federal jury took less than three hours to [find Houck not guilty](#) of the charges brought against him. Unfortunately, many pro-life advocates prosecuted under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act haven't received such good news.

What is the FACE Act?

The FACE Act was passed by Congress in 1994 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton. It prohibits Americans from interfering with access to so-called "reproductive health services," which include abortion facilities and pregnancy centers.

While the DOJ claims "[t]he FACE Act is not about abortions," enforcement of the act has been remarkably one-sided against pro-life advocates.

Unequal prosecution of FACE Act violations

Soon after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022, the Biden administration began a campaign to promote abortion nationwide. On top of attempting to [force pro-life pharmacies](#) to dispense abortion drugs and trying to [twist federal law](#) to override state law and mandate emergency room abortions, this push has included aggressively prosecuting pro-life protesters using the FACE Act.

Under the FACE Act, first-time offenders face a maximum penalty of 12 months in jail and a \$15,000 fine, while repeat offenders face up to three years of jail time and \$25,000 in fines. But those punishments apparently were not enough for the Biden administration.

According to [WORLD](#), around the same time as the decision in [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#), the administration began pairing charges of FACE Act violations with charges of "[conspiracy](#)

[against rights](#)” for obstructing the right to so-called “reproductive health services.” The felony conspiracy charges carry much steeper penalties, including prison sentences of up to 10 years.

In March 2021, Paul Vaughn and a few other pro-life advocates preached and sang hymns at an abortion facility in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, while some of them blocked the door. Almost a year and a half later, armed FBI agents showed up on Vaughn’s doorstep and arrested him in front of his 11 children.

Vaughn and five other pro-life advocates were convicted of both a FACE Act violation and a felony count of conspiracy against rights. Vaughn was sentenced to three years of supervised release, and his fellow advocates could each face maximum sentences of 10 and a half years in prison and fines as high as \$260,000.

This punishment far outweighs the crime. Unfortunately, it is not an isolated incident.

The DOJ unsealed three indictments between March 2022 and February 2023 in which it charged pro-life advocates with conspiracy against rights over what appeared to be standard FACE Act violations.

Overall, the DOJ brought at least 26 charges against pro-life individuals under the FACE Act in 2022. What were the total number of charges against abortion activists who [obstructed or vandalized pro-life pregnancy centers](#) in the wake of the Dobbs decision that year? Zero.

Government officials cannot unequally apply the law

The DOJ cannot unequally apply federal laws to silence or intimidate those with views that oppose the [administrations](#). By targeting pro-life advocates with unnecessarily harsh penalties, the Biden administration is abusing its power and politicizing the FACE Act against those who oppose abortion.

In response, pro-life politicians and other advocates are taking action against this unequal treatment. In October 2023, Sen. Mike Lee of Utah and Rep. Chip Roy of Texas even introduced legislation to repeal the FACE Act.

“The Biden DOJ has weaponized this constitutionally suspect law against pro-life sidewalk counselors while failing to protect pregnancy centers and churches from violent attacks,” Sen. Lee said in a [statement](#). While the legislation has not passed, it signals a growing distaste for the FACE Act among some lawmakers.

In addition, Mark Houck filed a lawsuit in May 2024 asking a federal district court to hold the DOJ accountable and award damages for an unjust prosecution. In the suit, Houck’s attorneys said his arrest by armed FBI agents at his home was “a shocking display of the political animus against the pro-life movement harbored at the highest levels of the Department of Justice.”

The Biden administration cannot unequally apply the law against pro-life advocates simply because of their beliefs, and many of them are taking steps toward holding the administration accountable.



[Erik Baptist](#)

Senior Counsel, Director of the Center for Life

Erik Baptist serves as senior counsel and director of the Center for Life at Alliance Defending Freedom

TEA TIME IN AUGUST

# Bake Sale

Saturday, August 17, 2024

2pm - 6pm

Bethany Lutheran Brethren Church

233 Westcott Blvd.

Staten Island, NY 10314

The goal of this fundraising event is to raise \$5,000 for the Pregnancy Care Center Office Project "Journey of Life, Love and Legacy." These funds will allow us to create a mural in three spaces where interactions with our clients will take place, and will be a focal point of interest. Please join us as we make these spaces (entryway, baby boutique & counseling room) a celebration of the journey of life for families.



Scan Here to Register!

Free Registration Includes:

- A seat at a table to enjoy the event
- Tea will be served

Baked goods & specialty coffee not included in registration; these will need to be purchased by attendees

Registration is not required for those wishing only to purchase baked goods.

<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/?e=28091>



# Volunteers/Bakers Needed

TEA TIME IN AUGUST

## Bake Sale

Saturday, August 17, 2024

2pm - 6pm

Bethany Lutheran Brethren Church

233 Westcott Blvd.

Staten Island, NY 10314

The Pregnancy Care Center is in need of volunteers and bakers for its Tea Time in August Bake Sale.

If you would like to donate baked goods, or help out during the event, please send an email to Marilyn Ajose at [ajosejem@gmail.com](mailto:ajosejem@gmail.com)





## Food for thought:

### Colossians 2:1-5 KJV

*For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*

### Quote:

*"Perceptive Christians have always known that the key to spiritual well-being is an increased knowledge and focus upon Christ." ~ R. Kent Hughes*

## 2024 Donations are Welcome



An 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, Staten Island, NY 10314.

Please follow us on:



<https://pccofny.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/PregnancyCareCenterofNewYork>

<https://www.instagram.com/pccofnewyork/>

### **Donors, Sponsors and Friends Site**

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofthePregnancyCareCenterofNewYork>