



# Life Center of Long Island

CELEBRATING THIRTY ONE YEARS • ESTABLISHED MAY 1986 • MARCH 2018

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## FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

A few weeks ago the Massapequa office was in a jam. Some of the volunteers could not come to work that day. Gloria asked Betty and I to fill in. I would cover the morning hours, but needed to leave early to take a friend to an important doctor's appointment. Betty was able to stay for the afternoon.

Around 11:30am, two young women came in. Maggie\* requested a pregnancy test kit and wanted her friend, Louise\*, beside her. Louise was in some distress herself, being on crutches, but was determined to stay with Maggie throughout the session.

Maggie, 21 years old, is one of 12 children and works at a nearby retail store 3 days a week and helps in the kitchen of a restaurant another 3 days. She had already taken a home test and it was positive. Maggie began to tell me about her pregnancy and stated she could not continue with it. Her boyfriend had given her an ultimatum, saying she must choose between him or the baby. He was her first boyfriend, and Maggie was torn.

I always feel so sad for these women when they come to the realization that the relationship they had is shallow and fleeting. Maggie read our test kit as positive. Overwhelmed and feeling rejected, her cure to relieve this pain was to destroy her preborn child and attempt to alter her lifestyle.

A priest I knew once said it was important to show kindness for the client, and speak about kindness for the baby. God has created this baby in the womb for a purpose. We try our best to teach personal growth to our clients by accepting this gift of life. It seemed too much of an undertaking for Maggie; she feared the loss of her jobs, her financial future and was facing this with only her friend Louise for support.

I explained to Maggie what the Life Center could provide, including baby clothing and equipment, erasing the burden of purchasing baby needs. Maternity clothes are also available if necessary.

It was then that Betty arrived, saving me from being late for my friend. Betty immediately picked up where I had left off, scheduling an ultrasound and insurance for Maggie. Betty arranged an appointment for Maggie to see Dr. Carpentier, who generously provides counseling and answers all the medical questions an expectant mother may have.

Betty continued the session in her kind and gentle way. Maggie left with appointments made, as well as booklets about the different stages of growth in utero. This always surprises the mothers, when they realize how far along a baby is at one month's gestation. The heart is beating at 24 days; the baby's eyes are developing, the foundation is being laid for the brain and spinal cord, muscles are forming and arms and legs have begun to grow.

Maggie was thankful for all of the information, and a bit surprised at what we were able to do for her, but was not ready to make a decision. She was glad her friend Louise was there. We asked if we could call in a few days to see how she was doing and to see if she was okay, or if further assistance was needed.

At first, Maggie wasn't sure if she wanted one of our handmade blankets, but then she accepted Betty's offer. These beautiful blankets are a tangible reminder to our clients that their baby is real. I called Maggie a few days later, and was gladdened to hear that she decided to keep her baby. We will continue to follow up with her, as Maggie will need much support throughout her pregnancy and beyond.

It truly was a day of friends helping friends all under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Please keep Maggie and all those we serve in your prayers.

*\*Names have been changed to protect confidentiality*



Submitted by Meg Malley  
Hempstead Staff



## Our Mission...

*"To promote, encourage and foster public sentiment and respect for the dignity of human life...from conception to natural death."*

Donor Site: [www.lifecenterli.org](http://www.lifecenterli.org) • Client Site: [www.aaapregnancyoptions.org](http://www.aaapregnancyoptions.org)



Donor Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lifecenterlongisland](http://www.facebook.com/lifecenterlongisland)



FROM THE DESK OF  
*The Executive Director*



## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

GLORIA SCHREIBER

As we continue our Lenten journey, a local 40 Days for Life campaign has begun, sponsored by the Pro Bikers for Life. Through March 25th, a prayerful vigil will be held daily from 7am until 5pm, outside Planned Parenthood at 540 Fulton Avenue in Hempstead.

Worldwide, 40 Days for Life campaigns have saved 13,998 babies from abortion, converted 170 abortion workers and led to the closure of 94 abortion centers. An hour of your time spent in prayer outside Planned Parenthood is an hour of grace-filled witness for the sanctity of life. Sign up at [40daysforlife.com/Hempstead](http://40daysforlife.com/Hempstead).

Pro Biker for Life, Lou, shares his experience on February 17, day 4 of 40 Days for Life:

"It was a sunny and clear day in Hempstead, except for the fathers bringing the mothers of their children into the abortion clinic. These men could not see through their own fears, face the humanity of their own child, or acknowledge their role as men to protect women and children. On the other hand, many women being driven in today, did see the presence of God's children praying out in front of them. More than one vehicle left shortly after arriving with the father of the child upset...we can only pray the mother stood her ground at the eleventh hour.

Later, a woman slowly walked by on her way to work. I gave her a pamphlet (in Spanish), for the Life Center's office down the street. She read it and seemed interested, but I am not bi-lingual, so couldn't answer her questions. I looked up and saw Danielle at the end of our prayer vigil. Danielle speaks some Spanish and works with crisis pregnancies through her church. Danielle conversed with the woman with understanding and compassion, as she shared her story. At that moment, Iggy, a wonderful man fluent in Spanish arrived and joined the women in conversation. It was beautiful to watch as Iggy poured out his love like a protective father to the woman. Later I asked what had happened. Danielle and Iggy told me the woman was indeed pregnant, and had previously been to Planned Parenthood, where it was suggested she abort her child. Iggy offered to adopt her baby and return the child to her anytime if she wanted to raise the child herself when her situation improved.

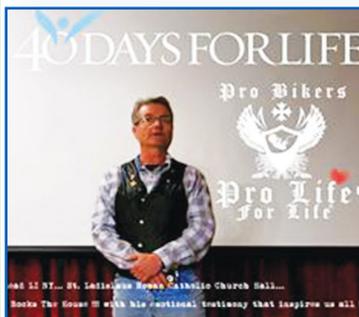
She was considering abortion when she first came across our vigil for 40 Days for Life, but now she is interested in stopping by the Life Center of Long Island to hear how she can be helped.

Praise God for all his blessings and the clear vision of all his children who show up to these vigils."

Kindly let us know about your experiences praying outside Planned Parenthood. Photos welcomed too. Send e-mail to: [infoma@lifecenterli.org](mailto:infoma@lifecenterli.org).

Blessings,

*Gloria*



Far left: Lou Fielack making a presentation about 40 days for Life; second from left: Father Liam McDonald praying the rosary; far right: Danielle and Iggy. Photos courtesy Pro Bikers for Life.

*Wishing you a Happy St. Patrick's Day!*





# Chinese Auction | Pasta Dinner

The Life Center is collecting items for its Annual Pasta Dinner/Chinese Auction

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018**

**1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**



(Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, 8th NY District)  
at **Our Lady of Grace Church Hall, 666 Albin Ave., West Babylon, NY 11704**

**Sponsoring Knights of Columbus Councils:**

Our Lady of the Rosary #4428 | Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal #6556 | Our Lady of Grace #11968 | St. Joseph the Carpenter #14771

Donations needed for baskets for the Life Center of Long Island's 20th Annual Pasta Dinner and Chinese Auction. New, unused items or gift cards appreciated. Donations may be dropped off at any of our four locations during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm.

GARDENING BASKETS, CHILDREN'S BASKETS, THEATRE/MOVIE TICKETS, LOTTERY BOARDS, RESTAURANT GIFT CERTIFICATES, SPORTING EVENT TICKETS, LONG ISLAND VINEYARD TOUR, HOME GOODS BASKETS...AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

**TICKETS: \$15 PER PERSON, INCLUDES DINNER, BEER, WINE/SODA**

For tickets, make checks payable to: **THE LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND**  
and mail to: **PHIL RENNA, 385 S. 14TH ST., LINDENHURST, NY 11757**

For more information on Pasta Dinner, please contact Phil (631-766-3388)  
For information on Chinese Auction, please contact Gloria (516-798-8746)

*Thanks for your generosity and for all you do for the Life Center!*



## IN LOVING MEMORY



We are grateful for donations made to the Life Center of Long Island in memory of:

**Marie McDermott**

We commend her soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, into God's loving arms.

The Life Center of Long Island has "Memorial" and "Honorarium" cards available.

Kindly call Nancy at 516-798-8746 for details.



*Thank You \* Thank You \* Thank You*



We thank the donors of St. Mary's Church in Amityville for the items collected at a recent baby shower held at the church. Your generosity enables the Life Center of Long Island to help families in need.



Our heartfelt appreciation to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court # 2413 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton of Bellmore for their generosity in hosting a baby shower to benefit the mothers and babies served by the Life Center of Long Island.





# THERE IS HOPE FOR OUR YOUTH



Recently in the news, we have been exposed to some horrific evil perpetrated by a troubled teenager. We often lament the behavior of today's youth, but must remember that good will always triumph over evil, and as pro-life advocates, we must never surrender to despair.

The Life Center had the privilege of participating in a Christmas outreach to children with special needs. I was approached by Fr. Liam McDonald, Holy Trinity HS Chaplain, and was asked if I had any ideas for an activity for the Respect Life group at the school. Brookside Nursing Center came to mind; a former Life Center volunteer, Lana Maggio, volunteers there and arranged for a special field trip. The following testimonies are from students that joined us that day in sharing Christmas joy.

**—Donna Crean, Deer Park Center Director**

*"On Dec. 8th, I visited Brookside nursing Home which has a Pediatric Unit, where over 30 disabled children live. We were a group including Fr. Liam McDonald, Holy Trinity students, some Life Center of Long Island staff and volunteers. Our desire was to bring Christmas spirit to the children. I will admit I was hesitant; I was not sure what I was getting into. I just went with the flow, in the process I met the children and was amazed how much spirit and joy they had in their difficult situation. The first child I met could not interact with me. It was hard to know what he wanted, but he seemed to be at peace whenever he heard Christmas carols. I helped to decorate his room, and our group sang carols in the TV room. I visited another child who had a special love for music. I did my best to bring him the joy of Christmas through music.*

*The last child I visited knew sign language and I was able to communicate with her through facial expressions. The most touching experience was when I picked up a Nativity snow globe. I asked her if she knew who was in it. She shook her head no. I told her His name is Jesus and asked if she wanted to know a secret. She nodded and I told her "Jesus loves you." Her face lit up with amazement. I was so touched by her.*

*I realized we were each called to see something positive in each child's situation. It confirmed for me that all life is sacred and we must respect the dignity of all human life, even in the suffering children. The smile on that girl's face said it all; this is what Christmas is about, to know the love of Jesus."*

**—Jason Crean, St. John the Baptist student and Life Center volunteer**

*"On our visit to Brookside Nursing Center, our plan was to have a little holiday celebration with the children. The kids that were there had many different types of physical and mental handicaps. I had interacted with handicapped adults before, but I had never been around a large group of disabled children, so doing this was a very new experience for me.*

*While there we decorated the rooms with Christmas trees, wreaths, and ornaments. We were told by the nurses that the kids did not get large visits very often, and that they were ecstatic that we were there. Although we had done simple things, I could not believe how much this day has affected me. It is so easy to get caught up in your own personal bubble, especially during the holiday season. The Christmas season is about giving back, and after coming home that day, I felt that I had given back. We may have done basic things, but seeing those kids so happy is something I will remember for a long time."*

**—Johnny Barry, Holy Trinity student and Respect Life Club member**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR DONORS:** Your privacy matters to us. Please be advised that the Life Center of Long Island never sells or shares our e-mail mailing list with third parties.

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- Dr. Lisa Honkanen  
Vice President
- Gerry Judge  
Treasurer
- Marga Regina  
Secretary

Gloria Schreiber  
Executive Director

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Life is a



CHILDREN'S TEMPORARY TATTOOS  
CLOWN  
ANIMAL BALLOONS

## Deal!

## WALK 4 IT!

### Saturday, May 5, 2018

### WANTAGH PARK

1 KING ROAD, WANTAGH

Registration 8:30am - 9:00 am

Registration Fee: Adults: \$20, Under 18: \$10, 12 & Under: FREE

Walk (½ mile, 2 miles or 5 miles) 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

To register, visit [www.lifecenterli.org](http://www.lifecenterli.org)

QUESTIONS? Call Kathie (516) 994-0999.



## Life Center of Long Island

### 2ND ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

\* Restaurant gift certificates awarded to top two registered adult walkers with highest funds raised.

\* Gift cards awarded to top two 18 and under registered walkers with highest funds raised.

# 20th Annual Celebrate Life Fundraiser



## ***Pasta Dinner & Chinese Auction***

(To Benefit for the Life Center of Long Island)

Presented by

***The Knights of Columbus Councils  
of the 8th New York District  
& The Life Center of Long Island***

**Date: Sunday, April 29th, 2018 1:00- 5:00 PM**

**Place: Our Lady of Grace Parish - Fr. Patrick Hall  
666 Ablin Ave West Babylon, NY 11704**

**Tickets: \$15.00 per person**

**Includes Dinner, Beer, Wine/Soda**

**For tickets Make Checks Payable to**

**The Life Center of LI & Mail to:**

**Philip A. Renna**

**202 South 12th St**

**Lindenhurst NY 11757**

**Sponsoring Knights of Columbus Councils**

**Our Lady of the Rosary #4428 - Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal #6556**

**Our Lady of Grace # 11968 - St. Joseph the Carpenter #14771**

**For more info on Pasta Dinner please contact Phil (631) 766-3388**

**For more info on Chinese Auction please contact Gloria (516) 798-8746**

# The Life Center of Long Island

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Pasta Dinner

Grand Prize: \$1000.00

Drawing: April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**The Knights of Columbus Councils**

**8<sup>th</sup> New York District**

Drawing to take place:

Our Lady of Grace Council #11968

Fr. Patrick Shanahan Hall

666 Albin Avenue

West Babylon, NY 11704

Entries must be in by April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Please make your checks payable to: **The Life Center of Long Island**

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### **Pasta Dinner Sweepstakes**

Grand Prize: \$1000.00

Donation: \$10.00 ea./ 6 for \$50.00

Please send to: The Life Center of Long Island

PO Box 468, Deer Park, NY 11729

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Winner Need not be present

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Winner Need not be present