



# Life Center of Long Island

CELEBRATING THIRTY-FOUR YEARS • ESTABLISHED MAY 1986 • APRIL 2021

**LIFE CENTER**  
**OF LONG ISLAND**  
*A Voice for the Unborn  
on Long Island*

1767 Deer Park Avenue  
Deer Park • NY • 11729  
T. 631.243.2373  
infodp@lifecenterli.org

35 East Willow Street  
Massapequa • NY • 11758  
T. 516.798.8746  
infoma@lifecenterli.org

474 Fulton Avenue  
Hempstead • NY • 11550  
T. 516.408.6300  
infohp@lifecenterli.org

## A VICTORY FOR LIFE

As a counselor, I meet many Spanish women and young girls. Each client has a different situation that can be very challenging. Carmen\* came to our center with the idea that her only option was to abort what would be her fifth child. She shared with me that she did not want this baby because she felt she could not afford one. She stated she had 4 other children and it was way too much. As she said these words I said to God in my heart, "Please Lord give me your words and soften her heart." She kept speaking and telling me her story, explaining that she is the only one working between her and her boyfriend, who is not with her at this time. Carmen believed this pregnancy was making it impossible for her to work and therefore she could not afford this child.

I explained to Carmen that we would help her with baby clothes, diapers, formula, baby food, crib, car seat and other needed items. I told her we would help her until her baby was a toddler and then connect her with other local resources. I asked Carmen if she thought having an abortion was going to make things better. "Do you believe that an abortion will make things easier for you?" I asked. I encouraged her to think about what might happen to her child and herself from the known side effects of abortion.

She looked towards me and said she did not know. I explained the many different ways that abortion hurts women, especially the psychological effects. Carmen stated she was not aware of all these side effects. I asked her if she loved children and she vehemently said yes. I continued, "Well this child is no different. Do you know there is a purpose and meaning for your child's life? There is something special that this child is meant to bring into the world and if you destroy this life, all the beautiful things this child is meant to bring, will be stopped. God, this child's creator, has entrusted you to care for this child and treasure it. It is His gift to you. Abortion will destroy this gift. Please know we will help you as much as we can materially, and spiritually we will be there for you."

The whole time I was speaking to Carmen I could tell she was listening. Looking into her eyes I could see that this truth was resonating in her face. I scheduled a sonogram for Carmen. As we know from experience, there is a great chance a mother will decide for life once she sees the new life in the sonogram. Afterwards I did not hear from Carmen for some time.

Today, six months later, Carmen called the center and surprised me! She had seen her new baby girl in the sonogram and decided for life! She will soon have a baby girl as a sister to her 4 little boys! I asked Carmen if she had a name for her new baby. She told me her name will be Victoria, like mine, because I helped her. The name comes from Latin for "victory". This was truly a victory for life!

*\*Names changed to protect confidentiality.*

**Vicki Guerra**  
**Deer Park Bilingual 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.womenfirstpregnancyoptions.org](http://www.womenfirstpregnancyoptions.org)



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



GLORIA SCHREIBER

FROM THE DESK OF

*The CEO*

## ***Pray, Hope and Don't Worry***

***St. Padre Pio***



It has been a full year now since the world was turned upside down by the scourge of the Covid-19 virus. At the Life Center, we were forced to close our offices temporarily, but the staff and I were committed to assisting our clients nevertheless. We reimagined and made the necessary adjustments to continue serving our clients because we knew we were essential to being their lifeline. We had our offices' calls forwarded to our cell phones, and were able to provide for clients by contactless distribution of baby food, diapers and other necessities by scheduling "curbside deliveries." We remained steadfast in scheduling pregnancy test kits at our centers, especially for unplanned pregnancies while ensuring CDC guidelines for safety.

Planned Parenthood took advantage of the Covid-19 environment and increased availability of the 2 day abortion pills known as the RU486. Our remaining open and accessible to our clients was mandatory.

I certainly did pray, hope, but to be honest, I *did* worry.

Yet, I am happy to relate the amazing things that have come to pass. The centers cautiously re-opened to clients, as we masked up and limited the number of people in our buildings at one time. With God's grace we were able to keep serving as that lifeline to women and families during the past twelve months. Throughout 2020, we saved 35 babies, and served 1,966 clients which includes 1,735 clients with material aid!

Slowly some of our volunteers felt comfortable returning to our centers. Our client visits increased and our dedicated donors stepped up with aid, as we were unable to hold our usual fund raisers, such as the Pasta Dinner and Auction, Walk-a-thon, and our Baby Bottle campaigns.

Since we were unable to hold the annual fundraisers, we pivoted and hosted a virtual Baby Bottle Campaign and virtual Gala fundraiser, which were more successful than we imagined.

Today, I am happy to report that a number of parishes have begun to re-commit holding Baby Bottle campaigns, our ever-faithful donor organizations have found new ways to hold baby showers to benefit our clients (see pg. 3), and individual donations of baby items have increased.

We have been keeping track of the many beautiful souls that want to become volunteers; when it is permissible, we will be offering training classes once again to bring them on board. We have not forgotten you, we will be in touch!

All this has been made possible because of the goodness of God. The political climate may not be life-affirming, and threats to our work are increasing. We see the storm gathering that is heading our way. This warning is not to cause alarm, but to help us all brace for impact, and ultimately not lose hope in Him who holds all things together.

As we celebrate Easter, we are called to reflect on its meaning. **Do not be afraid. There is great reason for hope. Christ has won the victory.** Sometimes our work is difficult and seemingly unappreciated. Yet we are encouraged by the generous and loving individuals and organizations that are committed and continue to support our mission.

But we can always look ahead, knowing that the greater work has been done for us. Christ made the ultimate sacrifice. We need only to trust in Him.

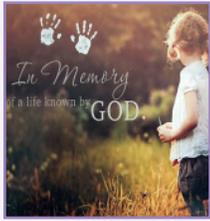
*Happy Easter to You and Your Families!*

Blessings,

*Gloria*



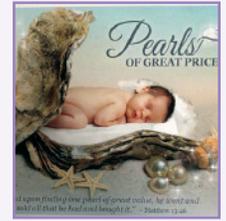
# IN LOVING MEMORY



The Life Center of Long Island is grateful for donations made in loving memory of the following:

**Doreen Jablonski ~ Richard O'Neill**

We commend their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, to the loving embrace of our Father.



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!



Thank you to Delmy Herrera and Kat Ucciferri, of **Alice + Olivia**, as well as our beloved volunteer, Janice Seaman, for their efforts benefiting the Life Center of Long Island through the *Champions for Charity* event. It was an overwhelming success!

We wish to extend our gratitude to the **Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Bishop McDonnell #1403** for their thoughtful donation of 12 bags of items for moms, including creams, socks, wipes, and personal care goodies.



(l-r) Vicki Guerra of the Deer Park center with Gianna Marquez of Junior CDA Court #1403

The ingenuity of our faithful donors is evidenced by the ways they have continued to support our clients. We are humbled by their determination to continue donating, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Our sincere gratitude to the **Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Bishop McDonnell #1403** in Babylon, for putting together a drive-thru baby shower, which collected Pack 'n Plays, diapers, wipes and clothing for our families in need. The Life Center is so fortunate to have the continued support of such life-affirming women.



(l-r) Kathy Sweeney, Worthy Past Regent and Ginny Siani, Regent CDA Court Victory #595



(l-r) Donations and Handmade Blankets and Life Center's Vicki Guerra with CDA Court Victory members Kathy Sweeney and Ellen Hajtler in Deer Park center

Our heartfelt appreciation to **Dr. Mary Ann Zaromatidis**, for her creation and the parish of Notre Dame's installation of the "Baby Items Donation Box" in New Hyde Park. Notre Dame's parishioners have generously donated beautiful baby things to benefit the clients of the Life Center. What an ingenious way to support women and families in need!



(l-r) The Baby Items Donation Box and Dr. Mary Ann



A sampling of "Baby Box" donations



## A BABY SAVE UPDATE!



Our recent front page story from the February 2021 newsletter, was about how our Polish-speaking volunteer, Barbara, and our Deer Park Client Services Coordinator, Lisa Vigliotta, encouraged a young Polish woman to continue with her pregnancy despite an adverse pre-natal diagnosis. The client recently sent an updated picture of her little boy, with this message:

*"He's perfect ! You were so right. All I had to do is trust in God and it was a tough road but I did it! His name is Finn!"*

Thank you to all who keep our clients in their prayers. Your continued fidelity to life is a blessing! Just ask baby Finn! You can access all our past newsletters online at [www.lifecenterli.org](http://www.lifecenterli.org). Just click the "About Us" tab and go to Newsletters.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

*I was guided in the right direction when I inquired about volunteering at the Life Center. It has added more meaning to my life by seeing the dedication and commitment that the staff offers to save a little one's life. It's a nice atmosphere to work in with such caring people who share the same purpose. Being here (at the Life Center) makes my day brighter.*

~ **Massapequa Volunteer, Lisa Carpenter**



## FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM UPDATE



We have great news for our updated Facebook and Instagram accounts. Here you can see a post of our new designs. It's like going to the ocean or even the mountains and being renewed in our mission! We hope you will stay connected with us. Please share these posts with your younger family members so they catch the wave and sunshine for our mission which will then live on for all new life that God intends!



### PLEASE NOTE:

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, kindly forward your email address to [infoma@lifecenterli.org](mailto:infoma@lifecenterli.org).

**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-list with third parties.



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