



Life Center of Long Island

CELEBRATING THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS • ESTABLISHED MAY 1986 • JULY 2023

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

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FORTITUDE



*Jean and Matthew**

It takes strength to face trials that come and go throughout life. It takes special strength to remain devoted and resilient when the challenge is a permanent situation. Jean* came to us 14 years ago at age 17 for a pregnancy test kit. The result was positive. It seemed unlikely that her child's father would help raise him. She didn't complain; she was concerned about proper nutrition for her preborn child. I looked forward to seeing her again; she seemed humble and sweet. We coordinated an ultrasound for her and kept in touch; we provided her with maternity clothes and other resources throughout her pregnancy.

Unexpectedly, Jean's baby Matthew* was born about three months prematurely. His membranes had ruptured, and he developed hydrocephalus. Matthew remained in the hospital for eight months. Jean visited him every day after her classes at school. Unfortunately, her support system was scarce. She had a mother and brother involved with drugs and one sister who lived out of the area. When I visited her in the hospital after Matthew's birth, she had almost no resources. Thanks to the donations of our supporters though, we provided her with baby clothes, handmade blankets, infant toys, a bassinet, and a car seat.

Jean faced many obstacles in parenting Matthew. He required extensive care, which was beyond what most programs and schools provide. He had frequent seizures, couldn't talk, and was only barely able to walk. He frequently took off his clothes and threw them. Jean was unable to go to church because he was too disruptive there and she had no one to watch him. Jean tried to find stay-at-home employment, or a day program for Matthew's extensive needs, but to no avail.

Through the years, we have maintained a relationship with her. She took the initiative to contact various agencies for help and eventually moved into a subsidized apartment. The apartment is adequate but safety issues with the neighbors still pose difficulty.

Through all the struggles, Jean smiles on her son and talks about him with love and devotion. She approaches his disability with patience and compassion. She plays music for him because he responds well to it. I recently asked Jean how she keeps going under these circumstances, especially since she has her own health issues. She said, "Sometimes it seems impossible to overcome these difficulties, but God just keeps me loving and caring for Matthew."

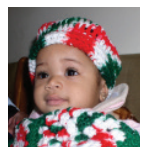
Recently, we gave her a rolling shopping cart to take to the grocery store alongside Matthew's wheelchair, as well as clothes and a backpack. When they go down the supermarket aisles, she speaks with him about what they encounter to help him develop his cognitive skills.

Fortitude is a gift of the Holy Spirit and is defined as "the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good." Jean has demonstrated this virtue to an amazing degree. Because Jean appreciates Matthew's infinite value, she can embrace her daily challenges with perseverance and love. May God continue to shower the gift of fortitude upon all who pursue the sanctity of life.



Meg Malley
Hempstead Staff

**Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*



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 • Client Site: www.womenfirstpregnancyoptions.org



Donor Facebook: www.facebook.com/lifecenterlongisland



GLORIA SCHREIBER

FROM THE DESK OF

The CEO

Big News, Bigger Plans

"For I know the *plans*
I have for *you*, says the LORD,
plans for *welfare* and not for
evil, to give you a
FUTURE and a *hope*."

- *Jeremiah 29:11*

It's always been our strategy to position our centers as close as possible to abortion clinics. Our proximity to abortion facilities has drawn women and men in unplanned pregnancies to our centers where they will receive education on their pregnancy options, resulting in over 2,500 baby saves over our 37 years here on Long Island. Our Hempstead center is **one block away** from the Nassau County surgical Planned Parenthood; our Massapequa center is **directly across** the street from Planned Parenthood; and our Smithtown center is **diagonally across** the street from the Suffolk County surgical Planned Parenthood. The abortion facility nearest our Deer Park center closed years ago and has never reopened.

I'm blessed to be able to attend the annual Heartbeat International conference, which is an organization that supports pregnancy care centers and maternity homes worldwide. This year they shared important statistics noting that the number of brick and mortar abortion clinics have decreased while pregnancy care center locations have increased in almost a 3:1 ratio, thus increasing the number of baby saves. They pointed out major areas of location opportunities for more pregnancy care centers to be built and/or expand across the country with the goal of being in close proximity to abortion clinics.

Upon return, I analyzed our Women First Pregnancy Options centers "client to center ratio". It confirmed that most of our Deer Park clients live in closer proximity to two abortion facilities, the Planned Parenthood in West Islip and an OBGYN in Brentwood who has performed abortions for years, both south of our current location on Deer Park Avenue in Deer Park.

Shortly after, and "out of the blue", we received a phone call from a persistent developer interested in buying our Deer Park location as he also owns surrounding properties. After meeting the developer, who we discovered is pro-life and very supportive of our mission, we prayed for a sign if we should proceed. Through various conversations and negotiations, the developer made us a wonderful offer we decided to accept.

Our Deer Park center has presented challenges: the extremely busy and, at times, dangerous Deer Park Avenue traffic volume; limited parking; and our three-story layout, with three staircases which physically challenge our staff and volunteers, especially on busy client days.

We truly believe that God's hand and Divine Providence guided and lead us to where He wants us next positioned to save babies' lives. This transaction not only enabled us to pay off our Smithtown center mortgage, it also positioned just enough funds to move and relocate our Deer Park center into a new location which will be further south in the vicinity of the two abortion facilities. We'll continue to serve our current client base with the great potential of increasing our client numbers since we'll be closer to two abortion facilities. It will also expand volunteer and financial support from additional local churches within the relocated center area. We'll be able to remain in our current location up to 21 months with reasonable rent.

Please pray our next location will present itself in God's time with the blessing of success and growth in our new location.

As always, we thank God for His guidance and Divine Intervention.

Blessings,

Gloria

**Happy Fourth of July and
May God Bless America!**

**Give now and
skip the mailbox**



FATHER'S DAY HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

To the selfless men who protect and defend life and reflect our Heavenly Father's steadfast love...

Happy Father's Day

The Life Center of Long Island is blessed to have received donations for fathers, living and deceased, listed below.

**Andy Molina ~ Anthony Hurtado ~ Dominick Colapinto ~ Donald B. Miller ~ Edward Callaghan ~ Edward F. Hayes
Edwin J. Lucie ~ Gaspare Facella ~ Heinrich Atzorn ~ James DeCicco ~ James Gallagher ~ James Gill ~ James Maguire
John Gill ~ Joseph Bozza ~ Joseph Capobianco ~ Ken O'Brien ~ Lenny Manzo ~ Louis Ackerina ~ Lt. Col. Frank J. Farrell
Pete Sobey ~ Peter Blasucci, Jr. ~ Peter Blasucci, Sr. ~ Peter Gallagher ~ Peter Moore, Jr. ~ Raymond Thumser
Richard Eschmann ~ Matthew J. Fox ~ Quinn Phelan ~ Harold J. Boening, Sr. ~ Henry F. Barbeau**

MOTHER'S DAY HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

During the month of May, devoted to Mary, the Life Center received donations made in honor and memory of the following beloved mothers.

Celia (Betty) Monaghan ~ Concetta Perrotta ~ Maryann Rybak ~ Cecilia McNeal Lisante

For those who have passed, we commend their souls, and the souls of the faithful departed, to the loving embrace of our Father.

COMMUNITY NEWS

RACHEL'S STONE REDEDICATION

I was humbled when asked to participate in the Rachel's Stone rededication ceremony at St. James RC Church in Setauket on May 21, 2023. For those who don't know, Rachel is a biblical figure from the book of Genesis. She married Jacob and for many years was unable to conceive. After God took mercy upon her, she became pregnant and gave birth to her firstborn son, Joseph. Rachel became pregnant again but complications during childbirth cost Rachel her life. Her preborn son, Benjamin, was spared.

So, why is the stone named after Rachel? The book of Jeremiah references "Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more". Great grief occurs when a child, pre-born or newly born, is gone too soon through natural causes or abortion. The pain can only be extinguished when we set our eyes on the Lord. It is then that we can find peace and grace.



And so, the Respect Life Committee of St. James R.C. Church and the Knights of Columbus Mother Teresa Council dedicated the Rachel's Stone Memorial on Mother's Day in 1999. It is a tribute to the Holy Innocents who lost their lives and a poignant reminder that all children are worthy of life. The inscription on the stone reads: "Human Life is a Sacred Gift from God. We Pray with Love for all the Unborn Children." This beautiful and serene memorial setting allows mothers, fathers, and families to fondly remember and contemplate the children they lost and find comfort.

Each year, St. James Parish and the Knights of Columbus, Mother Teresa Council, rededicate the Rachel Stone. If you lost a child or know someone who has, I encourage you to visit the memorial. It's located in the east yard cemetery of the church parking lot. There you will find the peace your restless heart has been seeking. I know it helped my heart.

God Bless you and your family, wherever they may be.

~ Mary Regina Bebber



Mary Regina Bebber (above)



5K RUN / WALK 4 LIFE



Our latest 5K Run/Walk 4 Life was a great success! We were blessed to have beautiful weather for the event, held on Saturday, June 10th, at Cedar Creek Park in Seaford. We thank all who participated, especially our premier sponsors below:

**Blue Horizons Irrigation ~ True Blue Irrigation
Ridgewood Savings Bank ~ Dashing Dans ~ Eagle Sanitation ~ St. Michael the Archangel
Catholic Church, Farmingville
Kiwanis Club N. Amityville ~ Hands On Physical Therapy ~ GBV Printing**

Special thanks to the St. James Respect Life Committee and Knights of Columbus Blessed Teresa of Calcutta #12006, both from the St. James Parish in Setauket, for the generous donation of a bicycle raffled off at the event. Our highest compliments go to John McHugh with the Strong Island Running Club for their professionalism, not missing a detail to ensure the event was organized to perfection.

Congratulations to the following runners:

Male Overall Winner: Angelo Crimeni **2nd Best Time:** James Pyun **3rd Best Time:** Michael Imbornoni
Female Overall Winner: Shannon Pulis **2nd Best Time:** Rebecca Mackay **3rd Best Time:** Lori Gargaro

SAVE THE DATE: 2023 GALA

LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND 37TH ANNIVERSARY GALA!

Sunday, September 24, 2023

1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

THE MUTTONTOWN CLUB

5933 Northern Blvd. East Norwich, NY 11731



Our Honoree ~ Deacon Frank Gariboldi

Guest Speaker ~ Theresa Bonapartis



*Co-Founder of Long Island Rachel Vineyard Weekend Retreats
Initiated the Baby Bottle Campaigns for the Life Center of LI*



Author, Co-Developer, and Speaker on Post-Abortion Healing

PLEASE NOTE:

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, kindly forward your email address to 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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