



Life Center of Long Island

CELEBRATING THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS • ESTABLISHED MAY 1986 • FEBRUARY 2025

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

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GOD WORKS ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR GOOD

In May of 2023, Women First Pregnancy Options, aka the Life Center of Long Island entered a new phase in our attempts to reach women who find themselves with an unexpected or unplanned pregnancy. We have found that a large majority of these women are in their middle-to-late teens or early twenties. These women were raised in an age of ever-expanding technology. An age where cell phones are rarely far away. How were we to reach them? The answer came to us via the services of another not-for-profit organization called Hope Sync. This chat bot service was added to our www.womenfirstpregnancyoptions.org webpage. Women in crisis can search our webpage and opened the chat application. This will allow a potential client to reach out for help in a private, not threatening way. Once the women are comfortable searching the webpage; they can open a chat that will be redirected to the office. Why am I talking about this other not-for-profit you may ask? This is exactly how Johanna* found us.

It was around 12pm in the afternoon when I received a text notification (ping) from the Hope Sync site. Someone was looking for more information about our services. Johanna was searching the internet for ultrasound services and found Women First Pregnancy Options. We chatted online for a bit as she was concerned about her privacy. Johanna had been to the local Planned Parenthood a few days prior with the expectations of having an abortion. Although the pregnancy test was positive, the technician was unable to locate the baby to determine age or location. The facility implied that Johanna may be experiencing an ectopic pregnancy. This greatly troubled her and she was frantic to confirm or dismiss her worst fears. She was seeking immediate help. Through our chat, I let her know that I would wait for her to arrive at the office even if it were after normal business hours.

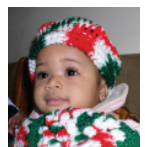
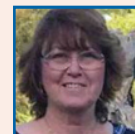
Johanna and I met that afternoon. We walked through the many pros and cons that were before her. While Planned Parenthood had instilled a great fear for her own health, it was initially hard to put her at ease. Since the hour was late, I was not able to call to get a sonogram scheduled until the next morning which is exactly what I did for her. I had recently been made aware that St Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson has a newly dedicated Maternal Child Health and Fetal Medicine Clinic. I quickly reached out to the Kathleen Long MSN, RN, Director of Nursing, for assistance. She went above and beyond for us and was able to set up an appointment for a sonogram right away. Johanna was met with the most amazing team of medical professionals at St Charles Hospital. They walked her through the process. Johanna learned that her preborn child was perfectly healthy and there was no cause for concern. Although the following weeks were rocky for her, Johanna has chosen life for her child. This would not be possible if it weren't for the collaborative team effort. Johanna has many who are praying for her and are willing to walk alongside her in the months to come.

My deepest thanks to St Charles Hospital and Kathleen Long, MSN, RN who took the leap of faith and entered the journey with us for the life of this child. May God Bless You All!!

Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

**Name changed to protect confidentiality*

Mary Bebber
Smithtown Center Director



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

Give now
and skip the
mailbox



From Conception to Natural Death

Our Mission statement at the Life Center is “to promote, encourage and foster public sentiment for the respect and dignity of human life from conception to natural death.” While our main goal is to save babies’ lives, our mission also encompasses respect for the dignity of human life at the end of a person’s life. Prolifers in New York have won a few battles in the war on Life, yet the war rages on. New York laws have been passed that disrespect the right to life and sanctity of human life.

The Reproductive Health Act is a New York law enacted on January 22, 2019, that protects reproductive rights, decriminalized abortion, and eliminated several restrictions on voluntary abortions in the state. It also can **deprive babies** that are born and have survived abortions to receive medical attention, leaving the babies on the side to die.

Ballot Proposal 1 – a state Constitutional amendment in our recent Presidential election, passed on the ballot In New York State. It was deceptively mischaracterized by proponents as an “equal rights” amendment—which now will empower New York’s hard left, one-party government to wreak further havoc on voting integrity; undermine parental rights; attack religious freedom; and enshrine unrestricted abortion, up to and beyond the moment of birth, into the state Constitution.

With these two bills successfully behind NY legislators who disrespect the right to life and sanctity of human life, they can focus even more strongly on passing NY state’s ‘**Medical Aid in Dying**’ (MAID) bills, which would legalize assisted suicide in NY. Assisted suicide is on the rise in the United States where some 20% of our states already allow the practice. Sadly, polls have indicated a strong favorability among New Yorkers for assisted suicide.

Currently, the State of New York does not recognize a right to assisted suicide. There is a clear distinction – widely recognized in both medicine and law - between refusing life-sustaining treatment (which is legal) and assisted suicide (which is not). The Court said that this distinction is “important, logical and certainly rational,” and added that “it turns on... **intent.**” The intent of removing medical interventions is to free the patient of **burdensome, often non-beneficial treatments**; if the patient dies, the cause of death is the underlying disease. However, the intent of physician-assisted suicide is to end the patient’s life; the cause of death is lethal drugs. Loved ones left behind feel betrayed, cheated, diminished in importance. They acknowledge that the person had been suffering, yet, they feel they should have had the chance to be present and to share in their loved one’s suffering.

Simply put, consciously yet incomprehensibly, death is a process of losing control of ourselves at the end of our lives. Assisted suicide presents people the opportunity to stage-manage their final goodbyes. Dying was designed by our Creator as an important part of the human life journey and we should face our mortality by embracing it with honesty and wisdom. “Assisted suicide” or “Medical Aid in Dying”, regardless of motive, is a violation of our most cherished principles as a people, embodied in the concept of unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. **2 things you can do: Join the LICL (Long Island Coalition) LOBBY BUS trip to Albany Capital - February 11, 2025**-to lobby our NYS representatives against the “Medical Aid in Dying Bill” that’s being anticipated for another push in Albany. Pre-registration is required. Lobby info will be reviewed on bus. The bus will make a few stops on LI to pick up participants. For details call: (Primary) Pete 631-289-2095; (Secondary) 631-243-1435.

ACT TO STOP PASSAGE OF ASSISTED SUICIDE BILLS IN NEW YORK: Educate those around us and urge your Senate & Assemblyperson to vote NO on the dangers and any version of any assisted suicide legislation - LI members of the Health Committees: Senators Jack Martins, Steven Rhoads, Kevin Thomas, and Assemblypersons: Jake Blumencranz, Jarett Gandolfo, John Mikulin, Michaelle Solages. Albany legislators: Assembly 518-455-4218; Senate 518-455-2800, or via links on the LICL website at prolifeli.org/index.php/legislative.

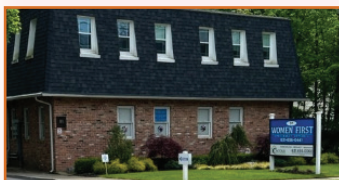
**You can download the informational flier from the New York Alliance Against Assisted Suicide at NoSuicideNY.org.

Blessings,

Gloria

Happy Valentine's Day

Office Space for Lease at Our Smithtown Center



91 Maple Ave, Smithtown- Entire 2nd Floor (1300 +/- SF)
\$1500 monthly rent

For more information, contact
516-798-8746 or email mpiccolo@lifecenter.org





IN LOVING MEMORY



~ Deacon Frank Gariboldi ~ Jean M. Bongiorno and family ~
 ~ Grandmother's Kitty and Nora ~ Cathalino Oajaca ~ Robert Thornton Sr. ~
 ~ Rev. Msgr. Philip J. Reilly ~ Angel Luis M. ~ Barbara Woessner ~
 ~ Anthony Contorno ~ Howie Shannon ~



*We commend their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed,
 to the loving embrace of our Father.
 May you be blessed always with God's eternal love and grace.*



INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER



Yara Cedeno

I learned about the Life Center through the Baby Bottle Campaign on a Sunday when we attended Mass at Holy Name of Mary Church in 2019. Inside the bottle was a paper inviting volunteers, and I wrote down my name and phone number. Verónica called me and asked if I was interested in volunteering. I was so happy and immediately said yes. The following week, Verónica showed me around the Center and I was so excited to be part of something special. I felt so much joy because I was going through a difficult time in my life. It was like a balm to heal my wounds. I had always wanted to be a mother but never thought I would face infertility. I started by helping fold and organize clothes, then preparing bags, and I felt peace and gratitude. On top of that, I met two women who have become my emotional support—Mrs. Juana and Verónica, for whom I have developed great affection.

After a year of volunteering, I told Verónica that I wanted to donate a gift basket for a mother who had considered abortion. That's when I met that woman, and through her, God granted me the desire of my heart to become a mother. I have been blessed with a beautiful daughter who is now two years old. During this time, I continued going every two weeks on Fridays to provide support. Veronica invited me to join our bi-lingual staff team, and even as a first-time mom who had spent years waiting for my baby, I didn't feel it was the right time to return to work. However, this year, life took an unexpected turn, and the opportunity to work at the center came up again. This time, I didn't let it slip away.

I felt it was part of my purpose—God's purpose—to help these mothers who are considering abortion or those who lack resources. The work we do is so rewarding and valuable. My heart is filled with joy when a baby is saved, and when we can listen, offer support, and show empathy to these young women who need it so much.



LIFE CENTER REQUESTS



NEW VACUUM NEEDED AT OUR MASSAPEQUA CENTER!!

Our current vacuum cleaner is no longer operable,
 so we are looking to purchase a new and improved Bissell vacuum (similar to one shown.)



MEN WANTED!!



“Be strong and of good courage” Joshua 1:9

Male Volunteers are urgently needed in all of our four locations: **Smithtown, Hempstead, Deer Park and Massapequa**....to help property and building maintenance, management of baby item donations (ensuring items are in good, clean, working condition) and small handyman tasks as needed. This volunteer position is a great opportunity for the semi-retired and retirees. Please contact Lauren at 516-798-8746 for further details.





COMING THIS SPRING!!



Be on the lookout for dates announcing our first time ever **BINGO!!**
Date and Venue location to come!

Our delicious **ITALIAN FEAST** on **SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH** from 2-6PM

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #564-Bay Shore

1341 Fifth Avenue, Bay Shore, NY 11706

Bishop John R. McGann.

For additional information, please contact Regina at (516) 798-8746.



RAFFLE BASKET DONATIONS NEEDED



The Life Center is now accepting donations of new items/gift cards to be used in raffle baskets at our upcoming events. Items will be accepted at any of our centers. Kindly label: For Raffle Baskets. Any questions, please contact Regina at 516-798-8746.



THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU

Pictured Right: Natalie Selassie, one of our Christmas gift recipients. Each year during the Christmas season, the Life Center of Long Island, makes a special effort to make it a most memorable one for the baby save moms, their babies, and extended families we have had the privilege of serving this past year. Through the support of all of our generous donors, we were able to make this a beautiful Christmas season for those such families. To all of those who made this possible, The Life Center of Long Island wishes to express its deepest appreciation!



We wish to thank **Mrs. Geralyn Loprieno (St. Dominic Theology teacher)** and the **students from Saint Dominic High School** for making cozy winter blankets for the families we serve and delivering them to our Massapequa Center. Inspired by our mission, **Mrs. Loprieno** and her **students** visited the Life Center to learn more about who pregnancy care centers are and the invaluable services we provide to our community. We thoroughly enjoyed their visit and loved their enthusiasm they shared for our sole purpose to **promote, encourage and**



foster public sentiment and respect for the dignity of human life.

We are sincerely grateful to the **St. Catherine of Sienna RC Church, Franklin Square**, for their very generous donation of ten large bags of toys. Many children had big smiles on their faces this past Christmas season due to your kindness and generosity!



Thank you to the parishioners of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help RC Church, Lindenhurst**, for donating gift cards, toiletries, and many other baby essentials provided from their Christmas giving tree to benefit the mothers and babies we serve. The overwhelming amount of gifts are very much appreciated by our center and our clients.



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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