

footprints



God is in the story



"Stories, stories, stories... supporters want to hear the stories." This is true and we typically share stories of our patients and clients in our newsletters because you are eager to learn the impact of this ministry which you so generously support.

As we approach our 'sweet sixteen' birthday, we are taking time to reflect on Waterleaf's story and marvel at God's unmistakable imprint on our journey. Every great story has a unique setting, unforgettable characters, fascinating plot twists, and beautiful illustrations. With God as the author of Waterleaf's story, we never know exactly what, where, when, who, or how the next chapters will unfold. Yet, in our reflection, we see how God is always in the story gently leading and guiding through every chapter.

When we moved into our small storefront clinic in 2009, we couldn't deny how God was in the details of opening a brand-new pregnancy center. Every year since, Waterleaf stepped out in faith to address the ever-changing needs of the women and men we serve. Who would have thought that within five years, we would move from our cozy storefront to a larger, stand-alone clinic in 2014 and in another five years, occupy our very own beautiful building next to Planned Parenthood in 2019. A short five years later in 2024, we expanded that building in anticipation of the next chapter.

In 2009, we served 42 unique clients, conducted 32 pregnancy tests and celebrated the birth of 17 babies in that small storefront. Who, other than God, could have imagined that

between 2009 and the end of 2024, we would serve 9,814 unique patients/clients, perform 9,527 pregnancy tests and 11,202 ultrasounds, and celebrate 2,619 known births – and counting!

Three faith-filled co-founders started this story in 2009. Today, a remarkable cast of over 50 people composed of board members, administrators, medical professionals, staff, and volunteers have been specifically chosen and written in by God. Each of these characters comes with their own story of how they've been called to Waterleaf. Only God could marvelously intertwine our personal stories with the unique stories of our patients and clients revealing to all of us His love of life.

No story is complete without its villains and heroes. While the villains continue to creep into the pages, our divine author fills those pages with accounts of the courage, fortitude, and prayers of those committed to life – our heroes – YOU! God has written YOU into the Waterleaf story because he knows your heart!

Throughout the past 16 years, God has fashioned an incredible tale of saving lives. It is through Him that we have all been called to be part of this remarkable story that still has many, many chapters to go. Let us rejoice that God is in our story and that He is in the details. Let us walk in faith, knowing how the story ends.



2009-2014
2849 E New York St, Aurora
800+ patients served



2014-2019
3598 E New York St, Aurora
3,000+ patients served



2019-present
3055 E New York St, Aurora (adjacent to one of the largest abortion providers in the Midwest)
6,000+ patients served as of April 2025



CATCHING UP

Two years ago, you answered our call to establish an Emergency Assistance Fund to help our clients like Ashlon who had infant twins and a three year old. Last week, Ashlon sent us this picture of Adhi, her oldest who just graduated from pre-school – an opportunity he would not have had if you hadn't answered the call. Waterleaf, through YOU, has been paying his tuition.



THE LEGEND OF THE MARBLE JAR

Tucked in a well-traveled hallway in the clinic is a small table with a beautiful jar full of marbles. On every tour, the question "What's with the marbles?" arises. Each marble in this jar is a visible reminder of the confirmed births to Waterleaf patients. The marble jar is our touchstone and reminds us every moment of every day, why we are here. To date, there are 2,619 marbles in the jar and Praise God - we are always adding more! THANK YOU for making this possible.



WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING

"Overall great experience. Very informative with great staff!"



"I have never felt more safe and genuinely welcomed in my life."

"Unfortunately, my regular healthcare providers refused to schedule an early ultrasound. Waterleaf welcomed me without hesitation. ... I'm incredibly grateful for the kind, supportive women who work at this center."

"I had a wonderful experience at Waterleaf Women's Center. It is a kind and caring place. The people there listened to me and helped me feel calm and safe. I'm so glad we were able to confirm the pregnancy and see the baby on the ultrasound. I am very thankful for their support and would definitely recommend them to my friends."

Evening of Hope 2026 Save the Date!

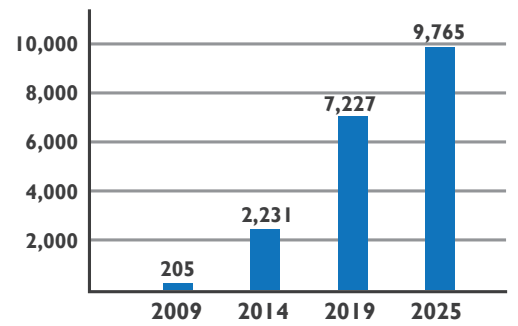
Saturday, February 7, 2026

La Joie de Vivre!
(The Joy of Life)

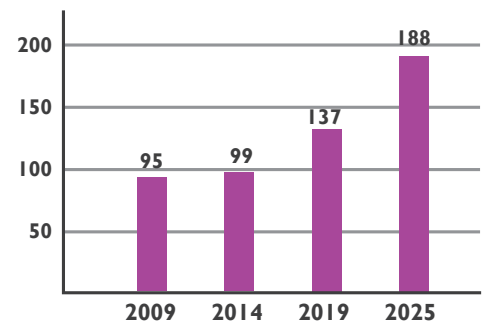


OH, HOW WE'VE GROWN!

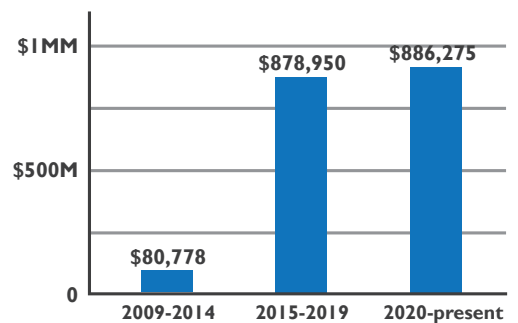
TOTAL DONORS



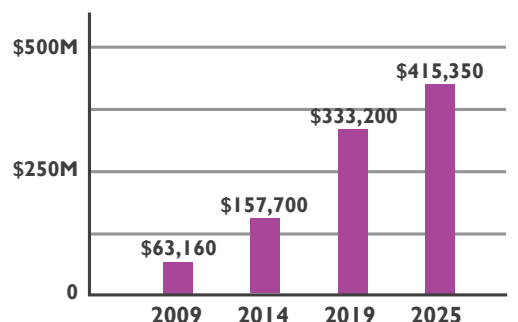
MONTHLY DONORS



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGNS



EVENING OF HOPE (GROSS)



HONORING LOVED ONES

WHOSE STORIES TOUCHED OUR LIVES

Giving a gift to Waterleaf to memorialize or honor a loved one is a beautiful way to celebrate one life for the beginning of another. Designating a gift honoring a milestone birthday, anniversary, or memorializing the loss of a life well lived supports our life-saving mission. Over the past twenty-four months, we have received many memorial and honor gifts listed below. Thank you for choosing Waterleaf and helping our young parents choose life for their unborn children.

In Honor Of

Andrew Weed
Ann Rigby
Bob and Theresa Schuhriemen
Bob Fournier
Dr. Kevin King
Fr. Jerome Kish
Kathy Lape
Geri and Mike Rice
Barbara Gusberti
Jean Pociask
Jeanine Daugherty
Jeanine Malone
Jim Rozanski
John and Ann Dreyer
Liam, Aiden and Riley Quinn
Lynn McMahon
Mark Mayronne

Mary Burruss
Patrick Burke
Richard and Patti Loechl
Rita Sisko
Robert Fournier
Robert Marriner
Sally Studlo
Sherif Behna
Sophia Pursley
Sr. Joshua Marie
St. Joseph Catholic Church - Manteno
Steve and Cheri Obendorf
Susan Lifka
Tom and Colleen Rotkis
Violet Grace
Kathy Wojcicki



In Memory Of

James Mulcare
Robert Koch
Florence Hoving
Chuck Scholtens.
Rita Yahnke
Leona Johnson
London Lotarski
Barbara Cahill
Billie Wolfe
Baby Joseph Bousky
Jim Perry
Holy Innocents
Dolores A. Percy
Karishma Mary Trushel
Rita Brink
Father Will Prospero
Frank and Sandra Talaber
Suzanne Marie Borowiak
Leona Johnson

Josie Kocher
Delmar Kocher
Mary Lou
Dolores Mendoza & Ione Hebert
Fr. Charles Fanelli
J. Patrick Craddock II
Marge & Jerry Nelson
Bill Borlund
Niki Elizabeth Rauba
Norbert Przybylski
Mckinley Rose
Charles Weber
Lorraine Vatch
Jeanette Granato
Jack Tierney
Anastasia and Derick
Helen Rea Bisanz
Deacon Manuel Guerrero
Frank Wojcicki



FRIENDS OF WATERLEAF STORIES

Jim and Dana Campbell

We are longtime
Naperville
residents and
parishioners of



St. Raphael and have been faithful supporters of Waterleaf since its early days. Our journey began in 2008 when we hosted an in-home introduction to Waterleaf for family and friends, presented by Kelly Rozanski. I also served as a Mom2Mom mentor, walking alongside young mothers with compassion. We have both witnessed Waterleaf's incredible growth -- from a small office in a strip mall (next to a doggie wash!) to the beautiful, purpose-built facility it is today. Over the years, we have supported the mission through the Evening of Hope, digital signage sponsorships and ongoing advocacy. For us, supporting Waterleaf is not just a charitable endeavor -- it's a reflection of our faith and a call to uplift every life.

Kurt and Lucy Koeple

The largest abortion facility in the United States infiltrated our neighborhood under false pretenses. The City Council ignored the zoning laws and allowed the mega-center to open. With determination, and encouragement from our friend, Ann, we spoke at the city council meetings, attended numerous Pro-life rallies held by Eric Scheidler, and prayed with fervor to save babies' lives. We were overjoyed and incredibly thankful of God's divine plan when Waterleaf came to life. Waterleaf was the answer to our prayers, to reach out to mothers and fathers that life is precious, and that life is the choice of love. Waterleaf is the hands and feet of Jesus, taking care of the medical and material needs for the families as well as their minds and spirits. And what a gift they are to our communities to also promote and educate the goodness and practice of chastity and purity. There was no hesitation that we would support Waterleaf in their quest. We have seen the fruits of their work and will continue to advocate in their mission. "...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matt 25:40

WELCOME TO THE WATERLEAF FAMILY!

If you're one of 294 new members who've begun supporting us since January 2025—what a joy to welcome, you! As you read your first edition of our newsletter, know that you're now part of a compassionate community making real transformation possible every day. God is still writing powerful stories of rescue, renewal, and restoration—and with your support, the next chapter is already unfolding. Let's keep the story going together! We can't wait to celebrate with you at Waterleaf's birthday party this September.

SAVE THE DATE!

Waterleaf Birthday Week:
September 8-13

**How Sweet It Is
16 Years and Counting**



How sweet it is that Waterleaf has saved 2,619 babies since opening in 2009—and we are still counting! There is so much to be thankful for, and we want to celebrate with you all that God is doing here. We are planning a week-long celebration to honor 16 years of life-saving ministry. Watch for an invitation to our 16th Birthday celebration!

BUILDING THE NEXT PRO-LIFE GENERATION

How Parents Can Engage Children of All Ages in Life-Affirming Conversations

Pro-life conversations don't need to be confrontational or complicated. What matters most is creating a home where children or young adults feel safe to ask tough questions and grow in truth. In a world where messages about life can be confusing, parents have the sacred opportunity to guide their children—gently and consistently—to think critically, act compassionately, and value every human life from an early age.

Practical Ways to Begin Conversation

Focus on the Family encourages parents to use storytelling and simple comparisons to connect pro-life values to everyday ideas like kindness, justice, and protecting those who are vulnerable. Ask open-ended questions to spark curiosity and conversation, such as:

- “What does it mean to stand up for someone who can't speak for themselves?”
- “Why do we protect tiny things that grow?”

Another helpful approach is a video produced by Focus on the Family explaining the **S.L.E.D. test**. It stands for: Size, Level of development, Environment, and Degree of dependency. These four simple ideas explain why all humans, no matter how small or dependent, have equal value and can teach children how to talk about life issues with confidence and respect. Scan the QR code to access the video.



These conversations don't need to be perfect to be powerful. Kids already understand the idea of standing up for someone who can't defend themselves. This is a great place to start and continually teach God's truth in everyday life.

“Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up.”
Deuteronomy 6:6-7



Visit onechoiceonlife.org for more pro-life resources and ways to connect with your children at any age.

ILLINOIS MARCH FOR LIFE 2025

Several members of the Waterleaf team attended the Illinois March for Life in Springfield on March 25th. As we stood on the steps of the Illinois State Capitol, the view was a sea of thousands assembled to advocate for life and to march on behalf of our most vulnerable—the unborn children of Illinois. We were so blessed to see so many of our faithful friends and supporters gathered together to send a message to our Illinois politicians that we will not tolerate Illinois' extreme anti-life policies.



The Supporting Characters

During the spring months of 2025, our dedicated staff and volunteers in Aspire have been privileged to meet and work with so many new moms and dads who are striving to learn the latest and best information on raising children. As we work to fill their needs, support them during class discussions, and advise them when they need guidance, we are forming friendships with clients who inspire, encourage, and affirm us in our mission to support every person who walks through Waterleaf's doors. Our clients often report that they felt more confident during their pregnancy and birth experiences because of the learning videos we supply through Bright-Course, a powerful online curriculum. Here are some of their favorite topics: stages of pregnancy, breast-

feeding, natural labor and delivery, and newborn care. In addition to gaining some basic knowledge in these areas, our clients feel a sense of pride and accomplishment as they pick up gift cards which help with the purchase of car seats, diapers and groceries. Most importantly, while we talk and spend time with our clients, we strive to instill in them their great worth and dignity. We support any and all who are on a path to healing and restoration, body and soul. Many thanks to all of our volunteers who work in the clinic, our donors who supply the resources we need to minister to our clients, and everyone who checks in to see how we are doing and in what way they can help us help our beautiful clientele.



THE BEST CHAPTER OF OUR STORY IS YOU!

Partnering with Waterleaf



Waterleaf partners contribute to the well-being of young mothers and their babies in our community, helping them navigate challenging circumstances and find resources and support. We are grateful for the many and diverse partners of Waterleaf.



Biking for Babies

Last year's rider, Mary Schiltz, will again be riding for Waterleaf. She will bike the 600 mile route starting on July 14th in Ann Arbor and ending in St. Louis on the 19th. To support Mary and learn more about her passion for LIFE and pray for her safe travels, check out her personal fundraising page:
<https://givebutter.com/b4b-2025missionary/mi-team-1/maryschiltz>



Heartbeat International

Heartbeat serves thousands of pregnancy centers around the world with resources, materials, grants, and the critical Abortion Pill Rescue Network in which Waterleaf participates.

PreBorn!

PreBorn!'s mission is to help pregnancy centers with prayer, underwriting assistance, grants, marketing tools and consulting, and more.

Focus on the Family

Focus on the Family provides grant programs, and videos that help pregnancy resource centers like Waterleaf.

NIFLA

The National Institute of Family and Life Advocates exists to protect pregnancy centers, providing legal counsel, education, training, and more.



Illinois Right to Life

Illinois Right to Life researches and educates on the beauty and value of all human life and builds the next pro-life generation. IRTL keeps Waterleaf up to date on what is happening in Springfield and provides our elected officials accurate and truthful facts and figures needed to defend life

Dioceses of Joliet & Rockford

Both Dioceses are faithful Waterleaf partners. The Life and Family Evangelization office of the Catholic Diocese of Rockford and the Ministries of Mercy in the Diocese of Joliet strive to proclaim the truth, beauty, and goodness of all life while focusing on Jesus' call to reach the most vulnerable. Both collaborate with Waterleaf by connecting us with the Respect Life Ministries in each of their individual parishes.

Churches/Schools/KOC

Over 60 churches, parishes, and schools actively support Waterleaf through baby bottle campaigns, individual pro-life fundraisers, grants, and organized prayer outside our building. In addition there are over 50 Knights of Columbus and Community of Catholic Women/Lady Knight Councils, who work tirelessly to fight for the dignity and respect for life.



Waterleaf is grateful for businesses in our area who support our life saving mission. This has been done through sponsoring our fundraising events, giving monthly recurring gifts, assisting us in maintaining our building and property, and providing discounted services. Companies who continue to support our mission are:

AlphaGraphics
 Belgio's Catering
 Cappetta's West Suburban Funeral Home
 Cardinal Structural Design
 Catholic Order of Foresters
 Christian Brothers Automotive
 Compass Surveying
 DeSitter Flooring
 Elevate Signs
 First American Bank

Flood Brothers
 Friedrich- Jones Funeral Home
 Graham's Fine Chocolates
 Innovative Dental Partners
 Integrated Project Management
 Klein Construction Services Inc.
 Lawn Doctor of Batavia
 Mechanical Component Sales Inc.
 Naperville Pool and Irrigation
 New Eve Technologies

Not Just Grass
 Prime Architectural Metal and Glass Inc.
 Rescigno's Mailing Solutions Inc.
 Rodrigo Menendez- State Farm Insurance
 Seven Weeks Coffee
 Sharkos & Sons
 Strategic Enhancement Group
 Wag'n Paddle Indoor Dog Pool and Park
 WYLLAM 1160/560



Scan the QR code to check out their websites and to patronize their business, knowing we align in our life-saving beliefs.

Do you have a business or belong to a parish, church, school, or organization that would like to partner with Waterleaf and impact our ministry? Contact Megan Barnhart at meganb@waterleafwc.org or 630-701-6270.

GREAT CHARACTERS ENHANCE THE STORY

In January, Waterleaf welcomed **Corinne Callender** as Director - Operations. Corinne is excited to work with this amazing Waterleaf team. She looks forward to supporting them with the tools and services they need to best serve our patients and clients.



Corinne holds a master's degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola. She has acquired a breadth of experience over the years, having worked as an IT Consultant, Philanthropy Coordinator, and Communications Director. She has already set to work upgrading Waterleaf's computing systems and identifying ways to ensure that our processes are working efficiently and effectively, while utilizing our available resources to their fullest extent.

Particularly proud of her family, Corinne loves to spend time with her husband, Evan, and three sons David, Ryan, and Aiden. Parishioners of St. Isidore Parish in Bloomingdale, all three children have attended grade school there, with the older ones now moving on to St. Francis College Prep in Wheaton. The family loves to downhill ski in winter, and summer weekends frequently involve taking trips to Wisconsin or spending time on their boat with the kids and the two family labs.

In February 2025 **Sally Strzalka** joined the Waterleaf team as our Development Manager. Sally comes to us after being on the Admissions and Marketing team at Wheaton Academy for 6 years, and was introduced to Waterleaf through our Evening of Hope event in 2023. She is a Registered Nurse who worked for many years in Labor and Delivery before raising her children and then later became a School Nurse when the kids became school age. Her love and passion for the pro-life mission was formed during those years in the L&D unit and she is grateful to be on the frontline promoting and igniting support for Waterleaf Women's Center.



Sally has been married to Phil for 30 years, has 3 children, Alyssa, Kayla and Josh and an English Lab named Millie. She loves to spend time outdoors with her family hiking, kayaking or an evening of playing board games together. Sally is looking forward to connecting with and creating new friendships through the network of Waterleaf supporters.

With sadness and much gratitude for all their service, Waterleaf bids farewell to three of our wonderful friends:



Amy Drake -
Director of Patient
Services.

Amy has been with Waterleaf since 2019 and has been integral

in assuring that we serve our patients with excellence. Her dedication to continuous improvement was key to introducing new services such as APR and Telehealth and designing a comprehensive training program. Amy's family begins their new story in Michigan.



Amarah Jan -
Sonographer

Amarah has performed ultrasounds for Waterleaf since we first offered this

service in 2012. Her expertise was instrumental in mentoring and coaching all of our sonographers since then. Amarah's story has moved her to the University of Illinois Chicago medical center where she has the opportunity to provide high level diagnostic ultrasounds.



John Dreyer -
Board Advisor

John joined the board as an advisory member in 2018 as we were

building our new building. His insights and willingness to coach and mentor our team were invaluable. John's story took him to Nashville, where the first thing he did was find the local pregnancy center and offer his support and expertise.

Beyond Words: Take action today!

Active steps to help more families re-write their stories

PRAY: Daily Prayer | Mass | Adoration

TOUR: VIP and Private Tours available by appointment

VOLUNTEER: Advocate | Healthcare Professional |
Licensed Counselor | Mentor | Resource Specialist

ATTEND AN EVENT: See event list on Friends of Waterleaf website

SIGN UP: Newsletter | Emails

Friends of Waterleaf website: www.OneChoiceOneLife.org

Visit Waterleaf Online

CLIENTS

To learn more about how we reach abortion-minded women to offer them free and confidential services, please visit our client website: waterleafwc.org

FRIENDS OF WATERLEAF

To learn more about our mission, history, events, and the impact of your support, please visit our Friends of Waterleaf website: onechoiceonelifelife.org

