

footprints

Going Above & Beyond for Life



The amount of support has truly been amazing. I recommend this to any woman!



You guys really helped me make the right decision with keeping my baby alive and I'll forever be grateful for that. ... thank you all so much. Your guys' help has forever changed my life for the better.

Once I arrived and was greeted by the staff, all my worries were put to ease. It's a very welcoming, beautiful environment... I would definitely recommend this place if you are wondering what to do or even if you're pregnant and just scared of the future.



Being there felt like an honor. Every person I met went above and beyond, offering not just care, but real guidance, generosity, and thoughtful support throughout pregnancy and even after birth. They provide so many helpful resources and truly make sure you never feel alone in the journey. This place is something special—full of heart, kindness, and people who truly care. I can't recommend it enough.



You have no idea how good I feel after we talked ... I enjoy our weekly talks AND the gift cards help me more than I can express! Thank you and thank your team and volunteers and donors! It's just amazing!!!



Message from the Executive Director

When God first called me to Waterleaf, I understood that our mission was sacred, but I did not yet understand the blessings that this work would bring. I have been serving as the Executive Director now since March, and I am reminded each day I step into our beautiful building of the work that God is doing here.



I feel supported by our nearly 17-year history and those who have come before me. There is a special camaraderie among the multi-talented individuals on our leadership team. These dedicated professionals, whether new to Waterleaf or having been here for many years, are always focused on keeping our mission in focus.

Another blessing is our group of staff and volunteers. Our patients and clients are cared for each day by committed, loving, and talented people. Our team is able to skillfully answer our patients' medical questions while carefully listening to them and promoting the value of life to each and every patient.

The unique opportunity to interact with our donors is another important blessing that I encounter here. As I meet and get to know more of you, I am astounded by your steadfast commitment. Thank you for supporting our work. I am honored to walk through Waterleaf's doors each day surrounded by such blessings and to know that we are all working together to support God's great gift of life.

-Corinne Callender

"Up for the Challenge"

A Journey of Faith and Courage



Kelly first came to Waterleaf when she was thirteen weeks pregnant and looking forward to having an ultrasound. Kelly was amazed and relieved to hear the heartbeat. The father of her baby was not with her that day. He was initially happy about her pregnancy, but after a difficult break-up, he encouraged her to abort the baby. Kelly was undeterred. Despite the father's lack of support and the financial difficulties that she was facing, she said, "I am up for the challenge." Kelly gratefully accepted an appointment with the Aspire Resource Department, and as we worked with Kelly week by week, the love and commitment she felt for her baby grew and grew!



Kelly worked very hard to make ends meet. For employment, she cleaned homes, and she was always grateful when we could refer her to a source who could lend a hand with groceries, clothing and baby supplies. Kelly worked with several Resource Specialists as she watched as many Bright-Course videos as she had time to watch! She was so curious about her baby's development and truly wanted to learn as much as she could to give him the best start in life.

Kelly had wonderful friends, but she did not have a lot of family support. We encouraged her to talk to our licensed social worker, Susan, and she gladly accepted. After several meetings with Susan, Kelly said that she felt that Susan helped her navigate the challenges of being a single parent, providing guidance and encouragement when she needed it most. Shortly before the birth of her baby boy, she became acquainted with our spiritual director who helped her to reconnect with her faith and find strength through Jesus.

Little Nolan is now eight months old. He is a happy and healthy baby; Kelly is so proud of him, and she is a dedicated and loving mom.

When I reached out to Kelly to ask if she would like to be our featured "Success Story," she happily agreed. She offered to help in any way that she could, and then she added, "We would like to thank you for helping us to be a success story. I felt very lost and confused prior to finding Waterleaf. The support has been wonderful in addition to the classes and helping me connect with God."

Waterleaf is grateful to have been a part of Kelly's story!



Standing in the Gap



Her name is *Daisy*. She's at Waterleaf to confirm her pregnancy after a positive home test. She's not sure she will continue her pregnancy. *Daisy* tells the nurse she is constantly nauseous. The nurse recommends *Daisy* seek immediate medical care for her nausea, yet *Daisy* doesn't have a doctor or insurance. Being sick every day without care and treatment, *Daisy* is likely to abort.

Her name is *Jen*. She's here for a follow-up ultrasound. The sonographer detects a low heartbeat and little interval growth. *Jen* is advised she needs further evaluation which includes a clinical assessment, further laboratory tests, and additional imaging to know what's happening with her pregnancy. These activities are beyond the current scope of Waterleaf's services. *Jen* is left to seek this care elsewhere.



Her name is *Beth*. She finds herself pregnant and believes abortion is her best option. She is very early in her pregnancy and her ultrasound is

inconclusive. *Beth's* medical team advises that until a pregnancy can be confirmed she not proceed with a procedure she may not need. When *Beth* returns for a follow-up scan, she is undecided and leaning toward abortion. Without a doctor or insurance, she can't see a path forward.

Daisy is sick, *Jen* is scared, and *Beth* is confused. Of course, Waterleaf will continue to offer emotional and spiritual support. Yet, every time we recommend a patient for medical care beyond

our scope of service, we create a gap in support... a gap that puts them and their babies at risk.

What if we provided a hyperemesis treatment plan for *Daisy*? What if we conducted the evaluation of *Jen's* pregnancy beginning with an immediate blood test to determine her baseline hCG level? What if we monitored *Beth's* health while she more carefully considers her options. What if these actions help them confidently choose life?

To save more lives, Waterleaf is closing the gap by expanding services in late 2026. Beginning with early



prenatal care, Waterleaf will provide first trimester care including the ability to address and treat other health issues that would impact abortion decisions, pregnancy stability, and the mother's health. Additionally, when unusual ultrasounds warrant further assessment, an on-staff licensed provider can immediately order labs, monitor trends, and coordinate additional scans and care. Additionally, a patient's personal care team will assist in securing insurance, finding doctors, and assessing/addressing other non-medical needs.

Daisy, Jen, Beth, and scores of patients with similar circumstances will no longer be left to fend for themselves. Because of your continued support and generosity, Waterleaf is here to provide what they need – all free of charge!



Biking for Babies



For the third year in a row, Waterleaf is proud to be represented by Mary Schiltz, a Biking for Babies missionary who will be crossing the country all in the name of life this summer! Mary, a St. Charles native, is finishing her second year of teaching English at Marquette Academy High School in Ottawa, Illinois. Over the next few months, she will be training for this National Ride on July 13-18th and taking the stories from our center to heart, using them as fuel when training gets hard. Please keep Mary your thoughts and prayers from now until August, and if you'd like to learn more about her, please visit her fundraising page and her story posted at <https://give.bikingforbabies.com/event/2026missionary/account/2342558/>

"I am so excited to be representing the amazing work of Waterleaf Women's Center again this year!" Mary said. "It has been a joy to learn from the staff of Waterleaf over the years about the work that

they do and what happens at a women's center. Every year I learn more and only grow more certain in the importance of the center. This year, I will be biking from Ann Arbor to St. Louis, which is the same route that I did last year. A highlight of cycling training for me is that it is very grounding and the hours of biking alone in the country is a time for me where God's presence is very tangible. It is also very humbling to speak with donors at events and see how close to their heart this mission is."



Abortion Pill Reversal

Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) offers women who regret beginning a chemical abortion a chance to continue their pregnancy. Through this protocol, progesterone is administered to help counteract the effects of the first abortion pill. When treatment begins as soon as possible, many women have gone on to continue their pregnancies, and many babies have been born as a result.

Since becoming a Heartbeat International Abortion Pill Rescue Network provider in 2021, Waterleaf has been grateful to serve women facing this deeply difficult moment. Through this ministry of care, we have walked alongside many patients and celebrated 31 known births from mothers who began the APR protocol, including 5 sets of twins!



Many of the women we serve come to us after ordering the abortion pill online without first seeing a medical provider or receiving an ultrasound to confirm the pregnancy. Often, this decision is made in the middle of fear, pressure, or crisis. But after taking the first pill, many experience immediate regret. In that moment, APR can become a beacon of hope - offering these mothers a second chance and reminding them they are not alone.

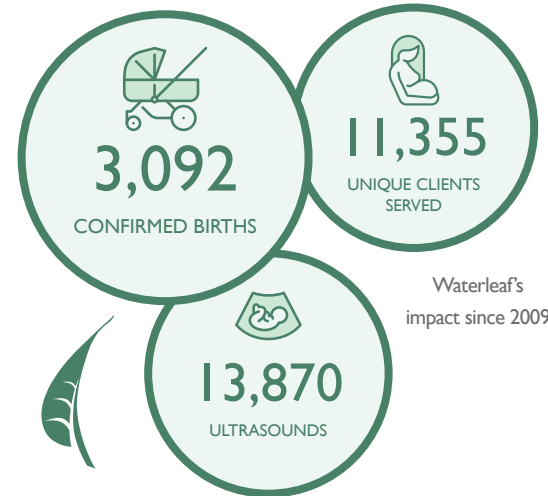
The sonographers at Waterleaf have the privilege of showing mothers that first heartbeat and witnessing the tears, relief, and joy that often follow. It is a blessing to walk with them through their first trimester and see, week by week, the remarkable growth of their babies on the ultrasound images.



Save the Dates!

Sat., February 6, 2027
Evening of Hope

August 2026 (TBA)
Pastor/Deacon Lunch



EOH Recap



Evening of Hope 2026 was a beautiful celebration of the La Joie De Vivre-The Joy of Life. This evening event was truly memorable, and it was especially moving to see so many friends and supporters gathered in love for Waterleaf and the women and families we serve. Whether you have joined us for years, attended your first Evening of Hope, or supported our 16th

gala from afar this year, we are grateful for so many who were a part of this unforgettable night. More than \$466,000 and counting was raised this year to sustain our life-saving and life-changing ministry. Because of you, hope continues

to grow, lives continue to change, and the joy of life continues to shine brightly through Waterleaf's mission. Thank you for being part of this story.

