

## 2021 Fall Newsletter



### Janelle's Story - New Hope

Janelle visited our Alexandria Center for a pregnancy test after she started experiencing pregnancy symptoms. She had recently been in a vehicle accident and experienced several negative tests as a result. However, her test with an SLM nurse proved positive. Janelle was shocked. "I'm afraid...but...I don't know." She was struggling with depression and said she wasn't sure how she could handle another baby after already having two children. She had also experienced several miscarriages and had lost her mother several months before (who she was very close to). She appeared overwhelmed. Her compassionate Client Advocate (CA) listened to her difficult story and offered comfort through the gospel. Janelle said that she had been feeling distant from God and wanted to rededicate her life to Him. Her CA prayed with her and assured her that God would provide for and guide her, and that the SLM pregnancy center would be there to support her.

After an ultrasound a few weeks later, Janelle decided to carry! Christ's love and the encouragement she received moved her to choose life. We praise God for the work He is doing in Janelle's life and the comfort He is blessing her with. God is faithful, and we are grateful that she has chosen life for her baby!

**Thank you for helping us save lives!**

# 235 BABIES HAVE BEEN BORN TO SLM CLIENTS IN THE PAST YEAR!



October 2020 - October 2021

## Stepping Out for Life!

Sponsored by  
**Chick-fil-A**

sanctityoflife  
ministries

STEPPING OUT  
*For Life!*  
- WALK / RUN -

**SLM'S 2021 VIRTUAL WALK/RUN FOR LIFE**  
October, 2021

### **SLM's virtual Walk/Run for Life, "Stepping Out for Life" was a success!**

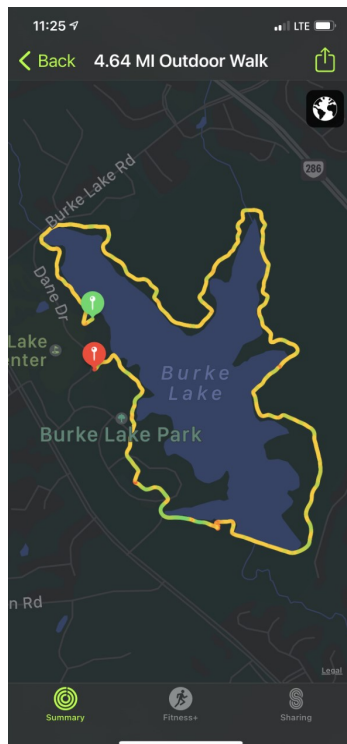
Several teams and individuals stepped out this October to take a stand for Life! Thank you to everyone who participated! We appreciate you representing SLM and spreading the message of *Life in Christ...Life in the World*

We are so close to our goal! Although October is over, we are still working to



meet our \$20,000 goal. You can close the gap by giving here:

**Give to Stepping Out for  
Life!**



**Note from the CEO**

Dear SLM Partners,

As I am in the final days of service as CEO for these past six years and a staff member of Sanctity of Life Ministries for sixteen years, a flood of memories fill my thoughts. Through YOU, the partners of Sanctity of Life Ministries, the Lord has done an amazing work that bears witness to all that God is able to do far beyond what we can ask or imagine. The layering of support through your prayers, financial giving, service on staff, volunteer service, board leadership, church involvement and community outreach has enabled thousands of babies and women's lives to be changed in the Northern Virginia community.



Laboring alongside you in this Vineyard has been humbling and a privilege. You have witnessed to me through your selfless, tangible service to the Lord through this ministry, making a difference in the lives of women, men and babies whose lives have been changed through ***“Life in Christ...Life in the Womb.”*** The miracles through God's tender work through SLM that have impacted my life indelibly.

I will always carry with me the wonderful memories of working with our SLM team, who pour out their hearts and service every day to our clients. We have prayed, laughed, cried and served together and we had fun, too! You are simply the best!! Thank you to our board for supporting me as CEO for six years and supporting SLM! I will be praying for you as you continue to move the ministry forward. I especially thank Dale Wickizer, Board President in 2016, for asking me, the reluctant candidate, to be CEO. Dale, all these years later, I can tell you now that as you asked me to take over as CEO, I was shaking my head as I said “yes” to stepping into the role. God changed my life forever and I am grateful. I pray I was a receptive vessel to Him. Thank you, too, to Chris Rogers, our current board chair, for the many hours of good conversations we had to discuss SLM plans and for your prayers for me. To our volunteers, we simply could not do what we do without you! You have been a joy to work with and to know! And to you, our partners, thank you for our conversations on the phone, meetings in person, support and involvement of our mission, and your tenderness in sharing your heart and personal stories. I have so appreciated getting to know you and building friendships along the way. I humbly thank you ALL!

*And the Lord shared with me: “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you would see the Glory of God?” John 11:40*



In His Service,

*Margery*

## Welcome Janet!

Dear SLM Partners,

In this season of change, SLM is excited to welcome Janet Custer, our new CEO! As the Lord would have it, God was stirring both Janet Custer and I through prayer at similar times about God's calling in our mutual ministries. By no accident, Janet's resume came across my desk after I had shared with the board that I felt the Lord was calling me to step down and retire as CEO. Janet and I met via Zoom several times and I was excited to share her resume with our SLM Board. I believe God has brought Janet to SLM for "such a time as this" and I have faith that God is leading Janet to take SLM to the next level of medical care and mission focus.



A Florida native, Janet Custer comes to SLM with vast experience in the work of Pregnancy Centers across the country. Janet's deep love of God's Word, Biblical principles and care for women was developed through Bible Study Fellowship where she attended twelve years and served as the Teaching Leader for five years. In 2013, God called her out of BSF to a local pregnancy center in Naples, Florida. Within eight years, Janet grew the one pregnancy center into three medical clinics and one Education

Center providing care and support that included pregnancy testing, sonograms, the Abortion Pill Reversal procedure, STI testing and treatment. Women stayed in the program for 15 months receiving care and support from advocates and medical professionals including their own OB/GYN. Her vision, strength and integrity changed the landscape of SW Florida by integrating patients from her clinics into local churches where their faith and family would continue to grow.

Before coming to SLM, Janet has served as Sr. Director at The Obria Group, a national network of women's health care clinics in seven states. Under her leadership, The Obria Group saw a 25% increase in the reach to abortion determined women leading to 812 babies being saved within six months.

Yet amid this great work around the country, God put a burden in her heart to serve in her community. Fueled by her passion and driven by the urgency of this work, she envisions a transformed community where every baby is wanted. She is grateful to her husband of 36 years, David and their 4 children, three sons-in-law and two grandchildren.

Her decision to come to SLM was guided by Ephesians 5:15-16 “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time because the days are evil.”

Please extend a warm welcome to Janet!! She will be reaching out to our partners in the coming months and is eager to get to know you.

In His Service,

*Margery*



Nov. 1, 2021

*Pictured:*

**Right** - Jessica Anderson, Executive Director of Heritage Action in Washington D.C.

**Left** - Janet Custer, new CEO of SLM;

Standing in front of Supreme Court building during first session arguments for the legality of the SB 8 Texas Heartbeat Bill

**SLM's June 4, 2021 Event - Update and Total**



**THANK YOU!** Because of your life-giving, life changing support to SLM, we have exceeded our \$350,000 goal for our June 4 “Moving Forward in Faith” virtual event. Our gifts and pledges from this event now total **\$357,373**. Praise God! Exceeding our goal at this time with COVID restrictions is truly an amazing gift from God! Your participation to support our mission made this possible.

Because of your generosity, SLM will now be able to have a new ultrasound machine in our Alexandria Center, add STI testing to our medical services, and begin to build a new lab in the Fairfax Center. We have also hired a fourth nurse to be trained in sonography. Praise God that we can continue to reach more women and men in the Northern Virginia community for ***Life in Christ...Life in the Womb!***

## Connect with SLM on Social Media!

Be sure to follow SLM on Facebook and Instagram to stay current with our ministry's updates and events!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

## Volunteer Needed!

SLM's Fairfax Center is looking for a volunteer who can serve 1 Saturday per month! Administrative Volunteer needed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month in our Fairfax Center. Duties include answering the phones; checking in clients; scheduling appointments. Training will be provided. Computer proficiency and

desire to show Christ's love to women facing difficult pregnancy decisions a must!

If interested, please contact Maria Buczek at [maria.buczek@slmpregnancy.org](mailto:maria.buczek@slmpregnancy.org) or 703-278-5433

## Prayers and Praises

### Praises:

- We thank God for the clients who have not only changed their minds for life, but have also received Christ as their Lord and Savior at our centers! Over the past year, we have had over 80 clients make a commitment of faith!
- We are grateful for our new nurse, Joanna, who recently joined our team! She is an answer to many months of praying.
- We thanks God for the generous donations made recently that will provide for our clients' material needs for their babies: diapers, wipes, formula, clothes, blankets, and much more.

### Prayers:

- Pray for the abortion-minded clients who come to our centers, that they would choose life - for themselves (life in Christ) and for their babies.
- Pray for the Client Advocates in training at SLM. Pray that they would persevere through their comprehensive practicums and that the enemy would not discourage them.
- Prayers for our Post-Abortive Bible Study participants, that they sense God's continued peace and presence as they work towards the hope and healing that He offers.

## Calendar Updates

**November 30, 2021** – #GivingTuesday! Be on the lookout for ways you can support SLM this upcoming #GivingTuesday! This day is an opportunity for people everywhere to use their individual gifts of generosity to show their support for a good cause and stay connected with their communities!

**December 6-9, 2021** – Christmas Volunteer Appreciation Week at SLM

**March 25, 2022** – **SLM's 2022 Annual Dinner Banquet!** Save the date! More info coming soon.

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