

## 2021 Summer Newsletter



### Chelsea's Story - Hope and Healing

Chelsea was sitting in a hospital bed, recovering from a failed attempt to take her life when she contacted SLM's office in late May. "I am ready to receive help for a decision I made six years ago" her message read.

Since 2015, Chelsea had been struggling in many ways. After she became pregnant with her long-term boyfriend, he, his family, and her close friends encouraged her to abort. She wasn't sure that she wanted to, but she felt pressured and was fearful of losing the care and support of her family and friends if she decided to keep the baby. She ended up following through with the abortion.

Immediately, Chelsea was filled with grief and shame and fell into a lifestyle of alcohol abuse. Throughout the following years, she struggled but tried to pursue help. Eventually, she learned that her downward spiral was the result of the abortion she had and that she was suffering from Post-Abortive Syndrome. As time went by, the grief, guilt, and regret came in waves and eventually led to an attempt to take her life. But God, in his amazing grace and care, protected her and led her to SLM for help and healing.

On the day of Chelsea's first appointment at SLM, she walked through our doors nervous but ready for help. She sat down with her SLM client advocate (CA) and let her story spill out. Chelsea's CA immediately put her at ease after sharing her own post-abortive testimony. Chelsea felt a flood of relief and connection with her CA. She felt freed to be transparent about her experience, which was the first step to healing. Chelsea's CA prayed with her and helped her see the truth of God's grace, and she began to forgive herself and find hope in Christ.

Chelsea is currently reading through a book with her client advocate – “A Surrendered Life” by Pat Layton, and she will continue SLM’s post-abortive Bible study in the fall. We are so grateful for the work God is doing in Chelsea’s life and the healing he is blessing her with. No situation is too hard for God to work through. Praise the Lord that His purpose for her life far outweighs anything in her past.

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

**222 BABIES HAVE BEEN BORN TO SLM CLIENTS IN THE PAST YEAR!**

*(with 37 more still on the way this August)*



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*August 2020 - August 2021*

**Help Spread the Word: SLM is Hiring Nurses!**



### SLM is hiring!

Calling all medical professionals! Do you know a nurse who is passionate about the pro-life mission and interested in working with a Christ-centered team?

We are seeking nurses to join our staff! Candidate must be a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), available for part time or full time hours, and a dedicated follower of Jesus. RN's must be willing to have us train her in sonography for this position.

**Please spread the word and pass along this job opportunity to anyone you may know who may be interested!**

*All applicants must submit a resume and 1 page spiritual testimony to [sandy.corish@slmpregnancy.org](mailto:sandy.corish@slmpregnancy.org). For more information, please call our Fairfax office at (703)278-5433.*

## Abortion Recovery Bible Study



Abortion decision in your past?

# Let God Heal your Heart



## WOMEN'S POST-ABORTION BIBLE STUDY

*Do you experience feelings of guilt or shame from an abortion decision?  
Do you feel isolated or unable to talk about your abortion with anyone?  
Is your relationship with God affected by these feelings?*

Please join us for a free and confidential bible study as we go through the book  
**"Surrendering the Secret"** by Pat Layton.  
This study is designed to bring healing to women who have experienced an abortion.

In Christ there is healing, there is hope, and there is freedom!

### WHEN

7 - 8:45 pm  
Thursday Evenings  
September 9 - October 28

### WHERE

**NOVA Pregnancy Help Center**  
3919 Old Lee Highway, Unit 81-B  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Please contact

[mary.sawyer@slmpregnancy.org](mailto:mary.sawyer@slmpregnancy.org)  
for more information or to register.



## The Rise and Effects of Chemical Abortion

**What is Chemical Abortion?**

Chemical Abortion, also known as “medication abortion”, “the abortion pill”, or “Plan C”, is an oral drug (or combination of two drugs – mifepristone and misoprostol) which chemically induces an abortion. This pill (or pills) can be taken on one’s own or with the supervision of a doctor in a clinical setting. The abortion pill is available to women who are up to 11 weeks pregnant and usually takes 1 to 2 days to complete the abortion. Women may experience symptoms for several weeks after taking the pill.

There are often pain and harmful side effects that accompany the abortion pill. Sometimes it results in an incomplete abortion requiring a surgical procedure to finish it; 5-7% of women who undergo chemical abortion will need a follow-up surgery. Furthermore, chemical abortions have been found to have a higher complication rate compared to surgical abortions, according to a recent study.

Along with the physical side effects, there are emotional side effects as well. “Many women are not prepared for the reality of managing their own abortions in bedrooms, dorm rooms and bathrooms, often facing intense pain and bleeding, isolation and fears.” According to Mayo Clinic, “After a medical abortion, you’ll likely experience a range of emotions — such as ... loss, sadness and guilt.”

### **How is chemical abortion changing the landscape of the abortion industry in our country?**

Chemical abortion has increased by 73% between 2008 and 2017 (according to the most recent statistics from the Guttmacher Institute), even as overall abortion numbers declined over that same time period. Plan C, a platform that allows women to order abortion pills online and have them mailed to their homes, has dramatically increased the ease in which those seeking an abortion can obtain these pills.

The Biden Administration recently removed the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS — a drug safety program) surrounding mifepristone from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), making this chemical abortion drug more readily available. By removing these REMS, abortion businesses, which claim they provide “care no matter what,” have now placed all the burdens of abortion on women. “The abortion industry regards drug-based, do-it-yourself abortions as the best means of getting around the many state-level pro-life laws being enacted around the country.”

### **The Reality of Chemical Abortion**

The abortion industry markets chemical abortions as straightforward and safe. In reality however, chemical abortions are a multi-day traumatic process that could take up to 30 days to complete, according to the Mifeprex medication guide. "Abortion activists used to claim that legalized abortion would alleviate the danger of 'back-alley' abortions for women. However, the health complications that often result from the induced chemical abortions activists love to promote are eerily similar to those of "back-alley" abortions."

"Abortion is not commonly the empowering, triumphant experience advertised by the media and abortion supporters. Many women feel trapped into making this decision. Most women want help when in crisis." Women in unplanned pregnancy situations who have little or no support are most definitely in crisis. They want to know that they are not alone in the difficult circumstance they face. Our job is to support and equip these women so that they truly feel cared for and empowered to bring new life into the world.

## CEO Corner

Dear SLM Partners,

**We thank God for you!** Your partnership with Sanctity of Life Ministries fuels our mission. Our vision is to expand our reach with the message of ***Life in Christ...Life in the Womb*** and to expand our medical services to a larger community in Northern Virginia. For those of you who were not able to participate in our June 4th virtual event, I wanted to provide an update. The theme for our virtual event "**Moving Forward in Faith**" was derived from multiple thoughts. In a rapidly changing culture, we hold steadfast to Biblical truth that life is sacred. Each unborn baby's value has been imprinted on him or her by God. Regardless of the social messaging of pro-choice groups that pervasively affirms abortion, they paradoxically want to protect everything except unborn human life. Protecting an unborn baby conflicts with their sexual freedom. But there are consequences because of bad ideas and false messaging. Too many women live with the grief and emotional damage that abortion causes. We will stand firm in this aggressive abortion landscape and move forward in faith to counter this false messaging as we grapple in new ways with the rapid advancement of telehealth medical appointments and chemical abortions. This is why your partnership in Sanctity of Life Ministries is so important!!!



Our challenge and vision for this virtual event was to expand our medical



services through adding two more nurses, adding STI testing and treatment and replacing our ultrasound machine in our Alexandria center. With a 112% increase since 2019 of “at risk” for abortion clients, we must respond to the need to help more women. And the reasoning behind adding sexually transmitted infections to our services is driven by our need to better engage the Generation Z’ers and help them understand false cultural messaging. They have grown up with technology that shows the **reality of life** through ultrasound technology, but our culture promotes sexual freedom and devalues life from moment of conception to birth which creates conflict in the minds of young people whose characters and life choices are still forming. God honors truth! He honors those who honor Him and bring glory to His name and fight for unborn lives created in His image. While we are close to our goal, we aren’t quite where we need to be fully implement all added services.

Your giving is so meaningful to us at this time! The pandemic did not allow us to gather in person for our annual dinner for the second year in a row! We are currently at a total of \$298,685 which is 85% of our \$350,000 goal. **We can achieve this goal together!** But, we need your help!! If you have not yet given to our **Moving Forward in Faith** event, we would be so grateful to have you invest in our mission!

I thank you so much for being a stakeholder in the mission for **Life in Christ... Life in the Womb**. Thank you for being a part of Chelsea’s testimony in the story above. Thank you for opening our doors every day to offer free medical services. Thank you for helping us save and change lives. We are beyond grateful for you!

In His Service,



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



Thanks to you and all our generous partners, we have reached \$298,685 toward our "Moving Forward in Faith" event goal of \$350,000, which is 85%!

But we are still going! As we continue to work toward our fundraising goal, we would encourage you to prayerfully come alongside us in our ministry by giving financially. **Every gift you give us allows us to reach women and unborn babies in need and provide them with critical care and support!**

### Here's what your donation can do!

- \$250 provides 62 clients with a month's supply of prenatal vitamins.
- \$500 - less than \$42 per month - pays for 10 women to attend the Post Abortion Bible Study.
- \$1,200 provides the Earn While You Learn curriculum and program to 8 of our clients.
- \$1,500 helps us get the STI testing lab set up and ready to go.
- \$5,400 - \$450 per month - pays for an entire year's worth of STI tests.
- \$6,000 pays for one month of advertising - critical in reaching our clients!

Give to "Moving Forward in Faith"

*You can also mail a check made out to Sanctity of Life Ministries, write "Virtual Event" in the memo, and mail to 3919 Old Lee Highway, Suite 81B, Fairfax, VA 22030)*

**If you have already given, THANK YOU!** We are SO grateful for those who have supported us!

If you haven't had the opportunity yet to watch "Moving Forward in Faith", it's not too late to view it! This program was filled with powerful stories of hurt and



healing, unexpected trials and God's grace. SLM has heard from some of the event's viewers, and they could not stop talking about how moving it was. We would love for you to join us and experience it for yourself!

Watch "Moving Forward in Faith"

## 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

## Prayers and Praises

### **Praises:**

- We praise God for YOU, our supporters who give to our ministry so that we are able to provide much-needed services to our clients.
- 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!
- Praise for a successful Client Advocate training. We have five new CA's coming on board! Pray that God will guide them as they begin their practicum.

### **Prayers:**

- We are still searching to hire two nurses to add to our team. We pray that God would fill these positions quickly and bring new staff members to SLM who are passionate about life and our mission!
- Pray that God would move in the hearts of people to provide Blessing Bags that we can give to each of our clients.
- We will begin evening hours at our Fairfax center starting on Wednesday, August 18 to provide more availability to potential clients! We've already begun offering evening hours at our Alexandria Center, and it has been a success! Our Alexandria Center is open Monday evenings until 8 pm, and our Fairfax Center will be open on Wednesday evenings until 8 pm. Pray that these late hours will better accommodate clients who are in school or working during the day. Pray also for safety for staff and volunteers as we will be here outside of normal business hours during those evenings.

# Calendar Updates

**September 1, 2021** – SLM's center directors will attend an all-day training covering the topic of identifying and assisting women and mothers who have been sex trafficked.

**September 9, 2021** – Our next Post-Abortive Bible Study will begin, and will occur each Thursday evening at 7 pm, lasting for 8 weeks

**October 18-21, 2021** – Fall Volunteer Appreciation Week

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[Donate to SLM](#)