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— KEEP IN TOUCH —



alphacenterfriends.com

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TO ATTEND THE

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF

*Celebrating
Miracles*

ALPHA CENTER ANNUAL DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

SIOUX FALLS CONVENTION CENTER
1201 N. WEST AVE. SIOUX FALLS, SD

WELCOME RECEPTION ENTERTAINMENT

6:15—6:50 PM

BRADY WREDE

You are invited to come enjoy the indie folk and pop music of **Brady Wrede & Company** during the Welcome Reception.



DINNER & PROGRAM

7:00 PM

Featured Presentation

**STORIES FROM
ABORTION SURVIVORS**

Interviews moderated by **Melissa Ohden**



THE
Abortion Survivors
NETWORK

40 YEARS – HOW IT ALL STARTED

Wow—40 years. Well, technically 41 years if you ask me. You see, it all started way back in 1983. After spontaneously attending a *Right to Life* meeting at a small cafe in Elkton, SD, my eyes were opened to the realities of abortion. After that gathering, my life would never be the same.

Using an educational telephone system known as Tel-Med, I recorded pro-life messages for callers responding to my printed Yellow Pages ad titled “*Abortion Information.*” After several young women responded immediately with inquiries for abortion appointments, I called upon my wife, Leslee, for help. We received over 150 calls in the first month. We began inviting these women into our home, offering them counseling and pregnancy tests from the local drug store.

As a busy mother to our five kids, all under the age of 12, Leslee was initially hesitant to dive into this ministry that I had begun. Yet one little incident brought about a deeper calling and gave her a change of heart.

You see, one day I came home from work and it had been one of the hardest days in Leslee's life. She had endured some very rough counseling sessions, the washing machine had broken, and Cash, our youngest son, had cut off a bunch of roses in the back yard just before they were ready to blossom. She was so distraught that she told me she was not going to see these women anymore. I could not understand why she was so upset over a rose that wasn't given a chance to blossom but didn't seem to be bothered when an unborn child was aborted before he or she could bloom.

The next morning she walked out in the back yard and one beautiful rose was blooming. Knowing that the rose is the pro-life symbol, she stared at that one rose and felt like God was saying to her, 'If not you, who? If not now, when?' That night she shared with me that she had an abortion. She'd always wanted to forget about that tragic time in her life and now was being forced to relive it every day. I had never understood why Leslee was such an effective counselor and why she spoke with such conviction. Now I knew why she could relate to the young women who came in; she had been there herself. She could connect with them and knew the heartache they were about to face for the rest of their lives if they chose abortion.

So together, we dove headfirst into the ministry we never originally intended to start. Looking to help women beyond the confines of our home, we were able to combine forces with another local agency and find a new counseling location. In 1984, the inaugural Board of Directors named the ministry *Alpha Center*, in recognition of the new beginning offered to young women, men and their children.

Thanks to countless staff and board members, volunteers and ministry partners, Alpha Center has thrived over the many years despite much adversity. Through it all, Alpha Center has been placed in a position of influence for such a time as this and will remain committed to **clearing the confusion with a message of hope.**

For HIS Unborn,
Dr. Allen & Leslee Unruh



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS

Celebrating Miracles

FRIDAY
APRIL 26, 2024

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CONVENTION CENTER
1201 N. WEST AVE. SIOUX FALLS, SD

WELCOME RECEPTION / 6:15 PM

DINNER & PROGRAM / 7:00 PM

PLEASE JOIN US

We invite you to join us at the Annual Dinner on Friday, April 26 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. It will be an inspiring night featuring a ministry update, musical entertainment, ministry partner and client testimonies and the featured presentation, **Stories From Abortion Survivors**.

Dinner is complimentary, and we request adults only, please. Due to limited seating, registration is required. An opportunity to make a financial faith investment will be provided.

CHOOSE HOW YOU REGISTER:

1. Visit alphacenterfriends.com/dinner
2. Call Alpha Center at **605-361-3500** or email info@alphacenter.org
3. Contact a registered Table Host

REGISTER HERE



We are excited to have Brady share his testimony during the program - **you won't want to miss it!**

WELCOME RECEPTION ENTERTAINMENT

BRADY WREDE

Back for the second year in a row, **Brady Wrede** is a sixth-generation songwriter and artist from Sioux Falls, SD. He has been steadily performing locally and regionally for the past several years, while also recording and releasing his music independently. Brady writes music from the point of his and others' life experiences. This culminates as indie folk music about hope, love, heartbreak, new beginnings and much more.

FEATURED PRESENTATION

STORIES FROM ABORTION SURVIVORS

Life empowers women, not abortion, and **Melissa Ohden** is one of likely tens of thousands of abortion survivors who exemplify this. Melissa is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion, but like every survivor, she is so much more than a survivor. As the Founder and CEO of The Abortion Survivors Network, Melissa and her team have connected with over 700 survivors as of January 2024.

Abortion Survivors Break Their Silence isn't just the title of Melissa's recently released book with Focus on the Family, it's also a life-changing, family-healing, culture-shifting experience. Join us for a groundbreaking, unforgettable evening, hearing from a panel of survivors—babies who survived abortion attempts and lived to tell their stories. Where there is life, there is hope!



Panel interviews of Michelle Lyman & Kim Marvin will be moderated by **Melissa Ohden**.

Michelle Lyman & Kim Marvin bios on p. 6

CLIENT *Testimony*

JESSICA

WHEN JESSICA FOUND OUT she was pregnant for the first time with her daughter, questions flooded her mind: *Can I afford this? How is this going to change my marriage? Will I be alone?* Processing through her emotions and questions, Jessica knew she had some choices to make and she wanted to make the right ones. Jessica remembered hearing about Alpha Center in passing conversations at her job and decided to schedule an appointment for a pregnancy test. At the initial appointment, Jessica received news of a positive pregnancy test. Along with that, she also received the support, clarity and hope she needed to embrace this new journey of motherhood. A little over a year after her daughter Grace was born, Jessica thought she might be pregnant again. She knew Alpha Center was a safe place to visit. But this time, Jessica was not only pregnant with one baby, but two! She was in shock and disbelief as she marveled at her twins on the ultrasound screen, but Jessica knew that God's plan for having three babies under the age of three was far greater than she could have imagined. She decided to receive continued support through Alpha Center's programs.

Jessica delivered healthy twin boys, Cole and Jack. Alpha Center's incentive-based educational program, *Earn While You Learn*, was tremendously helpful in keeping her prepared for many of her needs. Jessica shared that for her, the program was **not a hand out, but a hand up**. The baby items she was receiving were earned through her hard work. This gave her a sense of encouragement and dignity, knowing she could help provide for her family. Not only did Jessica receive needed baby items, she also learned essential information about pregnancy and parenting to help her succeed in the adventure of being a mom.

(continued on p.5)



Mom and Dad with Alpha Babies **Jack, Grace** and **Cole** in 2022.



Alpha Baby **Grace** in 2020.

CLIENT TESTIMONY

For Jessica, and so many others who find themselves in situations of fear, worry, or doubt, Alpha Center is more than just an organization. Since completing Alpha Center's programs, Jessica shares how **staff and volunteers genuinely cared and took time to pray with her.** Alpha Center was present in her life. Jessica now encourages others experiencing an unplanned pregnancy to visit Alpha Center. She tells them how Alpha Center can be their support system and how *when you walk in, you feel welcomed and loved.* Jessica's three children, Grace, Cole and Jack, are growing and thriving. She reflects on how parenting is a journey and she has learned to *enjoy the small things and embrace the challenging things. It's important to know the blessings that we do have.*



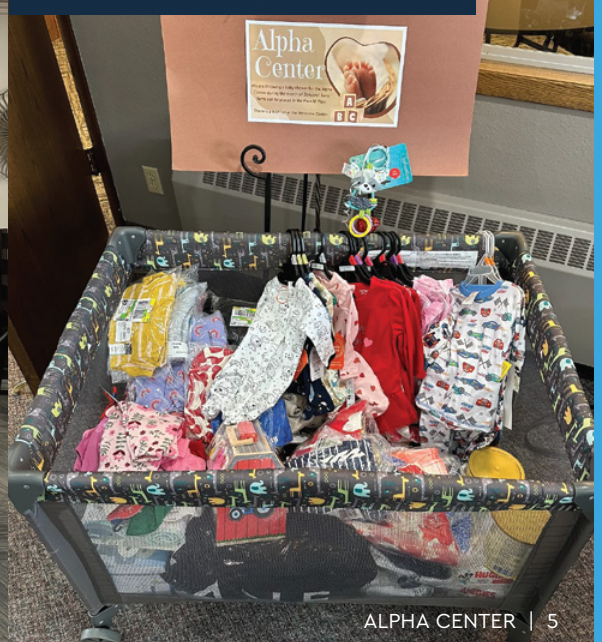
Alpha Babies **Cole** and **Jack** in 2022.

SHIUX EMPIRE'S LARGEST BABY SHOWER RECAP

Sioux Empire's Largest Baby Shower has been impacting the lives of Alpha Center clients for over 20 years. A total of over 2,500 baby items was received as part of this January's Baby Shower! We are grateful for the special partnership with Life 96.5 in promoting the event and Lewis Drug stores for serving as additional drop-off locations. Clients were grateful to be able to earn these items with their Baby Bucks, especially larger baby items they had been waiting for. **Thank you to everyone who generously supported the success of this event! You have made a difference in the lives of the families we serve.**



Woodstock Community Church Collection



GIFTS GIVEN

Gifts received between January 1, 2024 and March 6, 2024.

MINISTRY PARTNER	IN MEMORY OF
MATTHEW & SHARON AMDAHL	KATHRYNE STRAW
SANDRA & STEVE ATTEBERRY	KELSEY ATTEBERRY
DEAN & SUE BAUMBERGER	TERRY & DOROTHY BAUMBERGER
DOROTHY BERG	MICHAEL & MARK BERG
DWIGHT & DEB BEUKELMAN	LUCILLE NOTEBOOM
DAVID & NANCY BOGENHAGEN	BRADLEY HOHBACH
TRUDY BOUMA	LEONARD BOUMA
KEN DRAAYER	ARBELLE DRAAYER
NANCY FOSTER	GERI REMMES & LUCILLE NOTEBOOM
LEONORE FRIEZ	MR. TONY BECKER
LEE & BETTY HOLST	KEN LEVEILLE
JANICE JERKE	RAY DEWALD
JEAN LEMMERMANN	REV. SCOTT LEMMERMANN
STEVEN & JOYCE MARAS	AMY MARAS
BRENT & GAYLE MOSIER	MILLIE & MILLIE - TWO GREAT MOMS!

Upon request, we have special cards available to send in recognition of any gifts given in memory or in honor of an individual.

JUDITH RADERMACHER	RON RADERMACHER & BABY CALEB YURICK
RICK RAUSCH	CARMEN RAUSCH
YVONNE & RICHARD TILLEMANS	BETSY HANSON TILLEMANS
LISA & RANDY ULMER	PATRICIA KNUST
ORVILLE & ARLENE VAN'T HUL	ANNA VANDER WELL
BETTY VOS	OWEN & EVA LEWIS AND SUSAN ANDERSON
HARMON & BONNIE WIERSMA	LAYNEE JEAN VAN KEKERIX

MINISTRY PARTNER	IN HONOR OF
BETTY BOLKEMA	HELEN SOODSMA
KEN & JOANNE GERAETS	KATHY DOMEYER
REV. GARY & SHARYN KLATT	BLESSED REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
FLORENCE MILLER	EDEN MILLER
ROBERT & CRIS SICHMELLER	JESSICA ANDERSON
BRAD & JUDY SVENNES	COURTNEY SVENNES-REEFER & KRISTY SORLIEN
EUGENE & CHERYL THOMAS	AARON VELDHIJZEN
DUSTIN & JONI VAN ESSEN	SUE VAN ESSEN
ORVILLE & ARLENE VAN'T HUL	GRANDCHILDREN BEN VAN'T HUL & EMILY VAN'T HUL AND OUR GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Celebrating Miracles

ALPHA CENTER DINNER PANELISTS



KIM MARVIN

The doctor told her mother she wasn't a viable embryo. But today, Kim is more than viable - she's a passionate member of The Abortion Survivors Network.

As a graduate of the University of Washington's School of Business and a small business owner, Kim formerly served as the Marketing and Retail Specialist at Escape to Peace, whose mission is to bring hope, healing, and recovery to teen survivors of sex trafficking.

Kim believes her life was saved to be a voice for the voiceless as she tells her miraculous, life-changing story of survival and the power of forgiveness.



MICHELLE LYMAN

As a survivor of abortion, Michelle Lyman is a passionate advocate for life.

Michelle's story of miraculous survival is one you will want to hear! God not only spared her life from an illegal abortion procedure, but by the time she was fifteen, she had escaped death at least two more times.

Her story will inspire you as you hear of her miraculous survival, overcoming a traumatic childhood, and the restorative power of God's love.



ABSTINENCE CLEARINGHOUSE

ABSTINENCE CLEARINGHOUSE UPDATE

Purity Ball

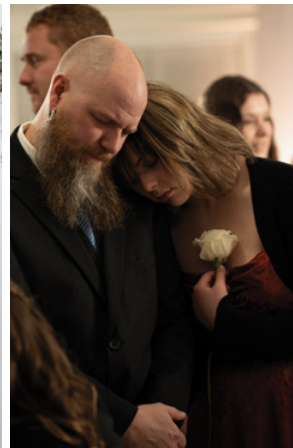
FOR FATHERS & DAUGHTERS

Abstinence Clearinghouse, in partnership with Alpha Center, hosted a **Purity Ball** on Saturday, March 2 at 5Oaks in Sioux Falls. This event for fathers, or father figures, and daughters ages 12-18 highlighted the importance of pursuing a virtuous life of integrity regarding purity and abstinence until marriage. The evening included hors d'oeuvres, a panel of speakers, dessert, a photo booth and a dance.

Visit our Facebook page to see more professional images from the event!



“
The purity ball was amazing! I had no idea so many other girls were remaining abstinent until marriage; it was a real encouragement to me. Thanks for putting together such a special night!”



INSPIRING
MEN & WOMEN OF VIRTUE

**FAMILY RESOURCE
STORE HOURS:**

Monday – Friday
8:30 AM – 5:30 PM
3405 S. Kiwanis Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
(605) 335-3643
info@abstinence.net
www.abstinence.net



3405 S. KIWANIS AVENUE
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105

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PLEASE PASS THIS
NEWSLETTER ON
TO EDUCATE AND
MOTIVATE OTHERS

A PDF version is available
on our website:
alphacenterfriends.com



STAY UP TO DATE



UPCOMING EVENTS

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Visit our Event Calendar at
alphacenterfriends.com for more information.

Happy **40TH
BIRTHDAY**
ALPHA CENTER



Alpha Baby Tanner