



## WALK for LIFE 2023

The number of abortions in Ohio increased 7% from 2020 to 2021 – with 21,813 unborn lives terminated in 2021 – and despite the overturn of Roe v. Wade, abortion is once again legal in our state through 22 weeks. These disturbing realities grieve the heart of God and must stir the hearts of God's people to action. **Will you support the Walk for Life by raising funds as a sponsored walker?** Every penny raised will help us protect pre-born babies and share hope with every client.

The Walk for Life is our second-largest event each year and is fun for the whole family! **The 2023 Walk will be held Saturday, April 29, at SouthBrook Christian Church.** Here's a rundown of the morning:

- 10:00** Check-in begins (activities for kids and families provided!)
- 10:30** Praise and worship in the SouthBrook Main Theater (for those done checking in)
- 10:45** Program begins in the Main Theater
- 11:05** Walk around the campus of Dayton Christian School (next door to SouthBrook)
- 11:45** Approximate end time

The primary purpose of the Walk is to raise the funds needed to continue operating our four centers. It takes many individuals, families, churches, and teams to help us reach our \$250,000 goal! **To learn how to raise funds and how to get your church involved, join us for the Walk for Life Kickoff Dinner.**

**Tuesday, March 14, 6:30 – 8:00**  
**Sovereign Grace Church**  
1541 S. Smithville Rd., Dayton

Pastors and church liaisons will receive this year's Walk shirt FREE at Kickoff! Other resources will be shared to use for promoting the Walk with your church, friends, and family. If you plan to attend Kickoff, please RSVP to [jeni@hoperising.org](mailto:jeni@hoperising.org) or call (937) 298-9998, ext. 1104.

Anyone can support the Walk for Life by praying for God's blessing on this major fundraiser, by donating to ("sponsoring") a walker, or by raising funds as a sponsored walker.

Earn prizes when you raise funds!

- **Raise just \$100** to earn this year's Walk shirt!
- **Raise \$500** to earn a shirt and a Hope Rising tumbler!
- **Raise \$1,000** to earn a shirt, tumbler, and invitation to the Lifesaver Dinner to be held June 13



For more details, see the enclosed Sponsored Walker Form and visit [supporthoperising.org](http://supporthoperising.org).

God's tender heart is displayed in Isaiah 30:18 – "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion..."

**May we as a church rise up to show compassion to the lost and hurting world around us.**

### HOPE RISING

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE/ KETTERING CENTER

2345 W. Stroop Road  
Dayton, Ohio 45439  
**937.298.9998**

#### HUBER HEIGHTS CENTER

7079-A Taylorsville Road  
Huber Heights, Ohio 45424  
**937.424.2386**

#### NORTH DAYTON CENTER

4247 Philadelphia Drive  
Dayton, Ohio 45405  
**937.262.7420**

#### XENIA CENTER

245 S. Allison Avenue  
Xenia, Ohio 45385  
**937.374.0023**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michael Hamilton

#### VICE CHAIR

Cindy Good

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Executive Director, Sheri Lawson

#### CLIENT WEBSITE

[hoperising.org](http://hoperising.org)

#### PARTNERS WEBSITE

[supporthoperising.org](http://supporthoperising.org)

#### PARTNERS FACEBOOK

Partners of Hope Rising

### STATISTICS

#### JANUARY 2023

Pregnancy Tests: 104

Ultrasounds: 87

Chose Life: 75

Spiritual Discussions: 230

Gospel Shared: 71

Total Client Visits: 392

## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Sheri Lawson**

During a time in my life, when I was coming out of a negative situation, I clung to Philippians 3:13-14.

*"But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

Interestingly, at the same time, a man in my church transitioned to Heaven. As I prayed for his young widow, the same verse kept popping into my mind. I remember talking to the Lord about it. Surely, He did not intend for her to forget the happy years she had been married. The more I prayed about it, the more I realized that even though she had been happily married, she still had to move forward. The Lord had called him home, but He still had plans for her life.

I have been thinking about that time in my life lately...remembering what the Lord has done for me and for that young widow. He has been so faithful. The older I get the more I have to remind myself that change, though sometimes uncomfortable, is necessary – especially in pregnancy care ministry. **The most precious asset we have is truth. Our goal has been, and will continue to be, sharing the truth about abortion.** The truth about abortion has not changed but our clients have changed.

Last summer, we celebrated 40 years of ministry. In those 40 years, we have ministered to three generations – Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z. And this year the oldest of Generation Alpha turns 13. Which means **we have to start preparing to reach a fourth generation.** We have to constantly be striving toward what is ahead.

In the fall of 2021, our Board of Directors developed a three-year strategic plan. This plan had three key components: Evaluate, Establish, and Expand.

We are in the final stages of Evaluation. Over the past several months, we have done a deep dive to evaluate the mission excellence of every aspect of our ministry. We are now reviewing all of that information to move into our next phase, Establish.

In the Establish phase, we will be refining

existing programs and processes to ensure that we have the most effective and efficient systems in place to reach our target audience and provide them excellent services.

The final phase of our plan is to Expand. In this phase of the plan, we will be looking at what new things we need to do to reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the truth about abortion.

**This plan ensures that we continue pressing forward to the goal which is that every person in the greater Miami Valley will experience gospel transformation that empowers them to choose life for their unborn children and God's design for sexual purity.**

Thank you for all of your support. **We could not accomplish our mission without you.**

In Christ's service,

**Sheri Lawson**  
Executive Director

P.S. As we strive toward the future, a critical element is having the financial resources necessary to accomplish those goals. Would you consider being a sponsored walker at this year's Walk for Life?

## ADOPT A FAMILY MAKES AN ETERNAL IMPACT

This past December, it was a joy and privilege to bless **100 client families** through the Adopt-a-Family Christmas outreach. When clients come to pick up their gifts, staff and volunteers meet one-on-one with each client to share the real meaning of Christmas. Many gospel seeds were planted, and there were special times of encouragement – sharing God's Word, spiritual conversations, and prayer. **Six clients received the greatest gift of all, salvation in Jesus Christ! Two others, wanting to rekindle their commitment, rededicated their lives to Christ.**

**Twenty-eight clients, desiring to grow in their faith, signed up for our Spiritual Support program.**

One client shared, "I am very thankful on behalf of our little family for your outpouring of love. Please know things like this do matter and do make an impact. Thank you for letting God work through you."

Once again this year, we had extra sponsors who chose to adopt an unborn child and purchased items that will support future moms and dads who

choose life for their baby. These extra sponsors gave over \$5,655 worth of donated items to the Baby Boutiques!

**Praise the Lord, and thank you to all who participated in this annual outreach!**



*After her AAF appointment, Khadija rang the salvation bell!*

## "I COULDN'T WAIT TO BRING MY DAUGHTER INTO THE WORLD"

I was introduced to Hope Rising when it was called Miami Valley Women's Center. My younger sister went there for her first pregnancy and took a parenting class. When I first visited the Center, I was feeling very nervous and insecure. I was excited about my pregnancy but not sure I knew how to be a mom.

Having Allyse as my mentor during my parenting classes was a great experience. We connected on a personal and spiritual level, which made me feel very comfortable. Being able to share the classes and lessons (which were spot on) with my husband and family was so helpful. The lessons I learned grew my confidence and brought me closer to the mom I desire to be for my daughter. The parenting classes helped me grow closer to Christ, and doing the spiritual pages that came with each lesson helped me get back into God's Word. **I couldn't wait to**

**bring my daughter Nakia into the world knowing she was created by God and was His perfect masterpiece!**

After I finished my parenting program, Allyse talked to me about participating in the Spiritual Support program at the Center. I did and have learned so many useful things through Spiritual Support. **My relationship with God has grown stronger than ever before.** Being able to pray and learn to bring my struggles to God has helped take so much off my shoulders. I now have daily devotions and special time in God's Word. I look forward to sharing all that God is teaching me with my daughter. Even though she is only three months old, I read stories to her from a Children's Bible I received from the Center. This is such a major blessing and wonderful bonding time for the two of us.

Knowing that God does hear me and my worries and that He has a plan for me and my family is such a blessing. **I am very thankful to Hope Rising for helping me grow in both my faith and parenting journeys.**



*Tristyn and her daughter Nakia*

## OUR LOVE AND CONGRATULATIONS FOR NANETTE'S RETIREMENT



*Nanette Gresham*

Listening to a radio program changed the course of Nanette's life.

Over 30 years ago, Nanette Gresham was sitting

at her kitchen table listening to a live broadcast on WFCJ from Focus on the Family. That particular day, they were dramatizing "Tilly" – a story about a woman who experiences God's forgiveness after a dream about meeting her aborted baby in Heaven. Nanette said, "The Lord hit me that day that I am post-abortive." Unbeknownst to her at the time, this was also when God placed a very specific call on her life.

She contacted Focus and spoke with Sydna Masse', author of *Her Choice to Heal*, and Nanette made the choice to heal from her abortion decision. She went through the stages of grief,

dug deep into God's Word, and got involved in pro-life work. In 1994, she began volunteering at New Beginnings Women's Center in Huber Heights, which a few years later became a satellite of Miami Valley Women's Center. The policy of MVWC is those who desire to volunteer in Abortion Recovery Ministry (ARM) but have abortion in their past must go through the ARM program. Nanette did, and **God by His grace helped Nanette release anger and shame and fully embrace her identity in Christ.**

After volunteering for over ten years in a variety of roles, including ARM, Nanette accepted the staff position of Abortion Recovery Coordinator in 2007. In 2008, she took over DREAM – a sexual integrity curriculum called *Dare To Realize Every Action Matters* – and also brought that program to women's recovery centers for five years. In 2012, she added Prison Ministry to her title – and has helped bring hope and God's truth to countless female prisoners at the Dayton Correctional Institution over the last ten years.

**Obeying God's call on her life, Nanette has led hundreds of women (and couples) to find healing.** Some of them had a recent abortion, others 30 to 40 years in their past. Many heard the gospel and responded – one was sitting on her bed at home and texted Nanette to say, "Everything you ever told me about Jesus is true!" Serving in this role has often been hard and emotional, but Nanette shared, "There is nothing like seeing God move – and the power of the gospel transforming lives – and a woman's countenance changing from shame-filled and guilt-ridden to free from shame and self-condemnation, experiencing God's love and forgiveness!" Nanette's life verse has been Romans 8:1 – "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..."

**We praise God for the years Nanette has faithfully served and for all the lives she has touched through her obedience.** If you'd like to express your thanks to her, you may send a card to Hope Rising, Attn: Nanette Gresham, 2345 W. Stroop Rd., Dayton, OH 45439.



hope rising

FORMERLY KNOWN AS MIAMI VALLEY WOMEN'S CENTER

2345 W. Stroop Road  
Dayton, OH 45439-2005

## REACHING AND SERVING MORE DADS

God has brought an amazing opportunity to our men's program, which has enabled us to make an invitation to the local church!

We were selected by Care Net, the national pregnancy center network Hope Rising is affiliated with, to receive up to a \$20,000 (needs-based) grant! Called "Fatherhood Project 2023", the grant fosters collaboration between local churches and pregnancy centers to help fathers embrace their God-given, irreplaceable role in the family. Care Net's vision is to see a culture where women and men faced with pregnancy decisions are transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and empowered to choose life for their unborn children and abundant life for their families.

Two key resources for the project are a new online course called Doctor Dad, and a church equipping guide called Making Life Disciples (MLD) 2.0. Collaboration between the local church and Hope Rising can take many forms: encouraging men whose wives or partners are pregnant to take Doctor Dad, co-hosting a barbecue or other celebration for fathers who complete a parenting program, and the potential for Hope Rising to refer interested program clients to the church for discipleship.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity please contact Jim, Men's Programs Coordinator, at (937) 298-9998, ext. 1112, or jim@hoperising.org.

Jim shared, "This calendar year, the weekly average for male clients taking a parenting class is greater than averages I've routinely seen across the 7 years I've served! Men seem to be rising up to love and serve their families!"



## TEAM UPDATES AND JOB OPENINGS

### RETIRING

Nanette Gresham  
*Abortion Recovery and  
Prison Ministry Coordinator*

### TRANSITIONING

Kim Merritt  
*from Volunteer Coordinator  
to Director of Operations*

Stephan Stewart  
*from Kettering Office Assistant  
to Abortion Recovery Coordinator*

### JOB OPENINGS

Kettering Office Assistant

N. Dayton Nurse Sonographer

Volunteer Coordinator

For more details, visit  
[supporthoperising.org/employment](http://supporthoperising.org/employment).

## PRAISE THE LORD!

Our name change is complete! We have officially switched to Hope Rising with both donors and clients.

Hope Rising has achieved a **Platinum rating (the highest)** with GuideStar, which profiles almost 2 million tax-exempt organizations and non-profits.

Over 50 churches partnered with us for Sanctity of Human Life month, including **3 newly-engaging churches!**



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