

Hidden Miracles

Stories of Hope



Clare Houston in affiliation with the Pregnancy Help Center

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the Pregnancy Help Center

*Dedicated to the millions of children who have lost their
lives to the abortion business.*

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Table of Contents



Introduction	1
<i>From the Client</i>	
Ashley & Baby Heaven	2
Keisha & Baby Zac	3
<i>More Inspirational Stories</i>	
Vicky & Baby Kyle	4
Kendra & Baby Zara	5
Yesenia & Baby Isaac	6
Ingrid & Baby Andrew	7
Serena & Baby Ethan	8
Jessalyn & Baby Jack	9
Danielle	10
Words from Clients	11
Pregnancy Help Center Services	12
Getting Involved	13
Mission Statement	14

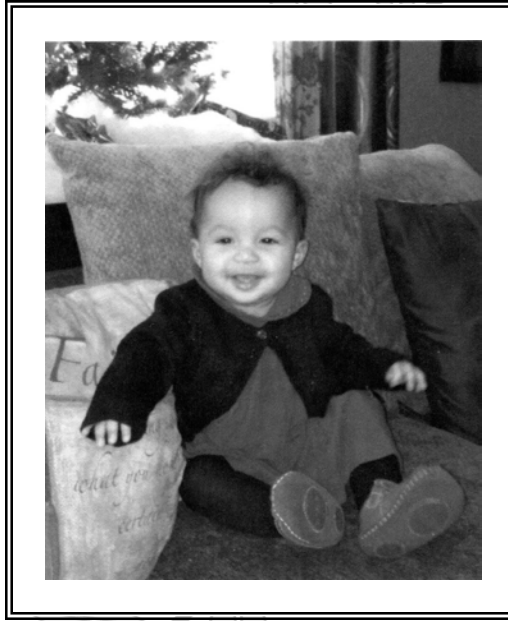
Where
there
is Life
there
is
Hope

Three stylized grey leaves are scattered around the text. One leaf is positioned to the right of the word 'there' in the second line. Another leaf is to the left of the word 'there' in the fourth line. The third leaf is positioned to the left of the word 'is' in the fifth line.

Introduction

My name is Clare Houston and I am part of the Pro-Life Generation. I am proud to be a teen who defends lives, especially those of the unborn. For my Girl Scout Gold Award Project, I chose to work with the Pregnancy Help Center in Torrance to aid in their mission of defending life, in part by creating this booklet. In the following pages you will find stories of women who felt helpless and lost, but were able to find hope and life with the support of the Pregnancy Help Center. As you read, try to put yourself in their place; feel their fear, indecision, and pain. Through them you will see that miracles do happen, even if they initially appear hidden. Thank you for opening your heart to their stories.

As an incoming college student, I know I will receive pushback for what I believe in. But these stories and the hope these women found in life through the Center give me hope for the future of the Pro-Life Movement. Please join me in holding firm to your pro-life beliefs and persevering in prayer, because where there is life, there is hope.



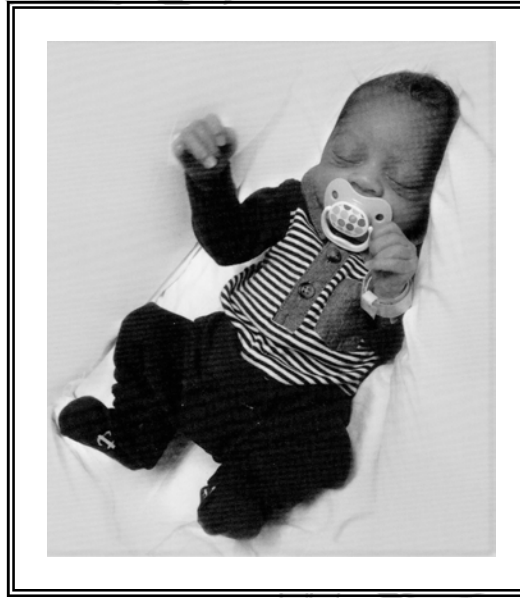
Ashley & Baby Heaven

I was breaking up with my boyfriend and was supposed to move out in early September. A few days before that, I came to the Center, which is close to where I work, and took a pregnancy test. It was positive.

The first thing I thought was, this is not a good time, and I wasn't even sure if I would tell my boyfriend. I never thought I'd be that person who had an abortion, but I couldn't really see any other way, given my situation.

At the Center they gave me a card with these little baby feet, the size of my baby at the time, and I just kept looking at them and looking at them, and I thought, "That's a person."

Then I told my boyfriend, and he was great and has been by my side ever since. Our little Heaven is everything, and I'm always kissing her and loving her. I'm so grateful I chose life and my tiny, little feet. Having my baby also makes me realize how great her dad is. Thank you for the tiny feet; I will probably always keep them.



Keisha & Baby Zac

I was very confused about what to do about my pregnancy. The father of the baby kept saying, “You’re getting an abortion,” but I wasn’t sure. Abortion is expensive and we kept putting it off. I don’t think he really wanted me to do it. I was out of work, had no insurance at the time and it was a difficult period in my life.

I wasn’t sure how I would tell my family. I’m from Nigeria and a private person who usually keeps things to myself. Coming to the Center and having people listen to me and help me was my only source of support. The Client Advocate followed up with me and we talked about how to tell my Mom and other things.

At first I wanted to keep it only if it was a boy, because I didn’t want a girl who might repeat my life. Eventually, I realized it doesn’t matter, and my boyfriend decided he wanted to keep the baby, too.

At Christmas I was around six months and I wrapped up the ultrasound picture, booties, and beanie I got at the Center and gave them to my Mom. That was my way of telling her, and I was also able to talk to her about some other painful, personal things I’d never talked with her about.

I had a boy! Zac was born in April 2015 and he is wonderful. My family is supportive now. Going to the Center was a big relief and made me happy and hopeful. You are a blessing to me!



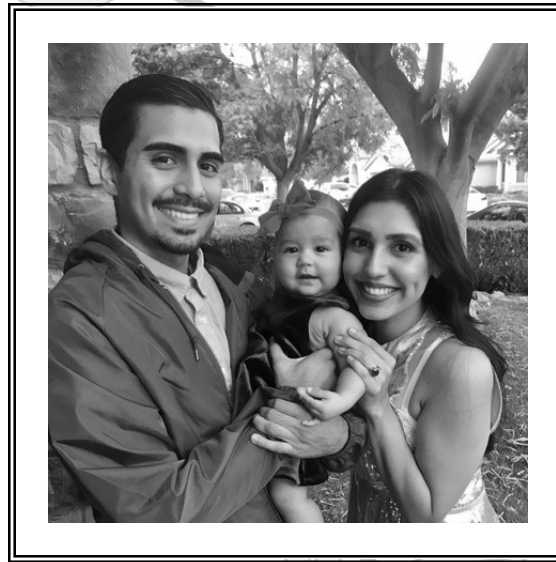
Vicky and Baby Kyle

Vicky knew she was pregnant from a home pregnancy test, but she had no idea how far along she was. For the busy young mother of a 13-month-old, finding care was a challenge. The first medical clinic she visited refused her an ultrasound, so through a Google search she found the clinic.

About her experience at the Center she says, “I had so much anxiety and stress that I broke down in tears in the nurse’s office that first day. Everyone there was so helpful and caring, unlike some of the medical offices I’ve been to where the staff is so moody and unfriendly.”

Vicky’s ultrasound showed that she was 12 weeks pregnant. Sharing the news with her family and partner Ben was difficult. Ben’s reaction caused stress and tension, but once she’d seen the ultrasound, Vicky knew she would carry her baby no matter what.

It was a rough year, but now that baby Kyle is here, things have worked out with Vicky and Ben. They’re doing their best to parent their sons together and be a family. Vicky shares, “I’ve learned that being a woman and mother I have a lot more strength than I sometimes see or feel. My boys have helped me find my purpose. This is what my body made; I created life! It gives me hope.”



Kendra and Baby Zara

In 2018, Kendra wrote to the Center, saying, “As I lie here next to my one-year-old daughter Zara... I truly thank you for talking with me and providing the services you do. Being able to see that she was forming in me (in the ultrasound exam) showed me how magical being pregnant really is ...”

Recalling that she made and canceled two appointments for an abortion before finding the Center in a Google search, Kendra is now grateful for the outcome because she and her boyfriend are working at parenting together and are both in love with their daughter. “She’s such a blessing; she’s made me and my family so happy!”

Kendra explains that having Zara shifted her life’s purpose. “I was living a self-involved lifestyle, and now I want to succeed in my life and career to be a good example for my child and her generation.”



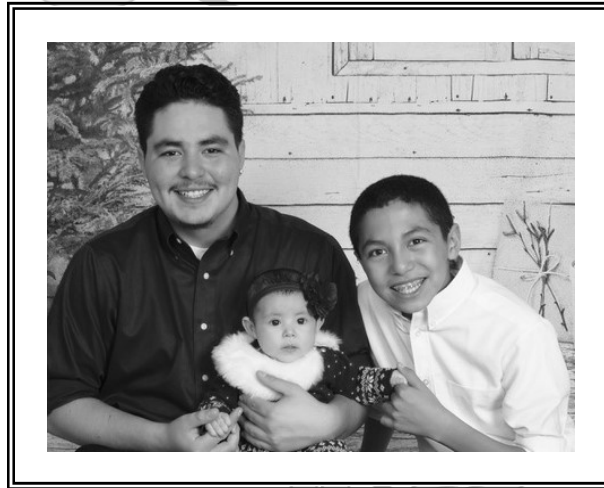
Yesenia & Baby Isaac

Yesenia knew she was pregnant, and because she was in school and working full-time she felt it wasn't the right time to have a baby.

On the day she had scheduled an abortion, she decided to come to the Center instead, saying, "I realized it wasn't fair to the baby; he didn't ask to be born. I wanted to be responsible."

When she came to the Center, she was greeted with warmth and care, and after her initial consultation and ultrasound exam she added, "It was so positive and loving; you gave me so much support and hope that I knew I could do this on my own if I had to. Everyone genuinely cared about me."

Yesenia and her partner welcomed baby Isaac in March 2018. She continued, "I thought having a baby would be too hard, but it's not. I love him so much that it doesn't really matter if I'm up half the night. It's worth it."



Ingrid & Baby Andrew

Over twenty years ago, Ingrid, a 16-year-old girl, discovered she was pregnant. She and her boyfriend considered abortion because they were so young. Ingrid was led to the Center where she received counseling and support to help her decide to keep her baby, Andrew, now 24 years old.

At the time the Center offered counseling but no ultrasound services. After counseling, Ingrid decided to keep her baby, determined to make it work on her own if necessary. She decided to finish high school but not rush into marriage because she wanted her relationship to stay together on its own. She eventually married her boyfriend Gabriel, and they've been happily married for 23 years, raising Andrew (24), Mychal (18), named after Father Mychal Judge, and now five-year-old Juliet.

Ingrid recently visited the Center through her volunteer involvement with St. Vincent de Paul Ministries at St. Catherine Labouré Church and wants to become involved as a supporter so she can give to other young women who need the Center's help.

She said, "Just like the last time, twenty-plus years ago, the people at the Center have been instruments of God's love. I truly thank the Center for all the wonderful support and kindness you gave to me in my time of need."



Serena & Baby Ethan

It all started right after Serena broke up with her boyfriend. It was a difficult break-up, but their unstable relationship was causing stress, and she thought it would be healthier to be on her own.

That's when she discovered she was pregnant. Telling her ex-boyfriend about the baby added more stress. "He was making me feel like it would be a ridiculous choice to have the baby." Needless to say, it was a time of uncertainty for her because she also thought it would be crazy to have a baby with someone so unstable.

She found the Center through a Google search and felt such relief at being treated with the caring, encouraging support she received. "Speaking to the client advocate made me feel more confident; that I could carry and raise this baby, even if I had to do it alone."

Serena gave birth to baby boy Ethan in January 2019 and she said, "Now that he's here, I feel guilty that I even considered not going through with the pregnancy. Being a mother has made me stronger, and I want the best for my baby."

Serena continues to find strength as a new mom. She and Ethan now live with her mother, an unexpected blessing. "I was afraid to tell my mom I was pregnant, but she's been really supportive and now we live with her."

When she went back to work, Serena was determined to create the best life she could for herself and Ethan.



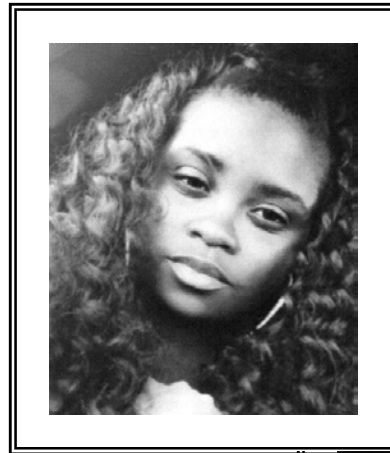
Jessalyn and Baby Jack

The Center is a licensed medical clinic offering accurate, evidence-based medical information, and in Jessalyn's case that made all the difference when she came to the Center in mid-2017. Jessalyn says, "You gave me better medical care than an actual M.D. I visited, who did an ultrasound and said he didn't see a baby, that I most likely had a tubal pregnancy, and would lose it. At six or seven weeks and with no other resources, I was panicked."

After doing some online research, Jessalyn came to the Center where she received the compassionate care she was seeking as well as helpful information and education. During her ultrasound, the sonographer clearly identified her baby growing in the uterus. Jessalyn says, "She was so thorough and showed me what I needed to see to feel reassured."

Center staff also helped her find a new physician whom she loves, and Jessalyn remarks with appreciation, "Each person I dealt with at the Center was very responsive, supportive, knowledgeable, and caring." She continues, "I also like that I wasn't pressured or obligated to make a decision about my pregnancy on the spot."

A healthy baby Jack was born in February 2018, and Jessalyn, Jack and partner Jeffrey are doing well and are grateful for their healthy little boy.



Danielle

Danielle rushed to the clinic on her lunch hour. She'd just broken up with her boyfriend, was living out of her car, and now suspected she was pregnant. She was very anxious, stressed, and wanted immediate help.

When she arrived at the clinic as a walk-in, she was given an appointment for that evening. At that point, did she think of going somewhere else where she could be seen right away? “No, I knew I would keep my appointment because of the kind and caring way I was treated.” She adds, “For a minute I considered abortion, but I knew I had to talk to people and think about my decision. Everyone at the clinic was amazing, and I knew they would be there for me no matter what I decided.”

From her positive pregnancy test and other medical information, the nurse assessed Danielle at over six weeks pregnant, so the ultrasound was performed right away. The result caused another unexpected turn to her story—Danielle was carrying twins!

“I went through a process; I did a lot of soul-searching and came to the conclusion that I’m an adult and I have to be responsible for my actions.” She continues, “Once I decided to have these babies it gave me the motivation to get my life together.”

Danielle has moved closer to her family, now has a good job, and will soon move into her own apartment. The babies arrived in January 2020.



**93% of clients
describe their
experience at the
Center as
“great.”**

Words from Clients

“You helped me feel I’m not alone.”

“Amazing place and resource”

“It has made me think hard about my
options and my future.”

“You provided me with answers I didn't
know where to find”

“I was really surprised how helpful and
caring you were, and cannot believe the
volunteers don’t get paid. The world needs
more places like this ...”

“I’m very happy to have found this clinic,
it’s such a blessing.”



Pregnancy Help Center Services

The Pregnancy Help Center offers confidential services regarding pregnancy and sexual health. All services are given free of charge and administered by licensed medical professionals.

- Pregnancy testing
- Limited obstetric ultrasound exam
- Options consultation with a volunteer client advocate
- Education about abortion procedures and risks
- STI screenings for chlamydia and gonorrhea
- Assistance with Medi-Cal and WIC application process
- Prenatal nutrition and breastfeeding education
- Bright Course—online streaming classes for clients to learn a variety of subjects and earn points to redeem at the Center's Bright Course store
- Referrals for Prepared Childbirth, Newborn Care classes and Car Seat Workshops
- Referrals for community resources, including professional counseling and support groups



Getting Involved

The Pregnancy Help Center is able to provide services free of charge because of the consistent support of their volunteers.

Here are areas to volunteer at the Center:

- Client Advocates
- Registered Nurses
- Female Ultrasound Observer
- Post-Abortion Client Advocate
- Receptionist/Greeter
- Marketing & Graphic Design
- Photography/Videography
- Event Planning
- Clerical/General Office
- Experts to give general advice to the Center
- Fundraising Assistance
- Speakers Bureau
- *Students are welcome to volunteer for service or internship hours*

If you'd like more information on these positions or a volunteer application, please visit

supportphctorrance.org.

Thank you for making a difference by saving lives!

Mission Statement



The mission of the Pregnancy Help Center is to provide a safe, caring environment where every woman facing a crisis pregnancy can receive information, education, and practical assistance in order to eliminate the crisis and choose life for her baby; and to inspire others to embrace sexual health and integrity.

Contact Us



1311 Crenshaw Blvd. Suite A
Torrance, CA 90501

Call **310-320-8976**

Or visit us online at **phctorrance.org**

If you are interested in volunteering or
making a donation to the Pregnancy Help
Center, please visit
supportphctorrance.org

