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July/August 2023

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*The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned,  
that I may now how to sustain the one who is weary with a word;  
He awakens me morning by morning;  
He awakens my ear to listen as the learned.*

Isaiah 50:4 (MEV)

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[For Intentional Prayer Focus Click Below](#)  
[Updated Focused Prayer](#)

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## From the Executive Director



This is a full e-letter; I am going to keep this portion short and sweet. In answer to your possible thought - *I thought Valerie was retiring from this position*- I do continue to that end! I am working alongside Jennifer (see more details below) for the next several months in order for her to know, appreciate, and understand all that Durango Pregnancy Center has been in the past, present, and our vision for the future.

It has been an interesting year. The Isaiah passage has a home on my kitchen counter reminding me every day that I can do nothing without the direction and leading of my Father. It has been illuminating as I awake each morning and listen. The listening has been life

changing and instructive.

Thank you for bearing with me! As God reveals the growth-vision He has for this ministry I believe we will be humbled and in awe.

Blessings,  
Valerie  
[valerie@durangopregnancy.com](mailto:valerie@durangopregnancy.com)

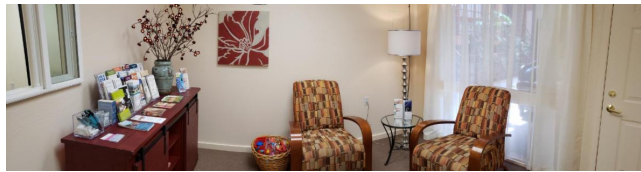
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## Center Refresh and Welcoming Presence

It has been well over a decade and a half since anything was updated or repaired to the physical location of the Center. Over time windowsills deteriorated, walls were wearing the years of passage as well as being half a dozen different colors. Ceiling tiles were black with coal dust from the train. Generally, the appearance was fatigued.

After careful prayer and consideration, the Board and Director set aside funds for refreshing and repairing. Thank you to [Durango Handyman](#) and Tami Sheffield for being willing to take on the job. We closed for the month of July and on August 8, when we reopened, it was to a fresh and beautiful look. We are very grateful.

There is a lovely, welcoming room that Nurse Family Partnerships can use to meet with their clients and introduce them to Durango Pregnancy Center. The Learning Center turned from a dark, confining room to a bright uplifting space where the windowsills no longer have nails protruding and wood missing! Two cozy chairs are ready for learning and conversation.



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## Executive Director Update

When we reopened on August 8, we welcomed Jennifer Odom. Jennifer is in a training and learning period with Valerie during our time of transition from one director to another. Over the next five months Jennifer will be introduced to other community members who work alongside women and babies. Learn the history and mission of Durango Pregnancy Center. And while non-profit work and fundraising have not been in her background, by the end of December she will know plenty! We are looking for opportunities for her to meet you - the people who pray, support, and nourish this ministry.

Jennifer has the education and skill to oversee an Infant Care Center which continues to be a part of DPC's growth-vision. Your prayers are appreciated as we navigate the changes. This is a ministry that has been a part of this community for over thirty years with numerous leaders being a part of its mission. Jennifer will now become a part of that legacy.

May God awaken us each morning with ears to hear His wisdom and direction.



## ***I want to support DPC!***

Your financial support gives hope.  
The above link is to a Paypal donor platform.  
Checks can be mailed to:  
1315 Main Avenue, Suite 230, Durango, CO 81301

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## Eula Jamison Williams Educational Grant Recipient

She walked into the Center in 2016 as a pregnant 15-year-old; life present and future filled with uncertainty. Now, seven years later she walked into the Center again with the goal of graduating from Fort Lewis College in December.

Having discovered that DPC had an educational grant fund for single moms she brought us up to date from where we last intersected with her. J's story is one of resilience, overcoming adversity, strength, and courage. She readily admits to poor decisions being a part of her story and her story does not end there.

J. is the new recipient of the Eula Jamison Williams Educational Grant Fund (check out the details [Eula Jamison Williams Educational Grant](#)). The EJWEG will be assisting her in her final semester when she realizes a goal that at one point, she thought impossible.

Please read her story. It is moving and gives you a view of life that perhaps you are not familiar with [J's Story](#)

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## Infant Care Center

These last three weeks have shown us that our community does indeed need an Infant Care Center. At a recent advisory board meeting with Nurse Family Partnerships and La Plata Family Center the word came again, *there are not spaces for infants*. Tri-County Head Start has even had to close its infant care sites.

We are not looking at simply babysitting. The Infant Care Center would be a full and comprehensive program that a mom would agree to as trained individuals would come alongside her to assist her in meeting the goals she has established. It would be an opportunity for sponsors to connect with a mom who desires to have a sustainable life for herself and her baby.

We have, however, overcome one significant hurdle! Any licensed childcare center requires that the director of such a center has an advanced degree in Early Childhood Education. Jennifer Odom has a Masters in exactly that discipline and is excited about the possibility of heading up an infant care center.

What do we need?

1. Prayers for discernment.
2. A location: property that can be built or a space that already exists - within the proper zoning area. State mandates require that a new infant care center facility have a sprinkler system in place - this creates a challenge in a town that has very few new buildings much less with a sprinkler system.
3. Sponsors willing to financially support the care of an infant at the center for six months as the mother makes strides towards the goals, she has established for herself.
4. Trained volunteers and certified attendants to nurture the babies under our care during the day.
5. Trained volunteers who come alongside a mother to love, support, encourage, and befriend her through the process of seeking employment, completing education, getting back to an existing job.

There are a multitude of steps in-between! Again, this is not babysitting and would be a comprehensive program where a mother applies and meets the established criteria.

We welcome your questions! Please feel free to call 970.247.5559 or email [Valerie](#). Thank you for your prayers.

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## A Downward Decision

In the last DPC e-letter we reflected on the protection of choice. Choices are with each of us and as Huxley said, they can lead us to light or to darkness.

When a client tells a story of a single choice that took them down, leaving them without housing, unprotected, and caring for an infant it can be overwhelming. How do you address the immediate need while also addressing the deeper complexities of their lives and the other choices that have been made? How do you *sustain with a word* the weariness?

Last week we had such a story in front of us and we were once again grateful for the ministry of Durango Pregnancy Center. To be able in the moment of a life crisis respond with the love of Jesus - a listening ear, sustaining words, and material assistance was a blessing.

Many times, these moments are brief and unexpected with very little time to unpack the fullness of the life in front of us. In these times God's presence covers us. Christ's example guides us, and the Holy Spirit moves in and through us in a powerful way.

May God awaken all our ears to listen as the learned and respond with a sustaining word.