

A special heart felt THANK YOU to all those who donated Christmas gifts for our families in need. They were truly happy and grateful for this outpouring of love, kindness and generosity. For some, those were the only gifts their children received for Christmas; so again - we love you and thank you!!!

262.470.3119 ❖ WWW.LCMISSION.COM
 For pregnancy support, questions, crisis or information go to: www.lifesconnection.org

How YOU Can Help when Life's Connection is in Need?

A handy list to have when you are running errands, or shopping online!
 Or, donate at our website and we'll purchase items most needed: <http://www.lcmision.com/donate.html>

Bottled water & Small nutritional snacks for moms and toddlers
 Manilla folders with tabs
 Keurig coffee and hot chocolate refills
 Paper towels, Paper plates, cups, napkins
 Antibacterial wipes
 Postal stamps & Postal security envelopes

Computer paper
 Computer Ink:
 Epson 252XL/252 black HY and standard cyan, magenta, yellow ink multi-pack
 Epson 200 black ink cartridge
 HP 63XL black/63 Tri-color original ink cartridges, multi-pack
 P-Touch 1/2" TZe machine tape cartridge

We are [usually] in need of diapers sizes 3 and up; and pull ups for toddlers.

Thank You in Advance!!!

Diapers/Pull-Ups (all sizes especially NB)
 Bath towels/washcloths
 Nail clippers
 Medicine droppers
 New bottles & bottle brushes
 Outlet safety plugs
 Diaper bags

Boppy/Nursing pillows
 Toddler dish sets
 Bassinets with sheets
 Bouncy chairs
 Umbrella strollers, Car seats (must be new)
 Pack'n Plays and sheets, Baby swings
 Baby clothes (new or gently used)

We cannot accept used car seats, or bumper pads for cribs.

494 W. Main Street
 Waukesha, WI 53186
 262-290-LIFE (5433)

307 S. Rochester Street
 Mukwonago, WI 53149
 262-470-3119

OUR FREE SERVICES

- . One-on-one mentoring
- . Pregnancy support
- . Pregnancy testing
- . Ultrasound
- . STD Testing
- . Parenting programs
- . Baby care classes
- . Fatherhood Program
- . Miscarriage and Infant Loss Support
- . Community resources and referrals

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Baby Grace

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UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS!

Spring into Life Gala
 Bluemound Golf & Country Club, Wauwatosa
May 19

4th Annual Pancake Breakfast
 LC Waukesha Center
April 28



Life's Connection's Miscarriage & Stillborn Support Program

Number of Babies Who Die from Pregnancy Loss Every Year

Stats taken from The Elizabeth Ministry Pastoral Guide

- Approximately 1 in 4 pregnancies end in miscarriage; some estimates are as high as 1 in 3.
- If you include loss that occurs before a positive pregnancy test, some estimate that 65% of all conceptions result in loss.
- In the U.S. there are well over one million deaths of infants through miscarriage each year.
- There are over 26,000 stillbirths in the U.S. each year.
- In the U.S., about 11,300 newborns die within 24 hours of birth.
- Approximately 19,000 newborns die in their first month.
- Approximately 39,000 infants die in their first year.
- Worldwide, more than one million babies die during their first day.
- Newborns account for 4 in 10 deaths under the age five.

Honoring each with dignity and respect because ... the tiniest of lives matter!

For too many years, both society in general, and the faith community in particular, ignored the deep pain and grief families experience through miscarriage or stillbirth. Even in a situation of newborn death, little was done to remember the child. It was believed that if no one talked about the baby and all evidence of his or her existence was removed, the parents would quickly forget. This mindset failed to honor the powerful life and death experience that had already left an impression in the parents' hearts, never to be forgotten. *Death ends the life, but not the relationship. Grief can be delayed, but it cannot be denied.*

Unspoken:

For far too long women and men have suffered the loss of their child through miscarriage and had no idea what to do or how to handle the situation. They have had experiences of loss that occurred at home or at work or in the hospital emergency room and they asked, "What do I do? Is this normal? What will I do with my baby's remains?"

They may have experienced the loss of their child by their doctor performing a D&C and they ask, "Will I be okay?" They may express fears and concerns, "I am scared, what will happen to me? Where is my baby now?" During and after the loss they ask, "Did I do something to cause this? Will I be able to have more children? How do I help my spouse through our crisis? Will this sadness ever go away?" Many times these questions remain - *unspoken*.

No More: Life's Connection has a solid support program in place to give witness to the life and death of these little ones who now share God's heavenly home with the angels.

Trauma:

Though miscarriage is extremely common, a woman holding the precious body of her baby in her hands, not knowing what to do, and having to say "goodbye," or leaving a hospital

continued

LC Walks Amy's Miscarriage Journey with Her

Amy* came to LC as a young pregnant mom engaged to be married to her fiancée. She began pregnancy classes and genuinely had a positive and good outlook about having her baby. It was an unexpected pregnancy, but she accepted it and was happy. Never did she consider abortion because she lives with the painful knowledge that her own father wanted her mother to abort her 22 years ago. To this day that is a wound in her heart and he has very little contact with her. Amy is strong and knows the truth of babies in the womb and has many good natural motherly instincts. Besides the pregnancy classes, we encourage marriage for this young couple who have been together for a long time and seem to be in love. It seems some young couples think they are going to be further ahead financially if they live together.

Amy was always faithful to coming to class every week, but one day she did not show up and didn't call us. We became concerned. We called her several times so she could reschedule but we could only leave voice messages. Finally, after about a week we received a voice message from Amy - she had a miscarriage. In the message she reiterated that she was "doing fine," but still wanted to come in the following week. When Amy came in we began the miscarriage journey with her of hope, healing and finding happiness once again. The first step is to 'listen, listen, listen' to the grieving mother and be there for her. We gave her our Hope Box filled with keepsakes, inspirational music, books and literature that deal with such a loss, a candle she can light to know the presence of God and spiritual presence of her baby, an angel figurine to remind her that her baby is safe in the arms of the angels, and a baby blanket she can hold and hug - and maybe even cry into.



Amy's miscarriage was very traumatic for this young, first time mother; her miscarriage experience took place rather quickly, over a few days. She had a lot of bleeding and blood clots, and fainted in the doctor's office. The baby's heartbeat was still audible at this point. Amy was sent home with a glimmer of hope that everything would be okay. That night her baby passed away and Amy witnessed a little tiny fetus still in the uterine sac at 11 weeks gestation. Sadly, she snapped a picture of her little one as a lasting remembrance of the baby she only met after miscarrying. She was taken to the hospital where she spent the night for needed care.

She never knew if her baby was a boy or a girl, nor will she witness her child run, play or grow; but, she cherishes the little life she carried within her womb, and the sounds of his/her heartbeat she heard from the baby stethoscope/monitor in the doctor's office. These are this mother's lasting memories of life and love - something she will cling to.

The Grieving Process: Amy is experiencing many ups and downs as the days and weeks go by. We have reassured her that these feelings of grief are normal, as hard as it is to go through. She said she is at peace, even amidst the grief. Both Amy and her fiancé have discovered through this that they definitely have hope for more children.

Amy's story witnesses to the devastation and toll this loss takes on mothers [and fathers]. Physically, emotionally, even spiritually - miscarriage is difficult and takes time to go through the journey. Gradually hope, healing and happiness do return and fill the mother's heart again, but she never forgets the little family member now in heaven.

Life's Connection will be there for Amy, and all women who experience miscarriage and stillbirths, because every life matters and is to be honored, including the unborn who have been called very early in their lives to sainthood to witness God's eternal Light in heaven. May the light, life and purpose (no matter how tiny or short lived) these babies brought to their families always shine on in eternal remembrance and fill them with "Hearts of Hope."

(*not our clients real name)



Safe in the arms of the angels.

(continued from front cover)

after a D&C procedure is - *traumatic*. We must not forget that the father of the baby suffers also. This cannot be overlooked.

From the moment Life's Connection receives a phone call from a woman telling us of her imminent or past miscarriage, we begin the journey with these mothers and fathers suffering such a great loss. Immediately, we offer counseling which often starts on the phone. We offer miscarriage delivery aid kits, (when applicable) and a tiny burial vessel. We then help with funeral and burial plans and sometimes the expenses when someone is in need. Life's Connection has a sacred and blessed holding site to keep the baby's remains until the burial. We have been designated and officially approved by the Archdiocese to do so. We give white burial gowns to miscarried and stillborn babies. We work with cemeteries in acquiring a place of burial for babies and obtaining memorial bricks. We work with parishes and priests that will hold a service either in their parish or at the cemetery. We give each mother a Hope Box filled with touching mementos, supportive books and literature, soothing and inspirational music, a small figurine of a baby held within angel wings, a candle, a certificate of baby's name, a baptism by desire certificate, and a soft baby blanket to cuddle. The mother/father continues to come to Life's Connection for peer mentoring sessions as the stages of grief fill their lives on the path toward healing. Often, we go to the funeral and/or cemetery with the family on burial day, and bring their baby for burial, whether it was contained in one of our two facilities, or from a hospital. Sometimes we bring balloons to the cemetery for the parents to "send up their little one and love" to heaven, and as a sign to 'let go, and let God.' Everything is reverent and respectful in light of that little baby's life, and death; and in support of the grieving family.

In the past, we have worked with Holy Cross Cemetery-Milwaukee, St. Peter's Cemetery-East Troy, St. Adalbert Parish and Cemetery-Milwaukee, and St. Jerome's Parish and Cemetery-Oconomowoc. The burial experiences are very touching and an everlasting remembrance for parents and siblings.

Healing will come if you take the time to make recovery your goal. It is a time to take care of you.



Left: One of our mother's says "good bye" to her little baby girl after a burial service at St. Jerome's Cemetery.

Above: The mother and father release balloons after the service while their little daughter watches.

Above: Fr. John Yockey had a beautiful ceremony of prayers and blessings for this young couple's miscarried baby.

Life's Connection Counselor, Jeanne, brought the baby over to the cemetery for burial after it had been held in our sacred holding site until this day of burial.