

Summer 2020

**ROCKINGHAM PREGNANCY
CARE CENTER**
424 W. KINGS HWY
EDEN, NC 27288
336-623-5540
rpccares.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center invests in the lives of women, children, and families by establishing and promoting healthy life patterns. We offer to our community the love and compassion of Jesus Christ and His plan for sexuality, marriage, and the family.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

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- Nicole Burns
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**"Thankfulness is the quickest path to joy."
—Jefferson Bethke**



Black Tie & Blue Jeans 2020 *UPDATE*****

The Board of Directors of Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center (RPCC) would like to thank you for your generous support of Black Tie & Blue Jeans (BTBJ) 2020. Our sponsorships and online auction sales totaled more than \$56,000. We learned a lot in switching to the online auction format. First, we learned our supporters do not disappoint. Even though we did not meet in person, the proceeds were phenomenal. Second, we honestly missed meeting in person! The love and laughter in coming face-to-face with those that believe in our mission as well as support our work can only be experienced in person. Words just do not do it justice. And third, it is true what our tagline states, Black Tie & Blue Jeans is truly more than a date—it's a date that makes a difference. Not only does it provide a portion of funding for the year, but it gives our board, staff, and volunteers an opportunity to say "thank you" to those who support us.

So, thank you! We commend you, we appreciate you, and we love you for your generous outpouring of love and support which will help us to reach out to the women, children, and families who need us most.

*thankful
AND
grateful*



From Your Director



The year 2020 has brought us to places we have never been before. Staying home, social distancing, washing hands, and wearing masks have become the new normal. We have sought to embrace each new phase while still serving the needs of all the women, children, and families who depend on us at Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center.

As the shutdown began, the center moved to phone appointments with staff working from home and resource pickup at the office two days per week. We felt this would keep our clientele safe as they were deemed high risk. Phone appointments worked well and the clients were able to safely have their appointments and pick up resources in a drive through manner. The staff have since returned to the office Monday—Thursday 9 AM—5 PM but continue to have appointments by telephone and curbside pickup. If a client requests to come in, we will accommodate them in a safe manner. In an effort to keep our staff, clients, and guests protected, we have implemented new policies and procedures. We are pleased with the outcome.

We have found that the needs are even greater during this time. Many clients fear the unknown of the coronavirus. They are lonely and/or anxious. From January until June 2020, we had 273 client visits representing 94 clients. We are pleased that we are able to provide an ear to listen, a heart to love, and a voice to encourage those who need us most.

I would like to take a moment to thank our board, staff, volunteers, and supporters for pitching in and helping us continue to meet those needs during this difficult time. I am truly grateful.

Standing in faith,

Sharon

A Testimony of Hope by Brittany Gibson

The following is an abbreviated and edited version. To hear the testimony in its entirety, go to:

<https://rpccares.com/black-tie-blue-jeans-2020/>

I have a story to share with you as a testimony of God's grace and mercy over my life and how He intertwined Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center (RPCC) with me. My name is Brittany Gibson. I live in Reidsville, NC. I grew up in Summerfield so I didn't travel far. I have four children. I have twins boys that are 11, my wild child is three, his name is Jonathan, and then we have one little girl named Joanna. She's almost two. I am serving with my husband who is in full-time ministry and we work in a small business from our home. God is good. He has been so faithful to us. I'm so amazed where God has me now versus where I was when I was younger. I'm excited to share my story and to charge you to see why we need places like RPCC. When I was younger I didn't know of any place like RPCC. I didn't know of any kind of help around me that could have altered some of the life changing decisions I made.

I was about 13 or 14 when I started dabbling in drinking alcohol. I had that kind of lifestyle because I didn't know any better. It was the friends I was with, and you know what they always say, "Who you hang around is who you become." How true that is. It wasn't until I was about 15 that I started really dabbling in drugs and drug life led me to more and more drugs. It led me to different avenues and paths that my life would eventually go down . . .

It was at age 17 that I got pregnant—it was life altering. I was with someone that I did not think I was going to be with the rest of my life. I felt so worthless and invaluable. I think girls today struggle with that as well. There's not a whole lot of people that share the message that there is a God who loves them and that died for them. So I look back on that 17-year-old girl and I just want to hug her and say there is someone out there who loves you—places like the Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center. The hope and support that RPCC gives these girls is something that I wish I would've had. I wonder what kind of decisions I would've made as my 17-year-old self.

Sitting on the edge of my boyfriend's bed, I smiled. I was so excited, overjoyed, and filled with imagination of this child. Thoughts of dressing her (I felt like the baby was a girl) and taking care of her and it felt so wonderful. Then I sat up on the edge of his bed and fear, doubt, and heartache set into me. A little bit more and I realized I was not sure that I wanted to be with this man for the rest of my life. It was a really, really hard relationship to be in so I went home that evening and I wrote my mom a seven page letter. I was terrified—remember I was only 17! As I was leaving for school that morning I left a note on her counter asking her to read it while I was at school. When she came to school to pick me up early, I saw her face, and I just broke down in tears. She gave me the biggest hug and she was like it's going to be okay. Everything's going to be fine. We went home and my dad was there and we were talking and they asked the question, "what are you thinking, what are you feeling?" I told them I as going to be honest with them, that the one thing that I felt would give me the most peace was to have an abortion. Instantly, my mom said absolutely not, that is not something we do. I told her I understood her feelings but that I could not have this baby. My heart was broken. I was lost. I guess you could say I was left in a sea of uncertainty of what to do with no real guidance.

I spoke to a person at a clinic I called, they opted obviously for abortion. I knew that's what I was going to do without a shadow of a doubt. A couple of days passed. I think back now and I get so angry with myself like how could I have asked my mother to do that to her grandchild. My mom came to me and said I don't want to see you go through this and I don't want to go through this but if this is what you feel you should do, I want to support you. We ended up making a consultation and decided to go ahead and go through with it. We walked in the door of the clinic, filled out information, paid the money and it was done that day. I can't remember a whole lot about the day . . . but I know that that day I was not the same person that I was before I walked in. I had just taken the life of a child.

It is so difficult to think back on that and to know what I did. When I found out about the pregnancy center and the hope they offer these girls it was something that I knew with all my heart I had to be a part of. When girls feel so worthless they put no effort into themselves, they think that they're nothing and that no one loves them. There's a whole lot of science I can go into and there's a whole lot of statistics I could talk about here and say that this amount or percentage of girls that have an abortion end up this way or this amount of girls . . . but my whole point is if you do not have a good sound spiritual mentor that is standing behind you and you literally hear I'm here if you have questions. If you need help I'm here. If you need love I'm here. If you make a bad choice I'm here. If you want to go through with this I'm still here for you. If you want to raise this baby I'm here for you. All of that is something the pregnancy center is. All of that I didn't have and I wonder what it could've been like if I would've had that. I wonder if I would have had someone like that in my life, where would I be today. As I tell you my testimony one thing that always comes to mind is there was so much pain and heartache that comes with it.

I had prayed for years and it wasn't until a couple years ago that I finally was allowed to forgive myself. I knew that God had forgiven me but it was so hard for me to forgive myself. There's so much pain and so much heartache in my story but one thing I really want to focus on is the word—hope. Hope is something that we can cling to and that's exactly what the Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center offers so many girls and families. They are that little mentor right in your back pocket that you can say, when everybody else is gone and I don't know what to do, they were there for me because they stand on the foundation of Jesus Christ. That is the number one thing. You can have good friends, you can have sweet grandmas, and you can have great moms but if you are not backed up by someone who stands on biblical principles and stands for life, it will all falter. At RPCC they stand on biblical principles. They are giving you facts based off of God's word. God's word says to love, to feed when you are hungry, to clothe when you are naked, and to be there for them. To be a friend. And to love. I think about the two greatest commandments and that it is to love your neighbor as yourself and love your God with all of your heart, all your soul, and all of your mind. *The one thing that RPCC truly does is love God. You can see that in the way they serve.* They love their neighbor and every single person that comes in the office. I wish as a 17-year-old girl I would've found them and I would've come in there and I would've asked for advice. I would have been led in a biblical pathway. Imagine the women that don't get that chance because they don't know about it. Our job is to share what Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center does and to share that this is something worth supporting. Lives can be changed because of Him. I am one of them that was changed because of Him. I can't go back to my past and take away what I did but I can help every single girl that I can. I can empathize with them because I've been there. I can touch them and I can pray for them. My testimony is what has built me and God has shown me so much mercy. At RPCC, we have the opportunity to show grace, mercy, and love to the girls that walk in the doors. We have to stay open and available to be able to do so, so know that everything that you do for the center, every prayer, every dollar, everything that you do means the world to us and I am so eternally grateful for you. I want to change lives. It doesn't matter if it's a dollar or thousand dollars it makes the biggest difference when you support something that can go beyond you. I wish I had had something like that. But God still used my story, my sinful past to come through to show me how good He is.

Brittany Gibson
Board of Directors



FOR RENT

**Great Office Space
Kings Highway in Eden**

Quiet upstairs unit with large reception area, three large offices, and restroom. Ample parking. Partially furnished if desired.

Prefer nonprofit organization but will consider otherwise.

Six or 12 month lease option.

Price negotiable.

Call 336.623.5540 to inquire or set up appointment to view.

**January—June 2020
Center Stats**



Total Client Visits: 273
Pregnancy Tests: 12
Positive—10
Negative—2

Client Ages:

- 15-19: 11
- 20-24: 30
- 25-29: 26
- 30-34: 14
- 35 and older: 10
- Unknown: 3



Financial Support

(not including BTBJ):

- Churches: 14
- Businesses: 3
- Individuals: 6

BTBJ Financial Support

- Churches: 6
- Businesses: 26
- Individuals: 61



Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center

Visit us on the web:
rpccares.com



To be placed on our electronic mailing list, please contact us at:

rockinghampcc@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

2nd Annual Walk for Life

We hope to see you on
Saturday, October 3, 2020

For more information about getting involved, visit:

rpccares.com/events

Email: rpcwalk@gmail.com



Wreath Sales

Last year the center sold fresh Frasier Fir wreaths. This offered a great opportunity to begin decorating for the holidays AND support the center. They were beautiful! We heard that some people were disappointed because they did not get the opportunity to purchase one. So—advance notice: we will be pre-ordering wreaths again this year! Orders will be taken October thru mid-November with delivery to RPCC on Saturday, November 28.



More information will be available soon. If you want to assure that you are notified, then please call our office at 336.623.5540 and have your email address added to our mailing list.



Volunteers Are Priceless to Us

Please join us in welcoming Melissa Carter, LPN, to our staff of volunteers.



Melissa is a beautiful example of a “Child of God, Wife, Mother, and Grandmother.” She brings a wealth of knowledge having served at a pregnancy care center in Richmond, VA. She serves as a volunteer receptionist on Wednesdays.

Melissa and her husband, Robert (Bobby), are active members of Reidsville Christian Church. They have two sons, Justin (Jenna) and Jeremy. Bobby and Melissa also have a beautiful granddaughter, Keighley, who is three years old brings much joy to their lives. They moved to Reidsville two years ago to be close to their granddaughter. Melissa and her husband are retired and enjoy volunteering, antiques, quilting, and restoring furniture.



WELCOME BACK:

We are pleased to announce that **Nia Grasty**, after a brief hiatus, has returned to our board of directors. Nia brings energy and insight into the everyday life needs of our clients. We are happy to have her back and look forward to what she brings to the table.

The littlest feet make the biggest footprints in our hearts.

Unknown