

Church Briefs

Heartbeat's *Church Briefs* program launched in December as a way to help churches share news about Heartbeat happenings with their congregations through a monthly slide/bulletin insert. If your church would like to sign up for these briefs, please contact Lisa DeNiro at lisad@heartbeatcc.com to enroll.



Get online with Heartbeat! We're in the process of redesigning our website and will be ready for a relaunch shortly — check in to see what's new! And be sure to follow Ava Women's Center on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date. Like or share the posts to get the center more exposure!

Walk-In Appointments Available at Ava

We're so happy that Ava Women's Center is now accepting walk-in appointments for women on Tuesday mornings from 9—11. Now, women can get seen and have their pregnancy questions answered on the spur of the moment. The center hopes to expand walk-in hours later this year.

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (ESV)

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Winter 2020

Discover Hope: The Heartbeat 2020 Vision Banquet

Heartbeat of Columbiana County is excited to announce the dates for our 2020 Vision Banquet. Yes, we said, "dates" plural, as in "more than one"! This year, we will be holding the banquet on two consecutive evenings, to allow more people to come and learn about this God-centered ministry. Attendees will have their choice of Thursday, April 2, or Friday, April 3.

Also new this year is the venue. We thank The Heights UB Church for the many years they've opened their doors to us in the past, but our growing attendance has made it necessary to explore a larger space. Therefore, this year, the Vision Banquet will be held at The Links Banquet Center at Firestone Farms, just off Route 7 in Columbiana.

We are looking for people who are passionate about protecting the lives of the unborn and about helping families find hope and healing to attend the banquet and to serve as Vision Hosts. Vision Hosts not only serve as the host for a table at the banquet, but they also invite friends, family members, and coworkers to come and hear how Heartbeat is spreading the love, grace, and hope that Jesus offers to women facing unplanned pregnancies and to families in need.

To register for the banquet or to be a Vision Host, visit www.heartbeatcc.com, email Stephanie Tenant at stephanie@heartbeatcc.com, or call her at 570-351-3458. Even if you've hosted or attended in the past, it's essential that you register to do so this year. All tickets are complimentary to attendees **and** hosts, thanks to our underwriters.

We look forward to seeing old friends and welcoming new ones this April!



The Links at Firestone Farms Banquet Center.



LIFE NEWS



March for Life

The 47th annual March for Life took place on January 24th, and our own Linda Dankert and Tere Rufener were on hand to participate with the tens of thousands who turned out in support of life. This particular march made history when President Trump put in an appearance and addressed the crowd, the first president ever to attend! In his remarks, the president acknowledged that every child is precious and a “sacred gift from God.” Furthermore, he reiterated his commitment to “veto any legislation that weakens pro-life policies or that encourages the destruction of human life.” Let us pray that our president follows through on his promises and continues to stand for life.

For those of you who like to plan ahead (*way ahead*), the next March for Life is slated for January 29, 2021.

Pro-Life Boost in Texas

In January, the Trump Administration reversed a decision implemented by the Obama Administration in 2013, which withheld federal funding for Texas’ Women’s Health Program, because the state had prohibited the abortion industry from receiving funds from the program. The program, now called Healthy Texas Women, provides a variety of medical services to low-income women, including family planning, cancer screenings, well-woman exams and more, but without funding or promoting elective abortions. Now, the program will receive \$350 million of federal funds over the next five years to support women’s health in the Lone Star State.

Virginia Passes Progressive Abortion Legislation

In January, the Virginia state senate passed a bill reducing safety measures regarding abortion in the state and making it easier for women to get them. The approved legislation will

Second Chances

Despite the media claims to the contrary, many women who have an abortion have regrets – some immediately after taking the first dose of abortion pill medication. Rather than having to complete a procedure they don’t want, there is now the opportunity to save the pregnancy and the baby and reverse the initial abortion pill. (The “abortion pill” is not one dose, but actually two medications administered up to two days apart.)

Research has shown that a high dose of oral progesterone, taken within 72 hours of the first abortion pill (mifepristone) and before the second, is 68% effective in stopping the effects of abortion drugs and saving a pregnancy without harm to the baby. The counselors at Ava Women’s Center can give women who are having second thoughts about their abortion the information on the reversal treatment and refer them to a physician who can administer it.

As part of the Option Line referral line and Abortion Pill Reversal network through Heartbeat International, Heartbeat of Columbiana County is happy to be a part of this life-saving treatment by educating women about this option and referring women to the medical treatment that can save their babies!



MINISTRY UPDATES

Life Bag Donations Needed

When a woman chooses life for her child at an appointment in our women’s center, it is a real blessing to be able to hand her a LIFE Bag full of items she’ll need for her newborn. Not only does this thoughtful gift emphasize to her that there is someone in her corner who cares about her, but it is also exciting for her to receive these useful items, reinforcing her decision to choose life! We typically see about five women per week in our center, so the need is ongoing. Thank you for keeping the donations coming!

Items currently needed: (*New and Gender-neutral, please*)

- Diapers: Newborn and size 1
- Baby wipes
- Receiving blankets
- Outfits: Newborn or size 0 - 3 month
- Baby books
- Baby toys
- Baby grooming items (nail clippers, brush, comb, nose bulb sucker, etc.)
- Feeding utensils (spoon/fork, sippy



Staff Spotlight

Meet Tere Rufener, Center Director at Heartbeat of Columbiana County! Tere is a native of East Liverpool, with a BA in psychology and a BBA in Human Resource Management from Ohio University. She and her husband had their own business for years, during which time Tere also worked at the Help Hotline Crisis Center. After that, she worked as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the Columbiana County Juvenile Court and assisted them with training.



God brought Tere to Heartbeat in 2017, when she was looking into the programs that the organization offered. While meeting with Linda Dankert, Heartbeat’s executive director, Tere shared with Linda about the bible study program that she had been involved with previously, designed to help women find healing after a prior abortion trauma. Linda wanted to bring the program to Heartbeat for the women of the area and asked Tere to take the lead on it; thus, Freedom in Surrender was born!

Today, Tere wears several hats at Heartbeat. In addition to being the Freedom in Surrender facilitator for women who have had abortions, Tere assists in scheduling patient appointments at Ava and follows up with patients. At Cornerstone, she does referral intakes and assigns coaches to clients. Tere has recently taken on grant research for Heartbeat development as well.

When asked how she’d like to see Heartbeat grow, she says she would love to see daily appointments at Ava, along with more parent coaches willing to walk with moms, giving them truth and resources. Additionally, she’d like to see an increase in leadership for Freedom in Surrender to help heal the heartbreak of abortion in our community. She has a true heart for the women who suffer the pain of a past

