

## Around the Country, Pregnancy Centers Matter!

In 2019, pro-life pregnancy centers in the U.S. served almost **two million people**, according to data released by the Charlotte Lozier Institute. Here are some of the statistics on the services provided nationwide in 2019:

- Almost 732,000 pregnancy tests
- More than 486,000 free ultrasounds
- More than 160,000 STI/STD tests
- More than 291,000 clients in parenting and prenatal education programs
- More than 21,000 clients in post-abortion support
- More than 881,000 clients in sexual risk avoidance education classes
- Almost 1.3 million packs of diapers distributed
- Over 2 million baby outfits given out



All this provided by an estimated 68,830 pregnancy center personnel, made up of nearly 3,800 licensed medical personnel and about 53,855 volunteers!

“It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.” - *Lamentations 3:22-24*

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HEARTBEAT  
OF COLUMBIANA COUNTY

# The HEARTBEAT LIFELINE

www.HeartbeatCC.com

Winter 2021

## New Leadership at Heartbeat

It is with sadness that we report the resignation of our executive director, Linda Dankert. Linda has been a tremendous blessing to this ministry in so many ways for the past five years. Her vision for Heartbeat and her passion for life have been contagious within the ranks. We wish Linda all the best as she relocates to Florida to begin a new chapter in ministry alongside her husband, John.

Board member Sue Giambroni shared these thoughts on behalf of the board of directors:

*“Linda Dankert has invested so much of her life into her role at Heartbeat, having strong faith and trusting God every step of the way to provide for this ministry! We cannot say enough about the excellent leadership and professionalism she’s exhibited. We pray God’s blessing over Linda and John’s new ministry in Florida...we will miss them both!”*

Please join us in welcoming our new executive director, Kate Flowers, to her new vocation. We look forward to continuing to grow the ministry under Kate’s guidance.

## Message from Our Outgoing Executive Director

Dear Heartbeat Supporters,

Five years ago, Heartbeat began a journey into a new era of pro-life ministry. After years of building the necessary resources, the board of directors hired me to open a free ultrasound clinic in East Liverpool. Within a year, we had renovated a small building in town, engaged a medical team, and developed our strategy ... Ava Women’s Center was born! We opened our doors to offer answers, resources, and hope to women in unexpected pregnancies, and since then have celebrated that more than 150 babies are safe because their courageous mothers have chosen life!

As we met with women in our local communities, we discovered a desperate need for parenting coaching and healing for post-abortive parents. In response, we opened the Cornerstone Parenting Center and began the Freedom in Surrender program. Families are being changed and people are finding healing through these grace-filled, Christ-centered ministries. The Heartbeat team now includes 20+ staff members who are spiritually strong, professionally educated, trained, and experienced.

For me, the past five years have been exciting and stretching, encouraging and faith-building as I’ve seen God work in amazing ways in His people and through His people to do mighty things.

In 2021, Heartbeat begins a new era as the next executive director, Kate Flowers, takes the helm. Kate and her family have been part of the Heartbeat team for decades. She is passionate for our mission and will lead Heartbeat with wisdom and grace. Please welcome her and pray for her as she directs the powerful work that is done here to protect the precious gift of life.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve at Heartbeat. Thank you for your fervent prayers and constant encouragement for me and my family. As my husband and I transition to a ministry position with a pro-life organization in Florida, we will continue to pray for you and your families. May God bless you and keep you.

Together for Life,  
Linda Dankert, Outgoing Executive Director



## MINISTRY UPDATES

### Heartbeat Awarded Governor's Grant

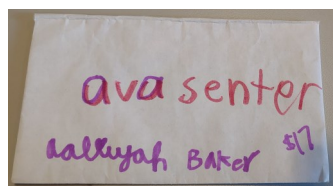
In November, Heartbeat was awarded \$20,300 from the Ohio Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives to fund its new **Smart Mommy, Safe Baby** program. There were more than 240 applicants for grant money, and only 53 organizations awarded funding, so we are honored to have been chosen for this important work! The funds will be used to provide parenting education and coaching for at least 25 new clients through Cornerstone's curriculum in 2021. When the clients complete a unit of the course, they will be rewarded with a safe sleeping solution (like a Pack-N-Play) or a safe transportation solution (car seat/carrier/stroller unit), also funded by the grant.



### Junior Entrepreneurs for Heartbeat



Back row: Cindy Russo (board member), Rachell Baker, and Kiana Baker (in utero!). Front row: Amoriah, Kyah, Aaliyah, and Storm Baker.



The Baker kids' donation to Ava.

Amoriah and Aaliyah Baker decided they wanted to help raise funds for Ava, so they turned to their natural talent: art! They recruited their brother and sister, Storm and Kyah, to help, and the foursome drew a series of pictures, sold them to friends and family, and donated all the proceeds — \$17! — to the women's center. We are moved by the generosity and initiative of these young hearts! Thank you, Bakers, for your efforts and dedication to Heartbeat!

### We Need Volunteers!

Our Smart Mommy, Safe Baby mentoring program is in need of volunteer coaches to meet with moms one on one or in small groups to work through the parenting program curriculum. To volunteer, contact Tere Rufener at 330-386-3999.



### Freedom in Surrender Counseling Available Online

Tere Rufener is holding remote Zoom sessions of the Freedom in Surrender program for women looking for emotional healing from a past abortion. Anyone interested should contact her for information at 330-386-3999 or [teresa@heartbeatcc.com](mailto:teresa@heartbeatcc.com).

### Prayer for the new year

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the wonder of our being and thank you for the new year stretching out ahead of us and the opportunity to do more to accomplish your good works.

Thank you for your faithfulness in providing for our ministry. We pray that you will guide us in our efforts and bless those undertaking work for LIFE and for your Kingdom. We pray for the changing of hearts, that all will see that unborn lives are your creation and deserve protection, and that we see a turning away from abortion this year. Please lead the vulnerable young women in our area to Heartbeat so we can share your truth and hope with each of them and provide the support they need.

Give each of us the strength and courage to face what this new year holds. We ask that you bless our supporters with health and success in Jesus' precious name, Amen.

## LIFE NEWS



### Bayer Supports Planned Parenthood

Bayer, the pharmaceutical giant, apparently isn't all about health! As part of its Direct Relief Grants program, in 2020, the company awarded \$80,000 to three Planned Parenthood clinics in Indiana, Kentucky, and Arkansas. The company claims that this recipient provides "high quality" services, despite the fact that it is the largest abortion provider in the U.S.

### Massachusetts Passes Extreme Abortion Law

In December, Massachusetts passed H.5179, known as "the ROE Act," which permits abortions beyond 24 weeks if deemed "necessary" by a physician for the patient's physical or mental health. It also allows teenage girls aged 16 and older to get an abortion without parental consent. In addition, the law only requires that life-saving equipment be present at abortions, not that it be used in the case of a baby surviving an abortion. Massachusetts' governor had originally vetoed the bill for some proposed amendments, but it was overridden by the state legislature.

### United States Officially Declares Pro-Life Status with the UN

In a notice to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft wrote, "The United States strongly supports the dignity of all human beings and protecting life from the moment of conception throughout the lifespan." This declaration was joined by 34 other nations.

"The United States, along with our like-minded partners, believes strongly that there is no international right to abortion and that the United Nations must respect national laws and policies on the matter," Craft said.

While not legally binding, this official declaration may influence how UN agencies implement UN policies on issues such as maternal health and women's policies.

## Save the Date!

2021 Vision Banquets: April 22 and 23

Location: Lake Mount Church of Christ in New Waterford  
Contact Lisa Hall (330-386-3999) to become a 2021 Vision Host.

### Support Businesses that Support Life!

When you're making business and buying decisions, please consider supporting businesses that stand for LIFE! Heartbeat of Columbiana County is affiliated with both Amazon Smile and Charity Mobile to receive donations from these organizations when you designate Heartbeat as the beneficiary of your purchases. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and [charitymobile.com](https://charitymobile.com) for information.

Real Estate for Life has a network of licensed Realtors who agree to donate a portion of their commissions to a variety of pro-life organizations the organization supports when a client lists or buys a house through them. ([realestateforlife.org](https://realestateforlife.org))

