



# Ministry Update

Winter 2019  
The HOPE Center  
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## Life-Changing Experience



"Last year close to Thanksgiving I made an appointment to get a pregnancy test on the ICU Mobile. My expectations were low since it was a free service. When I knocked on the door of the mobile clinic, I was greeted by Kandi who welcomed me in. She introduced herself, informed me of their services, asked me questions in a loving and caring way like a great family member would ask as I filled out the paperwork. I immediately felt energy shifting from emotional unrest to calm and positive. Freddie ran my test and did my ultrasound. When they asked me what I was going to do next, I thought about not proceeding with the pregnancy as a possibility. They didn't judge me, or use scare tactics to persuade me to do the right thing. I was touched. Instead Kandi told me her own testimony and then she asked if it was okay for her to pray to which I agreed. Her prayer changed everything. I felt peace. She asked God to show me what to do with the good news. I was 13 weeks pregnant at the time of the test, but when I was getting on with my journey I kept hearing a voice that was suggesting that I still had time to get an abortion and fear was coming back. But every time I heard it - I also heard Kandi praying for me in my head so much that the other negative voice would drown. Her angelic voice still rings in my ears, the voice of reason that calmed my fear, that overthrew the abortion voice, and gave me confidence that everything will be fine. I've never met people who are so devoted to their work so much that they change lives significantly. The way they serve is not just a job, it's a ministry. Although the service was free, the experience was life changing for me. I have my beautiful healthy baby boy on my lap as I write this gratitude testimony; to think I'd have made a decision out of fear and chosen not to keep my little sunshine would have been a terrible loss." **Noma & baby**

## Sharing Their Story



Lydia and William accompanied The HOPE Center Executive Director Cindy O'Leary at St. Michael the Archangels Baby Bottle Boomerang kickoff last month. During her pregnancy, they became HOPE Center clients and were grateful for the opportunity to share with the parish about their experience. William shared, "Whatever you're going through, you don't have to go through it alone. I had no idea how much people were willing to help when you're really trying to do the right thing. Don't panic. We're forever grateful to be the recipients of everything that The HOPE Center has to offer, both material things as well the wealth of knowledge and education. That's what really gave us the confidence at the end of the day. Even though the circumstances were not what I would consider ideal, I continued to pray and have faith like I always do. In the process I really fell in love with Lydia and our beautiful daughter, even before I got to meet her. I was there throughout the entire pregnancy and actually got to deliver my own daughter."



It will be here before we know it!  
Mark your calendars now and get ready to be a Sponsored Walker with us in April!



# Let's Give Them Something To Talk About.....

\*actual comments from actual clients

It's a fabulous place to start for people who aren't sure what to do.

They were beyond supportive. Everything was fantastic!

I loved walking away with a plan; a peace of mind.

This clinic is great. Very friendly staff & great quality ultrasound.

Feels like home & you learn so much! They were honest & understanding!

You get assistance with everything you need.



Comforting, resourceful & convenient

## Volunteers Make the Difference

With nearly **15,000 volunteer hours logged in 2018**, we can't say thank you enough. Volunteers are the reason we're able to do what we do. You all play a vital role, whether seen or unseen, in the **224 documented life decisions made in 2018**. Who do you know who would like to join you on your volunteer day? Many hands make light work, right? You are our best mouthpiece to the community and we are excited to see who joins our volunteer team this year. For all HOPE Center volunteer opportunities call Maria Douglas at 770.924.7990. For Seeds Thrift Store group opportunities call Dani Luyo at 770.517.4450.



## Being the Hands & Feet of Jesus



Sarah came to The HOPE Center with her mother and her 2 year old son. She had experienced a season of homelessness after being abandoned by her baby's father. She was living in a motel with very little money, food, or other resources. Community Care Coordinator Kandi Patterson worked with Sarah to secure housing through the Canton Housing Authority, partnered with His Hands Church and Canton First Baptist Church to provide funds needed for food and funds for a hotel (until housing was available), repairs to her car, clothing, and furniture for her home. Kandi has established a beautiful relationship with the family and has introduced them to various churches to assist them with finding a new church home. Sarah has enrolled in school at Arizona State University Online to complete her degree in Healthcare Education. The family has renewed HOPE for the future, and Sarah has expressed several times how The HOPE Center has impacted their

lives. Sarah even invited Kandi to be in the delivery room when she delivered her baby boy, Sloane, back in December. The role of Community Care Coordinator is new, but we feel it's a crucial part of a woman being able to make a life decision. Assisting our clients in finding readily available resources in our community and walking along with them as we're able is making a world of difference.