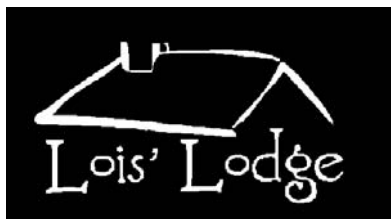


# Crib Notes



**January 2009**

**Executive Director**

Debbie Durrell

**Board of Directors**

Diane Atkins

Rick Cammer

Falinda Farley

Kathi Ingrish

Deana Kocylowsky

John Marx

Zeritha McFadden

Our newsletter is an important link to friends of Lois' Lodge. We welcome your continued interest and support. We also ask your help in being good stewards of our resources.

Please help us to conserve postage. If you would like to receive future copies of our newsletter by email, please send an email to: [dg\\_loislodge@bellsouth.net](mailto:dg_loislodge@bellsouth.net) with "e-newsletter" in the subject line.

If you would prefer to discontinue receiving our communications, please email with "remove" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name and address.



## ***Stephanie Shares Her Story***

My name is Stephanie and I'm 19 years old. I've been staying at Lois' Lodge since June 24, 2008. I have chosen to parent my baby girl and I am so excited!

My youth director referred me to the Pregnancy Resource Center in Monroe, NC. After confirming my pregnancy and talking with a counselor at the PRC about my situation, they helped me to find a place to stay by referring me to Lois' Lodge. On that same day, I completed the application online. Over the course of a few weeks, Lois' Lodge contacted me, interviewed me and offered me a place to stay. I became an official resident of Lois' Lodge!

At Lois' Lodge, I have learned how to become a more responsible young woman as I prepare to parent my daughter. I've learned to become more organized, the importance of household responsibilities, budgeting my money and how to have fun! I feel that I have matured as a result of being at Lois' Lodge, learning how to deal with conflicts and recognizing that things may not always go the way I plan and how to make adjustments. Learning to get along with a house full of pregnant women has had its challenges, but I have made lasting friendships with other residents, volunteers and staff.

More importantly, my relationship with Jesus Christ has continued to grow. I was saved prior to coming to Lois' Lodge and with the support from staff, regular church attendance, bible studies, and volunteers, I've learned how to pray and trust Him more!

I am thankful for the time I've had at Lois' Lodge. I plan to use the resources that I've learned, and the skills I have gained to be the best mother I can be to my daughter and the best person I can be! I hope to also help other women who find themselves experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

***Stephanie gave birth to a healthy baby girl on December 23rd. Mom and baby are doing well and will be living with her mother while she continues to move toward a successful and independent future.***



## The Directors Corner Debbie Durrell, Executive Director

Twenty-three years ago, the Christian Action Council Education and Ministries Fund, known today as Care Net, asked President Ronald Reagan to create a special day to focus on the intrinsic value of human life and the fundamental right to life, as recognized by the American Founding Fathers. In 1983, President Reagan issued a proclamation establishing a National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

The National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is held on the Sunday in January that falls closest to the day on which the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1973. This year Sanctity of Human Life Sunday will take place on January 18.

According to Charmaine Yoest, president of Americans United for Life, "In 2008, it is clear that, despite the challenges still remaining, the pro-life message is steadily gaining ground. Momentum in the states has enabled us to make significant gains in protecting women and unborn children. Young people today self-report as pro life at a higher rate than their parents' generation."

Those of us that are pro-life should rally together to oppose efforts to roll back pro-life laws. We have made significant gains in the courts and in the law in these last eight years. For the next four, we must work together to prevent the erosion of that progress. The key to countering political activities seeking to further liberalize the opportunity to obtain abortions is to change the hearts and minds of Americans on abortion and related life issues. This needs to be done through effective pro-life education. The truth needs to be told and promoted.

Sharon L. Camp, president and CEO of the Guttmacher Institute, a research arm of Planned Parenthood, states that, "Behind almost every abortion in the US is an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy. Abortion is not an isolated event in a woman's life. It is a last resort for a woman who is faced with a crisis pregnancy she did not want or plan for." Lois' Lodge offers woman experiencing an unplanned pregnancy the resources needed to sustain their pregnancy and to develop a plan for their own future and the future of their child. Unplanned and unwanted pregnancies do not need to result in an abortion in order to terminate the child's life. There are other options. Abortion must never be a woman's only and last resort. Let's work together to make it more difficult, not easier, to develop an abortion plan because the implications of this choice for individuals and our country are far reaching.

*For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them. (Psalms 139:13-16)*



## Take a Stand for Life

Join the Choose Life license plate effort

The Choose Life license plate is a national effort and has raised over \$9.5 million for the cause of life and adoption. The specialty plate has been approved in 22 states. It has raised over \$9.5 million for the cause of life and adoption in the states that have it on the road. Choose Life, Inc. (see: [www.choose-life.org](http://www.choose-life.org)) is working with 18 other states and they expect to have the Choose Life license plate bill before the legislatures in 9 of them, including North Carolina in the 2009 session.

If you want to help promote the Choose Life plate in North Carolina, email Russ Amerling [russ@choose-life.org](mailto:russ@choose-life.org) or call toll free 877 454-1203.



## Redeemed and Standing for Life

The poster hanging on the wall in the Christian school proclaimed: "People are God's Treasure. God created people in His image and for His glory." It was difficult for me to grasp these sanctity of life basics because this biblical worldview was neither taught or modeled in my parents' home. The constant turmoil in their relationship produced hopelessness and I grew up without a sense of worth or value. I felt unwanted. Finally, when I was a teenager, I learned that my mother got pregnant with me during her junior year of high school. She dropped out, got married, and lived a life of regrets.

The cycle of despair was traced back to my grandmother. She worked as a domestic-nanny for a wealthy family for many years. Her schedule left little time for her own children. My grandmother had carefully guarded a "secret" since 1938. In 1988, at the urging of relatives, she finally told my mother the truth. My mother was the product of rape. This painful revelation became part of the healing process for the years my mother had felt alienated and abandoned. Her presence had been my grandmother's constant reminder of her attacker.

In 1975, I found myself pregnant during my sophomore year of college. Roe vs. Wade had just paved the way for women to legally end their pregnancies. Since I was the first in my family to go to college I refused to lose my opportunity. My mother's words echoed in my mind... "Don't bring any babies here." When I made my decision, the Dean of Women at my university made the arrangements for me to travel to a nearby city to have the abortion. Although aborted babies had been on display in my Human Sexuality class the day before I left to have the "procedure," my heart remained hardened by selfishness and self-preservation.

Aborting my child was a "wake-up" call. This event was the catalyst for my return to Christ. "Godly sorrow brings repentance." Like the returning prodigal, the Father was waiting for me with a ring and a robe. I experienced the forgiveness and love that only Christ can give.

During the season of healing I made a pledge to remain sexually pure. My mind was also being renewed as I learned Scripture and my thinking shifted to God's view of life. Life is sacred because He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe... We are His workmanship... fearfully and wonderfully made... He knit us together in our mother's wombs... He knows all of our days and has good plans to prosper and not harm us... He has guaranteed a future and a hope. Life is precious to God.

Participating in the Christian community has allowed me to witness the stand for the sanctity of life in the lives of other believers; The mother of nine accepting the 10<sup>th</sup> child with down syndrome with joy, a pastor's wife caring for her husband's paralyzed mother for fourteen years, parents struggling to meet the needs of their children with learning disabilities, or the middle aged couple taking care of an aging parent with dementia. My husband and I have experienced the joy of raising seven amazing children and the sorrow of losing two; one by miscarriage and our last child dying shortly after birth. The great joys and sorrows of this life have underscored "People are God's Treasure. God created people in His image and for His glory."

Falinda Farley serves on the Board of Directors for Lois' Lodge. She and her husband Mark have been married for 27 years and have seven children ranging from 25 to 14.

**Come & See!**



## Open House

**Sunday, January 25th  
2:00 - 4:00 pm**

Lois' Lodge Maternity Home and Mom Shoppe Program is a place where women and babies find hope and a future.

Come see for yourself how God is working in this special place and how You can help.

Join us for a tour, light refreshments and information about how you can be a partner in the work of ministering to women, babies and families.

1316 Hemlock Street Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 376-8550 [www.loislodge.org](http://www.loislodge.org)  
Parking is available, on Hemlock St., as well as along Kenilworth Ave. & Scott Ave.

### **Join us for a Lunch & Learn**

*Spend your lunch hour with us and learn more about Lois' Lodge the 3rd Friday of each month at noon. Reservations Required, call 704-376-8550*

**Thank You ...**

**Just Fresh** at 1231 East Blvd.

**Panera Bread** at 601 Providence rd.

For providing catering for our Lunch & Learns

**Mark Your Calendar!  
Spring Walk-A-Thon  
Saturday, March 28**

**Watch for details soon!**

### **You Can Help...**

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Cleaning Volunteers  
Mentors

#### **Ministry Needs**

##### **For use in our Maternity Home**

Glad Ware Food Storage  
Reusable Water Bottles

##### **For use in our Mom Shoppe**

Preemie Baby Clothing (new or like new)

##### **For use in our Administrative Office**

Copy Paper  
Postage Stamps

**To help contact us at 704-376-8550**

*"Courage is contagious. When a brave person takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened."*

**Billy Graham**

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank You for taking a stand for life -*

*Each act of service, prayer & financial gift saves a life and brings hope to a woman in crisis.*

**Donate Online**

<http://www.loislodge.org/donate.html>