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Becoming the **FIRST** choice for women with unplanned or untimely pregnancies.

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### Upcoming Dates:

May 14: Happy Mother's Day!

June 3:  
"Do Something Gala" benefiting AWPC. Dinner & Auction at Lyon Oaks. Call (248) 939-5902 for details.

June 10  
Golf4Life  
8:34am Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, Plymouth

July 23:  
Classic Car Show benefiting AWPC  
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Farmington Hills

## Dona's Story

by Kayla Benfield, PR/Communications Coordinator

Every year we set aside a day to honor the wonderful women in our lives who carry, birth or adopt, and raise our children. At AWPC we celebrate the beauty of motherhood, even as we live in a society that frequently demeans the role of mothers. We celebrate the strength, beauty, and dignity that comes with such an awesome role. Granted, in day-to-day life, the position of a mother is often far from glamorous. The late nights and early mornings, the messy highchairs, the constant rotation of drop-offs and pick-ups, the repetitive homework explanations, the arguments and compromises, and never-ending work are all part of a mother's experience. But there is no question that what these women do is nothing short of amazing; many a mom could be described as superwoman. **To all women who nurture children and support life -**

### Happy Mother's Day!

In celebration of this Mother's Day, we are highlighting AWPC's very own supermom - Dona Tidwell.

When I spoke with Dona for this article, she was on her way to pick up a child from youth group and had just finished a final assignment for her degree. She has three children - a toddler, a preschooler, and a teenager - whom she now homeschools. Over the course of six years and two babies, she has worked towards her bachelor's degree in Psychology with a focus in Christian Counseling and Life Coaching. Dona will graduate this May. If that isn't enough, she also works outside of the home. Dona received her loan officer's license in November and is working in real estate. Her schedule is full, but she still takes time to volunteer as a client advocate at AWPC. Her story and accomplishments are an incredible testament to the woman that she is, but when you speak with her there is deep humility in her words and she gives all the glory to God.

Dona originally came to Another Way Pregnancy Center not as a volunteer, but as a client. She had one child who was almost a teenager when she found out she was pregnant with their daughter. Her husband was out of work and she sought out AWPC for a free pregnancy test to confirm the pregnancy. After learning more about the services offered, Dona decided to stay for the Earn While You Learn (EWYL) program. Her situation continued to become more challenging as she lost her business, and then their home. They had to move in December of that year - 2012.

Donna continued through the EWYL program and she had a beautiful baby girl in the spring of 2013. But her family was still struggling financially; her husband was still looking for work when their daughter was born. Just two weeks after her birth he found a job! To Dona, this was just one of many instances where God has shown His faithfulness in her life.

It was still a struggle to make ends meet, and the couple was having challenges. Shortly after her daughter was born, she found out she was pregnant with their youngest son.

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## Dona's Story cont'd

She didn't want to move her eldest son out of his school again, but she needed to find a place to live that was more affordable. She remembers hearing about a subsidized housing complex near her son's school, with apartment and townhouse options. But the waiting list was long and she needed something immediately. She recalls thinking, "If we get in here it will be because of God; if we get a townhouse then God's just showing off!" Shortly before her third child was born (Oct. 2014), an apartment in the complex opened up. Before they were able to move in, a townhouse *randomly* became available, *rent-free* until Dona was able to find work!

Dona has story after story like this, of how God provided for her family at just the moment it was needed most. She speaks of the grace that permeates her life and of learning contentment in her situation *each time* before God provided a way out.

The EWYL program and mentoring had been a blessing to her during her pregnancies, and Dona did not forget AWPC. As she neared the end of her bachelors program, she needed an internship to complete her degree requirements. Dona trained for the client advocate volunteer position and became a volunteer at the center, where she continues even though her internship is complete. This is where her heart for women who are struggling shines. She is firm in her belief that God brought her to our center: "This is right where God wanted me to be. He wants me to use my struggle and everything I've learned to speak truth to these women. What I went through was hard, but God continues to bless me over and over and over again. I try to tell the women I meet with, 'You may not see how God is going to provide, but we don't always see what God sees.'"

On a practical level, what Dona brings to the client advocate position is unique. She has firsthand knowledge of what some of our clients go through. She has in-depth knowledge of the resources that are available, and a realistic view of how to reach goals when circumstances make them seem unreachable. She describes a situation with a client she met recently whose goal is to open her own daycare center. "I ask her questions. 'Do you need a license? If so, where do you get that license? Do you need training? Let's find out where you can register for classes.' My aim is to help them navigate the steps to reach their goals."

She talks with them about government aid and personal financial planning, using the knowledge of financial principals from her Dave Ramsey classes to talk with her clients about financial goals. She is a wealth of knowledge and encouragement to women who are in tough situations. Even with her practical knowledge, Dona continues to proclaim God as the Ultimate Provider for our needs and the source of hope that can be found in the hardest of circumstances.

As theologian Charles Spurgeon once so eloquently stated, "God is too good to be unkind and too wise to be mistaken. When we cannot trace His hand, we must trace His heart."

### 2017 Baby Bottle Drives



A huge THANK YOU to those who have held or scheduled a Baby Bottle Drive so far this year:

Milford Presbyterian Church - Milford - January  
 Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church—Orchard Lake - January  
 St. Joseph Catholic Church - South Lyon - January  
 Union Lake Baptist Church - Commerce Township - January  
 St. Fabian Catholic Church - Farmington Hills - March  
**St. William Catholic Church - Walled Lake - May**  
**Faith Covenant - Farmington Hills - May**  
**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Farmington Hills - May**

So far, **\$18,432.39** has been raised in currency, checks and change. Every dollar and cent that is given through this campaign makes an impact for LIFE! If you would like to schedule a Baby Bottle Drive at your church, or if you would like more information, please contact Karen at (248) 939-5900.

## We are NOT in the fundraising business...

by Karen Jewell, Executive Director

Having just completed Laugh4Hope Comedy Night (promotions began in February) and gearing up for our Golf4Life event June 10th, it can sure FEEL LIKE we're in the fund raising business. I assure you - we are not! In fact, our preference would be to cut back on events to focus even more of our attention on reaching and rescuing those most tempted by abortion in our community, and reaching more schools and youth groups with the SHARE program to prevent unintended pregnancies.

But this ministry takes money. Nearly \$26,000 per month. We need to raise resources: both talent and financial. Events help raise critical resources while providing opportunities to raise awareness and reach new people. So please don't be dismayed. Participate where and how you are able. And pray for us.

Engaging YOU in this ministry of LIFE is important because each of us are near and dear to the heart of our Creator God Who made us in His own image. Each one of us is called to protect and defend the most vulnerable and innocent among us. So JOIN US as you are "nudged" and are able. Invite others to our events. Be assured that we will always work to provide QUALITY events so that you and your guests are honored to be a part of this vital ministry. Please check out our calendar on the cover of this newsletter, and our web page ([awpcFriends.com](http://awpcFriends.com)) to read up on our upcoming events. **THANK YOU** for all you do to help us rescue and protect human life!



## Laugh4Hope

*"Friday's comedy night was great! We were laughing all night long." - Linda Hurd*

With a crowd of nearly 400 in attendance, our Laugh4Hope Comedy Night on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at Ward Church was an evening filled with laughter and fun! After comedian Jason Douglas warmed up the audience with his dry humor, master comedian and story-teller, Mike Williams, entertained us with stories, antics, and the fantastic "Eagle Song." During the show, Mike shared his own incredible LIFE story. We truly could not have asked for a more amusing and humorous way to raise support for a great cause.

We have many to thank for a great evening! Thank you to **Weingartz** for their generous sponsorship of our event. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped us pull it all off, including Bryce Benfield, Tim Bersche, Georgetta Bond, Victor & Amy Boron, Dave & Carrie Bulbuk, Chris & Diane Dimanin, Sandy Gerwin, Bob & Gabe Jagenberg, Wayne Jewell, Nancy Lacey, Silvia Rankin, Christine Schulte, Bob, Michelle, A.J. and Sonny Sharma, Ian Waldo, and Chuck White. And finally, thanks to our concession stand helpers, the American Heritage Girls group, led by Krystin Weeks. All of our volunteers helped to make it a fun night!



## Volunteer Needs

**Client Advocates** to provide mentoring, teach from our Earn While You Learn curriculum, and share Christ with clients as they visit the office. Openings for Monday mornings, afternoons & evenings, Wednesday & Friday mornings.

**Receptionists** to greet clients, answer the phone, make & confirm appointments, and do office work as needed. Monday afternoons & evenings, Wednesday & Friday mornings & Thursday afternoons.

**Men2Men Advocates** to provide peer counseling, mentoring, and share Christ with men as they visit the office. Openings for Monday mornings & afternoons, Monday & Tuesday evenings, Wednesday afternoons, Thursday evenings.

**Housekeepers** to tidy up the 2nd floor office once a week on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

**Mom's Group Presenters** to share & discuss a parenting topic at a monthly group meeting (ex. car seat safety, picky eaters, budgeting). One-time, two-hour commitment.

**Kids' Play Room helpers** to care for children of our clients and volunteers (no diapering or feeding) Need help Tuesday and Thursday evening as well as Thursday mornings. 2-4 hour weekly commitment.

Visit [AWPCfriends.com/volunteer](http://AWPCfriends.com/volunteer) for full listings.

To attend a volunteer orientation, contact Client Services Director Alyssa Burkett at (248) 471-5858 ext. 102 or [clientservices@awpc4life.com](mailto:clientservices@awpc4life.com).

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**AWPC, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)3  
charitable interdenominational Christian  
ministry which offers emotional, practical  
and spiritual assistance to both women  
and men facing unplanned pregnancies.**

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# **GOLF4LIFE**

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017**

**TEE OFF AT 8:34 A.M.**

**FOX HILLS GOLF AND BANQUET CENTER, PLYMOUTH, MI**

Come join us for a day of golf, fellowship and food! Golfers will enjoy 18 holes, a hot dog lunch at the turn and then dinner after golf. We will have items for raffle and auction.

***Sign up a foursome to get \$50 off. Not a golfer? Join us for dinner!***

**To Register: See the insert or go to [AWPCfriends.com/Events](http://AWPCfriends.com/Events)**