



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 5K

## Director's Note

**33 event sponsors, 45 prizes donated, \$6,105 given for medical conversion, and 184 runners/walkers of all ages!**



We experienced a joyful "Runner's High" after our successful 5K event! Thankfully, JOY is not defined by our circumstances - it's been a roller coaster since! The lows: Vandalism to the air conditioner at Des Moines. Water Damage in our Ankeny office. 2 team members losing loved ones on the same day... The highs: Modern Heating & Air, JB Roofing, and B & L electric teaming up to install a new AC unit, now on the roof for added security. Unexpected expenses have been met with surprise blessings like a gift from Grace E Free in Indianola, prepared even before our need! Generous neighbors and business partners donated time or services to help! We know that God is in control, and He's using even these things for our good. Please pray with me as our ministry leadership works through options for how to repair long-standing issues in our Ankeny office. Plans include mold mitigation and basement waterproofing which will involve some extensive changes to interior and exterior. We want to steward well what God has given us -- plans, provision, property!

Did you join us for the 1st annual Lace Up for Life 5K? It was a **FUN** morning for all that included a 5K, FREE food and activities, and sweet fellowship with friends from near and far. We were amazed by the support from local business partners and the outstanding community participation. Praise God with us, and **SAVE THE DATE for April 12, 2025! 2nd Annual Lace Up For Life 5K & Outreach Event.**

*In God we Trust,*



**Shelene Billups**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Gemma**, a young woman struggling to make ends meet, is a regular here at Alpha that we all know and love. Already a mom of 2 when she discovered she was pregnant, she felt like abortion was her only option because life felt overwhelming. After much counsel, and prayer for her and with her, she chose to keep the baby! Sadly, she miscarried a few weeks later. Through her grief, we have been able to point Gemma to the Lord for strength. She is now healing and rebuilding her life, grateful for the unwavering support she receives at Alpha. We rejoice with her that she does not have to carry the burden of having an abortion. Gemma's journey highlights the importance of compassion and support during hard times. These are opportunities to point others to the comfort the Lord has to offer. **"Brooke is my support person. She is the only reason I'm still here today."** What a privilege we have to walk alongside Gemma at Alpha. Please pray with us as we continue to point her to the Lord and seek His wisdom in loving her well.

Did you know? We have a monthly Newsletter! Scan to sign up →



Are you following us on Social Media? Stay connected with Alpha by finding us on Facebook at AlphaDSM & on Instagram at alpha\_womens\_center.

# DONATIONS

We're grateful for all donations, but these are what we need most! Please consider adding an item or two next time you shop, or use our Amazon Wishlist: <https://a.co/gVapyfO>

- DIAPERS - SIZES 4, 5, & 6
- SUMMER CLOTHES - 18M AND 2T BOYS AND GIRLS
- GALLON ZIP-LOCK BAGS
- BABY WIPES

## FULL-SIZE WOMEN'S PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS:

- BODY WASH
- SHAMPOO / CONDITIONER
- DEODORANT
- TOOTHPASTE

Drop-offs accepted at either location during open hours.

Amazon  
Wishlist



**Baby Bottle Donations** are over **\$39,500** as of this update, with more churches still collecting. Have you filled yours yet? It's not too late.

*Your change is changing lives!*



# INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Meet our Summer Intern Grace! We've loved having her be apart of the team!



Grace will be a senior at Cedarville University in Ohio, pursuing a degree in Social Work. Her family lives in Urbandale and belongs to Soteria Church in Des Moines. When planning for the summer, she was hoping for an internship at a non profit pro-life women's pregnancy center, and a friend suggested she apply to Alpha! Grace says she immediately fell in love with Alpha's mission and how we support vulnerable women. She has completed her training to work with clients and is serving weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays in Des Moines. Her favorite thing so far is being able to show Christ's love to women and children who don't know Him.

In Mid-March, **Lindsay** came to us saying she had just found out she was pregnant. I was excited for her but she seemed stressed. She shared how she already has 3 kids under the age of 4, and she's a single mom. How can she care for another one on her own? I asked what she was thinking about doing, and she said "I believe in abortion, and I'm trying to think through all the options." I encouraged her that we are here for her with information and support, reminding her of the items we can help with, and I gave her a love box. I prayed for her and she left. Two weeks later she came in again for the closet. We had all been praying for her since she had told us about the pregnancy. She picked out her items and we chatted casually for a bit. After a few min she said, "do you remember that secret I told you last time? Well, I've decided I'm gonna do it, and I'm gonna need all the help I can get." After she left, we all rejoiced, amazed at how God had answered our prayers for Lindsay and is working in her heart! Lindsay continues to come in regularly and is softening to spiritual conversations, always welcoming prayer. At a recent visit, Lindsay shared she's expecting a girl! Then she asked the staff to pray with her before they even offered - wow, what a difference since March! **"You guys are like the family I don't have."**

## HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SERVE DAY

*We love having young people in our centers!*

On senior serve day, groups of students go to various organizations around the metro to complete community service projects. This lovely group of students from a local public high school requested the opportunity to serve at Alpha. Chloe spent a few hours with them for a tour, time of Q & A, and working with donations. It's a blessing to give students of all ages a glimpse into our ministry. Whether groups come from churches or the community at large, we always emphasize the sanctity of human life and the fact that we're doing our work on behalf of Jesus Christ. Pray with us over all the seeds of LIFE and TRUTH we get to plant with our service project groups!



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