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A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



This is our first Pandemic. Like everyone else, we're learning as we go. We expect at some point in time, things will go back to "normal," but we're also aware that normal may need to look different in the future. Alpha initially closed both locations when the Governor declared a public health disaster. We hoped it would just be for a week or two. Then we realized we needed to come up with a Plan B for Ministry during a

Pandemic. Needy people don't stop needing when a virus hits home. In fact, the need is greater when the resources are fewer.

We strategized ideas for how to continue to help our clients. We felt it was important to communicate that "we're here for you", not "we're here for you until things get dicey, until it's inconvenient—then you're on your own!" We contacted our moms by phone, checking to see how they were doing and offering parking lot pick-up for diapers, wipes, formula—things that fall under the category of "essentials." Clients stayed in their cars and we brought the items out to them, maintaining appropriate social distance.

Governor Reynolds said in May, "We know that virus activity will exist in our communities until a vaccine is available." We must adapt to do ministry with Coronavirus. We'll definitely keep washing our hands and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces frequently! For now, we'll require appointments, ask health screening questions, and limit the number of persons in the building. There are more obstacles – and more opportunities to connect with people in need.

Please pray for these connections.

Jeanie Thomas,
Executive Director



A HISTORY LESSON

THE HEARTBEAT for Alpha can be traced back over 30 years. In December of 1989, a group of concerned pro-life Baptists met and formed Iowa Baptists for Life. They wanted to better equip Christians to walk wisely and think biblically about the issue of crisis pregnancy and abortion.

In November 1991, they discussed the need to establish a crisis pregnancy center in Des Moines, to be supported as a coalition ministry of local independent Baptist churches. A Steering Committee was recruited, and in March of 1993, the name "Alpha Women's Center" was adopted for the newly formed corporation. The members of the original steering committee became the first Board of Directors for AWC, one of whom is still serving on the current Board.

July 2020 marks 25 years since Alpha opened its doors in Des Moines. Since then we've had over 50,000 visits to our centers. That's a lot of opportunities to share the gospel and show the love of God. Happy Anniversary Alpha!



HAVE YOU "LIKED" US ON FACEBOOK YET?

Easily stay caught up on what's happening at Alpha Women's Center!
Find us at www.facebook.com/AlphaDSM

OFFERING HELP FOR TODAY & HOPE FOR TOMORROW.

CURRENT NEEDS

DONATIONS

Though all donations are welcome, the following items are particularly needed!

Please consider adding one or more of these items to your list for your next shopping trip!

- DIAPERS SIZE 4, 5 & 6**
- BABY WIPES**
- 18MOS - 2T BOY SUMMER**
- 18MOS - 2T GIRL SUMMER**
- GALLON SIZE ZIPLOCK BAGS**
- CLOROX WIPES**
- HAND SANITIZER**

Drop your donation off at either location.



DID YOU KNOW?

In an effort to encourage charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations, the CARES Act allows taxpayers to claim an "above the line" deduction for cash donations up to \$300, for those who do not itemize their 2020 tax returns.



BABY BOTTLE UPDATE

CAN I TELL YOU AN AMAZING THING? Alpha's one big fundraiser is the Baby Bottle Campaign. We always hope for \$20,000 from it. A Board member said he was praying that God would give us \$30,000 this year. And then Coronavirus came to town, and churches went online. It would stand to reason that offerings would go down. That

churches wouldn't be able to collect bottle money. That people wouldn't be able to be as generous.

Well, the 2020 baby bottle campaign has topped \$31,000! And I just want to say "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!" In the midst of a Pandemic, Alpha Women's Center is having its strongest year of giving in our history. There is no logical explanation for that—only God!

A MYSTERY CHEF

A WOMAN STOPPED BY OUR OFFICE, carrying a basket of food. She had prepared a meal for a friend and was on her way to deliver it, when she felt strongly that the Lord was prompting her to bring it to us instead. She asked if we take donations of food. My staff said she would never turn away something like this, because evidently the Lord knew someone needed it. She thanked the mystery chef and placed the meal in the fridge.

In the next half hour, a client came in, who told us she was having difficulty with a recent injury. She said the hardest thing was trying to prepare a meal. **Bingo!** We were able to pass on the blessing of the donated meal. And we were able to talk with this young Mom about our awesome God who sees our need before we even ask!

HOW DO PEOPLE FIND US?

70% OF OUR REFERRALS are from friends, family, or a previous client. Alpha is where friends send friends! We're grateful to have a good reputation in the community. In 2019, 12% of our clients found us on the Internet—that's 2 1/2 times more than in 2017, when we overhauled the website. We added a blog in March. Google likes "new" info—so we're giving it to them. A blog is the easiest way to accomplish that.

Check it out at: awcdesmoines.org/blog



High Fives – Because We Are Re-Opening!

Services - By Jeanie Thomas - May 14, 2020 - Leave a comment

Governor Reynolds announced that she will ease Covid-19 restrictions statewide as of Friday, May 15. Because of this, both of our offices will open on a modified schedule by appointment only beginning Monday, May 18. Please help us protect our vulnerable population and stay home if you are sick to prevent spreading the virus. Call the...



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