On October 25, 2019 Hope Pregnancy Ministries pulled out all the stops to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of this very special ministry. As almost 450 supporters of life gathered together, we remembered and celebrated the legacy of 20 years of compassion ministry in the Flathead Valley. As always, we were generously hosted by Easthaven Baptist Church, our home away from home. Given that the ministry of Hope started within the walls of this church 20 years ago, it’s only fitting that our 20th Anniversary Celebration should happen there! The evening featured an elegant array of sumptuous hors d’oeuvres skillfully prepared and beautifully displayed by the talented Chef Corey Nickel, who once again donated his time to this event. Teams of hard-working volunteers from Fresh Life Church and other community groups once again served our guests cheerfully and with a generous heart. Hope supporters enjoyed the food and each other, and had a sweet time together expressing their passion for life and this ministry. Such a great time with great friends! What fun! And the food? Amazing. As a side note, this year’s event became very challenging when a sudden wind storm knocked out power across much of the valley, including the venue, about an hour before guests were to arrive. While crews were preparing dinner, power throughout the building was lost, plunging us into darkness. Food prep halted, but our kitchen crew got creative in preparing your meal! The food was kept warm in a warming oven—powered not by electricity, but by candles scavenged from a storage room and placed beneath trays of food. What ingenuity and perseverance from our faithful volunteers! This setback could have sent our prep crew into a tailspin; instead, a spirit of fun and GRD (get’er done, Montana-style) swept through the building as everyone pitched in to be sure the show would go on. You should have heard the cheer (from not only our crew but about 100 early-arriving guests!) when power was restored just a few minutes before the event was to begin. This will be an event not soon forgotten!

As we finished the social hour and moved into the gathering, we were blessed by a video timeline highlighting the many amazing accomplishments of the ministry of Hope over the past 20 years. From a small, volunteer-led local organization to a ministry with a nation-wide reach, Hope Pregnancy Ministries has come a long way since 1999! If you’d like to view this inspiring and entertaining video, produced by the talented Stonewall Johnson, visit our website at www.hopepregnancyministries.org. You’ll be glad you did.

From the earliest planning stages, it was our intent to bring a guest speaker that would bless you, our faithful donors. Jim Daly, President of Focus on the Family, really hit that mark. Jim shared his personal journey from orphan to President of Focus on the Family, reminding us that even in the most dire of circumstances, God has a plan for our lives and charts the course for us. God can make beauty from ashes, if we only give Him the chance. In an engaging and humorous manner, Jim shared a heart of compassion for those we serve, encouraging us to look at our patients through the eyes of God, and see the potential in each one. Who knows what they might become?

“As our culture drifts ever further from the truth that each person is created in God’s image and is therefore of unspeakable value, life will continue to be viewed as a cheap commodity.” –Jim Daly

(Continued to next page)
Update

Mobile Unit Car Accident

As many of you know, on September 23rd our mobile unit shuttle car was involved in a serious accident. The car was traveling to Polson to retrieve the mobile unit for a day of patient care. While traveling at highway speed near Woody’s east of Kalispell, a large pickup was hit from behind and forced into our lane; there was no time to react and our car impacted the pickup broadside. Thankfully no one, including a small child, was injured in the other vehicles. Unfortunately, all three in our car were seriously injured, and the car was totaled.

Nurse Stefanie Schelling incurred orthopedic injuries and aggravating injuries to her head and neck; volunteer driver Kent Reimer, husband of Michelle, sustained a C-5 fracture of the neck, as well as a concussion and various lacerations. Thankfully the airbags did their job and protected Stefanie and Kent from more extensive injuries. Medical Assistant Rhonda Fisher, who was riding in the back seat without airbags, sustained more serious injuries. These included a brain bleed and multiple fractures to her ribs, clavicle and breastbone, which meant a long and painful recovery. All three are now nearing full health, and remain grateful for the heartfelt prayers of so many during their recoveries.

The photos show the extent to which God protected those inside the car; this accident could have ended so much differently. In the weeks after the accident, those involved were experiencing a very real fear of being back on the road in a new shuttle vehicle. We hoped we could afford a small, used SUV to replace the lost vehicle. But God, in a show of mercy, compassion and ever-generous provision, provided a late-model pickup, donated to us by a generous supporter. Do you see how extravagant God is? He is able to do far more than we could ever ask or even think. He is so good to us.

It was a good reminder to all of us. Every life is made in His image.

In our 20th year, Hope Pregnancy Ministries didn’t slow down. At our celebration, we took great delight in sharing with you the wonderful work done in 2019. In addition to services already provided, Clear Choice Clinic launched a mobile medical unit and added professional counseling to the scope of care at our Kalispell clinic. Hope Family Resource Center continued to work with parents of Neonatal Intensive Care patients at Kalispell Regional Healthcare and provided parenting education and mentorship on an ongoing basis to 133 individual clients in 2019! Your support allows us to do all of these things and more! At this event, our goal was to raise $180,000—an aggressive goal—but necessary to continue the work into 2020. And you, our faithful donors, did not disappoint. To date, this event has raised $147,706.03…PLUS a 2016 Chevrolet Quad Cab Pickup, generously donated by a couple attending this event (see adjacent article). Thank you for your generous and faithful support to the work of Hope Pregnancy Ministries. Twenty years of compassionate care in the Flathead Valley has felt like the blink of an eye with you as the wind in our sails. We are most grateful for you, and for this celebration that reminded all of us where we’ve been, where we’re going, and how we got there. Here’s to 20 more years!

"From a small, volunteer-led local organization to a ministry with a nation-wide reach, Hope Pregnancy Ministries has come a long way since 1999!"

"Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed."

–Psalm 57:1
Hope Family Resource Center Gets a facelift!

For almost 20 years, Hope Family Resource Center has been housed in the beautiful (former) parsonage next to Central Bible Church. We’ve been most grateful to the church for generously offering this building at no cost. It has allowed our clients to have a warm and welcoming place to find true friendship with their mentors as they learn more about parenting, relationships and spiritual growth. In the 10 years since the last update, the center had grown a bit shabby, so a few months ago we decided to spruce it up a bit! Generous donors invested in this project, and allowed us to complete a facelift that included painting the interior, including some dated wood fixtures, removing and replacing tired décor, adding much needed lighting, and creating new and warm spaces for encouraging relationship and fellowship between mentors and clients. The result was exactly what we were hoping for. Check out the before and after pictures, and imagine how valued a young parent must feel when they walk into this warm and welcoming environment.

One of our goals is to model hospitality for our clients, and to encourage them to incorporate this into their lifestyle. We think this update does exactly that, and we pray that it blesses our clients for years to come! Special thanks to Donna Martin, whose flair for decorating made this project beautiful, and to Bonnie Grubb at A Step Above, for her tireless effort to create a meticulous paint job. We and our clients are so grateful for your efforts!

If you’d like a firsthand look at the beautiful remodel of Hope Family Resource Center, please stop by Monday–Thursday from 12–4. We’d love to show you around!

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Many people admire the Flathead Valley for its beauty and wide array of recreational activities. Hope Pregnancy Ministries sees something vastly more remarkable. We view our valley as one known by the generosity of its churches. We’re blessed to have 64 churches and organizations actively engaged in our annual Baby Bottle Campaign! Isn’t that amazing?! We think so, and are immensely grateful. The 2019 campaign has now reached almost $46,000 with coins continuing to show up at our office! That number represents hundreds of families from our local churches who value life and chose to fill a bottle with cash, coins, or a check. We would like to acknowledge the churches named below. If you do not see your church on this list, please call 257-5700 and we will help you to introduce the next campaign, beginning on Mother’s Day 2020!

Your contribution means that women, men and families in our community can experience hope and healing through Clear Choice Clinic and Hope Family Resource Center. Every penny truly does make a difference.

Active Word Ministries
Adventure Church
Aletheia Fellowship
Bethany Lutheran Church
Bible Baptist Church
Bigfork Chapel Assembly of God
Calvary Chapel Whitefish

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Calvary Chapel of the Flathead Valley
Calvary Lutheran Church
Canyon Community Church
Central Bible Church
Christ Lutheran Church
Church of Christ
Cornerstone Community Church

Highlighting Generosity

BOTTLES for BABIES

Crossroads Christian Fellowship
Easthaven Baptist Church
Faith Church
Faith Covenant Church
Family Life Christian Church
Fellowship Alliance Church
First Baptist Church of Bigfork
First Baptist Church of Whitefish
First Baptist Church of Polson
First Bible Presbyterian
First Church of the Nazarene Kal.
Flathead Ekklesia
Fresh Life
Grace Church
Hillside Church
Hope Church
Hungry Horse Chapel
Journey Church
Kila Country Church
Lakeside Community Chapel
Liberty Fellowship
Living Waters Foursquare Church
Mountain Song
Mountain View Mennonite Church
North Valley Baptist Church
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Purpose Church
Real Life Church
Risen Christ Catholic Church
Selah Fellowship
Solid Rock Bible Church
St. Charles Borromeo
St. Matthew’s Catholic Church
St. Richard’s Catholic Church
St. Williams Catholic Church
Stillwater Lutheran Church
Swan Chapel
The Church at Creston
The Living Church at Lakeside
The River
The Rock Foursquare
Trinity Lutheran Church
True Life Church
Valley Community Church of God
Whitefish Assembly of God
Whitefish Church of the Nazarene
Whitefish Foursquare Church
100 Fold Studio

Special thanks to Grizzly Security for transporting many hundreds of pounds of coins, and the fabulous tellers at Glacier Bank, Buffalo Hills Branch, who tirelessly processed our coin. You are a blessing to us!