



# St. Gerard Campus

“The really ignored and abused woman of this world today is one that has been abandoned by the father of the baby that she is carrying.” – Caroline Wolff



*“The right to life is the first among human rights.” Pope Francis*

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Dear Friends of the Unborn Baby,

Winter 2015

This message to our wonderful supporters may be long, but it is so important to tell you what really happens here at St. Gerard Campus on any ordinary day.

An ordinary day at St. Gerard Campus can be somewhat like a gerbil on a treadmill! The day begins at 7 am with our resident students awakening, showering and getting themselves and their babies ready for school. The housemothers have breakfast sizzling in the kitchen. Volunteers and sometimes employees are manning the vans on their way to picking up our commuting students (pick-ups can take up to 2 hours there and back). At 8 am, the office staff, volunteers, day care staff and teachers begin arriving and the three telephone lines are ringing simultaneously. They ask, do we have diapers, food, or maybe cash because they can't pay their rent or utilities. Some need to enroll in school, maybe they need residency because their family kicked them out and they are afraid or a former student needs a transcript for college enrollment...so many issues and so many questions. Now they are coming in the front door and the Pregnancy Center doorbell is ringing. They, too, need food, clothing, pregnancy tests or sonograms, resources or counseling. Troubled lives and everyone needs our help. We are here to answer the call...each and every one of them. Students are getting ready for first period, signing on the board their next doctor appointments. But wait, a young mother is crying because of problems at home. We put her in the chapel and get a counselor to talk to her. All this happens before 9 am and so our day has begun. Then at 9 am, we all stop, take a moment and offer our day to the Lord, asking for His guidance. Classes are in session. At 9:30 there is an adoption conference with a young pregnant woman who cannot take care of a second child. She asks if she is making the right decision giving up her child. Such a big decision. She is so frightened and feeling such anguish. To make matters worse, she is now confined to bed rest and cannot work. How will she pay her rent, buy food, or take care of her toddler? She has no family to turn to. She looks through adoptive parents' books, carefully reading all the profiles of the parents that would love to adopt her child. She makes her choice, a bit uneasy. We counsel her; reassure her that what she is doing is the greatest love of all. We give her rent money, food and lots of time and love. She makes an appointment for a sonogram and an appointment to meet the adoptive parents next week. The day flies by. Hurry to the Pregnancy Center. A counselor says the young woman in the center is thinking abortion! Oh God, No! We must help her. We perform a sonogram and help her realize that this is a living child within her....when she hears her baby's heartbeat, she cries and says she could never kill what is living inside her and what God blessed her with. Then an emergency call comes in, a 14-year old, pregnant and on the

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streets, a child of the foster care system and the foster parents no longer want her, so she ran away. Can we squeeze her, in the foster care agency pleads? Get her here, we'll make room. We always do. Calls to and from protective services, a judge, foster parents, juvenile justice and suddenly arrangements are made. She'll be in at 2 pm with her case worker and the few meager possessions she owns. Inform the staff, get her room ready and figure out her educational plan. It is 10:45 and snack time for the girls. Let's get something healthy for them to eat. Invariably, someone will need to run to the store to buy some fruit. Phones are still ringing. Kind people have dropped off boxes of clothes and some baby equipment. We need to sort them all and store the clothes into the bins. Oh my, lunchtime! How many girls didn't bring lunch? Most of them, we are afraid. Some even come without breakfast so they are pretty hungry. Make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and get drinks for the 15 students that didn't bring anything and baby food for the little ones. Clean up, class is beginning again. More fires to put out, calls to answer, volunteers running everywhere and teachers trying to teach. Each girl's education plan is customized for her personal academic needs. Such organized chaos! 2:45 and school is out. Time to clean up the lunchroom and vacuum the carpets. At 3:00 volunteers are taking the girls home, another 2 hours or so. The residents go to their rooms to get ready to make dinner, and everyone is a little weary. Vacuum, clean the nursery, clean the kitchen...the day isn't quite over. And just when you think, all is quiet and everyone is settled in for the night...a young, very frightened pregnant girl goes into labor. She delivers a beautiful little girl at 5 am. A day at St. Gerard?...no, our LIFE at St. Gerard Campus. God Bless you for all your loving support and God Bless the wonderful staff and volunteers that make miracles happen each day.

With love and appreciation for all you do, Caroline Wolff

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### **Exciting news!**



St. Gerard Campus is the recipient of a grant from the **Ward Family Foundation** to furnish our new science lab with the equipment our students will need to take labs along with their science courses. No more will our students have to learn science strictly from a textbook. Soon, our young ladies will have microscopes, anatomy charts, a terrarium, a "smart" board, rocks, a skeleton, safety equipment, chemicals and more to get the hands-on experience and credits they will need to compete for the coveted scholarships into the nursing programs they choose. 66% of our students will become CNAs, Registered Nurses or go into any number of medical fields. Thank you, **Ward Foundation**, for believing in our mission....to empower these teens, that have chosen a tough road, with the best accredited education we can offer.

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Please remember, St. Gerard Campus is always in need of volunteers for our Reception/Community Outreach Desk, our Pregnancy Center, our Thrift Store and Van Drivers. Please call 829-5516 if you have time to donate.

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The St. Gerard Thrift Store has new days and hours. We are closed Sunday and Monday and open Tuesday through Saturday for 10 am to 5 pm. Come visit our expanded store for lots of great bargains.

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**Congratulations to the winners of our Spring Newsletter Raffle and thank you for all your contributions. This year's winners are:**

- 1st PRIZE – Robert Dickman - Value \$550.00**
- 2nd PRIZE – Charles Vincent - Value \$525.00**
- 3rd PRIZE – John & Mary Jane Bailey - Value \$325.00**

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