

November 26, 2011

Memo to: Good Friends of the Foundation

From: Maria McFadden

Re: *Seeing is Believing?*

You may have read about a recent event in Washington DC, “Voices from the Womb.” On October 13th, five pregnant women volunteers gathered in the Congressional auditorium on Capitol Hill and had live ultrasounds in front of a large audience, including current members of Congress. This event was a kick-off for a two-year campaign, sponsored by Stanton Healthcare, a pregnancy care center based in Idaho (and co-sponsored by the Christian Defense Coalition and the National Pro-life Center), which hopes to bring “Voices from the Womb” to schools, churches and government offices across the country. Its purpose: to give the “one group whose ‘own’ voice has never been heard” a “voice” through ultrasound images, which have revolutionized the abortion debate and saved countless lives. As this year’s Great Defender of Life, Paul Greenberg, said at our Foundation dinner October 27th, “Just don’t look too closely at the sonograms” if you want to continue to rationalize abortion. (He gave a marvelous speech, which will be reprinted in an upcoming issue of the *Human Life Review*; his column about the late Dr. Bernard Nathanson is in the issue you’ve just received.)

One of our stalwart supporters was intrigued when he read a news story about “Voices from the Womb.” An idea whose time has come, he thought—and it gave *him* an idea. He knows that our Foundation, in addition to publishing the *Review*, raises money for a “baby-saving” program—we offer matching grants to pregnancy centers around the country. And he knows that December is the time we make our “baby-saving” appeal. So he made *us* an **ultra-generous offer**: He will **match dollar for dollar up to \$50,000** for our Christmas appeal, *if* we will pledge a percentage of the total funds raised toward purchasing an ultrasound machine for one of our centers.

Wow! This is remarkable, as I told him, because I recently had a call from a woman who asked if one of “our” centers was interested in acquiring an ultrasound machine, because she is considering a contribution earmarked for that purpose! I immediately started reviewing the centers on our list, and have been talking with one in the New York City area (the “abortion capital” of the country) to see if this might be a possibility for them in 2012. Such machines vary widely in cost, and the center that invests in one must be ready to take on the full responsibility involved, so this is not entered into lightly. We will screen carefully, to make sure the center receiving the grant will be able to purchase and start using the machine effectively.

But I am getting ahead of myself. This is our biggest matching-grant challenge *ever*, and it happens at a time when many of our supporters are strained financially, as is the Foundation. To be clear, the Foundation *itself* needs your support—to cover our operating costs, to publish the *Human Life Review*, and to aid the centers on our list with their daily needs. We will not be able to make a special ultrasound gift unless we have a resoundingly great response to this matching-grant offer—no small feat. The current economic uncertainty creates a vicious cycle—more people are suffering and in need of charity, but fewer people have funds to *give* to charity.

Here, though, I would like to inject a note of cheer: It has been a *horrible* year for Planned Parenthood! “The most difficult year in our history,” wrote President Cecile Richards in her Thanksgiving note to supporters. According to the Susan B. Anthony List, Planned Parenthood has lost over 61 million dollars from nine states due to the defunding Planned Parenthood movement, and clinics in several states have had to shut their doors. And that means babies saved.

On a pro-life Thanksgiving blog, authors Bill Saunders and Anne Franzonello asked readers to be thankful for what they called one of the “greatest threats to the abortion business,” the “loving, caring groups of pro-life Americans gathering together to support pregnant women

(over, please)

through Pregnancy Care Centers (PCCs).” We agree—truly those who staff and volunteer at PCC’s are the unsung great defenders of life in our midst. They offer women free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds (if they are able), counseling, medical care, birthing and parenting classes, maternity and baby clothes. And unlike “family-planning clinics,” in addition to saving lives, many pregnancy centers also provide the kind of support we all think of at this time of year. Feeding the hungry, for example; one clinic in Indiana, a state which has one of the highest rates of children going hungry, provides formula, baby food and breastfeeding supplies; the clinic will also help families contact a local food pantry. Many centers house the homeless, and give clothes to those in need. Most of all, the centers exist to offer *hope* in the face of despair, a light in the darkness.

I am sure your mailbox is already getting flooded with end-of-year appeals; mine sure is. I am also getting calls and letters from the PCCs on our list. It is one thing to sigh and throw solicitations out from groups to which I have no personal connection. It is another to say no to people I have known, at least through correspondence, for years, from organizations I know do lifesaving work, and to know as well that they are hurting for donations.

I am hoping that you will answer *this* letter, and that your generosity will help me turn things around for our pregnancy-center friends. And I am optimistic: Tough times are a great time for a matching grant, because whatever you can give (and no gift is too small) will be *doubled*, surely a good deal. So, as I told our donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, if we can match this grant, *I will pledge 15 percent of funds raised for a pregnancy care center’s purchase of an ultrasound machine*. I do hope you will consider making a donation today—and send the card back in the enclosed envelope before the holiday season gets too frenzied.

On a personal note, my heartfelt thanks to the many of you who have written me letters, or sent cards in sympathy, after my mother Faith’s death. Your compassion and support are deeply appreciated. The loss of my mother has brought home to me in a powerful way the irreplaceable bond between mother and child, and the terrible situation we are in as a culture, when violently breaking that bond before birth is a legally protected “right.” But, thankfully, the pro-life message *is* changing the culture. One only has to see how many young people are engaged in pro-life advocacy to take heart. Which brings me to another note of thanks: Because Foundation supporters donated student tickets to our Great Defender of Life Dinner, we hosted over 25 students; they were present for Paul Greenberg’s terrific speech and got the added thrill of meeting Students for Life president Kristan Hawkins.

I know that when we all work together for the good, miracles do happen. So I am hoping you will help us this Christmas; we are a bit of a David against the Goliath of other fancy appeals and large organizations, but in honor of my mother, I have faith!

God bless you and yours this Christmas and holiday season,

Maria McFadden
President

P.S.: If you would like to make your donation online, go to our website, www.humanlifereview.com, and please use the code **6MG** (for the matching grant).

P.P.S.: Our accountant has asked me to let you know that tax-free IRA charitable account distributions of up to \$100,000 are still permitted for the 2011 tax year. You must be at least 70½ years of age, which makes most IRAs subject to the Minimum Required Distributions anyway.