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PCC Dinner 2016

# Pregnancy Care Centre

You are not alone



## A Still Small Voice

**When you were a little girl, what did you dream about being?**

"I always wanted to be a nurse because a lot of my family members are nurses. My mom is a nurse too and I wanted to follow in her career path. She would often encourage me and remind me to focus. Some people discouraged me but I always believed I could do it. I know that when I really want to do something, I will give it my all."

**What are some values you were taught from a young age?**

"I grew up in the church because faith was something that my family really valued. When I was younger, I went out of obligation. As I grew up, I started to understand God more. When I got to be sixteen, I strayed away from God because I wanted to live by my own standards-- go out with my friends and go to parties-- things that were unhealthy for me."

**How did you react when you first found out you were pregnant?**

"I was in shock when I first found out. I didn't know what to do because I knew that my parents would be upset with me. My biggest fears at that point were how my parents would react when I told them, and where I would live. My mom was not a fan of the guy I was with, so she initially wasn't going to let me stay with her. No one seemed to show support because many people were confused as to why I would decide to keep my baby considering the unhealthy relationship I had with my boyfriend at the time. I was also upset because I knew that carrying this baby meant I would have to leave school."

After the shock, I started looking at all of my options. I didn't want to go down the abortion path because I knew it wasn't right, and I didn't think I'd be able to handle what an abortion entailed. Parenting scared me because I didn't know how I could take care of another life when I could hardly take care of myself. It was not long after giving it a lot of thought, I decided to parent my baby. My mom has always been there for me, even when she didn't agree with my

### How you can help

1. **PRAY:** Pray for women and couples facing unexpected pregnancies - pray that they would hear the truth and have the courage to choose life.
2. **ACT:** Distribute PCC brochures to churches and youth programs in your neighbourhood. Call 416-229-2607 for more information.
3. **GIVE:** Donate today by mail or online at [PCCfriends.ca](http://PCCfriends.ca)

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decisions, so she eventually came around and became a huge support for me. Even though I was scared through the process, I had something in my head telling me that everything would be okay. I knew that the voice in my head was God speaking to me, so I followed that voice.”

**Looking back, how do you feel God helped you during the pregnancy?**

“Although there were highs and lows, things went better than I expected them to. I had support from the PCC, from my mom, and eventually from my family. My mom offered to have my daughter and I live with her which has been a big help. I didn’t know where I would live, but seeing how my mom welcomed me in allowed me to see that God had a better plan the whole time. Even just holding my daughter for the first time was a blessing from God.”

**How has the pregnancy influenced your relationship with God?**

“The pregnancy allowed me to see how present God is in times of trouble. He was always there for me and would speak to me through the pregnancy. Through rough times, I would hear His voice comforting me. There was so much stress with my child’s father and I didn’t think I could do it anymore. Now, I have no fear in anything, because I know God will help me through the challenges I face. There is no reason to be afraid. I know that I am forgiven and set free

## From Linda’s Desk

The Pregnancy Care Centre intentionally works together with churches who share our mission to help families who feel alone with an unexpected pregnancy. As a Christian organization, we are committed to doing all that we can so women and men don’t need to feel that abortion is their only choice. We can offer help through their crisis so they have the emotional, material and spiritual support they need. But our help is not enough if we want to see them flourish as families over the long term.

How can we help these families develop strong support networks in the communities where they live? We can introduce them to churches in their neighborhood where they will hear the hope-filled words of the Gospel week after week and where their whole family will benefit from supportive Christian community. Very often pregnancy becomes a time when individuals are thinking about the Creator of their lives. There is often regret over past decisions, and a humble desire to have their lives changed. We have the privilege of sharing the good news that Christ died and was raised to offer them life - abundant life.

How do churches get involved? A number of years ago, we launched our First Response Network. Churches made a commitment to pray, serve and give so that we could make our services more accessible to additional neighbourhoods within Toronto. Over the past 5 years— with church support—we have expanded our services to new locations. In these neighbourhoods, we have churches that raise funds, promote awareness of our services, and provide volunteers to serve the families we see. In fact, our church volunteers have provided 1071 hours of help for the first half of the year. They put up PCC posters at TTC bus shelters.

from the bondage of my sin.”

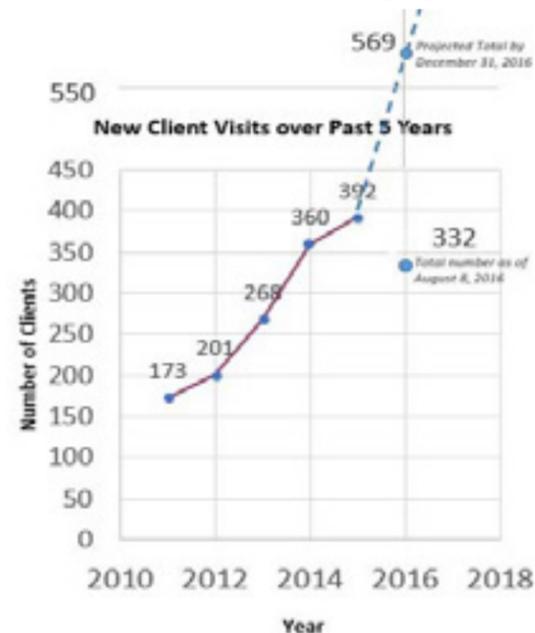
**Tell us a bit about your life now.**

“I am so happy now. All the hardship was worth it in the end because of my beautiful daughter. When I see her smile, it makes me happy. I’m finding myself sacrificing things that I wouldn’t have before, but I know that in a few years I’ll be back on my feet. I’m still dedicated to pursuing my goals-- I want to be a nurse, and ultimately give my daughter a better life. My hope for my daughter as she grows is that she’ll do what’s right and learn from my mistakes. I want to encourage her, and teach her about the lessons I have learned through my trials. I am confident God will continue to be my greatest support in light of all that I have been through.



*Please pray for Simone and her daughter-- that God would continue to lead both of them to do His will, and that Christiana may grow in Him*

They delivered furniture. They visited expectant moms in the hospital. They provided peer support at different PCC locations. Their selfless giving showed Toronto families that Christians really care, and ultimately gave reason for the families to accept invitations to attend a church in their neighbourhood, or return to the church they had drifted away from. We also recently prepared a stewardship report for supporting churches. Pictured below is a graphic representing the number of individuals we have seen already this year. This mid-year’s report allowed for a time of reflection and giving thanks to God for allowing us to serve women and men in this city who are in need of pregnancy support.



Over the summer, we contacted a number of churches serving families of Asian ethnic background. From the pastors and young adults in these churches, we learned more specifically about how to better serve newcomer families from China. We are grateful for all who helped us with the survey and telephone calls. Our desire is to expand our capacity to help individuals who are Mandarin or Cantonese speaking. We want to offer them greater help as they prepare to parent as well as extend to these families a welcome within churches where their language is spoken.

Due to the generosity of individual donors and supporting churches, we give thanks to God for his goodness in allowing us to serve more women and men in this city every year. Please join us on November 12th where you’ll have the opportunity to meet some families whose lives were forever changed because of your prayers and support. See you soon!

Linda Baartse

## Training Resources on Social Media

During the month of August, our social media theme has been focused on equipping PCC friends to know how to respond to someone who is facing an unexpected pregnancy. Through the Facebook training series called, “What Do I Say?-- How You Can Offer Compassionate Pregnancy Support”, our desire has been to provide tips on how you can very practically provide support without feeling overwhelmed by the task.

If you are interested in seeing more training infographics, visit our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/pregnancycarecentre.org](http://www.facebook.com/pregnancycarecentre.org). If you are interested in becoming trained as a First Responder, you can attend our next First Response Training on October 22nd at Westminster Chapel, High Park. For more information, please contact us at (416) 229-2607.



A sample of the Social Media Training infographics featured on the PCC Facebook Page throughout the month of August.

## #GiveGetGo Campaign



The #GiveGetGo Campaign launched this August. Youth groups and young adults are working to put up posters around the city advertising the Pregnancy Care Centre’s services, ultimately to support more women and men through unexpected pregnancies. Their desire is to mobilize other young people to put their love for life into action.

Their goal is to put up 500 posters offering pregnancy support at TTC bus shelters and approved information boards across the city as well as raising \$5000 in donations.

The PCC’s summer Outreach Worker has already met with a number of church youth groups to explain the campaign. After listening to a 15 minute presentation about the PCC’s services, the young people signed up to participate in the campaign, took posters for the bus routes in their areas, and contacted their friends to give and go with them.

“Women who go through these experiences are very near to my heart and I empathize with them deeply, and that is why I am becoming involved in this campaign,” explained Renee, a new volunteer involved in the campaign.

If you are not able to “go”, there are still ways you can support us in this campaign. Please pray the youth and young adults will reach their fundraising and postering goals. Please share this information with your church’s youth leaders, and we will be able to set up a time to book a presentation explaining the campaign to your youth groups. Please also consider giving to support the campaign by texting the word “give” to (647) 360-3665 or donating online.

The #GiveGetGo campaign is continuing through the fall until September 22nd. For more information about how individuals or groups can participate, please call 416-229-2609 or write us as [info@pregnancycarecentre.org](mailto:info@pregnancycarecentre.org)

**Mobile Giving**  
We can now support mobile giving through your cell phone. Text the word “give” to 647-360-3665 and follow the link.



# Giver of Life

## Annual Dinner

JOIN US TO EXTEND HANDS OF HELP AND HOPE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 | TICKETS: \$45 / TABLE OF 10: \$400

Speaker: **Robbie Symons**, Pastor, Harvest Bible Chapel Oakville

Musical guest: Joy Lapps-Lewis

HORS D' OEUVRES AT 5 PM SEATING BY 6 PM

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY IN 3 EASY STEPS:

1. Go to [pccfriends.ca/dinner2016/](http://pccfriends.ca/dinner2016/)
2. Click register now to let us know you plan on coming!
3. Pay by cash, cheque, or credit card online.

RSVP BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2016

### Markham Convention Centre

2901 Markham Road, Toronto (Markham Rd & McNicoll Rd.)

For tickets and sponsorship information contact:

Website: [www.pccfriends.ca](http://www.pccfriends.ca)

Email: [events@pregnancycarecentre.org](mailto:events@pregnancycarecentre.org)

Phone: 416-229-2607



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