

summer 2016

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Pregnancy Care Centre

You are not alone



walk where I've walked, see what I've seen

Bright eyed, motivated and driven for career, Alanna decided to commit the first four years of her official “adult life” to pursuing nursing—a suitable fit for a young woman passionate about obstetrics and pediatrics. It was in the dawn of her second academic year that quizzes and papers on medications and treating wounds would become an out-of-classroom experience.

“I found out that I was pregnant, and one of the first thoughts that came into my mind was abortion. But after the initial experience of finding out I was pregnant sunk in, I couldn't bring myself to take that life away. For me to conceive—even though I was in this situation— *was still a blessing*,” Alanna said.

“It was not long after, that I started thinking about adoption. If I wasn't in the right position to raise a child, that still didn't mean that the child should not be able to experience life—*experience what I've experienced and see what I have seen*. That's what made me decide that I couldn't take that from this child.”

With a March due date colliding with the end of term paper season, Alanna was determined to carry both her baby and her nursing books in a firm grip. But with all the weight of a new life to come and the demands of student responsibilities, Alanna reluctantly realized that she couldn't handle both.

“It was very discouraging. At one point I almost gave up. I said, ‘you know what, I am not going to do this anymore,’” she explained. Lacking support from family and friends through her pregnancy, Alanna found herself turning to the support of the Pregnancy Care Centre.

“I needed to speak about my emotions and what I would do. I really had absolutely no idea. Here, I found no judgment or pointed fingers. They were there to hear my story and help me to get back on my feet. They helped me understand that *this change was not the end of the world—it was the beginning of the rest of my life*.”

Months later, Alanna gave birth to beautiful and vibrant little Rom-

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

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ario. Over the first three years of his life, she re-applied to nursing programs tirelessly. On her third application, she was accepted back into nursing. Her vision for a solid future for Romario served as incentive during this difficult time.

"I want to be able to give back to Romario and let him have the best the childhood he can. In order for me to do that, I knew that I needed to go back to nursing. I just put my head to it and said, "Okay, it's go-time. I am going to do this."

Now almost three years later, Alanna is once again pursuing her nursing career with her son—her number one fan—right by her side in both helpful and maybe not so helpful times.

"Now that Romario is here, I have to figure out when the best time for me to do my work is and when the best time to spend with him is. You definitely cannot study well with a toddler in the house!" Alanna laughs.

Since treading the waters of motherhood, Alanna has learned new lessons and motherly "how-to's" flowing into all other realms of her life.

"I have definitely grown since having Romario. Things that you learn through parenthood – you don't realize how they play into everything that you do. From driving on the road, to ordering food, to doing groceries—patience, planning and organizing. I applied that to other things that I do—to my work ethic, my place of employ-

from Linda's desk

"He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure." ~Isaiah 33:6

Change is one of those constants in all our lives.

In some seasons, change happens so slowly that we can't wait for the next page of the calendar to flip. Other seasons seem to pass so quickly that we can barely keep up. This past quarter has been one of those fast-paced ones for us at the PCC.

Because of our faithful supporters, our outreach to women and men needing pregnancy support in Toronto continues to grow. From January through May we served 226 new families. Last year, during the same time period, we served 144 families.

We saw the greatest participation ever at this year's First Response Relay. The funds raised are helping us meet the increasing demands on our resources as we serve more families. Over 400 people collected more than \$45,000 support. We trust that by the end of June, we will reach the \$50,000 goal.

We've witnessed many women and their partners change their perspective on their pregnancies and choose to parent rather than abort. They have needed to make lots of changes to their plans and lifestyles in order to welcome a new little one into the family. We are grateful for many volunteers and supporters who have walked alongside of these families in the midst of significant adjustments.

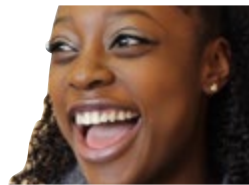
We've grieved along with others who have miscarried or sought support following an abortion. Unwelcomed pain brought changes in perspective about the signifi-

ment, my academic life, studying and to my professional life. I didn't realize what I would gain from becoming a parent," she explains.

Now ready and enthusiastic for the promise of a new school year this coming fall, Alanna has found herself writing a new chapter to a story that was started almost three years ago. She has found a new confidence stepping into fresh endeavours through the unexpected life she chose to embrace.

"Don't let anybody tell you 'no'. You have to have faith in yourself. If you don't believe in yourself, nobody is going to believe in you. If you have faith in yourself, you are confident, you know you can do it and you put your head to it and you get it done, then that is was everyone is going to see."

At the Pregnancy Care Centre, we often get beautiful and unusual glimpses into God's power to bring our dry bones to life and our brokenness to hope. His ways are not our ways, and He is stitching together each piece of our lives for the glory of His Kingdom.



watch Alanna & Romario's video story on our blog: [IAmNotAlone.ca/blog](#)

cance of life. Many have found hope through the words of the Bible and forgiveness through the message of the Gospel of Christ.

A welcomed pregnancy will bring changes to our staff team. While we look forward to welcoming Hagop and Ruth Tchobanian's first child, at the same time we will need to say goodbye and thanks to Ruth for her hard work on communications projects and compassionate care for PCC moms and dads over these past 3 years. We are glad that Laura Heming has joined our team and is taking over Ruth's responsibilities as First Response Coordinator.

Longtime volunteer Kendra Finlayson recently took on the position of Relief Client Support Worker. Sas Kanageswaran has also joined us and will be serving for the next three months as Outreach Worker. We are glad that Paulette Smalling's health has improved and will be able to resume work in our Scarborough office soon.

Amidst all the changes, we see the Lord's handiwork. He is guiding and directing the families we serve, and is working within our generous supporters and within all our energetic and committed volunteers and staff members. We are grateful for His faithfulness.

~Linda Baartse

Sas, Kendra, Laura & Ruth



getting your church involved

At this year's Relay, a whopping team of 60 people from Jarvis Street Baptist Church turned out to support men and women making life-changing pregnancy decisions. We asked team leader Eddie Gibbons how he encouraged involvement.

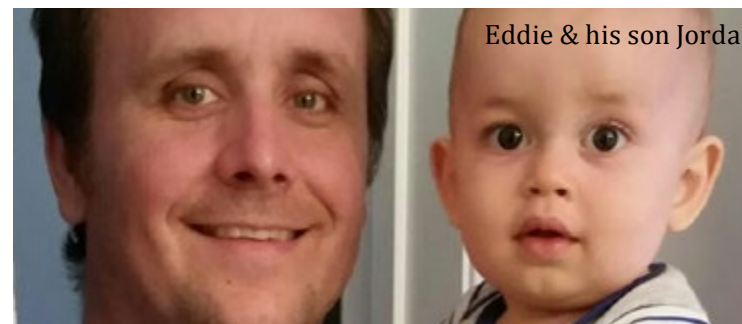
PRAY: "You have to first start by praying and asking the Lord to set a goal. We set a goal for 50 participants."

CONTACT THE PASTOR: Eph. 4:11-12 speaks of pastors equipping the saints for works of service. Eddie contacted his senior pastor, who was on board.

GET HELP: Eddie recruited several key volunteers to poster, schedule announcements and invite!

TABLING & PERSONAL INVITATIONS: Eddie and his team tabled at the church and personally invited people after services.

What motivates Eddie and his wife Natasha? "God's word is crystal clear on the sanctity of human life. He saved me from eternal death - which I deserved. Therefore how could I not participate in saving the lives of children created in the image of God from a death they don't deserve?"



upcoming events

Giver of Life Annual Dinner | Sat. Nov. 12
Markham Convention Centre – Markham & McNicoll
Further details to come.
Visit [PCCfriends.ca/Dinner2016](#) for a message from our guest speaker, Robbie Symons.

First Response Training | Aug. 2016
We're planning to hold another First Response Training in August. Dates are tentative at this point, so contact the office for further details: info@PregnancyCareCentre.org or call 416-229-2607.

special thanks

We are grateful for all of the sponsors who made our 2016 First Response Relay possible. We would like to give a special thanks to each one of them!

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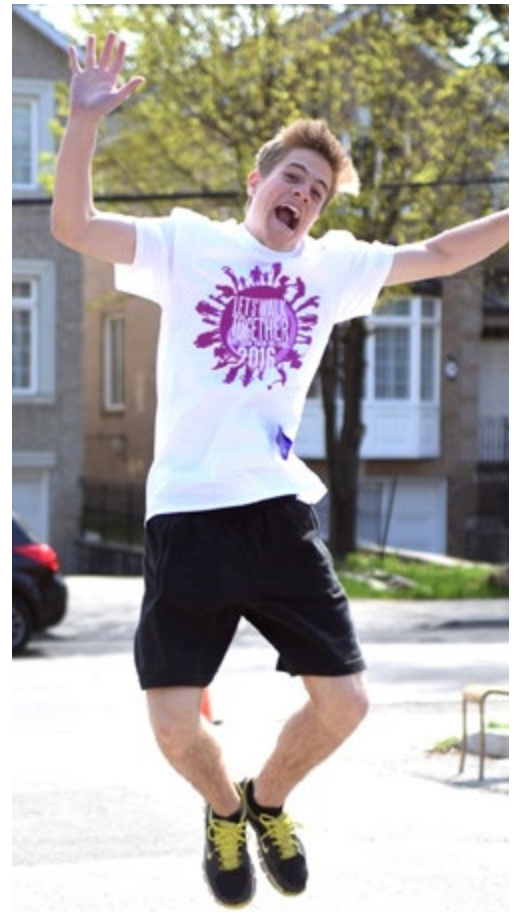
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2016 Relay Recap!



thank you for coming out & supporting your PCC friends!