

SUMMER 2015

In this issue

- university or pregnancy?
Selah's Story
 - what's new at the PCC
 - dates & updates
 - Relay Recap
- pictures from this year's Relay

Pregnancy Care Centre

You are not alone



university or my pregnancy? I choose both

A year and a half ago, Selah* boarded a packed bus in the dead of winter, eager to get home from York University. At the next stop, a woman with a stroller waited to board. There was no room for her though, and she urged the bus to continue. The driver just sat there, thinking, and finally he said, "Can we make some space for her and her child?" Everyone shuffled and moved, but Selah started to get really angry. Why should they wait, and for a lady with a stroller? she thought.

She was still angry when she got home. "Sometimes when I'd get angry, I'd have to see blood to get better. So I started cutting myself... and I realized this was an issue." Why would a random stranger with a stroller make her so angry? She thought about it, and finally connected it with the abortion she'd had a year earlier.

She looked online and booked an appointment with the PCC. She met with Linda and casually mentioned she was also late in her monthly cycle. The test showed positive. "I was shocked," Selah recalls. "I was confused, angry and scared. Just the thought of having another abortion – it was going to ruin my life."

This time it was different though – she'd already asked for God's forgiveness for her abortion, and she desired to follow Him. And this time around she had someone there to talk to at the PCC. "Not to say [my] family wouldn't be there for [me]," Selah explained, "but sometimes you find comfort from a stranger better than from your family. Linda was non-judgmental, reassuring me that it was possible."

Selah's life switched gears for the next while. An ambitious and driven student, she put university on hold and took the summer and fall semesters off. She registered for the winter semester so that she'd be committed to going back to school no matter what.

~ continued on page three ~

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

Board of directors:

Clara Addo-Bekoe	Jim Hughes
Tim Challies	Nancy Varga
Jennifer Forbes	Bill Weiland

Staff:

Linda Baartse	Macaria Romero
Karen Hamilton	Paulette Smalling
Jaimie Lintag	Ruth VanDyken

416-229-2607
 PCCfriends.ca | IAmNotAlone.ca
 info@pregnancycarecentre.org
 638a Sheppard Ave. West | Suite 213
 North York ON | M3H 2S1

what's new at the PCC

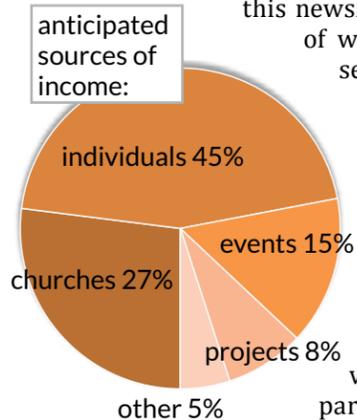
Because of your support we have been growing and expanding our outreach over the past few years. Client appointments have increased from an average of about 200 per year to over 800 in 2014. In the past, we served from two locations and now we are serving from five. Our full and part time paid staff has grown from two to seven. They manage a network of 150 volunteers who serve our moms and their families, as well as 100 event and organizational support volunteers.

income raised to
May 31 for 2015
162,442 | total budgeted expenses
362,960

PCC has also grown in its annual budget. In 2009 our expenses were around \$115,000, and in 2014 we grew to a budget of \$362,960. Because we don't receive any government support all these resources are provided by individuals, churches and businesses.

Grateful for your support

How has this growth been possible? The answer is clear. The Lord has blessed us through you, our PCC friends. Back in 2013 we started to share a strategic plan to expand our outreach so that no woman in Toronto would need to feel that abortion was her only choice. Through church presentations, our annual dinner, and through



this newsletter we've shared our vision of wanting to provide direct PCC services to 1000 families each year. We don't want any woman in Toronto to face an unexpected pregnancy alone. You have supported this vision by becoming financial supporters, bringing your friends to our special events, and encouraging your churches to get more involved. We thank God for your partnership with us!

System Changes

With growth comes the recognition that we need to update the (mainly) manual systems that served us for the first 30 years. We are grateful for a special project donation that is enabling us to implement a new administrative system. Once this system is implemented, Lord willing we look forward to many benefits:

- We'll be able to reduce administrative effort and improve our efficiency.
- A tracking system will allow more opportunities to keep long-term connections with PCC moms, who often want to become future supporters and volunteers, and who can share their stories of redemption through Christ.
- With our current volunteers, we will be able to more efficiently coordinate their service in the commu-

nity with additional mechanisms for responding to their feedback.

- We will be able to improve our communications with volunteers and churches on how the work is making a difference in the community.

PCC Team Changes

We are grateful for Jaimie Lintag who is implementing this new administrative system under the project leadership of long-term board member Jim Hughes. Jaimie served as a faithful volunteer with the PCC over this past year and now we welcome her as our newest staff member! PCC staff member Karen Hamilton will now be working full time with us. Her administrative responsibilities in the North York office will include staying in contact with our supporters. Look forward to a phone call from Karen over the summer.



At this time we are saying goodbye to Abby Davidson, who finished her term as Assistant Director in the North York office, and to Kaitlyn Heming who led the First Response Centre Downtown on Saturdays. Abby started working with the PCC about four years ago and Kaitlyn began three years ago. We are grateful for both of these women, who have served us wholeheartedly and have greatly contributed to the growth and extension of our services in Toronto. We are going to miss them and we give thanks to God for their service.

Survey help

We have included a short survey questionnaire with this newsletter so you can help us transition to the new administrative system. Please help us by filling out the survey and sending it back in the return envelope. This survey questionnaire should take less than two minutes. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

We are looking forward to seeing you on November 7th at our Annual Dinner. Plan to attend and bring your friends. We have lots of room as we have booked the Markham Banquet Hall. We are so grateful for your support!

Linda Baartse



Like us on Facebook!
facebook.com/pregnancycarecentre.org
Have you seen our new videos & blog posts?
IAmNotAlone.ca/blog

thank you for praying

Thank you for your prayers about our TTC advertising campaign. God answered them powerfully, and the message continues to travel around the city each day. Women frequently tell us they were blindsided by the thought of pregnancy, and they offered a desperate prayer... and then they looked up to find the answer to that prayer on the very bus they were riding in.

Have an old (& functional) laptop around your place? We'd love it! Please call us to donate: 416-229-2607.



giving thanks for babies

During the month of June, we've had a little baby boom at PCC! The joyful calls keep coming in, with over a dozen expected in June (including one set of twins who have already made their appearance.) Please pray for safety for moms and babies as they deliver, and for wisdom, strength and patience as moms and dads care for these little ones.

mark your calendars

We have a date for the Annual Dinner - do you? Mark November 7 in your calendars for an evening at the elegant Markham Convention Centre!



We have plans for a First Response Training in September. If you'd like to attend, or your church would like to host one please call the office at 416-229-2607.



~ continued from front page ~

Her baby was due in September. "I remember the day I left to go to the hospital. I stopped, thinking, 'Your life will never be the same. Embrace the moment.'" Baby Travis was born by C-section. "I was afraid of tiny babies - I'd never held one before. When he arrived, he didn't look so tiny to me - he just looked normal. But it was still scary. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I'm responsible for this little one!'"

Three months later she went back to York. The challenge was incredible - commuting back and from St. Catharines to Toronto, struggling through heavy traffic, balancing a baby with books and lectures. "You kind of just do it. God helped me - we had a strike and that strike really helped me, giving me a week to catch up." By His grace and through hard work, Selah graduated this springtime!

And God was preparing another gift. Robert has been a friend to Selah for six years, and he began showing interest in her during her pregnancy. "When he first approached me, I was like, "If you're doing this just because

you're feeling sorry for me, I'm not interested.' But he said he'd always had feelings for me."

Robert was there the whole time - through pregnancy and delivery. He cared for Travis while Selah was in school, undaunted even by dirty diapers. "I was really worried about raising Travis without a father," Selah shared, "but Robert has been more than enough."

Robert is a committed Christian, encouraging regular prayer and church attendance. Selah and he are engaged to be married this fall. "I thank God for him!" Selah shared. "This is all that I can ask for in a marriage."

As for roly-polly little Travis, he's growing in size and cuteness every day. Selah, the woman who used to say, "I'm just not so big on having my own kids," has been won over by him. "I'm actually starting to really, really like Travis. He's a good baby, he's smart and he's a very fast learner. He makes me like him. And having him makes me want to stay closer to God."

* names changed to protect privacy

2015 Relay Recap



Special thanks to our corporate sponsors:

- Boot's Landscaping
- Cranberry Golf Resort
- Martin's The Flower People
- Willowdale Presb. Church
- Charley's West Indian Food Ltd.
- Jesus First Assembly
- MacGregors Meats
- Other Anonymous Donors

Hospitality Sponsors & Prize Donors

- AGO
- Bank of Montreal
- Casa Loma
- Medieval Times
- Ontario Science Centre
- Sheridan Cyrus Dentistry
- Tyler's Steeped Tea
- Bagel Plus
- Bayview-Sheppard RMT
- Culligan Water
- Metro
- Rizvi Electronics
- Tidy's Flowers
- Baxter Kitchens
- Canadian National Exhibition
- The Keg
- Maple Leaf Sports&Entertainment
- Rubini's West Indian Groceries
- Starbucks
- TIFF

Thank you to our media partners: G98.7 FM, SNAP, WDCX & Gospel Connection