

# winter 2016

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## Pregnancy Care Centre

You are not alone



## snapshots

Another year is dawning, the old hymn goes. Reflecting over 2015, we'd love to bring you into the very lives of the people we serve – their struggles, their joys, their heartbreak, their healing. As space and confidentiality permit, we can only give you a few snapshots: some brave women and men who soldiered through the difficult because they believed it was right, situations where God invaded brokenness in such a way that we tasted His presence, lives where hurt and hope mingle.

*Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be  
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.*

Juanita\* came to the centre for a pregnancy test early in the year. She was utterly shocked by the positive result. Her biggest fear was her parents – would they react violently to her unexpected pregnancy? PCC's prayer partners prayed for her and God answered : Juanita's parents reacted positively and are a huge support to her and her children.

*Another year of progress, another year of praise,*

God answered Samantha\*'s petition for a healthy baby and also granted her a work permit. She now serves as a volunteer for the PCC. She brings her baby with her (Samantha's baby is, without a doubt, PCC's cutest volunteer :)

When Quiana\* and her husband became pregnant, there were many seeming roadblocks in their way: Where would they find adequate housing? What about ongoing health problems and a lack of steady income? Would Children's Aid apprehend their child? As they cried out to God, He graciously provided shelter, support and equipped them to take care of their beautiful child.

*Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.*

We thank God also for His powerful protection from false accusers who lobbied to remove PCC's ads from the TTC. Although we sus-

### 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:

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pected the TTC would bow to the pressure, their review board re-approved the campaign, and the online petition actually served to garner further support for the Centre.

Maria\* came to us because of an unexpected pregnancy. She shared her heartbreak with losing custody of her children. She is now rejoicing that God has changed the circumstances and she again can care for her children.

*Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,  
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;*

After weeks' worth of agonized internal battle and prayer, Josh & Cindy\* decided to embrace their pregnancy. They are now delighted with their beautiful baby.

We give thanks to God for the many women and couples who bravely chose to carry their pregnancy, despite difficult circumstances – Jacinda\*, who works hard to support her family overseas; Roxy\* and her partner, who were unsure of becoming parents but now “can’t imagine life without their baby”; Violet & Brendan\* who initially chose abortion but, after discussing different supports and resources, they realized they were well-equipped to carry their pregnancy, and Anton & Katarina\* who, although young and from a foreign country, are now eagerly planning for their baby’s arrival.

Struggling with guilt and deep sadness, a young woman came into the PCC to talk about her past abortion. The church she was raised in had left her with a bad taste in her mouth for all things “Christian.” She was hesitantly open to looking to the God of the Bible to find wisdom. As she sought wisdom, she has come to know the Source of all wisdom, God Himself. Today she enjoys the Scriptures and daily feeds her new-found faith.

*Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;  
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.*

Laurette\* has frequently phoned into the PCC, sharing her burdens with health concerns, pregnancy and depression. Initially she seemed non-responsive. Eventually she came to the office and met with a PCC worker. Her health has improved, and her baby is growing. She has been proactive in setting goals and making healthy choices – we’re so grateful for God’s leading in this!

After a difficult pregnancy with very serious health problems, God has restored Michaela’s\* health in a powerful way. Knowing that PCC’s prayer partners were lifting her up in prayer was a steady encouragement to her. Today, she and her family are in a much better place. Through attending church she has come to understand the Gospel.

One individual who had taken the First Response Training met Julia\*, young woman who was struggling with a past abortion. At her friend’s suggestion, Stacey came to the PCC. The *Forgiven & Set Free* study brought Stacey to turn to Jesus.

*Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,  
Another year of training for holier work above.*

Often we see God’s incredible, ironic sovereignty at play as He brings people together. Volunteer Sarah-May\* had taken the First Response training and was preparing

to become a volunteer when her son broke the news to her that his girlfriend was in an unexpected pregnancy. She responded graciously, helping him make healthy choices. She’s now a happy grandmother, eagerly watching both her grandchild grow and her son mature as a dad. She has been able to encourage and calm the fears of one young couple as they wonder how to approach their parents.

These are just a few reports of how the Lord has blessed families through your prayer support.

*Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be  
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.*



Thank you for loving families served by the PCC with your prayer support. Do you want to receive the weekly PCC Prayer Link? Join by emailing [info@PregnancyCareCentre.org](mailto:info@PregnancyCareCentre.org)

## upcoming events

### **First Response Training / Lifeboat Training**

Westminster Chapel | 9 Hewitt Ave.  
To register, call 416-229-2607 or write [info@pregnancycarecentre.org](mailto:info@pregnancycarecentre.org)  
Saturday, Feb. 27 | 10 am - 4 pm

### **First Response Relay | Sat. May 7**

If you would like to serve in this year’s Relay, contact us at [Events@PregnancyCareCentre.org](mailto:Events@PregnancyCareCentre.org)

### **PCC Memorial Service | March 3**

A private service is offered by the PCC yearly for those who want to remember a child lost to abortion. To register to participate contact [info@pregnancycarecentre.org](mailto:info@pregnancycarecentre.org).

### **Thinking Conference Toronto 2016 | April 22 - 23**

This apologetics conference examines the reliability of Scriptures and how that speaks to major ethical issues in society today. PCC’s Linda Baartse will lead a workshop.

Find more information at [thinkingto2016.com](http://thinkingto2016.com)



## New on the blog

### **My two adopted brothers**

Jessica Block, volunteer for the PCC, shares her unique perspective on the shock & delight of two boys coming to her family’s home... with no nine-month warning.

### **From invisibility to unspeakable love**

“Those many years ago my mom had not physically aborted me, but she had mentally aborted me.”

Find this and more at [IAmNotAlone.ca/blog](http://IAmNotAlone.ca/blog).



## from Linda’s desk

*“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good and for his steadfast love endures forever” Psalm 136:1*

We’d like to share with you how God has blessed your contributions to the work of the Pregnancy Care Centre in this past year.

We thank God for enabling us to expand our outreach to more families needing pregnancy support in Toronto than ever before. Because of your support we were able to help 392 families and provide 1074 follow-up appointments in 2015. Many mothers stay in contact with us and some regularly attend churches where they once were served by volunteers through their pregnancy.

The pictures from our happy (but noisy!) gatherings where babies, moms, dads, family members and friends attended our Christmas parties share some of our joy. These parties were held in four PCC locations across the city. We are grateful to partner churches and individuals who generously contributed delicious home baking, grocery gift cards and diapers. In addition, *The Shoebox Project* also provided gifts for 80 women.

At each gathering many families expressed their thanks to God for His provision. There were many joyful words of thanks to God for the safe arrival of little ones, and thanks to you for your support through the Pregnancy Care Centre, offered during a difficult time in their lives.

I am also pleased to report that your response to our request for year-end financial support was met. We were able to finish the year in a strong position.

Your support gifts were multiplied many times over by an increased number of volunteers serving on First Response church teams. Collectively the volunteers served at least 60 hours a week. Some weeks these hours were nearly doubled due to special events in the community – that’s about 3500 of volunteered hours for prayer, promotion and provision of services!

Your support for the PCC is part of God’s provision to bless these families. Thank you for serving with us!

Linda Baartse



# statistical report 2015

new clients  
seen

**392**

five years ago: 205

church teams  
serving our moms &  
couples directly

**18**

ongoing support  
provided to women  
or couples

**1075**

five years ago: 102

women / couples  
who received a Bible

**97**

those who heard  
the Gospel at  
PCC

**94**

known births of  
babies

**44**

Thanks to your generous support and God's abundant grace, we were able to reach out to 392 new women & couples this year. Our strategic vision is to serve 1000 women & couples in Toronto each year, and this is a step toward that. In this city alone, 10,000 women will choose abortion annually. With your support, we continue to pray and work to extend help and hope in Toronto. Thank you!