*Volunteer Training Session 1*

**Session 1/Starting Point**

So much of what pregnancy care centers do is misunderstood, maligned, and thought to be harmful to women. And yet, centers continue in their successful work to educate and care for families finding themselves experiencing an unexpected baby. And there is much to learn – about the people for which we care, about ourselves as we care and about how Our God cares. We will start this chapter with a Biblical perspective on what is commonly referred to as The Sanctity of Human Life. We will then talk through the Sanctity vs. Quality of Life and finally why We Dare to Care. While we cannot take a deep dive into each of these topics, it is our hope to simply introduce them to you for the purpose of being a part of the Center’s team of care. Do feel free to explore each one further, outside of this training.

***Biblical Perspective of Life***

Our greatest source of understanding God is His Word. While there are many, many verses in the Bible that speak to God as Creator, below are some to consider as the Divine Giver of life. Take a minute to read through each one and write out what it means to you.

**Creator God**

*Genesis 1:27 ESV*

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

*Genesis 2:7*

*“Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”*

*Job 12:10 ESV*

*“In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”*

*Job 31:15 ESV*

*“Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?”*

*Psalm 139:13-14 ESV*

*“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”*

*Jeremiah 1:5 ESV*

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*

*Acts 17:25 ESV*

*“Nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for ‘In him we live and move and have our being,’ as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ “*

**His Law**

*Genesis 9:6 ESV*

*“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.”*

*Exodus 20:13 ESV*

*“You shall not murder.”*

*Leviticus 18:21*

*“You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.”*

*Matthew 19:18-19 ESV*

*He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

*1 Corinthians 3:16-17 ESV*

*“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.”*

***Self-Reflection***

Below are scriptures that also support why we do what we do. Feel free to take extra time to study and journal as you gain insight.

**His Purpose**

*Psalm 139:1-24*

*Isaiah 46:3-4*

*Isaiah 49:16*

*Jeremiah 1:4-5*

**Our Opportunity**

*Deuteronomy 30:19*

*Jeremiah 22:3*

*Luke 12:6-7*

*Ephesians 2:10*

***Sanctity vs. Quality*** (Care Net Trainee Handbook, page 17)

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| **Sanctity of Human Life** | **Quality of Human Life** |
| Our value is absolute. | Our value is relative. |
| Man was created. | Man has evolved. |
| Based upon who we are, created beings. | Based upon what we do. |
| Based upon Who knows us (God). | Based upon who we know. |
| We have a duty to God. | We have a duty to self. |
| Based upon fact (fetal development). | Based up man’s dominion. |
| God defines personhood. | We define personhood. |
| Protects innocence. | Destroys innocence. |

***We Dare to Care***

**The Basics** (outline from a teaching by Pastor Dale O’Shields)

1. Simply believe that God has asked you to help others and He has equipped you to do it.

*(2 Corinthians 1:4 MSG)*

* You will never be a perfect helper.
* You will always need to learn and grow as a helper.
* You will never be able to help everyone.

2. Your primary goal is to help people connect with and depend on Jesus Christ, not you.

  *(Acts 3:12)*

3. You must understand the difference between sympathy and empathy.

  *(Galatians 6:1-2)*

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| Sympathy  | Feelings of pity and sorrow for someone else's misfortune. |
| Empathy | The ability to understand and share the feelings of another that leads to help. |

4. Know your limitations - what you can do for people and what you cannot.

 *(1 Corinthians 3:6-7)*

* + - * You cannot be their Savior.
			* You cannot be their parent.
			* You cannot be their personal counselor.
			* You cannot make decisions for them or tell them what to do.
			* You cannot fix all of their problems or heal all of their pain.
			* You can (and should) love them, listen to them, pray for them, encourage them, share what you have learned with them and guide them into God’s grace and truth.

5. Know how to release people.

  *(Luke 15:11-13)*

* Not everyone wants help.
* Some people will make bad choices no matter what you do to help them.
* Part of helping people is knowing how and when to let go.

6. Expect resistance.

 *(1 Samuel 8:7)*

* Resistance is part of a sinful nature.
* Resistance is natural when there is a call to change.
* A good helper will anticipate and be patient through resistance.
* A good helper doesn’t take resistance too personally.

7. Set and keep proper boundaries.

  *(Mark 6:31)*

* A boundary is a “line” that signals personal space.
* Hurting people tend to ignore boundaries.
* If a Volunteer does not set good boundaries, boundaries will not be set.
* The purpose of a boundary is safety, rest and renewal.
* Boundaries are to be lovingly communicated and kindly enforced.
* Volunteers need to know how to be flexible with their boundaries.
* Boundaries should expand as we grow in the Lord.

8. Stay focused on God’s grace.

  *(Acts 20:32)*

* Always depend on His grace.
* Always treat people with grace.
* Always “err” on the side of grace.
* Remind others of the power and value of God’s grace.

9. Receive regular spiritual nourishment.

  *(Psalm 19:7)*

* No one can give what they do not possess.
* You can only take someone as far as you have gone.
* If you keep spending resources without replenishment, you will eventually go bankrupt.
* Regular spiritual replenishment is foundational to being a helper. We fill up to give out.

10. Refuse to evaluate your effectiveness (or lack of it) by short term results.

  *(Isaiah 55:10-11)*

* We are called to be seed sowers, not soil inspectors.
* Seed can lie dormant for years before it sprouts, grows and bears fruit.
* The Bible is big on faithfulness and endurance, so keep on sowing.

11. You must be able to maintain Confidentiality. Information circle includes only the Volunteer,

 RWC Personnel and Client.

* Confidentiality is critical to maintaining trust.
* It is necessary to participate as a Volunteer with RWC.
* It is only broken if the Volunteer and RWC Staff are concerned for the person’s safety or feel that the Client is unable to sufficiently care for themselves and require assistance RWC cannot provide.
* It is only broken if the Volunteer and RWC Staff feel that the person may hurt themselves or someone else.

12. Be consistent in your calling.

 (Luke 5:16)

* Personal consistency of good habits builds self-confidence and capacity.
* Spiritual consistency study, prayer and fellowship keeps us full to share.
* Relational consistency in communication builds trust and confidence for others.
* Financial consistency makes way for new opportunities.
* Consistency is a building block for our character.

This role is a calling - by God Himself - for the purpose of allowing God to use us for His purpose in each life we touch. We will look at character qualities of caring people to help us understand how we must let Him develop our character and at the same time, recognize our limits. Each time we meet with our Clients, we have the opportunity to express care, concern, practical help and spiritual connection that they may not find with other organizations. We have the privilege to be a representation of God’s hands and heart.

***Self-Reflection***

Please take 5 minutes to read Isaiah 61: 1-3 and pray/journal the following questions:

-Who are the people in my world that need a touch from God?

-How am I already equipped to help them?

-Where do I need improvement or need to grow in training?

-How do I become someone that cares for people in such a way that they can see beyond their imperfections to what God has designed them to be?