

# Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



Thursday, January 21, 1988 O&E

(F)19

## Another Way Faith keeps pregnancy center open for 40 callers a month

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

**A**NOTHER WAY Pregnancy Center stemmed from a personal conviction that abortion was wrong and has been operating from the onset on faith.

Julie Raguse thinks of her work in the center as "God's calling." "I really believe God wants somebody to be doing this. There is a need for what we're doing," the Farmington resident said. "Our first client came to us on the day we were holding open house."

The cadre of volunteers who have kept the doors open to their second floor offices in a renovated building in Wilcom since late in 1984 can now expect to receive 40 young women a month, many who come without an appointment but with a need to talk.

Pregnancy tests are free. So are the consultations.

"The money comes to us freely so we pass it on freely," Raguse said of the contributions that support the center. "We're available for as long as she wants to talk. Even those found not to be pregnant sometimes will want to stay or come back just to talk things out."

"There were times when we only had \$50 in the bank account, but we've always somehow managed to remain in the black. It's developed into what it is because of the faith of our volunteers."

RAGUSE WAS one of a small group of people, all Right to Life members, who called a meeting among representatives of 15 area churches to propose the opening of such a center in this part of the metro area.

"Right to Life is concerned with changing the laws (concerning abortion). That's fine. But we were concerned about the individual woman with a problem who needed support on a one-to-one basis to help her find some answers. We wanted something apart from any political aspect," she said.

"We wanted to talk to those women and tell them there is another way. Of course we don't believe in



**'Those women need help right now, and we can't judge their choices. And we do not manipulate. We certainly don't win them all. If we know we'll never see her again we say good-bye and say a prayer.'**

— Julie Raguse

abortion, and we tell them that, but the last thing we'd do is ask them to sign a petition — or anything else political."

Another Way Pregnancy Center is also operated separate of any church.

"We are supported by churches of various Christian denominations who make pledges to us, some individuals, a few businesses. Those who have made a commitment to us have never failed, even if it was \$10 or \$15 a month," Raguse said.

"They are all pro-life. They all believe in trying to save a baby's life and giving us a chance at talking to a woman to prevent an abortion. Once in a while we meet someone who says 'I can't believe you guys are doing this — here's \$25.' But we depend on our pledges to keep us open, and we're working now toward get-

ting a full-time paid office manager."

BECAUSE ALL of the people who volunteered their time to open Another Way Pregnancy Center were non-professionals, training was the next order of business, taken through Pregnancy Service of Michigan.

The volunteers learned listening and helping skills, rules, regulations and laws, and continue to keep abreast as those rules, regulations and laws change.

"There was a lot to learn and a lot of us willing to learn it," Raguse said. "A lot of us had to learn how to be non-judgmental. Those women need help right now and we can't judge their choices. And we do not manipulate. We certainly don't win them all. If we know we'll never see her again we say good-bye and say a prayer."

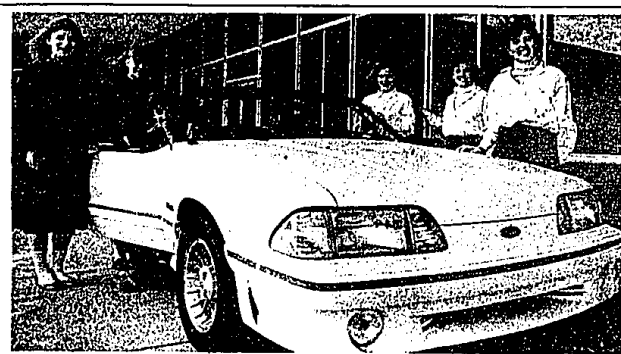
"But sometimes a woman will drop by and say 'Here's the baby.' Those are the very, very good days."

Another Way Pregnancy Center's clients can be as young as 14. The largest number fall into the 18-24 age group. If they are pregnant, they are received no matter what their culture, marital status, financial status, whether employed or unemployed, with or without a home.

The center is at 49175 Pontiac Trail, Wilcom. The center's staff uses the basement of the building as a storage space for infant's clothing, maternity clothing, and some baby equipment.

Raguse is a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, one of the area churches which pledge money to the center. She is the mother of three boys who were born during the time leading up to when abortion was made legal in the United States. She is now employed with Mercy Health Services and was the first president of the center. Dr. David Sear, a Millford resident, is the current president.

Anyone wishing to make inquiries, donations of money, time or talents, can reach either Raguse or Sear by calling the center, 624-1222, and leaving a message.



Mercy High School students are busy planning the "Bid With Heart Auction," but they can still find time to inspect this 1988 Mustang convertible, the grand prize in their raffle. The car is now in the school's parking lot waiting for its lucky new owner. From left, the students are: Pamela Delonis, Karri Donatello, Stephanie Kramer, Jessica Young, Kelly Moore and Katie Perrin.

## Revving up for auction night

A committee at Mercy High School is revving up now for "Bid With Heart Auction," the eighth annual fund-raiser of its kind. Steve Garagiola, WXYZ's sports personality returns as master of ceremonies. John Whalen will be the auctioneer.

The evening begins at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13 with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres served during time allotted for the silent auction.

A light supper is served 8-10 p.m. when the bidding starts. Desserts and international coffees are offered until midnight.

The evening's grand finale is the raffle drawing for a white 1988 GT Mustang convertible, two \$1,000

cash prizes and eight \$500 cash prizes.

Auction chairwoman is Catherine Merritt. Members of her committee from Farmington and Farmington Hills are Betty Jean Hebel, Jill Clinton, Bill and Carol McNish, Ken and Gail Perrin, Art McWood, Judith Ewald and Mary Sue Ewing. The committee is supported by a host of students who have volunteered to take a variety of jobs for "Bid With Heart Auction."

High ticket items up for bid during the live auction are lunch with University of Michigan coach Bo Schembechler; one week at a condo in Deer Valley, Utah; a tour of WJR with

Gene Fogel; vacations in Florida condos; and a trip on a Great Lakes freighter for four people.

Other donations up for bid are golf outings, a day of sailing, tickets to the Indy 500, a party at Stroh Haus, and a wide-screen TV.

Silent auction merchandise includes a large variety of small appliances, sporting goods, theater tickets, crystal, certificates for services and dinners in the area's finest restaurants.

Reservations, at \$50 each, are made in Mercy High School Development Office, corner of Middlebelt and 11 Mile Road, or by calling the school, 476-8020.

## After Oct. 19 Financial planners don't pretend to have a crystal ball

By Shirlee Rose Ison  
staff writer

First, let's start with the good news.

There's an investment adviser in Oakland County who is bullish on the economy and contends that 1988 will be a good year.

Steven Zimberg, whose home and office are in Farmington Hills, said: "I think the stock market will go up through January to the 1700-2,000 trading range."

Zimberg, who has been published in Barron's and other financial publications, predicts that the market

will go up and down by 500 points at a time, because investors are so nervous and quick to react after the Oct. 19 stock market crash.

"Everyone I know recognizes that the subject of stock market investment is a total gamble. They all tell me they buy when they should sell and sell when they should buy."

ZIMBERG'S investment philosophy steers clients more to real estate and other investments that don't depend on outside influences such as the market.

He also believes the government should print less money.

"If they print less money, that will help interest rates. Our dollar is down presently, but it's doing OK for us and has lowered interest rates," he said.

"Although the dollar has fallen substantially against the yen, the Japanese have a lot of investment here, and they have yet to pull out of any of it."

Zimberg said his business is going well because "more people are confused and don't mind paying a fee for professional help."

Isabel Smith, a certified financial planner in Birmingham, said her clients are taking a more conservative stance since Oct. 19 and are more defensive about their investments.

"But I'm busy if the market's good, and I'm busy if it's bad."

Smith, who also lives in the Birmingham area, has been a financial planner for 10 years.

For Claire Price, a financial planner in West Bloomfield, the shock of the Oct. 19 crash is still there. "There's a lot of uncertainty. People are wanting safer securities. They're getting into bonds and annuities instead of stock."

"I haven't seen anyone trying to buy low. With a bear market, and a presidential election year, we may see some recession in the first quarter of 1989."

Price said she tells her clients that if their objectives have changed, it's time to change their financial plan. "All in all, I'm a shaky optimist," she said.

**'People want to preserve what they have and not reduce the quality of their life. They aren't scared, they're confused. They won't do anything and that's bad.'**

— Audrey Pearl



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