
NEWSLETTER

LIFE NETWORK

OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS



FALL 2026

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

FUNDRAISING UPDATES



Executive Director Update: Debbie Geist

At Life Network, we are grateful to be part of a larger community committed to protecting and honoring life. Through partnerships with Care Net, Heartbeat International, and NIFLA (National Institute of Family and Life Advocates), we stay connected to centers nationwide and receive resources, medical training, and legal counsel that keep us equipped, informed, and encouraged in our pro-life work.

In May, I had the opportunity to attend the NIFLA conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. I deeply value this time away from the daily demands of leadership because it gives me space to rest, reflect, and recognize how God has blessed me personally and the ministry of Life Network. The three-day conference offered encouragement, professional development, and, most importantly, soul care. It gave me room to breathe, listen more clearly to the Lord, and renewed my passion for this ministry.

The conference helped me grow as a leader and servant in the pregnancy help movement. As the abortion industry continues to change, staying current is essential. Workshops and keynotes offered practical insight, timely updates, encouragement, and tools to strengthen client care, board governance, fundraising, and medical services.

Beyond practical tools, the conference offered a powerful reminder of PERSPECTIVE. Being pro-life means embracing “pro-abundant life”—providing long-term, holistic support for mothers, fathers, and children. Gathering with other pregnancy center leaders reminds me that Life Network is part of something bigger than any one center. Together, we are stronger.

Ministry is both demanding and deeply rewarding, making intentional time to rest and nourish the soul essential. These moments renew our strength, restore our perspective, and remind us why God called us to this work. In Mark 6:31, Jesus recognized the physical, emotional, and spiritual demands of ministry and invited His disciples to rest.

Because of your faithful partnership, Life Network stays connected, equipped, and encouraged for the work God has called us to do. Your support makes opportunities like this possible and helps us continue offering compassionate, life-affirming care to women, men, and families in our community. Together, we move forward with renewed purpose, deeper perspective, and lasting hope.

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” Mark 6:31

Client Spotlight: Harley & Brody's Story

When Harley and Brody learned they were expecting a baby, they felt overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty. "I was really scared, anxious, and lost," Harley recalled. "I felt like I wasn't ready to be a parent."

Brody felt the same way. "We thought, There's no way we can do this. We're not ready for this. It felt overwhelming and absolutely terrifying."

Unsure where to turn, Harley learned about Life Network from her stepmother. "Before that, I thought I was just lost and alone," she said. At Life Network, the couple found a place where they could explore their options, receive support, and gain the education they needed to move forward with confidence. Through parenting classes, resources and compassionate care, they began to see they were not alone.

One of the most meaningful moments of their journey was seeing their baby on ultrasound for the first time. "Seeing our baby on the ultrasound made it really real," Harley said. Brody agreed, "It really set in that we were creating another being who would be part of our family."



"Before, I felt scared, alone, and lost. Now I feel confident. I have the knowledge that I need."

— Harley

What began with fear and uncertainty has become a source of joy! In June, Harley and Brody welcomed a healthy baby boy into the family. Looking back, both are grateful for the support they received during a difficult time. Harley shared, "Without Life Network, I would have possibly gone the other way, which would have pretty much been a lifelong regret." Brody added, "If Life Network wasn't around, I wouldn't be having my kid right now."

Because of faithful supporters like you, families facing unexpected pregnancies can find the guidance, encouragement, and practical support they need. Thank you for helping parents like Harley and Brody move from fear to confidence and welcome new life with hope.

"Jesus looked at them and said, With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

Mark 10:27





SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH

5PM DOORS OPEN
6PM START TIME

Waterloo High School Cafeteria
505 E. BULLDOG BLVD.,
WATERLOO

RESERVE YOUR TABLE NOW

Trivia Night

618.939.4224
OR VIA QR CODE

Community Spotlight

Honoring Aiden Through Giving

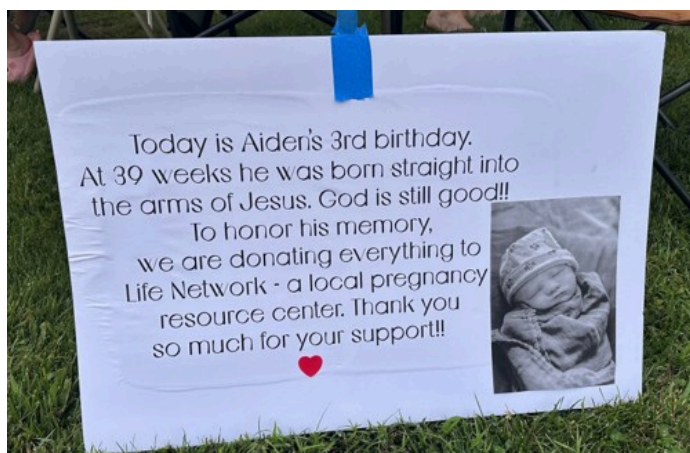
This summer, one local family found a beautiful way to honor the memory of their son, Aiden, while making a difference for others.

On what would have been Aiden's third birthday, they hosted a hot dog and lemonade fundraiser, complete with homemade cookies, and generously donated the proceeds to Life Network. Their desire was not only to remember Aiden but also to bless families facing unexpected pregnancies and point others toward hope.

In sharing about the fundraiser, Aiden's father reflected on God's faithfulness through grief, writing that although loss is deeply painful, he believes God can bring lasting good even through life's hardest moments. His prayer is that others would come to know God's love and find hope in Jesus Christ.

Their family's willingness to transform personal loss into an opportunity to serve others is a powerful testimony of faith, compassion, and generosity. Because of supporters like them, Life Network is able to continue providing practical support, compassionate care, and life-affirming services to families in our community.

We are deeply grateful to their family for choosing to honor Aiden's memory by investing in the lives of others. Their kindness is a reminder that even in seasons of sorrow, hope can be shared, lives can be impacted, and love can leave a lasting legacy.



Aiden's Market Needs

- Diapers size 7
- Gentle Ease Formula
- Girls Pull-ups 2T-3T
- Girls Socks 2T-3T
- Potty Seats
- Ibuprofen Infant & Children's
- Li'l Crunchers Toddler Snacks
- Plastic Toddler Utensils
- Walmart Gift Cards



Shop our
Amazon
List!

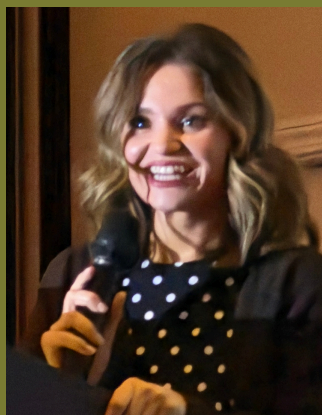


Shop our
Walmart
List!



Banquet Update

Many thanks to those who supported Life Network of Southern Illinois at our annual fundraising banquet April 9, 2026. Donors are the lifeline of this ministry and we are so grateful to our financial partners for their dedication to the pro-life cause. Thanks to you, the banquet was a wonderful success! Together we raised over \$245,000 for the ministry! We give God all the thanks and glory for His continued faithfulness.



SAVE THE DATE
2027 SPRING BANQUET
APRIL 8, 2027



Gifts have been received in Memory of:

Mike Behnen
Greta Kloos Dunn

Cesilie N. Huebner
Ezekiel Neptune
Aiden Patrick

Nel Saul
Billie Jean Taylor

Gifts have been received in Honor of:

Anonymous
Baby Bartimaeus Hayter

Thank You Banquet Sponsors!

Platinum Level

Red Bud Industries
The Material Works, Ltd.
Waterloo Rotary Tree of Lights

Gold Level

Bethany Church
Concord Presbyterian Church
Evans Facility Consultants
George R. Kutterer Council 6165
Helitech
In Memory of Cesilie N. Huebner
LifechurchX
Lutherans For Life
Restoration Chapel
SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church
State Bank

Silver Level

1st National Bank of Waterloo
Barron Gymnastics
Barron Swim School
CNC Foundations
Engage Realty Group
Faith Baptist Church-Freeburg
Imagine This
Monroe County Electric Cooperative
Mudd Insurance
Chuck Pittman Insurance Agency Inc.
Providence Academy
Thrivent, Wendy Stevens
Anonymous
Anonymous
In Memory of Greta Kloos Dunn
Kevin & Lillian Koenigstein

Thank you donors!

2026 Baby Bottle Campaign (Runs Jan. 1-Dec. 31)

Raised to Date: \$25,074.56

There's still time to join our Baby Bottle Campaign! Call or stop by for details, or contact us to get your church involved.

Strengthening Services Through Trusted Oversight

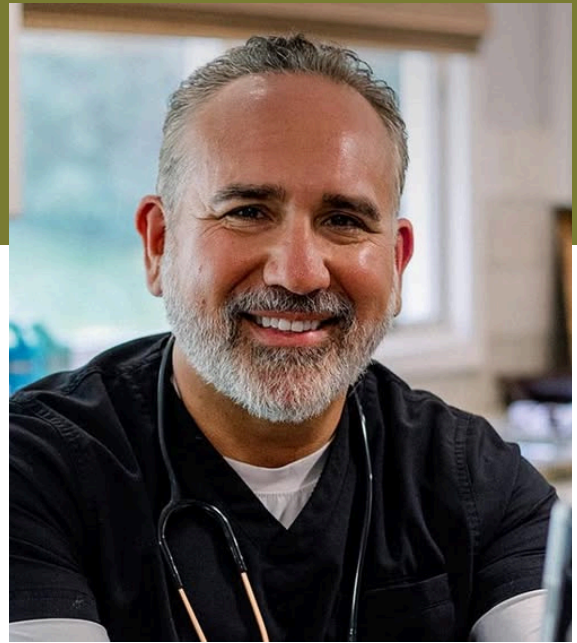
Because of your support, Life Network of Southern Illinois can offer compassionate Medical Pregnancy Care at a moment when many clients need help, clarity, and hope. Services such as ultrasounds and STI testing give women trusted medical support in a caring environment.

These services open the door for Life Network to reach more clients, share life-affirming education, and strengthen trust in the community. They also require careful oversight, so every service is provided responsibly and in compliance with state requirements.

That is why we are so grateful for Dr. Cangas, who has served as Medical Director since 2017. His leadership makes it possible for Life Network to continue offering these important services with professionalism and medical credibility.

Dr. Cangas reviews ultrasounds, guides medical policies, provides training and consultation, and offers clinical support when needed. He has also completed additional required training at his own expense, generously giving his time and expertise to this ministry.

Joe Cangas, M.D.



Your partnership helps make this possible. With trusted medical oversight and faithful donor support, clients can receive compassionate care, practical answers, and life-affirming help when it matters most.

Faith & Reflection

The Servant Outside the Spotlight

Service without spotlight or spectacle is the most beautiful practice - quiet commitment, humble work done where most will never see.

This kind of service is often unseen by the world, but it is deeply witnessed and valued by God. Those who serve quietly and carry out acts of love, care and duty without fanfare. Yet, there is profound power and impact.

These servants are the backbone of a ministry. Their devotion is rooted in quiet strength, where love and duty are expressed through action.

Service outside the social view requires a deep well of patience, prayer, and a humble spirit. This is Life Network - director, staff, volunteers, board, and community partners. The gift is the work, not recognition.



Board of Directors

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might..."
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Let's pray -

Lord, thank You for those who faithfully serve, often unnoticed by the world but always seen by You. Renew their strength, comfort them in their weariness, and fill them with lasting peace. Remind them that every act of love reflects Your gentle and humble heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

722 N. Market St.
Waterloo IL 62298

LIFE NETWORK
of Southern Illinois

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Waterloo, IL
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Supporting Life, Strengthening Families
Serving Southern Illinois with compassion and care since 1993

Board of Directors

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Jessa Pauline, Vice Chair
Jennifer Roscow, Secretary
Andrew Wetzler, Treasurer
Mike Gaynor
Tim Grove
Marilyn Liefer
Father Carl Scherrer

Medical Director

Joe Cangas, M.D.

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Debbie Geist
Executive Director

Michelle Schweiger, RN
Director of Client Services

Julie Stuart, RN
Nurse Manager

Peggy Buettner
Satellite Manager

Sara Duguay
Financial Administrative Assistant

Partner With Us

Pray

- God's will for possible expansion
- Post abortive women struggling to find healing
- Father's Program

Become a Prayer Partner! When staff or clients are in need of prayer, we'll send you an email. Email nursesem@htc.net to sign up.

Donate

- Mail, Call or Visit the Office-credit cards, checks or cash donations welcomed
- Website: supportmylifenet.com or QR code



Save The Date

Life Network Fundraisers

Trivia Night: 9/19/26

Reservations Required

Annual Banquet: 4/8/27

Reservations Required

Local Pro-Life Events

United For Life:

Waterloo 3rd Sat. monthly, 10-11A
Rt. 3 & IL Ave

(Barb 618.578.8697)

Red Bud 1st Sat. monthly 10-11A
4-way Stop

(Robin 618.792.1051)

Member Of



NIFLA
NATIONAL
INSTITUTE of
FAMILY & LIFE
ADVOCATES

CARE  **NET**

 **Heartbeat**
INTERNATIONAL

Waterloo Office

618.939.4224
722 N Market Street
Waterloo, IL 62298

Mon: Closed
Tues-Thurs: 8:30-4:30
Fri: 8:30-2:00

MISSION STATEMENT

Life Network of Southern Illinois is a Christ-Centered
ministry committed to upholding the sanctity of human life.

Red Bud Office

618.282.4225
324 N Main Street
Red Bud, IL 62278

Mon-Tues: 9:00-3:00
Wed: Closed
Thurs: 9:00-3:00
Fri: Closed