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The Crossing of Manitowoc County, Inc.
814 Washington St.
P.O. Box 2065
Manitowoc, WI 54221-2065

Return Service Requested

Telephone: Office: 920-973-4357
Office Hours: Monday - Wednesday 10-4
Thursday 10-6
Client Website: www.crossingpregnancysupport.org
Donor Website: www.thecrossingpartners.org
E-mail address: office@crossingpregnancysupport.org

The Crossing of Manitowoc County



Supporting women and families to strengthen our community



Volume 7, Issue 1

July 2014

Dear Partners,

We all like success stories, and Shea and Jenny are two of many lives that have been changed by The Crossing ministry. These girls are courageous and have made hard choices toward recovery. They graciously agreed to share their heart aches and joys with you.



Shea Kernan

I first started going to the Crossing during a very difficult and confusing time in my life. My daughter was almost 2 months old, and I was in a very unhealthy abusive relationship with her father. At the time, I knew I needed a major change in my life, but I was so emotionally torn it was hard to see clearly what that change should be.

Talking with the volunteer counselors helped me realize my situation and what steps I should take to be safe. They referred me to the Domestic Violence Center and I began to make an exit plan. They offered to drive me there, but I had taken the bus to The Crossing and did not have a car seat for my daughter. As we were discussing options, a woman stopped in The Crossing to donate a car seat. It was at this moment that I knew God was involved and was letting me know that I was on the right path. I continue going to The

Crossing regularly for parenting education classes and support. The Crossing has helped me set healthy boundaries, and I am volunteering in their childcare area. I have my own apartment and will graduate from the UW with an Associates degree this summer. I am grateful for the guidance and help I receive at The Crossing.

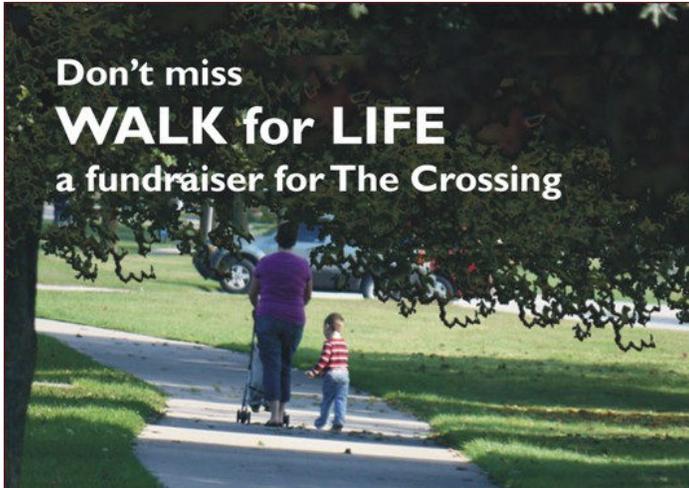


Jenny Seidl

When I first came to The Crossing I felt hopeless. Prison, drug addictions, rape, betrayal, and rejection are all a part of my past. I was raised in a good Christian home, but now as a single mother of three and struggling with the consequences of my past, I felt hopeless. When I met with a counselor at The Crossing, I was reminded that my value and worth to God was not reliant on my behavior, and that He loved me through it all. I began to hope again. I realized I am worth something. I look forward to coming every week to talk and learn. I watch parenting videos that are super helpful and I earn 'mommy money' to help provide for my family. I am recovering, and The Crossing is helping me to learn that coming just as I am is enough. THE CROSSING – *"I just love that place"*.

Comments from 7th and 8th graders after a two day session of Healthy Relationship Education:

- *"Thanks for coming to talk to our class...It got me to re-think about life and how having a child at a young age is super hard and expensive. Ps. You're a very strong person for doing the job you do."*
- *"Thank you for taking the time to present to our class about teen pregnancy. Even though I'm not a woman, I learned a lot, and it has affected me."*
- *"Thank you very much for visiting us. I'm sure you made many girls in this class aware of the reality of being pregnant."*
- *"Thanks again Mrs. Jacobs...thank you so much for coming to speak today. My mother went through something very similar with me, and it helps me so much to know that these things happen to people other than me. It also made me really stop to think as well. Everything you talked about touched me so much. So thank you again for coming today."*
- *"I really want to thank you so much for coming and talking about your teen pregnancy experience and what The Crossing is all about. You really opened my eyes about having a child especially when being a single parent."*



Don't miss
WALK for LIFE
 a fundraiser for **The Crossing**

August 16, 2014, 9-11am
Mariner's Trail, Manitowoc

All proceeds benefit The Crossing.
 Call or email to register and get pledge forms.
 920.973.4357
 info@crossingpregnancysupport.org



The Crossing of Manitowoc County
 Supporting women and families to strengthen our community

Would you be one of our hopeful 100 walkers, and would you ask 10 friends for \$10 to sponsor your walk for The Crossing? If you will, we will raise \$10,000. Please call us to register today, 920-973-4357. Our non-athletic one mile walk will begin at the Manitowoc Marina at 9am. We trust God who often works through you to help us do the work He's called us to do.

A Word From Our Executive Director



Sue Tomasiak

Donations received through our Walk for Life will:

1. Help provide training for volunteers to bring prevention education on healthy relationships into our area public and private schools beginning in 4th grade.
2. Provide our rural families with education and material needs.
3. Help us purchase character building programs assist our clients' growth toward wholeness and independence.
4. Help us move forward with a transitional living home for single pregnant mothers and mothers with young children.

Nationally 70% of babies born are born to single moms. Over 45% of babies born in Manitowoc County are born to single mothers, and that statistic is climbing. That's about 400 babies annually born to single mothers. Praise God that statistics show that children are more likely to succeed if they are raised in a home with a mother and a father. Statistics also indicate that the majority of single moms will unfortunately remain in poverty.

We feel compelled to respond to the needs of single moms, because most of us know how hard it is to raise a child with two parents; their children are our future. Therefore we are invested in educating, empowering and equipping students and families in Manitowoc County with the skills necessary to develop healthy relationships, build strong marriages, and create safe and stable families which for some will break the cycle of poverty and dysfunction and will strengthen our community.



Kris Annie Jacobs, Director
 Earn While You Learn Program

There is exciting news on the Healthy Relationship front. Success leads to growth and educational presentations are growing! We have added to our curriculum the ability to teach 4th through 6th grades.

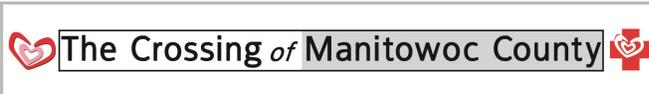
We have added outlines and teacher partners to work with.

We hope to be present in six or more community schools this coming Fall!

The Crossing is also reaching out to our community with Mobile Earn While You Learn - a dream on paper less than a year ago is now reality! August 14th, Earn While You Learn will launch in Valders at their community center. We hope to be there every Thursday and provide for clients where unreliable cars and lack of gas money prevent them from coming to Manitowoc! Two appointments are all ready scheduled! We look forward to the next community God leads us to - stay tuned!

Please cut out and send to -

Payment toward pledge _____
 One time gift enclosed: _____
 Quarterly installments of _____
 Other _____



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We would like to send more newsletters through e-mail accounts. If you are willing, please fill in your e-mail address and phone number or call our office at 920-973-4357.

E-mail: _____
Phone: () _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name, welcomes Me.”
 ~ Mark 9:37

 **Medical Update**

Clients and counselors share stories of joy from our Medical Clinic’s ultrasound exam room. The first view of the baby has determined the hearts and plans of many parents. We are blessed to share these moments.



We are always looking for volunteers and have several opportunities to serve. If you are interested, please call Belinda at 920-973-4357 for an application.

Volunteers Needed

Prayers and Praises

- Praise God for His presence and love in the lives of our clients.
- Praise God that there are no hopeless causes.
- Praise God for His provision.
- Praise God that over 50 abortion clinics closed because of abortion safety legislation.
- Pray that clients would desire the life giving love of God.
- Pray that our volunteers would not grow weary in doing good.
- Pray for a raised awareness of our medical clinic.