

NEWS LETTER



Issue 003

April 2026 / Vol. 003

Empowering Women Through Every Step of Pregnancy

Unplanned pregnancy affects many women and families in Brunswick County and throughout Southeastern Coastal NC. In North Carolina, about 43% of pregnancies are unplanned, meaning many women face pregnancy earlier than expected and without full preparation or support. This reality is compounded in rural areas, where access to maternal care can be limited or require long travel distances to reach services.

The Women's Life Center, centrally located in Brunswick County, in Shallotte, NC, provides no-cost services for expecting moms and moms with children age 3 and under, helping women navigate these challenging moments with confidence and care.

The Women's Life Center offers free pregnancy testing, options coaching, parenting and life skills education. They also offer client case management with access to financial resources for qualified applicants, supporting mothers and babies up to two years of age. The center will soon offer limited ultrasounds—more information on this exciting new service will be shared soon.

"No mom should have to face an unexpected pregnancy alone. Our goal is to provide care, education, and support every step of the way."

What makes the Women's Life Center unique is its holistic approach—combining practical help, education, emotional encouragement, and resource connections so that every woman can make informed decisions and feel empowered throughout her pregnancy journey. Research shows that women who receive comprehensive pregnancy support are more likely to access prenatal care early, improving outcomes for both mom and baby.

Many families in North Carolina face additional economic challenges: single-mother households experience significantly higher rates of poverty, and rural counties often have fewer resources for maternal and child health. These factors make free and accessible services even more critical for women and families in our region.

The Women's Life Center continues to be a trusted resource for women and families in Southeastern Coastal NC, offering hope, care, and encouragement every step of the way.

womenslifecenter.org | info@womenslifecenter.org



Volunteer Spotlight: Jennie Sloan

Jennie Sloan Meeting People In Their Hardest Moments

For Jennie Sloan, serving others isn't just something she does—it's who she is. A faith-filled believer in Jesus Christ, Jennie has spent the past 14 years serving as a chaplain with two disaster response organizations, walking alongside people in some of their most difficult and uncertain moments. Her life is deeply rooted in faith, family, and service. As a mother of three, grandmother to six, and great-grandmother to one (with another milestone birthday approaching soon), Jennie's heart for people spans generations. That same heart is what led her to volunteer with the Women's Life Center.

"I was created to serve my community and people who are in crisis," Jennie shares. "I have a passion to help people who are hurting and need someone to listen without judgment or persecution."

At the Women's Life Center, Jennie has found a place where that calling comes to life in a powerful way. Whether sitting with a woman in a moment of uncertainty or offering encouragement during a difficult season, Jennie brings compassion, wisdom, and a steady presence. What has impacted her most, however, is witnessing transformation. "Seeing people find their new normal and gain a better perspective on what they are facing has been so meaningful," she says. "Being able to come alongside women for a season as they navigate their way—and learning how to best serve them—has been incredible." But the experience hasn't just changed the lives of those she serves—it has changed Jennie, too.

"This has shaped the way I see situations," she explains. "It has grown my mercy for people in crisis and deepened my faith as I see how God can work in every situation."

Jennie believes that anyone considering volunteering should take that step of faith.

"You never know what God can do through you to touch the lives of others," she says. "We all need someone willing to go the extra mile—to be a friend, to serve, and to grow in community. Giving to those in need without expecting anything in return is deeply soul-satisfying." When asked about her favorite memory, Jennie doesn't point to just one moment.

Getting to know such a great group of women and coming together to serve our community—every time we gather is the best," she says. Through every conversation, every act of kindness, and every moment of presence, Jennie Sloan continues to live out her calling—bringing hope, compassion, and faith to those who need it most.



Would You Like to Volunteer?

Inquire here

<https://womenslifecenter.org/volunteer/>
or via email: info@womenslifecenter.org



STRONGER THAN THE STORM: ABBY'S STORY

Client Story

There are moments that divide your life into before and after.

For me, that moment came in March of 2024, when I discovered my husband of 12 years had been sexually abusing all four of our children. In an instant, everything I knew was torn apart. It felt like a storm had destroyed everything, and before I could begin to rebuild, more challenges followed.

I was navigating overwhelming grief and trauma with no financial support and constant pressure. In my fear, I entered a relationship hoping for stability and support for my children, but it ended just a few months later. Not long after, I discovered I was pregnant with twins, and the father chose not to be involved. I remember asking myself how I would move forward and face the world in that situation.

But even in the uncertainty, God was already making a way. The Women's Life Center had already stepped in and began walking alongside me. Through coaching and consistent support, they helped shift my thinking, challenge unhealthy patterns, and equip me with practical tools I now use daily as a parent. They became a safe place to process, a source of guidance, and a steady presence when I felt like I had no one else to turn to.

When I faced financial strain, they helped cover essential expenses like my light bill, easing the weight during a time I didn't know how I would make it. When my car needed repairs, they made sure my family had safe transportation. They even connected me with a photographer for maternity photos, which was a deeply meaningful moment. For the first time in a long time, I felt seen, valued, and reminded that my pregnancy was something to be honored.

After my twins were born and spent time in the NICU, I returned home only to discover that our trailer was contaminated with mold. Once again, everything felt unstable. I was facing housing uncertainty and the possibility of losing everything I had worked to rebuild. The Women's Life Center helped me navigate those decisions, replaced essential baby items, and made sure my children had what they needed during that time of crisis.

At the same time, I was also in the middle of a custody battle. The Center connected me with legal advocates and helped make representation possible when I didn't know where to turn. Through every storm, they were there.

Even now, they continue to support me as I navigate life as a single mom of four. Their care didn't end in a moment of crisis. It has remained steady, helping me grow stronger, more confident, and more grounded in the life I'm building for my family.

The Women's Life Center reminded me that I was not alone. They helped restore my strength, encouraged my faith, and walked with me step by step when the path forward felt impossible to see.

Today, my life has been shaped by both hardship and healing, but also by God's provision. The Women's Life Center was a tangible part of that provision, and I am deeply grateful for the role they've played in helping me stand again, not just for myself, but for my children.

"We comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." — 2 Corinthians 1:4



Human Trafficking Coalition and Training Update



Prevention and advocacy efforts continue across southeastern North Carolina through strong collaboration between community partners and leaders.

The Southeastern NC Human Trafficking Coalition and Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) met on April 1 at Brunswick Community College to strengthen partnerships and coordinate regional efforts to combat human trafficking. This collaborative approach brings together law enforcement, healthcare providers, social services, and community organizations to improve identification, response, and long-term support for survivors.

The MDT model plays a critical role in this work by allowing professionals across sectors to share information, coordinate investigations, and provide more comprehensive care for those impacted. These efforts continue to strengthen prevention strategies and improve outcomes across our region.

Recent discussions highlighted the importance of community awareness, early intervention, and strong partnerships. Local and national updates emphasized the ongoing need for education, as well as the growing role of technology and social media in trafficking cases. Continued collaboration with schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations remains essential in both prevention and response efforts.

Survivors of trafficking often experience complex trauma, including anxiety, depression, and other long-term emotional impacts. Because of this, professionals serving in these roles must also remain aware of vicarious trauma. Ongoing training continues to equip frontline workers with practical tools for self-care, healthy boundaries, and sustainable service.

We invite community members, partners, and anyone interested to join these meetings as we continue working together to raise awareness, strengthen prevention, and support those impacted by trafficking in our community.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2026
Brunswick Community College, Room B-127 at 4:00 PM

To attend virtually and receive the Zoom link, please email Allysa McKenzie at allysa@statusa.org.

Training Opportunities

STATUSA offers training to help professionals and community members identify and respond to trafficking.

For more information, contact Allysa McKenzie at allysa@statusa.org.

Help, Compassion, & Hope

Women's Life Center serves as a bridge for the needs of women and families making difficult pregnancy decisions and individuals exploited by human trafficking by offering pregnancy services and community resources.



Our Services



Pregnancy
Testing



Training
and Education



Pregnancy
Options



Resources
& Referrals



Support the Work

Your financial support helps provide free pregnancy services, client advocacy, material assistance, and prevention education across southeastern North Carolina.

Give securely at:
womenslifecenter.org/donate

