



NEWS LETTER



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Expanding Pregnancy Support for Women and Families in Brunswick County

Pregnancy can bring a mix of emotions, questions, and uncertainty, especially when support feels difficult to find close to home. Across Brunswick County and surrounding coastal communities, many women are searching for compassionate care, reliable information, and practical resources they can trust during this important season of life.

Women's Life Center in Shallotte continues to grow to meet those needs by providing free pregnancy support services for women and families throughout southeastern North Carolina.

The center serves women in Shallotte, Ocean Isle Beach, Southport, Leland, Bolivia, Supply, Oak Island, Sunset Beach, Calabash, and surrounding communities by offering pregnancy testing, options education, parenting support, and one-on-one encouragement in a safe and welcoming environment.

As services continue expanding, one of the most anticipated additions is the launch of limited ultrasound services coming soon to Women's Life Center.

This new service will allow women to receive early pregnancy support and ultrasound care closer to home, helping provide clarity, reassurance, and important next steps during pregnancy. Having access to these services locally can make a meaningful difference for women who may otherwise need to travel outside the area for care.

To help launch this valuable new community service, Women's Life Center is currently looking for pregnant women in their first or second trimester who would like to participate in free ultrasound appointments taking place June 29 through July 2, 2026.

Participants will receive:

- A free ultrasound
- A keepsake ultrasound photo
- A free gift

Women interested in participating or learning more are encouraged to contact Women's Life Center directly.

Support at Women's Life Center extends beyond pregnancy services alone. Parenting education, mentorship, client advocacy, and material assistance continue helping women build confidence and stability as they care for themselves and their growing families.

The continued growth of these services is made possible through strong community support, volunteers, partnerships, and donors who believe women deserve accessible care and encouragement close to home.

womenslifecenter.org | info@womenslifecenter.org



Volunteer Spotlight: Joy Thomas

Joy Thomas: Pregnancy Advocate Serving with Compassion

When Joy Thomas first connected with the Women's Life Center, she immediately felt something special. "From the moment I made contact with Angela, I have been welcomed into the Women's Life Center fold as if I was always a part of the team," Joy shared. "I've met warm and compassionate people who all share a heart for this ministry and the women and families we serve."

Though Joy officially joined the Women's Life Center as a volunteer just one month ago, her passion for this work has been years in the making. Prior to moving to Brunswick County nine months ago, Joy served as the Senior Client Services Coordinator at a Charlotte-area pregnancy center, where she helped oversee direct client care, volunteer training, and support for multiple satellite offices. Through that experience, she witnessed firsthand the life-changing impact pregnancy centers can have on women facing unplanned pregnancies.

But for Joy, this mission is deeply personal.

Nearly 17 years ago, Joy found herself unexpectedly pregnant in her mid-20s during a difficult season of life. After learning she was pregnant at a Planned Parenthood office in Michigan, she was immediately asked when she wanted to schedule an abortion.

"I was astounded that they instantly assumed that I would want an abortion," she recalled.

Feeling overwhelmed and unsure where to turn, Joy began searching for resources and eventually found a local pregnancy center. What she experienced there left a lasting mark on her life.

"They showed compassion and zero judgment for the situation I found myself in," Joy said. "They provided me with a free pregnancy test, an ultrasound, maternity clothes, parenting education classes, material resources for my baby, and even referred me to an OB-GYN doctor."

That experience planted a seed in Joy's heart. She knew someday she wanted to support organizations that walk alongside women with compassion, practical help, and hope.

Now, years later, Joy is doing exactly that.

"I am passionate about being the hands and feet of Jesus," she said.

"Single moms who choose life are close to my heart because I began parenthood as a single mom and know how difficult and life-changing that decision can be."

Serving with the Women's Life Center has only strengthened her passion for ministry and community outreach.

"I am encouraged that the Women's Life Center is deeply rooted in compassion, service, and sharing the love of Christ with women and families in our community," Joy shared. "Being involved has reminded me how impactful it can be when people come together to support others during difficult and life-changing moments."

For anyone considering volunteering, Joy's message is simple:

"Just do it. You won't regret it."

She emphasizes that there are many ways to get involved — from volunteering in person to organizing baby bottle campaigns, diaper drives, or donating baby items to the boutique.

"Come partner with us as we grow," Joy said. "There are so many ways you can make a difference."



Would You Like to Volunteer?

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



HONORING MOTHERS, CELEBRATING LIFE

At the Women's Life Center, we celebrate motherhood every day.

In Psalm 139:13–14, David emphasizes God's loving hand in creating life, writing, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

This Mother's Day, we joined in David's praise for all the babies who have been born and will be born across Brunswick County through the support of WLC.

Client Story



We walk alongside struggling women, vulnerable families, and young children up to three years old. Through programs such as medical services and counseling, we ensure that women do not have to journey through motherhood alone.

WLC seeks to create positive change in the lives of women who have been exploited by providing tangible resources and emotional support so they can heal, dream, and succeed.

The babies born this past year through WLC are a beautiful reflection of our mission in action and to see women safe, cared for, and empowered to choose life.



Human Trafficking Coalition and Training Update



Prevention and advocacy efforts continue across southeastern North Carolina through collaboration between community leaders, educators, law enforcement, and service providers committed to protecting vulnerable individuals and strengthening prevention efforts across our region.

During the April 1 coalition meeting, members recognized the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office for recent arrests connected to child exploitation investigations and their continued work protecting vulnerable youth within our community.

Coalition members also reviewed current national trends and data shared through the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), including increases in online enticement reports, the growing use of generative AI in exploitation cases, and continued concerns surrounding child trafficking and online safety.

Discussion also included North Carolina legislation requiring human trafficking prevention training for school personnel every even-numbered year. These trainings focus on grooming behaviors, warning signs, intervention strategies, reporting procedures, and available resources for students and families.

Cindy King with Abolition NC and Freeway NC shared prevention partnership opportunities, including school staff training, student curriculum resources, documentary screenings, and parent and teen education programs focused on trafficking prevention and online safety awareness. Coalition members also discussed ongoing prevention priorities for Brunswick County Schools, including the need for stronger AI safety education and expanded youth prevention initiatives. Resources such as the Love146 "Not a Number" curriculum were highlighted as valuable tools for engaging students in age-appropriate prevention education.

Action items moving forward include school and charter outreach, prevention education planning for parents and teens, and continued coordination of community awareness initiatives. Our next coalition meeting will take place virtually on June 3 at 4:00 PM and will focus on Youth and Caregiver Human Trafficking Prevention Education.

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.

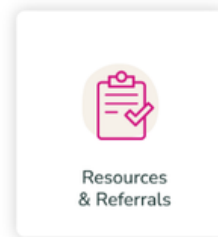
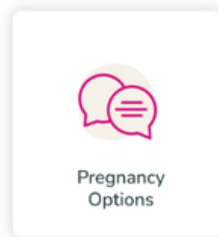
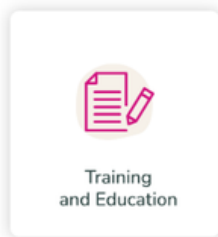
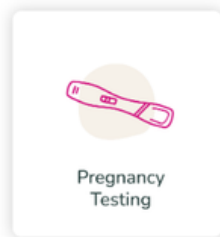
For more information, contact Allysa McKenzie at allysa@statusa.org.

Free Ultrasound Services Coming Soon

Women’s Life Center is seeking pregnant women in their first or second trimester to participate in complimentary ultrasound appointments June 29 through July 2, 2026. Participants will receive a free ultrasound, keepsake photo, and a free gift while helping launch this new community service.



Our Services



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

