



NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE

# Newsletter

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER - God's Faithfulness

"Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies."

Psalm 36:5

As we put our 19th Annual Fundraising Banquet behind us, I am in awe of God's increased faithfulness to First Choice Clinic. Nearly a month later, I am still being approached by banquet attendees on how impactful the testimonies of our clients have been to them. The testimonials that were shared are just a small look into how God is using First Choice Clinic to save babies, change families and impact lives for eternity.

As God is faithful to us, we continue to be faithful to the many clients that we are serving in 2025. We are seeing more and more new clients walk through our doors each week, some with nowhere to go. We are faithfully offering care, help, hope, healing and Jesus Christ to all who enter our building. Our daily prayer has been that everyone who enters our facility would sense the Holy Spirit and would feel loved and accepted, no matter what has brought them to us.

Please continue to pray for our current clients, future clients and the staff. In the past 2 months we have seen more abortion determined women come to First Choice Clinic than we have in the last 2 years combined. As a staff, we are thankful that they are coming to us, but also heartbroken that there are so many women in the Red Wing area that are struggling with their pregnancy.

It's disheartening to see these women day after day walk out our doors not always knowing what they will decide. We know that only God can change hearts and minds and we have to leave it in His hands. We also know that no matter what they decide to do, we will be there with open arms to help them parent, choose adoption or offer healing for those who choose abortion.

As always, I am so grateful for the army of supporters offering prayer along with material and financial support to First Choice Clinic. We could not continue to provide faithful support to our communities without all of you. I wish I could fully express how grateful we all are to each and every one of you who assist with our mission.

Gratefully and Humbly,

*Mara Sorenson*  
Executive Director

### Our Mission

To educate and empower our community to make healthy, life-affirming choices.

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## BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS

In this month of Thanksgiving, we'd like to recognize several groups and individuals who have recently contributed to First Choice Clinic's mission.



St Pius V Catholic Women held a diaper drive for FCC for Respect Life Month in October. Among donations received, several knited hats were donated. Thank you!

A First Choice Clinic supporter hosted a barn dance to benefit the clinic, and the fun-filled night brought in many donations for women and children. Thank you!



A new item was received by the clinic this fall, cloth storybooks. These books were made possible by a donation of material from Jack Schlichting of Cannon Falls whose aunt passed away and left material and instructions for the making of the books. A group of quilters led by Mary Mensing through both the Cannon Falls Senior Center and St Pius V quilting group took on the challenge of making the books and then donating to First Choice Clinic. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all involved in these beautiful gifts for the FCC clients and families.



## 2026 CHARITABLE GIVING CHANGES

Starting in 2026, the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB) will expand incentives for charitable giving. If you take the standard deduction (don't itemize), you can claim an "above-the-line" deduction of \$1,000 for individuals or \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

If you do itemize, these new incentives won't apply the same way. One option is to open a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) in 2025. You can make a larger gift now, receive a 2025 tax receipt, and recommend grants in 2025 and future years.

You can also support First Choice Clinic through a charitable gift annuity funded by stocks or an IRA, or by establishing an estate plan so your stewardship continues through a will or trust.

Please consult a tax advisor for guidance.

**give** TO THE **MAX**  
Nov. 20, 2025



First Choice Clinic will once again participate in Minnesota's Give to the Max fundraising event. The 2025 event is on November 20th. You can find us by searching on [givemn.org](https://givemn.org) or scanning the QR code above.

### IN MEMORIAM

Recent gifts have been given in memory of:  
Tricia Zimmerman, Robert Stroupe and Darryl Schmitt.  
Please contact us at [info@firstchoiceclinic.org](mailto:info@firstchoiceclinic.org) if you are interested in giving in memory of a family member or loved one.

## "THIS IS US" - 2025 BANQUET

When a client was asked why she keeps coming back to First Choice Clinic, she stated, "Because my family is here!".

Another client stated that once she started coming to the clinic, she never wanted to leave and "wants to come to First Choice Clinic for as long as they let me."

On October 2, 2025, First Choice Clinic gathered supporters at St Joseph Catholic Church in Red Wing, Minnesota, for its annual fundraising banquet luncheon and dinner. Guests enjoyed a meal from Liberty's Restaurant and heard remarks from Executive Director Mara Sorenson and three staff members. Team members shared firsthand experiences with clients and read letters, and the program included client interviews and testimonial videos. The theme of the banquet was "This is Us".

Every gift to First Choice Clinic ensures that we can continue helping women and families in need for days to come. Every time we share client news, we want you to remember that you're an integral part of the support provided to our community.



Mara Sorenson, Executive Director  
introducing the topics at the banquet.



Supporters were encouraged to take a leaf  
and return the requested donation by  
Thanksgiving.



Attendees listening intently at a client  
story shared by Deb.

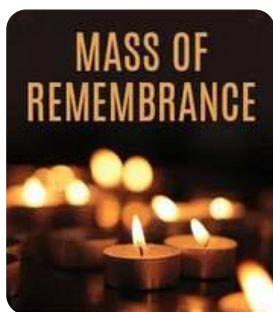
A strong sense of family was the theme. Clients highlighted the clinic's caring environment and personalized support. They described how this guidance helped them become more confident parents and better care for their babies and children. Several, unprompted, offered heartfelt thanks to the donors who make this care possible.

First Choice Clinic Staff  
Deb, Amanda, Mara, &  
Michelle  
Kathy (not pictured)



In addition to financial donations,  
First Choice Clinic was blessed  
with many material donations on  
the day of the banquet.  
A heartfelt Thank you!

## REMINDER: Mass of Remembrance November 20th



All families are invited to attend a Mass of Remembrance at St. Mary's of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake City, MN on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

This Mass is a beautiful time of reflection and healing for all those affected by the tragic loss of children of any age. Stay after the Mass for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Resources to help with the grieving process will be available.  
The church is located at 419 W Lyon Ave, Lake City, MN.



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## OUR NEEDS

- Baby Hygiene products (bodywash/shampoo/diaper rash cream)
- Unscented wipes
- Clothing - 18 months to 5T
- Hooded towels & washcloths
- Gift Cards (Walmart, Target, Amazon) used to purchase large baby items like strollers, highchairs, cribs, etc...
- Sippy cups
- Clinic supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, stamps, disinfecting wipes, copier paper)



**DONATE TO FIRST  
CHOICE CLINIC**

[www.friendsoffirstchoice.org](http://www.friendsoffirstchoice.org)

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. All contributions are 100% tax deductible. New items will be accepted and can be dropped off at the clinic during normal business hours.

## SAVE THE DATE!



### CLINIC HOURS

- Tuesday 9 AM - 7 PM
- Wednesday 9 AM - 3 PM
- Thursday 9 AM - 7 PM