

PART VII

ALTERNATIVES

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CHAPTER 34

WOMEN HELPING CENTERS

There are more people in the pro-life movement who give their time, efforts and support to helping the women than there are trying to stop the killing.

I don't believe it.

It's true. In the U.S. there are almost 4,000 pregnancy help centers compared to about 3,000 right-to-life groups.

Are these those “fake clinics”?

This is a totally false charge by the abortion industry. There are really three types:

1. The great majority of these centers are there to help the distressed pregnant woman. The help is confidential. She needs a place to live? They find it. She must drop out of school? They arrange an alternative school. She needs medical or legal help? They help her get it. A job? It's found. Counseling or just a loving shoulder to cry on? It's given. Clothes for her or her baby? They furnish it.

These centers simply meet whatever her needs

- are in order to help her carry to term.
2. Madonna Houses: These are live-in homes while pregnant. Many allow her to return with or without her baby until she can leave and live on her own.
 3. Post-Abortion Centers: The best known are PACE, Open Arms, Rachel, WEBA (Women Exploited by Abortion) and American Victims of Abortion. These vary from structured offices to more informal post-abortion counseling in other settings. This service is rapidly coming to be a regular part of the above pregnancy help centers nationwide.

How do I find such help?

Most commonly through a pro-life church or through your local Right to Life office. There are national directories also:

Heartbeat International
Attn: Margaret Hartshorn, Ph.D.
Suite 440
665 E. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, OH 43229
(614) 239-9433

and

International Life Services
Attn: Sr. Paula Vandegaer
2606 1/2 W. 8th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90057
(213) 382-2156

Who staffs these centers?

A typical center will employ one or two qualified social workers and have, in addition, 10 to 50 or more volunteers.

Further, about 98% of these workers will be female.

What is the sex ratio in the rest of the pro-life movement?

In Right to Life, women outnumber men by about 2 or 3 to one. Counting both halves, there are about 4 women to every one man, hardly the male-dominated, patriarchal movement that the media often holds it up to be.

And I thought most women were pro-abortion — all the feminists are.

Not so. Most women are pro-life and so were the early feminists: “I deplore the horrible crime of child murder. No matter what the motive, love of ease or a desire to save from suffering the unborn innocent — the woman is awfully guilty who commits the deed.”

Susan B. Anthony, 1869

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