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Hope for the teen mom

by Jeanine Allen, Mom2Mom Director

A typical day for a high school girl normally involves going to school, hanging out with friends, doing homework, and meeting up later with her boyfriend. But for ShyAnna, a junior in high school, her days are no longer typical.

ShyAnna first found out she was pregnant when she was 16. She took a home test that was positive. She told her mom, who immediately replied that she needed to make an appointment with ZoeCare. During the appointment, the nurse confirmed her pregnancy with an ultrasound. Her response was an immediate decision to parent. She knew things wouldn't be easy as a teen mom, but she was determined to make the right decision and raise her baby.

She said, "I was scared but kind of excited because I get to have a kid, but then really scared because I'm so young. And I don't really know how to take care of a newborn. So it's really scary."

ShyAnna was referred to Mom2Mom, ZoeCare's mentoring program for new moms. She was matched with her mentor Mary and the two of them began meeting regularly. What started as a tentative relationship blossomed into a strong friendship. The two of them met often and talked about pregnancy, being a mom, and anything else that was on ShyAnna's mind. They also watched videos on pregnancy and newborn care. Mary was able to attend ShyAnna's baby shower, and visit at the hospital after the baby was born.

Regarding Mom2Mom, ShyAnna said she signed up to get the free car seat, but it turned out to be so much more than just the gift. "It was really nice because I got to talk to her [Mary] about what I was going through and I also got to watch videos and learn stuff about taking care of the baby and myself while I was pregnant so that was really nice. I actually didn't know all that much stuff until I watched all the videos."

Through the support and encouragement she received from her mentor, ShyAnna's confidence rose. She said, "I became less scared because I knew from all those videos and having to talk to someone."

When asked if ZoeCare and the Mom2Mom mentoring program helped prepare her, she replied, "Yes, because I also got advice from Mary. So whenever I had a concern or something or a worry I would just tell her about it and she would reassure me so it was pretty nice. It was really helpful. I'm glad I did it." ■



Mary (Mom2Mom mentor) and ShyAnna with her new daughter

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The Main Thing

by Chris K. Grimmell, Executive Director

What makes someone valuable? I heard it said this way recently by my friend Tanner: Something is worth what someone will pay for it; and **you were worth the death of Jesus to God.**

God the Father sent His Son Jesus as payment for us. If that is not a brilliant display of human value, I don't know what else could be. Regardless of what others may say about you, your Creator sent Jesus to be brutally killed because you are worth everything to Him. We all need to let that sink in every day.

Human beings are valuable.

Human rights are what we call that which defends that value. But the world has always had a problem with human rights. Or rather, acknowledging human rights in equal measure. To this issue, fundamental to understanding the value of the unborn, our banquet keynote **Scott Klusendorf** spoke. Do the unborn have the right to live?

Scott presented a syllogism:

1. It is wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human being.
2. Abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being.
3. Therefore, abortion is wrong.

What makes us valuable is precisely that we are human. The unborn are human, therefore they are valuable. In our discussions about the unborn, Scott encouraged us to keep the main thing *the main thing*: Namely, what is the unborn? The answer to that question is simple: The unborn are valuable human beings. If they are not human, then there is no harm in abortion. Those who deny the value of the unborn generally do not address this question of what the unborn is. But that, ultimately, as Scott articulated, is the issue we need to address. That is the issue that needs to be expressed in our pro-life discussions. That is the main thing.

Sometimes even we - those of us who believe fervently in the inherent value of all human beings - can lose sight of the main thing. In a world of grief, abuse and hardship, it is easy to get overwhelmed by the pain of others. We should never discount or dismiss the pain and hardship that others are going through - in fact, we are to embrace those who struggle and strive with them to find hope and resolution - but no amount of hardship changes the main thing: **Abortion kills a valuable, innocent human being and it is therefore wrong.**

May we take Scott's message to heart and keep the main thing the main thing. And may we always show value to all who are made in God's image, who were paid for by the Son's blood. ■



Our "Celebrating 40 Years of Life" Fundraising Banquet was a tremendous success! Over 400 people joined us at the Commons on October 11. Thank you to all who joined us and/or gave to this event! To view videos from the Banquet, including Keynote Scott Klusendorf's message, please visit and subscribe to ZoeCare's YouTube channel.

Above photos by Alexandra Laurel

A FATHER'S LIFE REDEEMED

by Mike Wheeler, Fathers Initiative Director

John came into ZoeCare looking for help with parenting and being a good husband. His wife was in our *Mom2Mom* program and he was seeking some guidance as well. The two of them have a 2 ½ year old daughter and are expecting their second. John came from a very dysfunctional family. His father, now deceased, was an alcoholic and never around. Addictions were prevalent on both sides of his family and eventually John was sucked into that toxic world of drugs and alcohol. He and his mother shared in their addictions and enabled each other to continue that destructive lifestyle. John managed to break away from that life and joined a recovery group. Things went well with John, and he even became a counselor in the organization. But John fell and began using again, resulting in the loss of his counseling job. When he came to ZoeCare, he was doing better, but was still struggling with some relapses that were negatively affecting his family.

John has a sincere desire to be the best dad he can be. So he joined our *beingDAD* program and began meeting with a mentor. During these meetings he has come to recognize the failings of his parents and the dangers of having them as his parenting model. John is determined not to make the same parenting mistakes that resulted in his situation. He has forgiven them, and is learning how to love his mother in the midst of her continuing addictions and negative influence on his family. Through help from his mentor, John recognizes now that he cannot fix himself. He needs God's strength. He and his wife are now attending church together and he is learning to pray and read the Bible. John is beginning to lean on the Lord for his strength to overcome his addictions and to become the involved, loving husband and father God wants him to be. John's journey will be difficult, but with Jesus and his mentor walking beside him, he is no longer facing it alone. ■

The Joey Update



In the summer, we relayed the story of six-year-old Joey Braaksma who decided to sell donuts and coffee to earn money to give to ZoeCare so he could "save the babies". Joey continues to periodically come through ZoeCare's doors with the fruit of his labor. As of the end of October 2018, he has brought in a total of

\$1,544.05

Thank you, Joey!

2018 Services May to October

	Days	Total Visits	Ultra-sounds	STI Tests	Fathers Initiative	Mentoring Dad/Mom
MAY	13	47	8	62	6	0/0
JUN	10	41	13	39	8	0/1
JUL	13	52	7	76	6	0/4
AUG	13	62	14	79	9	1/2
SEP	11	61	15	73	6	1/4
OCT	14	73	18	108	10	1/4
Totals	74	336	75	437	45	3/15

All services provided free of charge to our patients