



# Embrace Life

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.*

Galatians 5:13

In light of the Supreme Court's decision *Dobbs v. Jackson*, there should be an awakening in us, a clarion call to pray and serve. **We are called to bring the Gospel to the people of our time by being the hands and feet of Christ to a people in need.** Through our prayers and actions, we can foster hope and offer authentic truth and love that will lift up life.

Many women feel that abortion is their ONLY choice. Their finances, pursuit of education as a single mom, and numerous other circumstances leave them feeling hopeless. **God is calling us to help!** Below you will find a list of **some** of the opportunities within our parish and local community to lift up women, children, and families.

Please take time to examine your conscience and your life to see how you can more fully give of your time, talent and treasure. Giving of your God-given gifts is how we are meant to live out our faith. Here are some practical tips to consider:

- **Time and Talent** - Think outside the box. There are many gifts and many ways to share those gifts (web design, accounting, stocking shelves, counseling, and many more).
- **Treasure** - Consider becoming an ongoing donor of organizations whose mission it is to assist women, children and families (organizations often prefer ongoing gifts to one-time large donations).

## WAYS TO SERVE WITHIN ST. MARIA GORETTI

*Shepherd's Gate Pantry serves those in need in Hamilton County providing needed resources of food and other products as well as baby supplies. They work in conjunction with our HELP Committee.*

*The HELP Committee's mission is to reach out to those in need right here in Hamilton County by assisting families who have experienced a personal crisis, providing means for an education, or supplying meals and gifts during Thanksgiving and Christmas.*

*The St. Vincent de Paul ministry consists of men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to individuals in our local community who are in need of emergency financial assistance. We know that we are not alone. We are part of an international society of friends united by a spirit of poverty, humility, and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings, and adherence to a basic Rule of life.*

*Respect Life organizes the events throughout the year which promote the sanctity of life, from conception through natural death. We as Catholics are called to build the culture of life and to respect the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death. The Respect Life Ministry seeks to promote this teaching through awareness and formation opportunities, coordinating prayer vigils for the parish, and promoting and supporting local apostolates for life.*

PLEASE SEE OUR PARISH WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR THE BULLETIN FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

# WAYS TO SERVE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Below are organizations and sites for your review and for individual service and donation discernment. This list is likely not complete but should help you think about new ways to give in our community. Visit each link to learn more.

## GROUPS THAT SERVE PREGNANT WOMEN

*The O'Connor House Mission is to provide a Christian home to help single, pregnant, homeless women improve life for themselves and their children.*

[theoconnorhouse.org](http://theoconnorhouse.org)

*Birthright is an interdenominational organization that helps women through the challenges related to unplanned pregnancies. They offer support to women who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant by offering referrals and free resources of baby items and maternity clothes.*

[birthright.org/cicero](http://birthright.org/cicero)

*Women's Care Center provides free, confidential counseling, support and education for pregnant women. Free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds help determine viability and dates (prenatal medical care and abortions not provided). One local center is directly next door to Planned Parenthood and offers an easily accessible life-fostering alternative.*

[womenscarecenter.org](http://womenscarecenter.org)

## ORGANIZATIONS THAT SHELTER HOMELESS

*Third Phase is an emergency homeless shelter for Hamilton County residents located in Noblesville. There is also a food pantry on the property to aid local residents.*

[thirdphase.org](http://thirdphase.org)

*The Julian Center is the largest organization supporting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other life crises in Indiana, offering emergency shelter to those leaving these situations.*

[juliancenter.org](http://juliancenter.org)

*Holy Family Shelter, a program of Catholic Charities Indianapolis, opened in 1984 as the first emergency shelter specifically for homeless families in Indianapolis. They work to provide food, shelter, basic material needs and a safe place for homeless families to begin the process of working towards permanent housing and self-sufficiency.*

[archindy.org/cc/holyfamily](http://archindy.org/cc/holyfamily)

## GROUPS SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

*The Cooper House is a safe place for families in crisis to receive support in order to keep children safe and families together. They serve: parents whose children are in foster care, or parents who are in crisis, by coming alongside them and set them up for success; families in crisis by providing a safe, welcoming environment for supervised visitations; children that are removed from their homes by providing a safe place to be cared for while the case worker is securing a placement.*

[thecooperhouseindiana.com](http://thecooperhouseindiana.com)

*Our brothers and sisters at Our Lady of Mount Carmel have the Merciful H.E.L.P. Center, which is a service to resident and homeless disadvantaged people of all ages focusing on Hamilton County to provide food, financial aid, home goods, used furniture and large appliances, used vehicles, home repair, clothing, and other services. MHC assists with referrals for social assistance, housing, jobs, and legal matters in cooperation with other agencies.*

[mercifulhelpcenter.org](http://mercifulhelpcenter.org)

*The Trinity Free Clinic mission is to provide quality free medical, dental, and health services to the uninsured, underinsured, and low-income residents of Hamilton County with the assistance of a professional, dedicated staff and group of volunteers.*

[trinityfreeclinic.org](http://trinityfreeclinic.org)

*YMCA of Westfield supporting families and individuals in the community through various programs and classes for youth development and fostering healthy living.*

[indymca.org/y-westfield](http://indymca.org/y-westfield)

*Adoption Support Center of Carmel is an organization to help pregnant woman considering adoption for their child, as well as those seeking to adopt. They also offer support for attorneys and medical professionals advising those considering adoption.*

[adoption-support-center.com](http://adoption-support-center.com)

*Ascent 121 is an organization to aid survivors of human trafficking providing residential services, counseling and community outreach.*

[ascent121.org](http://ascent121.org)

Thank you for all the ways you do and will lift up life in all its phases and circumstances, from conception to natural death. May we enter the upcoming conversations by praying to God fervently for the conversion of hearts, for prudent ways to promote human life in our laws and our personal choices, and for active compassion for those who question their pregnancies.