



Crossroads
of **Crawford County**

Community Outreach for Life's Journey



Crossroads is just into its eighth year of ministry.

After working to refine our mission statement, values, and beliefs, I thought on our rich heritage as a nation. Countless people whose faith in God was considered dearer than life itself united to compose a new nation; hundreds of thousands gave the ultimate sacrifice for us to enjoy our freedoms today. The hymn 'Faith of Our Fathers' was written by in 1849 in memory of Catholic martyrs who were persecuted by the Church of England.

A century later, General Douglas MacArthur was leading Allied armies to victory in the Pacific of the Imperial Japanese Army in World War II. Later he commanded the UN forces in Korea. His surprise landing at Inchon was a brilliant maneuver that made all the difference against the enemy.

Do you ever read our history and wonder why we complain so much today? Certainly, life is hard. We must defend our values and freedom, yet if the courage and strength necessary in that fight were closer to what they were then, perhaps we would not be at risk of losing it.

We believe that pride in who we are and true strength to fight for Christian values begins in the home. It begins with fathers and mothers who are committed, no matter what, in raising their children with a heritage that stays with them always. As we honor fathers this month, keep in mind how we can strengthen the home and family through God-fearing men. Consider how you can help us at Crossroads to bring men to realize their value as a father and intentionally embrace a plan as a parent and provider. Faith of our Fathers...it is strongest when a generation is not skipped.

General Douglas MacArthur upon receiving an award in 1942 for being an exemplary father: *"Nothing has touched me more deeply than [this honor given to me] by the National Father's Day committee. By profession, I am a soldier and take great pride in that fact. But I am prouder, infinitely prouder, to be a father. A soldier destroys in order to build. The father only builds, never destroys. The one has the potentialities of death; the other embodies creation and life. And while the hordes of death are mighty, the battalions of life are mightier still. It is my hope that my son, when I am gone, will remember me not from the battle, but in the home."*



Did you know it took over six months just for all the signatures on the Declaration of Independence to be completed? (<https://www.ucf.edu/news/7-little-known-facts-declaration-independence/article>) Actually, when you consider the slow relay of details and coordination through 'hoof mail', and lack of anything even being copied to preview without first being rewritten, it's quite impressive.



'What is remarkable about the past 4-6 months is God's clarity about his desire for Crossroads to serve the Crawford communities and those surrounding.'
- Janette Clausen

Passion, faith in God, and His provision for a life of freedom under Him, along with pure dedication from so many resulted in the Declaration of Independence that becomes the spine of our nation, holding together all the core values, vision, and empowering process for **One Nation, One God Under God.**

On a much, much smaller scale, Crossroads has been working toward reinforcing the spine of our ministry—re-identifying values, belief statements, and reworking our original mission statement to catch up to all changes the blessings God has put into our path at Crossroads.

While personally, I (Janette, Director) have been less accessible to the Crossroads ministry due to a combination of blessings and challenges, God has used so many other people to fuel the mission, which is a prayer answered in itself. God is authoring Crossroads' story. He is paving the road before us, though there still are many details we simply have to trust Him to work the detail into.



Here is a replay of the developments since our last newsletter, written at Christmastime 2022

1 Purpose/ Mission/Vision

Led by Rev. Bob Riggert, we have freshened and strengthened our Purpose/Mission/Vision statement. We have treasured our original values and reinforced them. We have added Biblical reference to our cause.

See Page 4 or visit our website:
www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org/about.asp

2 Policy & Procedure

With the consistent, detailed work by Sara Skinner, LMSW, and the excellence echoed through the Thomas Moore Society, we have drafts of the solid policy and procedure giving Crossroads the spine to the procedures for the Board of Directors, staff, the center itself, as well as each program.

3 Annual Fundraiser

Our keynote speaker and author, Deb Moerke, raised enthusiasm for Crossroads' ministry and touched so many individual hearts through her grace-filled and energizing style at our March Celebration of Life and Annual fundraiser. (See Recap on page 8)



Debra's book is still available at Crossroads, now reduced to \$10

replay continued on page 3...



Replay of developments, continued...

4 Start of a New Chapter

Thanks to the Charles Carroll Council #780 Knights of Columbus, we are stepping into a new chapter of becoming a medical model pregnancy resource center equipped with ultrasound for nondiagnostic purposes.

This means we can help a young woman or a couple see and know the growing and changing LIFE inside of her— A heartbeat just a few weeks after conception; tiny feet and hands including unique foot or fingerprints at just 11 weeks after conception! See page 10 for more info.



5 Ending a Journey

We are nearing the end of our accreditation journey through Heartbeat International to becoming a pregnancy resource center:

- equipped with staff who are sensitive and skilled in responding to a young woman who is pregnant and surrounded with decisions, stressors, and pressures.
- ethically and legally solid in that response

We have renewed our affiliate status with Heartbeat International and plan to complete our legal review with them, some training materials, and a database system specific to the work of Pregnancy Resource Centers.



6 Special Visits

We have appreciated reinforcing enthusiasm from many of our politicians from Iowa as a PRC in order of visits to Crossroads' Center:

- Senator Jason Schultz in person multiple times at Crossroads. He and his wife Amy also hosted the table at our annual fundraising event.
- US Senator Joni Ernst' Associate Kolby DeWitt and later, Brittany Rockwell, Senator Ernst's Associate from Carroll County
- U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley's Associate Bob Henderson.
- US Senator Joni Ernst and team in person at Crossroads, January 6th.
- Representative Randy Feenstra's Associate Abby Vander Werf
- Representative Steve Holt in person

1. We appreciated a visit with Senator Joni Ernst when she was in Denison.

Left to right: Janette Clausen, Director at Crossroads; US Senator Joni Ernst; Iowa Senator Jason Schultz; Allen Staley, Chairman of Crossroads Board of Directors.

2. Second one with babies: Joni was a big fan of the twins of Crossroads' Board Member Brittany Bremser and proved she can keep both hands full and visit at the same time.



PURPOSE

Crossroads of Crawford County affirms life by providing Christian direction and resources to individuals and families in the crossroads of life.

MISSION

Crossroads of Crawford County Biblically, professionally, and compassionately serves those facing life-altering crossroads at pregnancy, during parenting, and through later life adjustments.

VISION

To engage and equip the community in providing Christian hope to individuals and families, educating and equipping them to making life-affirming choices.

Our Core Values

At Crossroads of Crawford County, we strive to live our values in every decision we make. They guide our mission and help to light the path that we travel, both as an agency and as professional helpers.

Grace

A gift given though we do not deserve it. We believe that we could never earn our way into eternal life in heaven, but that through grace, God welcomes those who believe in and love Him, in spite of our sin and brokenness.

Family

God invented marriage and family to be a reflection of His unconditional love for us, to optimally nurture us into being caring and productive individuals, and to be a safe structure for His plan of procreation.

Life

As long as God allows our hearts to beat, we have purpose on this earth through Him. As Christians we are to treat all life with dignity, sincerity, and admiration, even when sometimes we do not understand His ways.

Purpose

We believe God **CREATED** us in His image, **REDEEMED** us through His death & resurrection, and **CALLED** us to relationship with Him and service to our neighbor

Love

The merciful **ACTION** form of love that God wants us to have for ourselves, our family, and our neighbor; the love that **DOES** in Jesus' name!

'Crossroads of Crawford County is now at a crossroads of its own, preparing to strengthen its service as a Pregnancy Resource Center by adding ULTRASOUND to our work' - Rev. Bob Riggert

From Rev. Riggert regarding the ultrasound project:

While very exciting, the opportunity to host local ultrasound services presents several challenges. Many adjustments and additions are implicated:

- 1) The present SPACE is not sufficient for the additional equipment, staffing, and services.
- 2) The present STAFF is not large enough nor credentialed to provide the ultrasound services.

The Crossroads Director and Board invite all who share in our "For Life and Through Life" mission to

- 1) Pray about this new opportunity **AND/OR**
- 2) Make a financial donation to Crossroads to allow for space, staff, and program expansion **AND/OR**
- 3) Consider how you might be personally involved in this new opportunity.

Contact Janette Clausen for more information - Janette@crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org or 712-393-4673 (HOPE)

Additional minimal staffing will be required as we transform into medical model:

1. A Medical Director who is a board-certified Medical Doctor or a Nurse Practitioner who would lead the ultrasound activity and oversee the operations.
2. A Nurse Manager who is at minimum a Registered Nurse who would manage the center operations that are in connection with the ultrasound
3. A certified sonographer who performs the ultrasound. The sonographer does NOT diagnose or interpret the ultrasound results, but DOES teach about the development of the fetus/baby, and helps to refer onto a medical doctor who handles the OB/GYN care of the patient.
4. Additional volunteer and paid staffing to mentor and walk alongside the young women we come to us.

Q & A

Is there a charge for pregnancy and parenting resource assistance at CR?

No! Crossroads is equipped to provide its service of pregnancy and parenting resource completely through donor funding which includes granting.

God has sustained us through His people who care about LIFE. Our donors are Christians who value life and Christian living and who trust our work towards healthy decisions. Some have used our services and can now support our ministry. Others want their donation to work through us to BE THERE in any ways we can as they walk this road that is oftentimes lonely and frustrating.



Why is accreditation as a Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Center important?

This ministry has been offered since our onset in 2016, but only since 2020 have we sought accreditation and grant funding as a PRC through Heartbeat International. As we seek to empower those in unplanned or difficult pregnancy circumstances, it is important that these facets which are a part of accreditation are addressed:

- those who come to us can trust us to be medically correct
- we are supportive for THEIR situation and not our own agenda
- that in being prolife, we equip them toward choosing life AND toward the endless challenges ahead as parents, or toward healthy grieving if they choose adoption
- We have the spine of our values and mission clearly stated to thoroughly protect ourselves as a center and those we serve, as those who seek to uproot us because of our mission cost valuable time and energy.

WE NEED YOU for Crossroads' GOD-Sized Mission!

We need a TEAM of CHAMPIONS for LIFE!

Full or part time, preference will be given to hiring staff who can fulfill multiple roles, who are invested in growing our ministry, and who are resourceful in fueling all areas of center needs. It is essential that an employee embraces our Christian values including LIFE.

Please tell us if you are interested in part time or full time, paid or volunteer work, and what interests you!

Join us as we champion the mission of Crossroads.



NOTE: While we are prepared to employ staff at full time status, this would most likely be only for a person who is varied in skills and interests and includes one who can also directly serve the clientele we see through both programs at Crossroads.

Crossroads is seeking:

- **Leadership/Administrative Staff Persons** who demonstrate commitment to working with existing administrative team
 - Future Executive Director who would onboard with that title following a period of EITHER Co-Directing with current team OR mentoring, training, and team building
 - Center Operations Management
 - Professional Development & Relations
 - Fundraising & event planning (Annual large event and smaller events throughout year)
 - Manager for Volunteer Services
 - Personnel Manager
- **Clerical & Data Management**
 - Communications— email, newsletters, media, campaign messaging, and social media
 - Data input, mail merge, spreadsheet creation and use
 - Oversight of key software programs Crossroads subscribes to
- **Direct Staff:**
 - Provision of service to Pregnancy & Parenting Program recipients
 - Responding effectively in unplanned or difficult circumstances of pregnancy
 - Empowering toward healthy pregnancy choices
 - Mentoring and encouraging through parenthood
 - Provision of service to CoCares recipients
 - Creatively meeting practical and nonmedical needs of the elderly and caregivers (of any age) while establishing a trust relationship
- **Volunteer:**
 - Manage Sparrow's Nest and Baby Zone including recruitment of public interest and knowledge about Crossroads as a ministry
 - Promote COFFEE WITH A CAUSE through having Jumpy Monkey Coffee at events and activities with key role of connecting new prospective parties with Crossroads mission, as well as on sale at the office
 - Arrange and conduct smaller fundraising within a specific community
 - Manage and recruit used items for parents in the Pregnancy & Parenting Resource
 - Site planning and maintenance as a team (once new space is acquired)
 - Be a liaison within a specific community e.g.: File for community granting in a specific town on behalf of Crossroads, Network with churches, school to assure that materials reach them
 - Mentor: Encourage and support young parents, Be available for crisis pregnancy situations (training required), Time with the CoCares elderly (must take some basic training)



Join Us as we Champion the Crossroads' mission! Championships don't just happen.

They take time and intentionality. Championships are always a TEAM endeavor: coaches, players,

fans; we need Championship STAFF, Championship DONORS, Championship VOLUNTEERS!

How is the BIGGER Campaign different from the Itty Bitty & God's Great Big Campaign?

God is on the move through Crossroads!

In the 'God's Itty Bitty & Great Big' Campaign, He led us to meet our \$100,000 goal for professional and sensitive staffing to meet the growing needs the presented as our two programs were fully formed.

God's ways of doing **'more than we can ask of imagine'** started unfolding throughout the success of the Itty Bitty Campaign. Now with the BIGGER campaign, we are blessed with an ultrasound machine, thereby intentionally transitioning our program to become medical model in order to offer ultrasound! This huge blessing means several immediate steps that are described on page 5

FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO HAVE A FULLY EQUIPPED PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER INCLUDING AN ULTRASOUND MACHINE AND TRAINED STAFF, OUR FAMILIES, CHURCHES, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS WILL NEED TO RESPOND WITH THEIR INTEREST AND COMMITMENTS. THIS WILL INVOLVE FINANCIAL BACKING, TEAMS COMMITTED TO THE CENTER'S NEEDS, AND CHRISTIAN COMMITMENT TO PRAYER SUPPORT.

We have pulled together those elements into one campaign, named the BIGGER Campaign, recognizing that God has already blessed us beyond our imagination and that His ways are limitless.

2020:



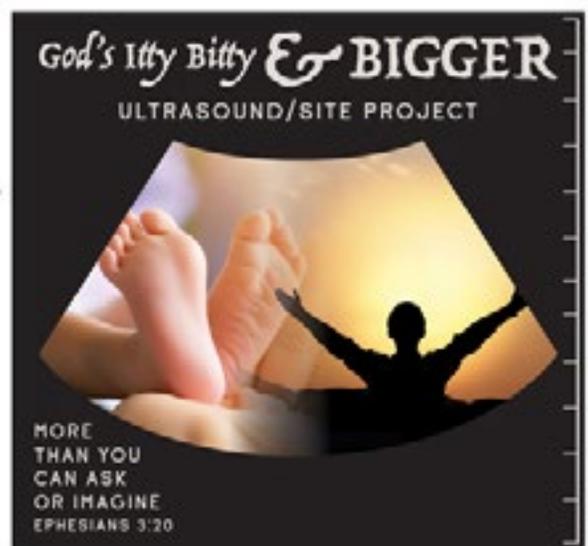
2021-2022:



2022-2023:



2023-2024:



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9 NIV

Unpacking the 'Unpacking Grace' Event by Rev. Riggert

Our annual Crossroads Banquet was held on Tuesday evening, March 7, 2023. Crossroads donors and staff gathered for a grace-filled and festive evening at The Stables in Denison, thanks to Laura Matthew's generous help by offering the beautiful Stables at Copper Ridge setting. The event included over 20 hosted tables and nearly 20 event sponsors. Crossroads is blessed with generous community and church support. With the proceeds raised through this event, we were thankful and pleased to have met our 'Itty Bitty & God's Great Big' Campaign goal of \$100,000 that we started in fall of 2022.

WE THANK SO MANY WHO contributed through helping, donating, or attending the event. It is heartening to have such enthusiasm and vision from the community!

We surpassed our fundraising goal!

Board chairman, Allen Staley introduced the Board of Directors. Director, Janette Clausen, introduced staff. Grace is evident in the people and gifts God provides in order to lead the Crossroads programs.

The Message



Debra Moerke gave witness to God's grace in her personal life as well as in the opportunities she had as a wife and parent, foster parent, prison chaplain, pregnancy center leader and many other vocations.

Debra was challenged to "unpack grace" to a mother who had murdered a child that Debra and her family had foster parented. Her inspirational story is told in Murder, Motherhood, and Miraculous Grace. Copies of the book continue to be available for \$10 at the Crossroads Center. Deborah's most recent calling is establishing the McKenzie House in Green River, Wyoming. The House is named in memory of her granddaughter who died from cancer and will offer lodging and support for single mothers.

Debra complimented the audience and Crossroads' life-affirming initiatives and encouraged continued financial and volunteer support. Deborah reminded the audience that we are **"blessed to bless."**

more event photos on page 9...

The Announcement

At the banquet a partnership with the Charles Carroll Council #780 Knights of Columbus was announced. Nationwide, The Knights of Columbus have demonstrated their prolife beliefs by funding over 1500 ultrasound machines. They have already sponsored 29 machines in Iowa. The local Carroll Council will raise half the funds for a \$28,000 ultrasound machine for Crossroads. Once their local funds are raised the Supreme Council of Knights of Columbus will provide the remainder of the funding. The fundraising is typically a year long process.



Left to right, couple Curt & Susie Scott (Curt is a Knights Council member) Clay & Diane Gubbels (Clay is the Chairman of the Ultrasound Initiative, State of Iowa) Janette Clausen (Crossroads Director) Steve & Rose Vonnahme (Steve is the State Deputy for the State of Iowa) Scott & Kathy Steffen (Scott is the Chaplain for Charles Carroll Council 780 from Carroll).

Ultrasound services save lives!

Research has shown that if a woman is able to hear their unborn baby's heartbeat, the chance of continuing the pregnancy and not aborting the child raises to over 85%. Pregnancy center use of ultrasounds does not replace anything that the mother's OB care provides. Ultrasound services would be non-diagnostic, at no cost, and would be available to expectant mothers from early pregnancy through full term. Hearing the baby's heartbeat and seeing the baby move and grow offers tremendous encouragement and puts Crossroads in a position of being able to further encourage, coach, and educate expectant parents

Unpacking the 'Unpacking Grace' Event Photos



thank you!

Thank you to our dedicated CoCares staff who have maintained an excellent level of providing. Individualized service to elderly and caregivers in our community. Some interesting reminders of how God places you in the lives of our CoCares clients fuels our unique program serving the elderly and caregivers.

Thank
you

We thank our pregnancy and parenting resource staff, who have served in bold and unexpected ways when a young parent depends on them. And, thanks to several young parents who have utilized Crossroads, for their bold testimony to the community about how we can help and support. Your courage speaks volumes to the community.



Knights of Columbus offer March 2023

Who: Charles Carroll Council #780 Knights of Columbus

What: Have proposed to give to Crossroads Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Center a new ultrasound machine.

When: Once they raise half the funds, which are then matched by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. This is typically about a year plus/minus.

Where: At Crossroads Pregnancy & Parenting Center in Denison

Why: Knights across the nation are passionate about protecting life. They know that if a woman is able to hear their unborn baby's heartbeat, their chances of carrying the pregnancy and not aborting raise over 85%.

This ultrasound would not replace anything that their OB care provides. It would be non-diagnostic, no cost ultrasound available to them early in pregnancy through full term because hearing the heart beat and seeing the baby move and grow offers tremendous encouragement AND it puts Crossroads in a position of being able to further encourage, coach, and educate.

How: Crossroads' current space is inadequate for this incredible \$28,000 offer. So at our annual fundraising event on 3-7-23, we had launched an invitation and challenge to become a part of something much greater for the community and surrounding area.

We are asking for the community's desire and commitment to this ultrasound project. We cannot do it without:

- 1) New suitable space, preferably that Crossroads owns.
- 2) New required staff – at minimum a trained medical Director, a nurse manager and an ultrasound technician
- 3) A TEAM to manage care and maintenance of the building, physically and financially
- 4) Training and coaching for professional TEAM involved in encouraging men and women to CHOOSE life AND then LIVE life, equipping the child's parents toward nurturing the child into becoming a Godly and their productive citizen.



Since 2009 when the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative started, the Knights of Columbus have funded over 1500 ultrasound machines nationwide. 29 of those of in Iowa.

Our admin team wants to give special thanks to our Board of Directors team who have been extra busy the last few months – from preparations for the annual fundraiser, to actively considering and viewing potential spaces for our new site, to sharing Crossroads' work within the community, and adopting the updated core mission and values with enthusiasm, we cannot do it without them, and we deeply appreciate their volunteered time, expertise, and energies.



Mother's Day Event!

THANK YOU to the women of Christ Lutheran, Denison who orchestrated our Mother's Day Event!

They asked how they could join our ministry and whole heartedly joined in on hosting an event for us! This is HUGE help, as the time becomes a challenge when we are understaffed and have clients to serve, sometimes in unpredictable ways.



Wendy, Val, and Deb from Christ Lutheran before the activity started



A couple busy customers working on the activity



Some found playing to be more fun!

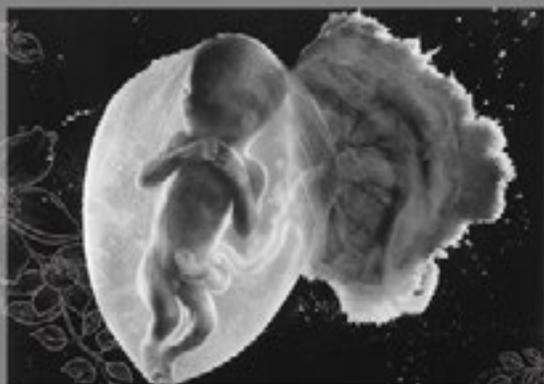


4th staff helper Nicole with one of the kids

Lutheran Women's Mission League

We are grateful to the women of Lutheran Women's Mission League, Iowa District West! Last summer they voted to approve a grant benefiting both programs at Crossroads. For the Pregnancy and Parenting Program, it enables us to spend more time with the young parents, teaching and encouraging them to share Jesus with their children. We can give them resources in hand to further empower them as they raise their children in homes with Christian values and more fully recognize their role as parents in the children's formative years.

They **CHOSE** Life!



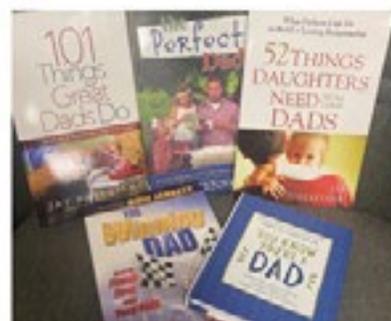
Now help them learn to **LIVE** life.



"I was early in my pregnancy when I first came to Crossroads and they gave me the neatest book on prenatal development. It's so cool to know what your baby is doing week by week before she's born!"



"I had no books for kids about Jesus. Crossroads gave me like 5 of them, and a couple my kids ask me to read over and over. It made me more comfortable talking about Jesus with them."



We are working of a stock of books for every parent plus we will order by topic relevant to any family we serve if they'd like.



CoCares
NON-MEDICAL ASSISTING FOR ELDERLY
& CAREGIVER RELIEF

For CoCares, the granting allows us to reduce our fee the client pays so we can increase our time with them simply visiting, and perhaps being encouraging of where they are in their life, or encourage through a particular hardship.

God's Itty Bitty & BIGGER Campaign

God's Itty Bitty & BIGGER

ULTRASOUND/SITE PROJECT

MORE
THAN YOU
CAN ASK
OR IMAGINE
EPHESIANS 3:20



CROSSROADS PREGNANCY & PARENTING RESOURCE

WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING IN OUR COMMUNITY WITH THIS LIFE AFFIRMING MINISTRY!

The BIGGER Campaign is in follow up to the 2022-23 fundraising for professional staffing that was called 'God's Itty Bitty & Great Big Campaign.

You are encouraged to use this page as a return slip if you would like to be involved!

Here is my information and I would like to: *(check any that apply)*

- Receive Newsletters, occasional emails, and updates from Crossroads
- Consider becoming a paid staff member of Crossroads
- Consider volunteering for the ministry
- Approximately how many hours a week, or month? _____
 - What type of work would you prefer? _____
- Monetary contribution *(Crossroads is a 501c3 charitable organization. Your monetary donation is tax deductible)*
- Online through our secure link - Visit www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org and click "Get Involved"
 - Drop off or mail a check to Crossroads of Crawford County, 3707 Timberline Dr., Denison IA 51442
 - List Crossroads as beneficiary for proceeds from annuities, stocks, or investments
 - In Kind donation once a site is secured (e.g. utilities, remodel work, insurance costs reimbursed, etc)
 - Please identify your preliminary idea if known: _____

Name _____ Address _____

Landline phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

WE ARE PARTNERING UP WITH A PRC IN CARROLL THAT IS STARTING UP!

We both same time, expense, and energy if we share resources!

Volunteers may help in one or both locations!

See page 14 for more information and training dates



"FOR HER, WITH HER" *Pregnancy Center Volunteer Training*

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A PREGNANT WOMAN IN NEED? THIS FREE TRAINING WILL EQUIP YOU TO WORK AS A VOLUNTEER MENTOR IN OUR DENISON AND CARROLL PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS.

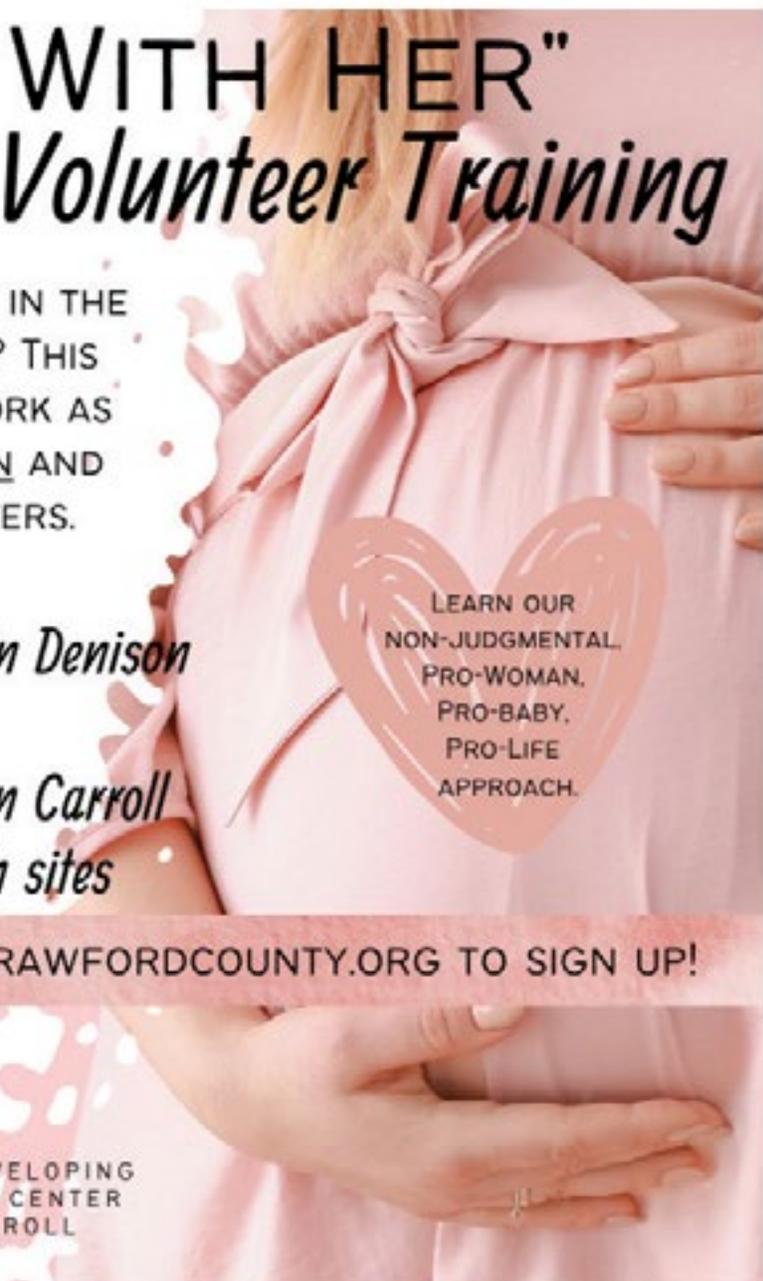
Training Dates:

Mondays 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2 in Denison

OR

Tuesdays 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26 in Carroll

Training will be at 6:30 pm at both sites



LEARN OUR
NON-JUDGMENTAL,
PRO-WOMAN,
PRO-BABY,
PRO-LIFE
APPROACH.

EMAIL JANETTE@CROSSROADSOFCRAWFORDCOUNTY.ORG TO SIGN UP!

THIS TRAINING IS PROVIDED THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:



Crossroads
of Crawford County

AND A DEVELOPING
RESOURCE CENTER
IN CARROLL



Crossroads
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