

Juan Diego Society, Inc.



Silver Anniversary  
1986-2011

Dedicated to: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn

St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center

# NEWSLETTER

Website: <http://www.jdswomenscenter.org>

*Celebrating 25 YEARS of Caring: 1986 - 2011*

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## Lessons Learned by Heather, a JDS Mother

*Editor's Note: "Heather" came to the JDS Center last year, confused, afraid and pregnant. Elizabeth, one of our JDS volunteers became her mentor and friend. Through that friendship, Heather knew exactly where to turn when one of her own friends faced a crisis pregnancy. Together they helped that mom choose life. This is Heather's story in a letter she wrote to Elizabeth.*

Hello Elizabeth,

This is the story of how I became a mother. I hope that others will read my story and learn from my mistakes...

About four years ago, I was very close to graduating from high school. I thought I had met the guy of my dreams. We clicked right from the start and everything seemed great. But like every couple we had our ups and downs. My parents didn't agree with my choice in a boyfriend and told me the first time I told them about him that he was not good for me. They saw that he was the stereo typical, self-centered guy who cared about no one but himself. I guess you could say that I was blinded by "love" and missed that part of him entirely. His parents had something in common with my parents, they didn't want us to be together either. But their reasons were purely cultural, because we were different nationalities. I tried to put all that aside and let my heart follow where it was leading me, to be with him.

After awhile my parents started fighting because of my relationship with my boyfriend and they disagreed how they should handle it and me. Even though our relationship was causing a breakdown of my family, I *still* didn't see the warning signs. After being in the relationship for four long years, one day I found out that I was pregnant. I honestly thought that having a baby was the best thing for the both of us. I thought that a baby would do nothing but bring us closer together. But I was wrong.

The day that I told him I was pregnant was probably the worst day of my life. I asked him to meet me at the Shrine of Our Lady of Peace in Santa Clara. We sat under the big statue of Mary, with her arms outstretched, reaching for us. It was there that I told my boyfriend that I had something to talk to him about. Then I asked him if he would love me no matter what. He said he would, and asked me what was wrong. (continued on Page 2)



Baby Andrea



Juan Diego Women's Center  
San Jose, California

Join us on March 19, 2011  
at the Almaden Lake Park  
in San Jose

## Walk for Life, West Coast by Patsy Gonzalez & John Wilhelmsson, JDS volunteers

The local media coverage of the Walk for Life West Coast was better than usual. Channel 2 actually led their Saturday evening newscast with a report on it. Despite the obvious bias of the reporter, the report was actually fairly good. It pointed out that, according to police estimates, the crowd was 50,000 strong, making it the largest Walk for Life West Coast ever. It also showed that when some pro-abortion people tried to enter Justin Herman Plaza with a large banner, several pro-lifers blocked them and one pro-life man actually pulled their banner down. Since we here at JDS Women's Center often see women being pressured into abortion by men, it was nice to see this pro-life man standing up for life in such a bold and public way. The reporter, of course, tried to make the people carrying the pro-abortion banner look like victims when they had in fact been the aggressors. The report also included a spot with a pro-abortion woman waving around a coat hanger. Yet this classic pro-abortion tactic came out looking more like bad San Francisco street theatre, of which there was a great deal that day, than anything else.

Even the most rapturous writers could never capture the joy and energy that pervaded the walk—joined by families, teenagers, young adults, clergy, the elderly, men, women and children—all bonded by their respect for Life. Tourists and onlookers watched with interest as the peaceful, hymn-singing, prayerful, crowd snaked its way for 2 ½ miles to the finish line at the Marina Green.



Walkers for Life from  
Our Lady of Peace Parish  
(Santa Clara, CA)

(continued on page 2)

## Lessons Learned (continued from page 1)

I told him then that I was pregnant. He looked very upset and wanted to know how this could have happened. Of course, that was a reasonable first reaction, but then he began to question me and asked if I was sure it was his baby. I was very angry and confused and felt as low as I have ever been. I just had to get away from him and go think and pray about what I should do next.

After cooling off for awhile, I called him and asked what he thought we should do about the baby. He said the terrible, cruel words, "Go to Planned Parenthood and get an abortion..." I couldn't believe I was hearing this from someone I loved so much. I went back to the Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and stayed there for a long time crying and praying, unsure about what I should do. I didn't know where to go or how I was going to tell my parents that I was pregnant, that my boyfriend didn't want the baby, and that he was prepared to leave me if I didn't have an abortion. To make matters worse, my parents income was barely enough to make ends meet in my family. I was working, but not bringing in enough to support a baby.

When I finally told my parents I was pregnant, the first thing my mom said was that there were places they could go to borrow money for me to get an abortion. I was surprised that it was my dad who simply asked me what I wanted to do. I told him that I didn't know what I wanted, but that I felt very alone. I felt so badly because in my family, getting pregnant before marriage is a huge deal. My parents started blaming one another for me being pregnant. They were fighting all the time. I seriously thought they were going to kick me out of the house because things were getting so bad. In the end my father moved out, leaving my mom and I to live alone.

It was very hard time, but from the constant support of my mother and Our Lady, I was able to find the strength to give birth to my baby girl. During that time, I also found the Juan Diego Women's Center and was able to receive a lot of help I needed to get clothes and baby items for my baby "Andrea". They helped me feel like motherhood was something I could do, even if it would be hard.

Today, Andrea is a healthy 8 month old with dark brown hair and lovely hazel eyes. She means everything to me. Unfortunately, Andrea's father has made it clear that he does not want to meet her or have anything more to do with me. I still pray that one day he will want to have a relationship with her, but that's not possible right now.

I believe I've grown and learned a lot over the past two years. The lessons I have learned have been mostly hard ones, but some of them have been good ones too. I learned that God has a plan for everyone. Even when things seem dark and impossible and you make mistakes, He can turn them around. I've also learned that every baby is a blessing from God. I know my baby has been a big blessing to me. I can't imagine life without her. Thank you for letting me tell my story. I hope it helps someone else who reads it.

God Bless,  
"Heather"

## Walk for Life, West Coast (continued from page 1)

One young reservist fresh out of Boot Camp in Oklahoma "happened" to be at Pier 39 with a friend when they saw the enormous crowd passing by. They got in step and finished the walk with the marchers. He said it was one of the most moving experiences he'd ever had and it energized him to be a more outspoken advocate for life.

Fr. Lawrence Goode, awarded that morning with the Saint Gianna Molla Award for his activism in the early days of the pro-life movement, led his parishioners from his St. Francis of Assisi parish in East Palo Alto for the 7<sup>th</sup> straight year. Three busloads of them were a raucous, endearing addition to the Walk with their cheers, banners, drums, trumpets and songs. Many other busloads from various parishes led by their pastors, deacons and priests prayed with their joyful congregations. Various communities in their elegant habits like the Carmelites, Dominicans and the Sisters of Life mingled among the faithful, not to mention the busload of seminarians that drove up from St. Patrick's Seminary. Signs indicating that some drove from as far as Chico, Sacramento, Stockton, Fresno and LA to be present at the Walk proved how willing so many were to sacrifice their precious time and sleep to make their statement in support of their unborn brothers and sisters.

The large banner that preceded all walkers read "ABORTION HURTS WOMEN". The testimonies of Mary Poirer from Prayer-works and a couple Rev. Brian Walker and his wife, Denise of Pro-Life Action Ministries affirmed this by their powerful testimonies of their journeys from heartbreak (from their abortions) to healing to a deep commitment to prevent others from making the same terrible choice. Kathleen Eaton, Founder and CEO of Birth Choice Health Clinic, gave a hopeful blueprint on how pregnancy resource centers can be more effective by providing services similar to Planned Parenthood, minus abortions and contraception. Of course, the centerpiece was speaker Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood director, who challenged the crowd to get involved, to keep up the pressure on the abortion industry and to tell those who pray and counsel outside abortion facilities that they make a difference. It certainly made a difference to her.

Nine deserving warriors who built the foundation of pro-life activism in the Bay Area from the early post Roe v. Wade days were given the Saint Gianna Molla Award. After all these years, many of them are still going strong and continue to inspire others. It just goes to show that there is no burnout with God-driven work.

And so, the fight continues. May God look down on and bless the "few good men and women" who truly represent what is good, true and beautiful in this nation—and may He use this precious leaven to turn all hearts back to Him to bring an end to the abortion holocaust.

Last year has been a year of triumph and challenges. We give thanks to Our Lord and Our Lady for all the graces and blessings showered upon our little center.

Twice the St. Juan Diego Women's Center was on the verge of closing, twice Our Heavenly Father, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, sent donors, benefactors and volunteers that keep us afloat. I would like to thank all who came to our rescue and enabled us to keep our doors open.

Last year, twenty abortion-bound mothers (out of 26 who came to the center), decided to keep their babies. A total of 404 families were helped. The Juan Diego Women's Center was able to spread the message of life in several conferences, radio interviews and various parishes in the diocese. Thanks be to God.

This year we are celebrating our Silver Anniversary (1986 – 2011), 25 years of caring for the mother and her unborn child. We are grateful to God for allowing us to be part of His mission of spreading the Culture of Life. Because you have so generously supported the center, 674 babies were given the gift of life.

This year's Silver Anniversary Celebration started early with a complete renovation of the center, thanks to the generosity of a wonderful family. While the renovation was still in progress, we were invited to have a JDS Sunday at Sacred Heart Parish (Saratoga) last January. In February, we will be speaking at St. Victor Church, San Jose. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Guadalupe Fund Committee is sponsoring a "Walk for Babies" event at the Almaden Lake Park (San Jose) for the benefit of the center. Other celebratory events are being planned – a Catechism class, baby bottle drives, and JDS Sundays at various parishes; culminating with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Biltmore Hotel (Santa Clara).

The late Henry Hyde, former congressman and tireless defender of the unborn, poignantly stated that when the time comes for our judgment, and all we have going for us is that we cared, we will hear a chorus of little voices pleading on our behalf saying:

***"Be merciful to him because he loved us."***

Please join us in celebrating our Silver Anniversary this year.



***Our Lady of Lourdes***  
*February 11th*



*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you" Jeremiah 1:15*

***St. Juan Diego Women's Center***  
**Client Statistics for 2010**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Clients Served *</b>	<b>Preg. Tests</b>	<b>Total Clients</b>	<b>Abortion Bound</b>	<b>Babies Saved</b>
Jan	27	6	33	1	1
Feb	21	8	29	6	4
Mar	21	19	40	2	2
April	23	13	36	1	1
May	17	6	23	1	0
June	30	16	46	3	2
July	19	10	29	0	0
Aug	22	6	28	3	2
Sept	22	23	45	6	5
Oct	18	10	28	0	0
Nov	30	10	40	1	1
Dec	15	12	27	2	2
<b>2010 Totals</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Grand Total**</b>	<b>3274</b>	<b>6673</b>	<b>9947</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>674</b>

\*People assisted with diapers, milk, baby clothes and other material needs.

\*\* Total since 1986

*Juan Diego Society*  
(St. Juan Diego Society Women's Center Newsletter)  
12 North White Road #5  
San Jose, CA 95127

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## TWO HOURS, TWO MILES TO SAVE A BABY

Walk for Babies on March 19, 2011 from 10 AM  
to 12 Noon at the Almaden Lake Park, in San Jose

Bring your family and friends to the *Walk for Babies*  
*Event* sponsored by the Guadalupe Fund Committee for the  
benefit of the St. Juan Diego Women's Center.

Registration and Pledge Forms available at [www.jdswomenscenter.org](http://www.jdswomenscenter.org) or con-  
tact the St. Juan Diego Women's Center (408)258-2008. For more information: visit our website:  
[www.jdswomenscenter.org](http://www.jdswomenscenter.org) or contact Beth Maddatu / Willie Lopus (408) 258-2008

Registration fee: **\$10 for adults & children over 6 years old** (includes free T-Shirt for the first 100 registrants)  
Location: **Almaden Lake Park (Coleman & Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA)**  
Date: **March 19, 2011 Time: 10 AM to 12 Noon (Registration starts at 9 AM)**

- + Starting Point: Cinnabar I/II Section at the Almaden Lake Park.
- + Register thru (PayPal or credit card) at website: [www.jdswomenscenter.org](http://www.jdswomenscenter.org)
- + No cash accepted at site. Walkers registering at site must bring a check payable to Juan Diego Society, Inc.
- + Refreshments available

Side street parking available; \$6.00 for parking inside the park.



Juan Diego  
Women's Center  
San Jose, California

