

Pennsylvania Pregnancy & Parenting Support Services Program

Celebrating more than



Real AlternativesSM

*Empowering Women for Life*SM

FREE PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICES

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(717) 541-1112 Voice * www.RealAlternatives.org

History and Milestones



1993 - 1995



Former Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey (D) placed alternative to abortion services program funding in the state budget.

1995 - 1997

The Pennsylvania legislature's Pro-life Caucus leaders, led by then State Representative Joe Pitts (R), helped secure continued funding for the program during Former Governor Tom Ridge's Administration.



The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare selected Morning Star Pregnancy Services of Harrisburg, PA to administer the program. The Pennsylvania Alternative to Abortion Services Program, originally

known as Project Women In Need (WIN), was funded at \$2 million a year with state revenue. Morning Star created the Project WIN Advisory Council to administer the program. Under the Morning Star contract, 72 centers received reimbursements and 7,891 women were served from November 1995 through June 1997.

1997 - 2004

On July 1, 1997, Real Alternatives (formerly the Morning Star Project WIN Advisory Council) was awarded the statewide alternative to abortion services program grant with the Department of Public Welfare. A statewide toll free hotline (1-888-LIFE AID) was implemented and the program experienced dramatic growth.



In 1999, Real Alternatives started a national expansion program to educate other states about Pennsylvania's program. Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (R) queried the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) about the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for alternative to abortion services programs. HHS approved use of funds. A national funding source made possible a national program!



Former Governor Mark Schweiker (R) increased the funding of the Pennsylvania program with \$1 million of TANF money making him the first governor in the nation to use federal funds in such a program. In fiscal year 2000-2001, services were provided to 13,426 women through the Pennsylvania program.

Real Alternatives was a finalist for the 2002 Nonprofit Innovation Awards sponsored by the Central Penn Business Journal based on the cost-savings of its then newly-automated billing system for the Pennsylvania program.



2004 - 2009



In 2004, Real Alternatives was one of the first four non-profits in Pennsylvania to be accredited with the "Seal of Excellence" from the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO) for successfully completing the Standards for Excellence certification program. Real Alternatives was re-accredited in 2007 & 2013.



After President George W. Bush established the Faith-Based and Community Initiative, Real Alternatives President & CEO, in 2004, met with White House Faith-Based Initiative Office and presented the Pennsylvania program.

With the approval of the Faith-Based Organization Policy by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare on June 17, 2005, Real Alternatives invited new faith-based service providers to the program. Total women served by the Pennsylvania program tops **100,000** women at over 440,400 visits!





The Pennsylvania Alternative to Abortion Services Program became a national program in 2006! The Texas Health and Human Services Commission signed a \$2.5 million a year agreement, funded with TANF, with the nonprofit, Texas Pregnancy Care Network (TPCN), to provide statewide government-funded alternatives to abortion. TPCN partnered with Real Alternatives and was selected to replicate the highly recommended Pennsylvania Alternative to Abortion Services Program in Texas.

Also in 2006, The PA Department of Public Welfare offered a new 5 -year contract to Real Alternatives at \$5.5 million a year to continue administering the statewide alternative to abortion service program. PA Department of Health provided an additional \$1 million grant for fiscal year 2007-2008. Due to the highest level of program funding, \$6.5 million, the Pennsylvania Alternative to Abortion Services Program served a record **19,747** women in fiscal year 2007-2008!

2009 - Present

In 2009, The Pennsylvania Alternative to Abortion Services Program reached a milestone of **150,000** women served since inception of the program. In addition, a movie about program was released nationwide: "Real Alternatives: Empowering Women for Life."

From 2010- 2014, Former Governor Corbett's administration returned Program funding to former \$6.794 million per year level, following years of program cuts.

In 2013, Governor Rick Snyder directed the Michigan Department of Community Health to hire Real Alternatives to start and operate a \$700,000 pilot program for the southern half of the state modeled after the successful Pennsylvania program. The MI program continues to be funded at this level.



In 2014, Governor Mike Pence directed the Indiana State Department of Health to hire Real Alternatives to start and operate a \$1,000,000 pilot program for the northern half of Indiana, modeled after the successful Pennsylvania program. The program has expanded to include the entire state and funding has increased to \$2.25 million.

The Pennsylvania Program reached two very important milestones in 2018: over **300,000** women had been served since the inception of the program at over **1.5 million** visits!

Pennsylvania Conference Keynote Speaker Remarks

“Do not discount the role that each of you play in the success and growth of Real Alternatives around the country... It is because of each of you that a culture of life is growing in our country. It is in the quiet counsel that you offer, the kind word, the word of encouragement, the hug, that women are choosing life over death. You are equipping and empowering women to be bold, to be brave, to be strong, to choose a different life for themselves and for their children.”

**Lindsay Craig, Former Dir. of Public Health & Family Policy for former Gov Pence
June 28, 2018**

“I saw the accountability that is built into Real Alternatives. You are trained to do what you do. You are held accountable for what you do. You are held to a very, very high standard.”

**Mike Fichter, Executive Director Indiana Right To Life
March 23, 2017**

“What a blessing you are to those whose lives you literally save - whose families you help build and nurture when there is so much pressure to do otherwise.”

**Award Winning Journalist Katherine Lopez
April 7, 2016**

“Hopefully, one day, there will be programs like Real Alternatives helping women and their children in all fifty states....There are many important lines in the state budget. But there are not many lines that you can point to and say that every dollar we put into the program is saving lives. Real Alternatives and the work you do is important, and we are saving lives.”

**PA Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati
March 23, 2015**

“We fund Real Alternatives because it’s the right thing to do. . . We know that what you do every day is making a tremendous difference in the lives of our children and families.”

**PA Secretary of Public Welfare Beverly Mackereth
March 27, 2014**

“An important reason for the decline in abortions is because of you, the men and women who have dedicated themselves to providing alternatives . . . to providing quality care across Pennsylvania and throughout the nation. Your work has changed lives and has saved lives.”

**Lourdes Padilla, PA Depart. of Public Welfare
March 21, 2013**

Pennsylvania Conference Keynote Speaker Remarks

“This is an organization, and we know about all the good work you do for the mothers and children, but this is an organization that is fiscally responsible . . . This organization is an example of what our society needs!”

Gary P. Alexander, Acting Secretary for PA DPW
March 31, 2011

“What you do . . . in Real Alternatives . . . to support the life of the unborn is truly a special call to service. You have a call to use your mind, your heart, your gifts and your talents in support of life and love.”

Sr. Romaine Niemeyer, SCC
March 25, 2010

“It’s a fantastic program because it is a ‘real alternative’ . . . You absolutely don’t have to have an abortion . . . that message is starting to be picked up and heard again and again.”

PA State Representative Katie True
April 2, 2009

“Real Alternatives counselors and volunteers are “true agents of hope and change . . . This army of compassion has succeeded against enormous odds . . . and their success is being replicated across the country.”

Michele Malkin
April 11, 2008

“A program that doesn’t just play lip service support for mothers, for families, for children, to the fact that abortion is a tragedy, but it does something about it.”

Professor Helen M. Alvaré
March 29, 2007

“Do what you can, where you are, with what you have, and God will bless you for it...”

Representative Jerald M. Birmelin
March 30, 2006

“...I cannot thank you enough for having the generosity and the courage and the truthfulness to say to this woman “yes.” Whoever this girl is, this woman, this young mother; yeah, this is going to be a tough time in your life. This is going to perhaps mean some rocky days, but we are beside you every step of the way...”

Oliva Gans
March 31, 2005

“... you help the forlorn, the lonely, the desperate pregnant woman who feels isolated and remote from the important living beings in her life, from the loved ones in her life who believe that the only alternative that she has is to abort the baby she is carrying. . . Your real alternatives provide the compassion that these young women must have found lacking and that you knew existed.”

Senator Jane Clare Orie
April 15, 2004

Pennsylvania Conference Keynote Speaker Remarks

“ . . . And I’m certain that the little things you do every day you do every day have a greater impact than you may realize. You have the opportunity to make an incredible difference in the life of everyone you meet. In a word, to be a hero. When learning about the difference that your work makes, I was reminded how one life, one life saved can make an incredible difference.”

Deena Burnett, Wife of Flight 93 Passenger Tom Burnett
April 3, 2003

“So all I can say in admiration, appreciation and love for you, is to thank you for the work you do. You are like those people who have gone and given their lives for others. God Bless You.”

Dr. William K. Thierfelder
April 11, 2002

“They said if I’d only had one person to stand by me, and it could have been a stranger, but they’d say I needed somebody to be a sister to me, I needed someone to be a friend . . . I would have had that baby. And, that’s what you do in maternity homes and crisis pregnancy centers and in offering adoption services. You are that friend . . .”

Frederica Matthews-Green
April 5, 2001

“Your trophy does not sit on a shelf . . .the trophy for your hard work plays on a swing, moves a tassel during a graduation ceremony, and yes even one day experiences the joy of motherhood.”

Kellyanne Fitzpatrick
April 13, 2000

“Your work is powerful-never doubt. Here in Pennsylvania, we’re on the front lines of the most successful ‘alternatives’ model on the nation. Based on our success, Congress is now looking to create a similar initiative at the federal level, one that would serve as a national model for other states. That’s achievement. That’s success!”

Lieutenant Governor Mark Schweiker
April 22, 1999

“ . . . a choice such as what you offer is the really only choice that leaves a woman with dignity.”

PA Representative Katie True
April 24, 1998

“Our business is to fight the poison of hopelessness with love.”

Governor Robert P. Casey
April 4, 1997

Empowering Women for Life® Nationwide

