

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER | ALPHA MEN'S CENTER



**2017  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Transforming Hearts

Enriching Lives

Impacting Generations



## WHAT IF THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT?



Dear Partners,

"What if things had been different?" Have you ever asked yourself this question? During a time of reflection, in a moment of crisis or difficulty, or at a crucial crossroad, it is remarkable to look back and see how either circumstances beyond our control or choices we have made shape our lives.

Unplanned pregnancy, poverty, abortion, homelessness, addiction, and abuse are just some of the issues that affect people in our community leaving them hurting and hopeless. The women and men who walk through the doors of Alpha Grand Rapids (AGR) are filled with questions. "Why did that happen to me?" "What will I do now?" "Who can I go to for help?" "Where is God when I am suffering?"

At AGR, we walk alongside people as they ask difficult questions and work to overcome the obstacles they are facing. Our comprehensive services provide choices they thought were not available to them – and hope returns to their lives.

Thanks to your generosity, 2017 was another year of record growth at Alpha Grand Rapids, with **1,612 individuals served** and **6,249 client visits overall**. The following pages will share numbers, information, and, most importantly, stories of people whose lives have been changed. As we look forward to the future, we know that things can be different for families in our community because with Jesus, all things are made new. Thank you for continuing to pray and support this ministry.

With joy and hope,

Colleen Geisel | Executive Director



Alpha Women's Center | Alpha Men's Center

## WE ARE NOW ALPHA GRAND RAPIDS!

Motivated by the love of Christ, Alpha Grand Rapids promotes abundant life by transforming hearts, enriching lives, and impacting generations. Alpha Grand Rapids encompasses Alpha Women's Center and Alpha Men's Center, providing free, comprehensive services to both women and men through the following departments:



MEDICAL SERVICES



SUPPORT SERVICES



EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



MATERIAL RESOURCES

Several months ago, Leah\* walked into Alpha Grand Rapids after discovering she was pregnant. The fear of telling her parents and boyfriend made abortion seem like her only option. Our sonographer talked with Leah about her situation and then provided an ultrasound, where they discovered Leah was pregnant with twins. As Leah heard the heartbeats and saw the tiny bodies inside her, she decided that she would continue with the pregnancy despite her fears. She started meeting with a mentor and also joined the Pregnancy Education class at AGR.

Leah's parents were upset and angry when they found out about the pregnancy. When Leah told her boyfriend the news, he broke up with her immediately. Leah continued to meet with her mentor regularly, but was clearly struggling. A few weeks later, she called her mentor, Sue. "I'm sorry; I can't do this anymore," Leah said sadly. "I'm going to the abortion clinic tomorrow." At nineteen weeks, she was still able to receive an abortion at the Grand Rapids clinic.

Sue asked Leah if she would be willing to meet with our sonographer again and have another ultrasound before going to the abortion clinic. Leah agreed, and Sue immediately picked her up and brought her to Alpha. **As she looked at the ultrasound screen once again, Leah decided she couldn't go through with an abortion.** She canceled her appointment at the abortion clinic and has continued meeting regularly with her mentor. She is considering an adoption plan for her daughters.

\*Name changed to protect confidentiality



## MEDICAL SERVICES

### SERVICES OFFERED

- Walk-in pregnancy tests by trained personnel
- Limited ultrasounds facilitated by a certified sonographer
- STD Testing: Launching April 2018



192 Pregnancy Tests



88 Ultrasounds



71 Decisions to Continue with the Pregnancy

### Why is Alpha going to offer STD testing?

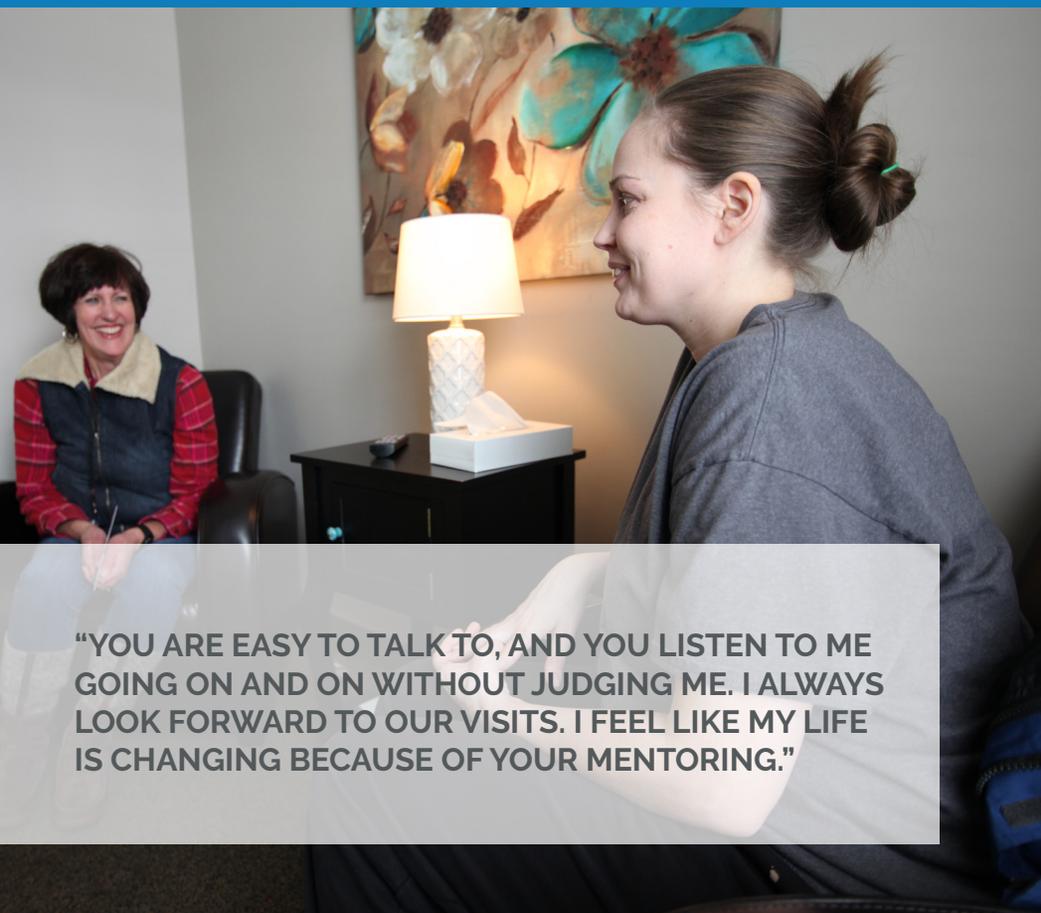
First, adding a new program to our already full schedule begins with tons of prayer and research. While STD testing is common among pregnancy health organizations nationwide, in the past we have opted to refer clients to other agencies for testing. However, in the last two years, it became clear that our pregnancy test patients were not actually going to the other locations we recommended for testing. Furthermore, we were missing out on an important opportunity to engage those involved in risky sexual behavior with the truth. Our continued hope is that men and women would find us to be a trusted source of information concerning their sexuality as well as allow this time to be a preventative source of education prior to an unplanned pregnancy. Also, should an unplanned pregnancy occur later, our goal is to have developed a relationship with an at-risk population so that we are their first stop for care. Please pray with us that this program will continue to open more doors for us to share healthy, Biblical sexuality with our clients.



## SUPPORT SERVICES

### SERVICES OFFERED

- One-on-one mentoring for women and coaching for men
- Single Moms Support Group
- Haircuts



**“YOU ARE EASY TO TALK TO, AND YOU LISTEN TO ME GOING ON AND ON WITHOUT JUDGING ME. I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO OUR VISITS. I FEEL LIKE MY LIFE IS CHANGING BECAUSE OF YOUR MENTORING.”**

Jackie\* came to Alpha Grand Rapids seven months pregnant and completely overwhelmed. She, her husband, and young daughter had just been forced to leave their apartment building due to a bug infestation and were living with her husband's sister. Jackie was experiencing complications with the pregnancy that filled her with fear and uncertainty; finances were very tight. She was visibly relieved when she saw the store and found out she could earn items for the new baby, and she was excited to start meeting with a mentor.

For the rest of her pregnancy, Jackie faithfully attended all of her appointments at Alpha. Her husband took on extra work to earn more money, and although Jackie appreciated it,

she also struggled because it meant he was less able to support her emotionally. She was thankful to have regular meetings with her mentor for encouragement, and the items she earned in the store helped ease some of the financial burden. When her daughter was born, Jackie brought her to Alpha as soon as possible so her mentor could meet the new baby.

“I really enjoy our time together,” Jackie told her mentor at a recent visit. “You are easy to talk to, and you listen to me going on and on without judging me. I always look forward to our visits. I feel like my life is changing because of your mentoring.”

\*Name changed to protect confidentiality



**2,915**

Mentoring Visits



**133**

Haircuts



**499**

Single Moms Support Group Visits



EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

## SERVICES OFFERED

- Pregnancy Education
- Parenting Classes
- GED Completion Program
- English as a Second Language
- Spanish Support Group



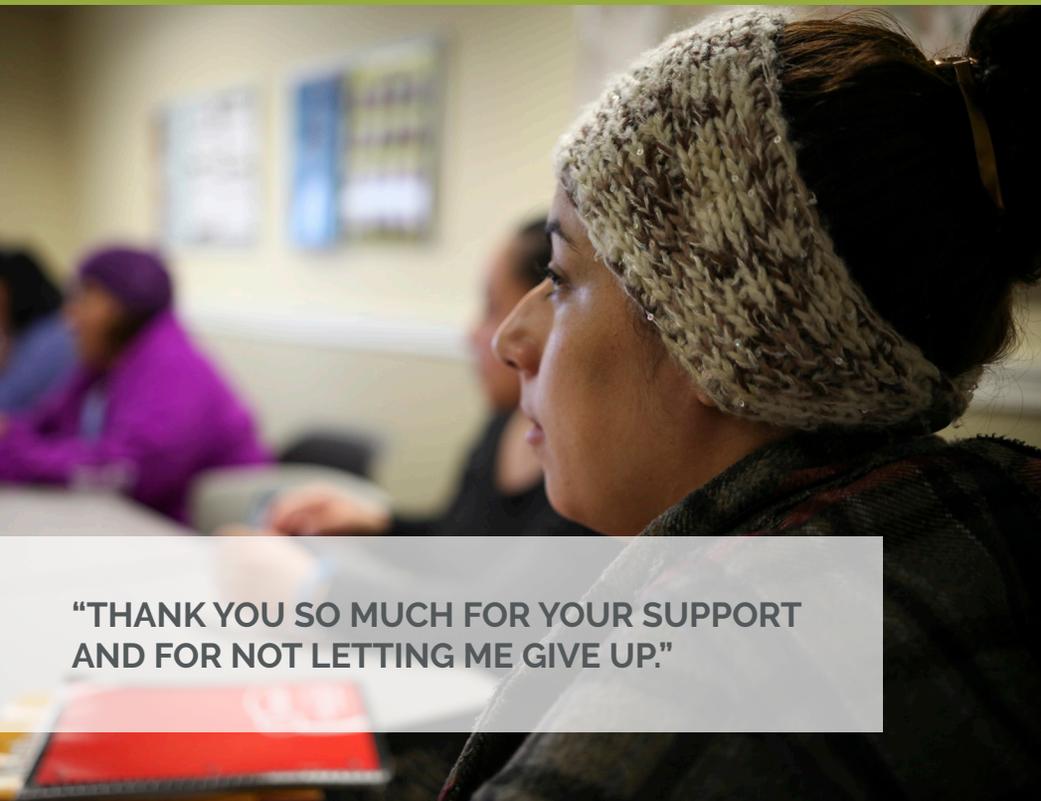
**292** Number of Women Attending Classes



**1,546** Total Educational Services Visits



**79** Total GED Graduates (since 2012)



**"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
AND FOR NOT LETTING ME GIVE UP."**

Jasmine\* initially joined the GED Completion Program in 2014, but soon life got in the way, and she had to drop out. Three years later, she came back and reapplied to join the program. "I'm going to put a lot more effort into it this time around," she promised herself.

Jasmine faithfully attended classes and was thrilled when she passed the math test with ease. However, she had always struggled the most with reading and found the other three subjects to be much more difficult. After failing some of the practice tests, she started to doubt herself and considered dropping out again. That's when Val, our GED instructor, offered to meet one-on-one with her. Val recognized that Jasmine lacked self-confidence and struggled with anxiety in test-taking. She helped Jasmine learn how to manage her fear about the test and sat beside her while she took several practice tests. With Val's encouragement, Jasmine was able to improve her practice scores and go on to take the final tests. She passed all three subjects in a matter of weeks!

Immediately after passing her final test, Jasmine contacted Val. "If it wasn't for you and the other people in the class, I never could have done this," she said tearfully. "Thank you so much for your support and for not letting me give up."

\*Name changed to protect confidentiality



**MATERIAL RESOURCES**

**RESOURCES OFFERED**

- Diapers, baby food, and formula
- Infant and children's clothing up to size 6
- Maternity clothing
- New car seats and pack 'n plays
- Other infant necessities
- Winter coats, boots, hats, and gloves



**“WITHOUT ALPHA, I THINK WE WOULD HAVE ENDED UP ON THE STREETS OR IN A SHELTER,”**

“I don't want a free hand out, but I know that I need help,” said Anna.\* With six children at home and her husband no longer in the picture, Anna was doing everything possible to keep it together. Between rent, food, school necessities for the older children, and a daughter that requires regular medical care, finances were constantly on Anna's mind. When she heard that Alpha Grand Rapids could help with items like diapers and clothing, she was quick to make an appointment. After she began meeting with a mentor, she also heard about Alpha's GED Completion Program and decided to pursue her GED so that she could get a better job.

One cold and snowy evening, a staff member at Alpha noticed that Anna had come to GED class wearing only a t-shirt. The staff member asked Anna if she had any warm clothes to wear, and Anna said that her only sweater was ripped. She was embarrassed to wear it to class. The staff member immediately brought Anna to the garage, where all the winter items that the community had donated were on display. Anna fought back tears as she selected coats, hats, and gloves for herself and all of her children.

“Without Alpha, I think we would have ended up on the streets or in a shelter,” Anna recently told her mentor. “I don't know what I would have done.”

\*Name has been changed to protect confidentiality

**IN 2017, WE DISTRIBUTED:**

223,000 items worth \$441,630



**62,800**  
Articles of Clothing



**62,100**  
Diapers



**701**  
Cans of Formula



## THE MEN'S CENTER WILL PROVIDE:

- Options Counseling for those in a crisis pregnancy
- Coaching
- Job and Career Support
- GED Completion Program
- English as a Second Language
- Single Dads Support Group
- Parenting Class

## HOW CAN WE TRULY IMPACT GENERATIONS IF WE ARE NOT HELPING DAD?

This question started us on a journey that began in 2015. In November of that year, two churches helped us purchase the adjacent property to Alpha Women's Center. Over the next two years, every man who walked through our doors received a survey concerning the future men's center, and every man said they were interested. When asked what resources they needed, one man responded, "I just want what she has."

Two years have been spent intentionally designing the men's center, finding contractors who share our passion and mission, and completing endless requirements for the city of Grand Rapids. By God's grace, in 2018, we will watch God take a building which was filled with addiction, poverty, homelessness and despair and replace it with a NEW building -- filled with hope, community, education, and Jesus.

In the fall of 2017, we began to offer one-on-one coaching sessions to men. Ron, one of our volunteers, was encouraged by how positively so many men responded to their time together. "Thanks for listening to me," one young man said after a visit. "Growing up, I never had a guy that I could talk to about serious things. It's nice to have that now."

Recently, Ron met with David\*. They had met with each other several times, but this time Ron brought up the topic of spirituality. When Ron asked about his beliefs, David responded that he thought he was a Christian and thought that the Bible is true. "Knowing what you know about the Bible, to what percentage would you say you are living what the Bible teaches?" Ron asked. David thought for a moment, and then said, "Probably about 10%. I live with my girlfriend and have two kids with her, but we aren't married. I swear a lot and sometimes I lie. I don't really go to church or read my Bible very often."

**"Do you want to live your life differently?" Ron asked, and David immediately responded that he did.** Ron took out a Bible, and they read passages together, talking about what various things meant and how it applied to David's life. Towards the end of the session, Ron asked David if he wanted to accept Jesus into his heart and life. David responded with an emphatic "yes" and prayed out loud with Ron.

David and Ron have continued meeting together and talking about changes David wants to make in his life, including getting married to his girlfriend. Although we still have many steps to accomplish before the Men's Center building is completed and open to clients, it is incredible to see God moving already!

\*Name has been changed to protect confidentiality

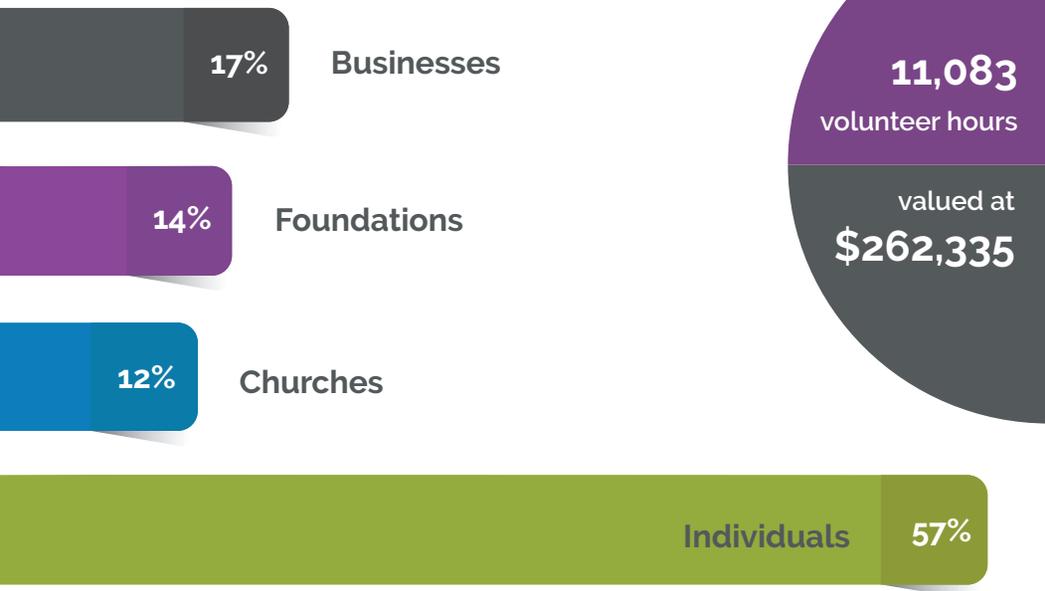
Alpha Women's Center

Alpha Men's Center



Assets	Liabilities	Net Assets
<b>\$740,537</b>	<b>\$259,166</b>	<b>\$481,371</b>

### INCOME SOURCES



Audited statements prepared by James H. Quist, CPA, PLC are available by request

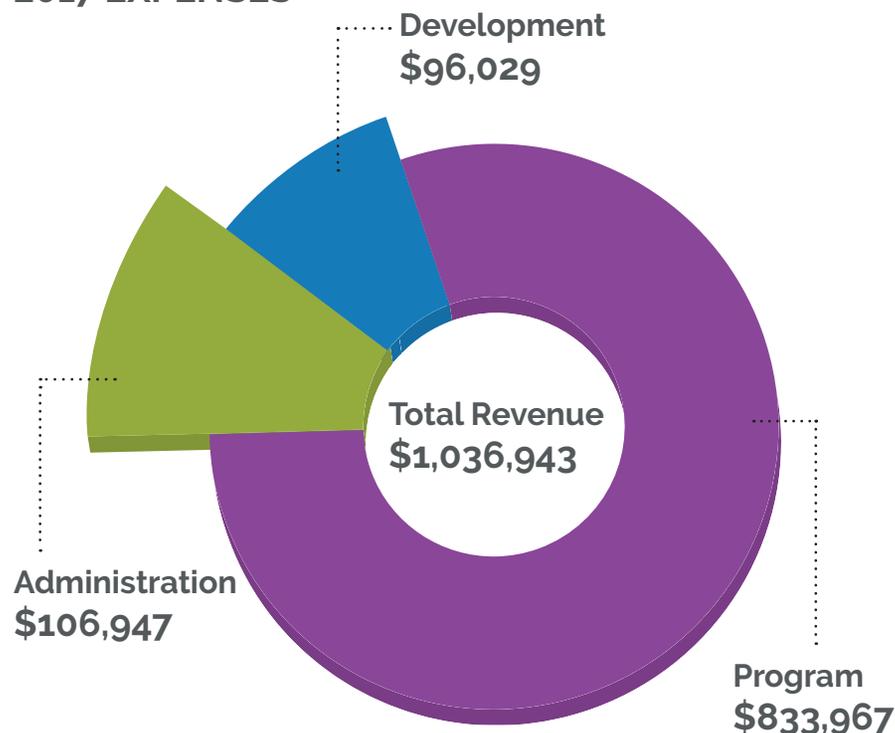
### 2017 Donations

In-Kind	Financials	Capital Campaign
<b>\$494,673</b>	<b>\$583,479</b>	<b>\$95,327</b>

Total Revenue

**\$1,173,479**

### 2017 EXPENSES



\*For Alpha Grand Rapids-including Women's and Men's Center

### 2018 Budget Needs\*

In-Kind	Operating	Capital Campaign
<b>\$545,000</b>	<b>\$847,113</b>	<b>\$541,000</b>

Total Revenue

**\$1,933,113**

# GET INVOLVED

We believe that everyone is called to promote abundant life in their own, unique way. Whether you feel called to pray for AGR on a regular basis, donate financially, volunteer your time, or attend an event, your involvement is needed and valued.

[www.alphagrandrapids.org](http://www.alphagrandrapids.org) | (616) 742-0242  
[communications@alphagrandrapids.org](mailto:communications@alphagrandrapids.org)

Alpha Grand Rapids is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.  
 All financial and in-kind donations are tax deductible.



## INVEST

- Join our Partner for Life program through monthly giving. Regular gifts provide consistent support for our growing programs and allow us to meet monthly budget needs. We currently receive \$12,590.67 each month from 101 Partners for Life, and we need at least \$20,000 per month!
- Give a one-time gift via check or online.
- Donate new or gently used items you no longer need including:
  - Children's clothing – preemie to 6T
  - Maternity clothing
  - Infant bedding
  - Burp cloths and bibs
  - Baby bottles
  - Children's utensils, dishes, and sippy cups
  - Bath towels and washcloths
  - Strollers and high chairs
  - Toys and books
  - Winter items (coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots) in any size



## PRAY

- Join our Prayer Partner team and receive regular prayer requests and updates via email. Contact [communications@alphagrandrapids.org](mailto:communications@alphagrandrapids.org) to join this important team.
- Come on-site as an individual, family, or small group to pray for AGR.



## ENGAGE

- Become part of our vital volunteer team through one of 15 unique roles. Whether you enjoy working directly with clients or prefer behind-the-scenes work, there is a volunteer position at Alpha Grand Rapids for you!
- Volunteer positions include:
  - Mentor or coach (meeting one-on-one with clients)
  - Group leader
  - Classroom tutor
  - Cook for support group meals
  - Inventory volunteer
  - Childcare helper
  - Security
  - Administrative support
- Join us at our 2018 events to make them the most successful ones yet!
  - Walk for Life:** May 19 at Cornerstone University
  - Banquet:** October 10 at Frederik Meijer Gardens
  - #GivingTuesday:** November 27
  - Christmas Open House:** December 6

# 2017 Corporate Sponsors

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ALPHA GRAND RAPIDS!

## WALK FOR LIFE



### Gold Sponsors

DLS Servicing Consultants, LLC  
DVS



### Silver Sponsors

EasyPro Pond Products  
Harvest Health Foods  
Porous Pave, Inc.  
Right Touch Painting  
Two Men and a Truck  
Valley City Linen  
Vander Kodde Construction



### Bronze Sponsors

Applied Imaging  
Cornerstone University  
Culver CPA Group

## BANQUET



### Champion of Life

Ritchie Marketing, Inc.



### Guardian of Life

DLS Servicing Consultants, LLC  
Right Touch Painting  
Steven's Design & Fabrication, Inc.  
Stoney Creek Fisheries & Equipment, Inc



### Defender of Life

Applied Imaging  
Culver CPA Group  
DVS  
Life Leadership  
Two Men and a Truck  
Valley City Linen  
Vander Kodde Construction

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Lauren Brandt  
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Lupita Groth  
Client Services  
Assistant



Amanda Nelson  
Director of  
Educational Services



Lori Potter  
Sonographer



Carrie Shoesmith  
Single Moms Support  
Group Coordinator



Hanna Varner  
Communications  
Coordinator



Sandra Véjar  
Operations Director



Donna Wood  
Nurse



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