



Our Mission:

We offer women, parents and families free classes and material assistance. Our aim is to instill hope as we light the way to transformation through Christ

www.the-advocacy-center.org

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From the Director

Hello from our little center in Sumter! This year has been a full and exciting one in the mission field. As I highlight the growth our center has seen through the stories and numbers in the following pages, I see family weaving through each page. My heart sings with every baby shower, parenting class, and fascinating story clients and our staff tell. I am in awe by the way God weaves his redemptive love into human's hands. The pages that follow affirm the need for services we provide and show how much mothers and others mean to us.

In past two years, I have seen first-hand what it is like to help women when they come to us. Often, they have nowhere else to turn, they need support, and they are hesitant to ask for help. Too many fear they aren't cut out for motherhood. Too often, they feel stuck, unsure, and just lost. If you are a parent, you know all about the unexpected challenges, hard choices, and decisions on the fly that can be overwhelming. Through our Newborn and Parenting classes, I am happy to report the clients leave educated, equipped, and empowered with the many choices they can make to create healthier outcomes. I believe what we do here makes a difference in a mother's life. I hope our center gives women the confidence they need in times of uncertainty. The newfound confidence, through the classes and assistance moms receive here create exciting prospect for future generations of Sumter's families! Further, I hope the women also learn to hope in the Lord and all he purposed for them in their journey through motherhood. Did you know we read and study scripture with our students? It is one of my favorite parts of teaching classes. In Luke 1:37, it says 'The word of God will never fail'. When I am here, I have the opportunity to share scripture, education and gifts to women.

I would love for you to join me, our staff and volunteers as we gift others. With your support we continue to provide tools for women to help their children be nurtured and grow. We remind them they are not alone, and God has equipped them with all they need.

I invite you to look through these pages and see what you can do to help. I also look forward to the upcoming years as we learn, grow, and serve in Sumter. When our clients come in our doors and choose us, I am honored to share life and purpose they have been given through the lens of God's creative hands.

Love and Peace to you *Katie Getz*

Our Board of Directors

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The Advocacy Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Center

2022 NEWSLETTER

Mother and Daughter Heritage

Our center has two legacies of love through their family serving our families. Both Nikki Gifford and Kathy Combs have been serving AC's clients for 12 years together. Below is their story of love within family ties.

Nikki Gifford is the Administrative Director of Advocacy Center and has been since May of 2022. She is a single mom of an 8-year-old little boy name M.J. Gifford. Nikki has always wanted to be a mom since she was a little girl. After having worked with kids all her life, starting at a young age babysitting to working in the nursery at a local private school and her church, she loves children. Three years ago, she found out she had a rare brain tumor. Once the tumor was discovered, Nikki's family had many doctor's appointments with little to no hope. In 2020, they

'The way Christ treats the church... provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband'

-Ephesians 5:32-33 MSG

found a surgeon to operate. Nikki went to Charleston to undergo a complicated and very risky surgery. Since 2020 she has been in recovery from the cancerous tumor that threatened her life. Nikki is Kathy and Royce Combs' firstborn daughter. Kathy has

been involved with our center since 2015. First, Royce served on the Board of Directors. Then, through his position Kathy saw how the center helped single moms in tough times. She moved to Sumter in 1984 with her family, as



her father had retired from Shaw Air Force Base. She and Royce married after she graduated from Hillcrest High in 1988. Royce was in the Air Force so they left on assignment, then returned to Sumter in 2006 and have been in Sumter for 16 years now. Kathy is Assistant Nursery Coordinator at her church so Nikki's servant heart and love for family comes through a long line. Kathy says her Grandparents and Great Grandparents offered prayers regularly, even daily. Kathy became a Christian at six years old. Though it was years ago, she continues to strive to live her life through the bible's instruction. Beginning at our center, she volunteered, progressed to staff as front desk, then Co-director in 2021, and then Vice President of the B.O.Ds in 2022. Their family line has seen many sacrifices. Through their story, reflections of God and his desire for families are woven. They are a family of service. The quote from Ephesians in the margin depicts marriage and it is through this that Christ's love is reflected in the church. Kathy and Royce's marriage and their daughter Nikki depict this familial love. Thank you Nikki, Royce, and Kathy for your service to our center and the legacy you leave here.



Center Statistics & Productivity Report 2021

Center Detail Reports by Month 2021

January

Total Client Visits: 23
 Appointments - 6
 Classes – 15 (Newborn= 7, Parenting=8)
 Pregnancy Tests - 1

February

Total Client Visits: 19
 Appointments - 1
 Classes – 17 (Newborn= 12, Parenting=5)
 Pregnancy Tests - 0
 Correspondence - 1

March

Total Client Visits: 10
 Appointments - 2
 Classes – 7 (NB= 7, Parenting= 0)
 Pregnancy Tests - 1

April

Total Client Visits: 10
 Appointments - 7
 Classes – 9 (NB=9, PC= 0)
 Pregnancy Tests - 0 Closet/Boutique - 1

May

Total Client Visits: 12
 Appointments - 1
 Classes – 9 (NB= 9, PC= 0)
 Pregnancy Tests - 0

June

Total Client Visits: 20
 Appointments - 1
 Classes – 19 (NB= 19, PC= 0)
 Pregnancy Tests - 0 Closet/Boutique - 1

July

Total Client Visits: 9
 Appointments - 5
 Classes – 7 (NB= 6, PC= 1)
 Pregnancy Tests - 0
 Closet/Boutique - 1

August

Total Client Visits: 17
 Appointments - 5
 (cont) Classes – 13 (NB= 12, PC=1)
 Pregnancy Tests - 0
 Correspondence - 1

September

Total Client Visits: 29
 Appointments - 4
 Classes – 19 (NB= 15, PC= 4)
 Closet/Boutique - 18
 Concepts Shared - 8
 Correspondence - 3
 Pregnancy Tests - 1
 (Sept Cont.) Referrals – 1

October

Total Client Visits: 20
 Appointments - 1
 Classes – 15 (NB=9, PC= 6)
 Closet /Boutique- 7
 Concepts – 3
 Correspondence - 12
 Pregnancy Tests - 0

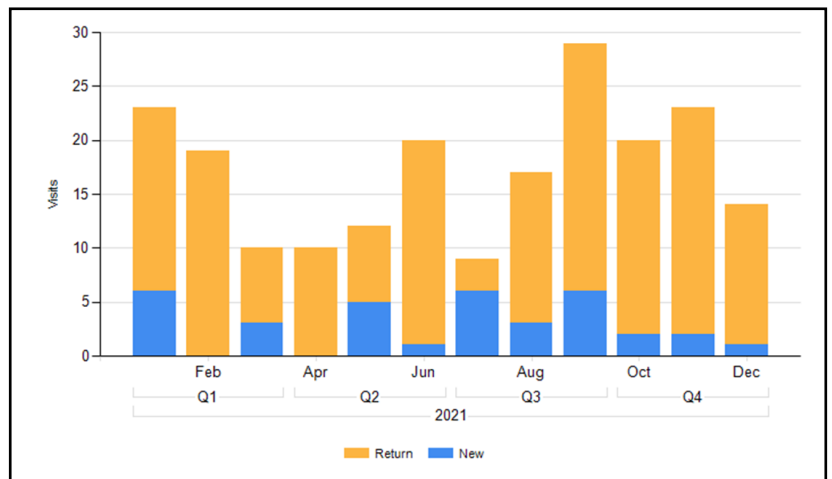
November

Total Client Visits: 23
 Appointments - 7
 Classes – 18 ((NB= 9, PC= 9)
 Closet/Boutique - 5
 Pregnancy Tests - 0

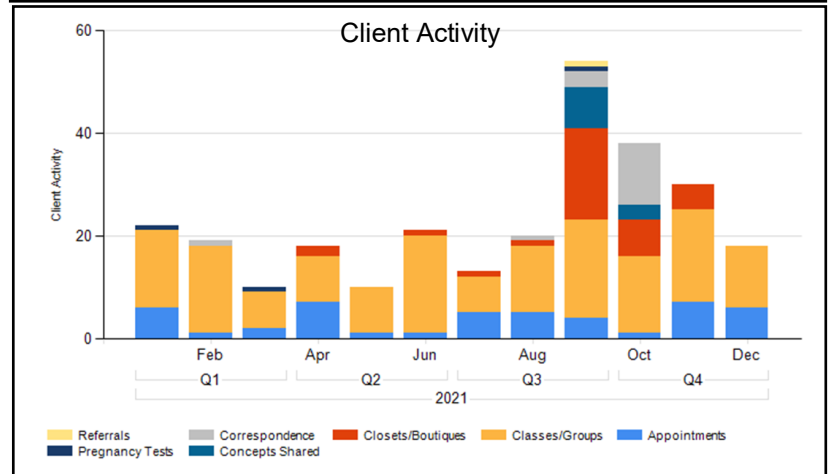
December

Total Client Visits: 14
 Appointments - 6
 Classes – 12 (NB= 3, PC= 9)
 Pregnancy Tests - 0

Client Visits



Client Activity



Visit our website to donate:
www.the-advocacy-center.org
There is a 'Donate' Button under 'What We Do'

You may also donate through Paypal:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=RQT3TJHMSEF58

See our flyer titled 'How to Help' on our website under the events tab for more info on getting involved



Newborn and Parenting Class Feedback from Clients

How would you rate yourself as to being prepared for raising, caring for, and tending to your children?

"I would give an A because the videos give great advice and at the end Mrs. Katie made sure to help with questions."

"I give an A because I know some things, but this class helped me learn others, even with raising my niece. Some things will be easy and others hard, but I have time on my hands"

How would you rate or grade the Parenting Class in overall preparation for the challenges and excitement ahead raising your children? Why?

"I would give an A. Coming in to this class helped me fill in on stuff missed (raising my other two children). (We went over things) that were missed (with the questions) and I was able to get good answers too!

"A" I learned a lot of things I didn't know and refreshed my memory"

Pease rate the Center on the following services and tell us why:

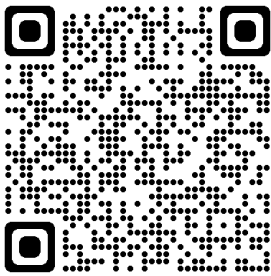
"They made sure everyone was caught up on everything before and after class. They also had material ready before we got to class."

"They were caring and nice, and very helpful!"

Will you tell us your favorite part of the class?

"Everything is great about this class and it is my third time attending."

"My favorite part was learning the information I know I will need to be a first time mom."



We would love your help with our mission

Client's Primary Purpose of Visit in 2021

Description	Total
Baby Shower	4
Concepts Shared	4
Group Class	21
Make-up Class	8
Other	1
Pregnancy Test	2
Sign up for Class	14

Description	Total
Baby/Maternity Supplies	4
Formula	4
Group Class Attendance	137
Needed Children's Items	3
Parenting Class Finale	1
Referrals to Outside Agencies	1
Unknown	5

Total Primary Purpose Visits in 2021: 206

Stay tuned for next issue of the Newsletter vol2 2023 for 'Client Visits' in 2022 = 189 with 'Total Services' = 306!!!