



## WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CATHERINE KASPER

### Choosing a Good Life

Anne Koehl  
Executive Director  
Women's Care Center

David Misner  
Executive Director  
A Hope Center

In keeping with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ's belief that "All life is sacred and deserves respect and protection," The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation proudly supports Women's Care Center and A Hope Center. Both provide services to those with crisis and unplanned pregnancies and encourage them to choose life. Behind both is a deep care for the life of the child, as well as the mother and father.

Women's Care Center began in South Bend, Indiana in 1984. According to Anne Koehl, it was started to protect the children and their mothers. She says that before there were "no protections for the women." There was no place to turn. Tragically, many turned to abortion as an option, oftentimes in dangerous

and unsanitary conditions.

A Hope Center shares this mission. In his role there, David Misner admits that he sometimes feels like "a man in a woman's world." However, at A Hope Center, Misner feels his involvement "allows us to do a lot with the fathers" and to "focus on the whole family unit," with their Fatherhood Ministry. What's more,

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### AT BOTH A HOPE CENTER AND WOMEN'S CARE CENTER, OVER 90% CHOOSE LIFE FOR THEIR CHILD AFTER THE ULTRASOUND.

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the fathers can provide a great deal of strength and encouragement to the mothers during the visit.

The key to the whole process, Misner and Koehl both agree, is creating a caring environment and to simply give them the information. Koehl notes that it is significant that

this comes from "someone who doesn't benefit financially"—like a doctor who performs abortions. Both organizations offer free ultrasounds. As the saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Misner tells the stories of parents who are momentarily speechless after seeing their child for the first time. At both A Hope Center and Women's Care Center, over 90% choose life for their child after the ultrasound.

Today there are zero abortion clinics left in Allen County. These two organizations deserve much of the credit for this. However, there are still many new parents in unplanned pregnancies who need support. Many new mothers and fathers return for parenting classes, by which they earn credits that can go toward baby supplies, like diapers and clothing, onsite at each organizations' locations.

By supporting both A Hope Center and Women's Care Center, The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation maintains the Poor Handmaids' commitment to respect all life "throughout all stages of existence, from conception to death." The Poor Handmaids' value



of community is also advanced, by strengthening the bonds of families in Allen County. For these reasons, we at the Foundation feel blessed to be able to support both organizations in our shared mission.

Written by: Charlie Klingenberg,  
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### Women's Care Center Locations

419 E. Wayne St.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

2112 Inwood Dr.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

921 W. Coliseum Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

### A Hope Center Locations

3630 Hobson Rd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

3701 S. Calhoun St.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

4705 Illinois Rd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

13410 Main St.  
Grabill, IN 46741



David Misner, Executive  
Director of A Hope Center



This spotlight series honors community members who exemplify values that Blessed Catherine Kasper, the Foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, held dear. To the left is a picture of Catherine Kasper's shoes, which she frequently walked many miles in to see the Bishop and discuss building a house for those in need. Catherine took a personal interest in being out in the community and listened attentively to the needs of others. To learn more on Blessed Catherine Kasper and the mission of The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation, [visit sjchf.org](http://www.sjchf.org).