



2022–2024 Mission Grant #1 Update — Black Hills Pregnancy Center
June 28, 2023

Dear friends of the LWML South Dakota District,

We, at the Black Hills Pregnancy Center, are so thankful for your contribution to our ministry in Western South Dakota. Your Mission Grant has helped us serve 204 clients in our local area who have participated in 940 parenting classes and visited our Baby Boutique 418 times.

Through your partnership, we have been able to supply our Baby Boutique with resources for new mothers and their infants. This has been key during the events of the last few years due to the pandemic, the formula shortage, the overturning of Roe v. Wade, and more.

Our clients have experienced the impact our ministry has had in their personal lives. For example, Celia was alone, pregnant, and sleeping in her car, feeling desperate and suicidal when she came into the Black Hills Pregnancy Center to see if we could help her. She had visited previously in 2021 and remembered how supportive we were then. She felt completely overwhelmed and didn't see a way forward on her own.

Our client advocate listened to her, understood the issues she was facing, and recognized that her newfound sobriety could be in jeopardy. Our client advocate was able to help her find stable housing, a job, and was able to connect her to other community resources. Celia has continued to participate in the Earn While You Learn parenting classes and has earned much-needed baby items through the Baby Boutique. She has commented before how loved she feels by the staff at our center. We are so thankful to have Celia as one of our clients. The last picture is a photo of her sharing her story at one of our donor events.

Our client Cindy's story also shows the power of informed decision making in the future of a family — a service we are proud to provide. At 38 years old, Cindy never wanted to be a mother. In fact, in her early thirties, she had asked her doctor to tie her tubes and was denied because she didn't have any children. She knew that parenting wasn't something she wanted to do. However, she was concerned that she was pregnant and told her mother, who reached out and found our pregnancy center. Cindy's mother made the appointment and came along as support for the pregnancy test.

Our client advocate realized that she had been having symptoms of pregnancy for the last 5 months and that Cindy might have been in denial. She felt compassion for Cindy's situation and brought in her mother for the results and to go through all of the options that were available for her pregnancy. Cindy's mother really wanted grandchildren, but Cindy didn't want to be a mom. The advocate explained how one option could be the solution — open adoption. This option would help her choose parents for the baby and

make an open adoption plan that would allow Cindy’s mother to be a grandmother to the baby. Cindy was given the information for adoption agencies and agreed to watch a video lesson on open adoption. The next week after that appointment, the client advocate called to check in. She heard that Cindy had chosen to carry her pregnancy and she had been thinking about what the advocate had mentioned — that she could choose a husband-and-wife couple that hadn’t been able to conceive on their own and give them her baby to love.

Just three months later, Cindy gave birth to a beautiful baby girl after a complicated delivery. She’s now a blessing to her big, amazing family that includes two adopted siblings, mother, father, birth mother, and grandparents, including Cindy’s mother. Recently they were all gathered for dinner. It’s so special to see how love can bind together such a diverse family!

Stories like Celia’s and Cindy’s encourage and direct our ministry to ensure that we are available and supplied with the resources and information these families need. Attached in the email are some pictures of babies we have been pleased to meet and to love at our center. We have seen their mothers overcome incredible challenges in life so that they can be good parents through education, resources, and support.

The classes our families watch earn them many items in our Baby Boutique. Some of the larger items purchased this year were:

- Crib with mattress
- Stroller
- Pack n' Play
- Baby monitors
- Diapers and Wipes
- Clothing
- Baby Formula

Your grant has provided many of these items to families in need. Thank you for your partnership through the LWML South Dakota District Mission Grant!

Travis Lasseter
Executive Director
Black Hills Pregnancy Center

