

## COLOR OF HOPE

5k RUN/WALK  
STILLWATER LIFE SERVICES

October 22, 2016  
Boomer Lake,  
Shelter #2

The 3rd Annual Color of Hope 5k Run/Walk fundraiser is fast approaching! Make this a memorable run/walk with family and friends. We will have prizes, loads of color, and t-shirts. This fun event supports our client services. You don't want to miss this event. *We have even added a team relay option!*

Register [Here](#)



### The "Learning to Run Relay" Team Option

This is a fun relay option for small groups, church groups, families, and organizations of up to 10 runners/walkers. The race will simulate a baby's journey to running as at different legs of the race 2 members of the group will have to carry each other, crawl, three-legged race, and run. The fastest team and the best costumed team will win a prize.



### Lights on Stillwater 2016

by Lori Hatfield

Why do we give 4,000 shirts away at this event? AWARENESS! SLS wants to reach our local campus so we can offer education, a listening ear and a non-judgmental manner by our staff. Our

t-shirts are a great way to connect with students and to open the door to our services. We offer STI testing and treatment with a goal of getting in front of the un-planned pregnancy issue. I am thankful for our mission field in Stillwater and our university!



Photo: Allie Jackson, Lori Hatfield, Meesun Adam, Leslie Paddock, Clay Hatfield

I would also like to thank Shannon Wooten, Rooke Jackson, and David Hatfield for helping out!

**Here is an excellent article by my good friend, Sydna Masse, President at Ramah International — Nile.**



## 6 Impacts of Abortion on the Family

Abortion impacts everyone, whether they know it or not. It is a choice that influences not only the woman but also everyone related to them. If someone you know changes their behavior overnight – and seems to become someone else – suspect they may have chosen abortion.

When I decided to abort, I captured the false promise that afterwards I could go on as if nothing happened. The choice seemed the best for everyone involved – particularly my family. I believed this choice would afford both myself, my present and future family several advantages:

- My parents would never be disappointed in discovering my loss of virginity
- Finishing college and having a fulfilling career would make my mother proud of me and support my future family
- Children would arrive on my own timetable when I was married to the man of my dreams

Leaving the clinic, I was overwhelmed with unexpected emotions like guilt, shame and anger. My body was also in deep physical shock from enduring the procedure because I couldn't afford anesthesia. Many disturbing thoughts and fears overwhelmed me quickly, particularly that the abortion could impact my future fertility. I took control of those thoughts by telling myself – "I can't think about this now. I'll go crazy if I do." Drugs and alcohol helped me ignore these fears for a while. I often drew upon anger to steel my heart against any emotional fallout. As the days passed, my heart turned to stone. The fun-loving person I had been was replaced by a secretive and pained young woman. This new person impacted everyone I loved in many ways.

Abortion impacts the "family" at many levels. These include:

**Confusion** – When I went home from college after my abortion, my parents noticed my personality change. Believing something was wrong, they pushed me for answers I refused to give. Never suspecting an abortion, they sadly adjusted to their obviously troubled daughter who bore no resemblance to the sweet girl who graduated high school the year before.

**Anger** – While she never knew I was pregnant, I blamed my mother for my abortion choice. I reasoned if she had been emotionally available, I may have been able to trust her with my unexpected pregnancy truth. My anger was directed at her for many years despite the fact she was innocent of all involvement in my choice. That was unfair and wrong.

**Infertility** – When I attempted to get pregnant with my amazing husband's child, infertility hit my marriage. I never expected that I could have aborted my only child. The idea that I could have done something as a teen that would mean my husband may never hold his own child was overwhelming. While my barrenness was medically remedied, many women may not be able to have children for a variety of reasons after abortion.

**Bonding** – Looking into the face of my newborn son, I experienced "motherhood wonderment" and immediately fell in love. That love transitioned quickly into a horrific understanding, reminding me of the child I had lost to abortion. My aborted child then began to haunt my heart, impacting my ability to bond with my new son.

**Guilt** – Watching a woman change after a procedure you encouraged can be horrifying for parents and family. While abortion may have appeared the best solution for the unexpected pregnancy, the potential emotional fallout is rarely discussed. Those involved in influencing this decision often carry guilt over their responsibility in the emotional, spiritual, psychological and physical consequences that may result.

**Grief** – While I don't know how she discovered my abortion secret, my mother confronted me about my abortion five years later. After some angry words, she collapsed in grief for her lost grandchild. Her grief ushered a new guilt into my heart.

Thankfully, God healed all related family pain after my abortion recovery process. During the days before her death, my mother and I spoke often about heaven and those who would welcome her home. There was peace between us as God had allowed many healing conversations about the pain my abortion brought to our family.

While my abortion clearly impacted my mothering ability until God restored my wounded soul, He set everything right when I asked for His help. My lost child was named and welcomed into my heart so he no longer haunted me. My husband adopted this child in heaven as his own and our children know about their brother, Jesse, in heaven.

If a family member has been negatively impacted by abortion, understand their pain can impact your heart too. Family members often experience Abortion PTSD at a secondary level. Thankfully, God's healing is available for everyone impacted by abortion. As Psalm 130:6-8 outlines – *My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning—Yes, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption.*

Published on August 8, 2016 by Sydna Masse, President at Ramah International. Republished with permission.