



DINNER WITH A LAUGH

Written by Jeremy Linder, APC Board Secretary

Anticipating an evening out filled with friends and supporters of Alliance Pregnancy Center, while getting some comedic relief, was exciting for my wife, Sara (Client Educator at APC), and me. We were also looking forward to enjoying Hartville Kitchen.

The evening didn't disappoint! From the moment we arrived, the atmosphere was warm and welcoming—an incredible mix of good food, community, great silent auction items, pie, and—best for last—a Christ-centered purpose. It's always inspiring to be surrounded by people who care deeply about the mission of APC and the families we serve.

The evening didn't disappoint!

And then came the laughter. Christian comedian Rik Roberts delivered a performance that was both hilarious and wholesome. His humor was clean, relatable, and full of those everyday moments we can all recognize. Rik's quick wit and storytelling had the whole room laughing, which was exactly what I was hoping for when I first heard about the *Dinner with a Laugh* fundraiser. It was refreshing to enjoy comedy that not only entertains but also uplifts.

Rik's quick wit and storytelling had the whole room laughing

Thank you to all the supporters who came out to our fundraiser. Your investment of time, talents, and financial treasures is truly appreciated by the staff and board of Alliance Pregnancy Center. The evening was a wonderful reminder that joy and laughter are powerful ways to bring people together in support of a meaningful cause.

Save the date for the 2026 Dinner With A Laugh on Oct 2, 2026!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE.

- Page 2

Our 2025 Walk for Life was a party celebrating 40 years for Life!

- Page 3

APC is growing in 2026

2025 FOOTSTEPS FOR LIFE

was a success!

In honor of our 40th year, we hosted a *Birthday Party for Life*, complete with balloons, games, and birthday cake!



**A
Birthday
party
for LIFE!**

Our Sponsors

SPRINTER LEVEL (\$500+)

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WHITE PHYSICAL THERAPY

75 people
attended the
event, and we
raised a total
of \$9,547!



New Ultrasound Machine

We're thrilled to share that The Knights of Columbus – Stark County Chapter, comprising of all local councils within Stark County, ran a campaign to raise the funds for a brand-new ultrasound machine for APC! They asked us to contribute \$3,000 toward the project — and thanks to your generosity, we exceeded that goal and raised \$3,200! All funds have been raised, and we're now eagerly awaiting its arrival. This isn't just about new equipment. It's about the moments that will happen in our exam rooms—moments when a nervous mom sees her baby's heartbeat flicker on the screen, or when a dad hears the sound of life for the very first time. Those moments bring clarity, courage, and hope in ways words cannot describe.



APC & The Commons Co-Host A Drive-Thru Baby Shower



The rain didn't hold us back on the chilly October morning day as we co-hosted a Drive-Thru Community Baby Shower where we blessed 45 expecting mamas with a variety of gifts for them and their baby. Many organizations in the community partnered with us including Help Me Grow, THRIVE, Rodman Library, Alliance Health Dept., SPARK and the Stark County Health Dept. A happy expecting mama won a car seat-stroller combo through our giveaway.

THE BIRTHMARK

a beautiful, true adoption story

Ruth's story started 73 years ago as she was walking home from school. In an alley on her way home, she was raped by three men. What would she do? Her parents took her to The Friends Rescue Home in Columbus, Ohio, where she and her parents decided Ruth would have her baby and give him up for adoption.

As Ruth checked out her baby, she noticed a large birthmark on his right arm. She asked the nurse, "What is this on his arm?" She assured her that it was just a birthmark, and he was a healthy baby.

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After holding her baby boy all afternoon and naming him "Charles Robert," it was time to let him go. *It wasn't fair, she thought. I've just begun to know him. I don't even have a picture, except the one in my mind, of his little face and the birthmark.* She could hear the sounds of joy coming from the hall as they handed her baby to the adoptive parents. Ruth prayed that her baby would have good parents and that one day she would see that birthmark again.

Ruth was told by her mom that she was never to talk of her traumatic experience or the baby again, so she didn't. She kept it all inside and prayed and believed that God would someday let her see the birthmark again.

Life went on, and Ruth grew up and married and had five beautiful children. She loved her family and was so proud of the grandchildren, but she never stopped looking for the birthmark. Part of her was missing, but she believed God would answer her prayer.

She kept it all inside and prayed and believed that God would someday let her see the birthmark again.

After forty-seven years, time had not healed the hole in her heart. She had to look for him. She kept praying, and God had a plan (Romans 8:28). Ruth told her story to a friend who just happened to know the adoptive mom and her story of how she and her husband went to The Friends Rescue Home in Columbus, Ohio, to pick up their baby boy around the same time Ruth had her baby. Too many similarities. Could it be? Was this her baby? Ruth couldn't wait; she wanted a meeting with this man as soon as possible. Little did Ruth know, this man had been looking for her too.

A meeting was set up for Ruth and the man to meet at the friend's house on October 9, 1996. After they said hello and had some small talk, Ruth asked to see his right arm. As he rolled up his sleeve, there it was—the birthmark she had memorized in her mind. She held his arm and said, "My baby, my baby boy." She knew that this was her baby boy because God marked him so she would know. She didn't need a picture; she had the birthmark.

God redeemed a horrible experience in Ruth's young life to joy and thanksgiving. She knew that her God never left her, and He gave her back her lost son. The son says he wears his large birthmark with pride because God had a plan. Ruth needed to see it, and Roger, his name now, needed to know that even though he was conceived by rape, he was not trash—something to be thrown away. No! Ruth told him, "When I look at you, I don't see the tragedy; I only see love." What a gift Ruth gave her son. She never thought he was something to be discarded, but a precious baby.

NOBODY KNOWS

*Nobody knows what a mother goes through
When she gives up her baby so tiny and new*

*Nobody knows what lies ahead
Sometimes a life that the mother dreads*

*Nobody knows the hurt and the pain
Of not knowing if she will ever see him again*

*Nobody knows how it feels
To know that time does not heal*

*Knowing your son is somewhere out there
Not knowing what his parents will share*

*Nobody knows how a mother longs
To know her son and to see how he's done*

*Nobody knows if you'll ever meet
The son you gave up when you were weak*

*Nobody knows what joy it is to
Hear the words "I forgave you"*

*Nobody know what God has in store
He gave me my son and a whole lot more*

*Nobody knows how happy I've been
To meet my son and start over again*

*Only God knows that this was His plan
And now with joy and love we are both in God's hands*

*So till you walk in this mother's shoes
You'll never know what she's been through*

*Ruth Lyberger
9-23-99*

The Birthmark and Nobody Knows submitted by Roger Meir

Growth Is Coming in 2026

APC Is Expanding!

The Alliance Community Health Foundation approved a grant that has allowed APC to acquire and renovate the suite adjacent our current space. We are excited about the opportunity to provide access to prenatal care to the underserved women in our community. Please join us in praying that the Lord will direct our steps as we begin this journey, search for a prenatal care provider, and seek to be obedient to His will.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER



A fun time was had by all at our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - an evening we set aside each year to bless our volunteers with an enjoyable night out including a yummy dinner, fun games, and lots of laughs. This year's theme was Back to the 80's because we are celebrating 40 years (APC was founded in 1985). Our 52 volunteers play such a vital role in the work we do. We couldn't do what we do without them. We are thankful for all of the wonderful people whom God has brought to make up our APC team. If you are interested in volunteering at APC, call our office at 330-821-7283 or send an email to lisa@alliancepregnancycenter.com



Special Gifts:

Roger & Kathy Meir gave a gift of \$4,000 "In honor of Nick Montagner, Rick Cunin, Austin Callahan, Jamie Pauli, and Grayson Cunin who have faithfully mowed our lawn for three years. What a blessing you are dear friends."

Rick and Laura Stromski made a \$100 memorial contribution in the honor of Kenneth Stromski.

Current Needs List

- NEWBORN OUTFITS (TOP & BOTTOMS)
- NEWBORN ONESIES (BOYS AND GIRLS)
- NEWBORN FOOTED PJS (BOYS AND GIRLS)
- SIZE 2T CLOTHES (BOYS AND GIRLS)
- BABY SHAMPOO/WASH
- BABY LOTION
- DIAPER RASH CREAM
- ADULT SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER SETS
- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- BABY BATH TOWELS
- DIAPERS: SIZES NB, 1, 5, 6
- PULL UPS: SIZES 5T/6T
- QUART SIZED ZIPLOC BAGS
- XL REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS (TJ MAXX/MARCS)

*"There is surely a future hope for you,
and your hope will not be cut off."*

Proverbs 23:18

Baby Bottle Totals Continued:

Aldersgate Family Methodist Church \$517.95
Deerfield Friends Church \$731.06



Give Alliance 365 Distribution Fund at the Greater Alliance Foundation generously awarded APC a \$5,000 microgrant to purchase approximately 33 brand-new Graco convertible car seats for expecting parents that attend our Baby Boot Camp classes. We are excited to provide quality car seats so parents can keep their child safe.



APC

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