

Save **THE** Date

10th Annual Option 1 Dinner
November 15, 2022



120 22ND Avenue S #181, Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 692-1600 | info@option1.org



Fall 2022
Option 1 Newsletter

STORIES OF *Redemption*

*Jamie**

Jamie found Option 1 when she was about 4 weeks pregnant, unsure of what to do if her pregnancy was confirmed. She was already a mother and had brought along her young daughter to the appointment. Being pregnant meant complications for her life, as the father would not be involved and she was already supporting one child. During our first meeting with Jamie, she was convinced that abortion would be the “healthiest choice for her at this time.”

We could not yet see the baby on the ultrasound, as Jamie was so early in pregnancy. We had Jamie return for another appointment a few weeks later to get a better glimpse at her baby. At that appointment, we could clearly see her little one’s heartbeat and shape and watched Jamie’s motherly love grow for her unborn child. By the end of the appointment, abortion was completely off the table, and she decided to keep her baby. She then moved to our Client Services ministry, to begin parenting classes and receive material & emotional support. Her baby boy was born this summer and we have cherished God’s use of Option 1’s ministry in their life.

“I met Jamie when she came into the center for Earn While You Learn classes. She came from the very first week she had a positive pregnancy test until the day her son was born. It was such a blessing to hear her life story a little and watch her bloom from an apprehensive single mom to a strong, confident single mom. As a team, we know that this transformation will happen, but it is always a blessing to see the women become who we knew they could be all along.”

-Laura, Client Services Director

Emma

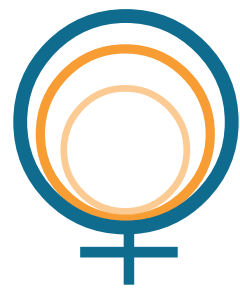
Emma first entered our doors about a year ago at around 4 weeks along and confused about the road ahead of her. She was considering both parenting and abortion, and “unsure of what is best right now.” After a positive pregnancy test, we performed an ultrasound. Being early in her pregnancy, we visualized early signs of pregnancy but could not yet see her baby. We encouraged her to return in two weeks to perform another ultrasound and discuss her options further.

At the next appointment, Emma arrived still unsure and undecided. We were able to see her baby and a heartbeat by ultrasound. She was visibly interested in seeing her baby and we could see her love growing for her new child. She told us she had a prenatal appointment scheduled just in case she decided to parent. Since she was still unsure of what decision to make, we did a more in-depth Options Consultation with her. Emma listened to the questions that Laura asked her and really opened up. Like Jamie, we could see in her the ability to handle an unexpected pregnancy, but she wasn't ready to see it in herself just quite yet. We met another time for more conversation, and it was at that appointment that she said that she was planning to keep her child. Emma came in for classes for about most of her pregnancy. During that time, like Jamie, she saw in herself the capable, strong woman we saw when we sat knee- to-knee with her for the first time.

“Emma is a perfect example of a woman who is strong and ready to follow God’s good design of motherhood, yet the world wants to tell her she can’t do it because she could lose her job or her

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CENTER Highlights



Welcome TO THE TEAM!

The team at Option 1 is growing! Throughout this year, we've welcomed three new board members- Mandy Olson, Elena McKeown, and Micah Bauer. We had been praying for the Lord to provide compassionate people, ready to serve in a governing role and He answered our prayers! The expertise of each new member is greatly cherished, and we are excited to help you get to know them better.

Beginning this October, Emily McConkey will be joining the staff as our Patient Services Director. We patiently waited throughout 2022 for God to provide the right person for the job and we are confident that Emily is a perfect fit! She has been a phenomenal volunteer and will bring new insights to our Leadership Team. Please help us welcome **Emily, Mandy, Elena,** and **Micah!**

Emily MCCONKEY



My name is Emily McConkey and I am originally from Redfield, SD. I moved to Brookings in 2010 to attend SDSU, and I met my husband Keeley while working at Daktronics. We were married in 2014 and have three little boys, Stanley, Edwin, and Charles, and our dog, Margot.

I was pregnant with Edwin in 2019 when I was invited by Samantha Anderson to Option 1 to be an ultrasound model during their training. I then started following Option 1's page on Facebook and saw their need for advocate volunteers. I emailed Laura right away, and I have been a part of the amazing team ever since. I am very excited to begin my role as Patient Services director and to serve this ministry at an even greater capacity!

-Emily McConkey

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Stories of Redemption cont.

freedom. Emma boldly loved her child and now enjoys watching him grow alongside the baby's father. We are thankful for our part in the life of their family and praise God for the continued opportunities to love them, share truth, and celebrate their baby boy!"

- Haley LaFave, Center Director

* Denotes names have been changed to protect the identities of our clients.

Connect WITH US!

Find us on

www.option1lifekeepers.org

Email: info@option1.org

Continue to partner with us
and be inspired daily ONLINE!

Sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/35LyoYU>
to receive our monthly E-News-
connecting you to the impact of your
support!

HELP US CONTINUE SPREADING STORIES OF *hope*
SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Good news!

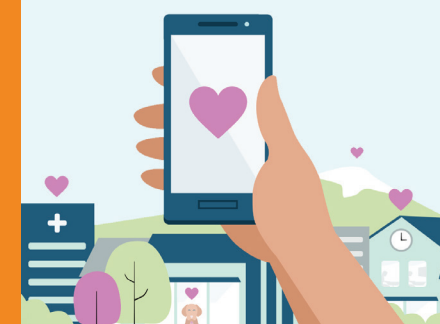
WE LOVE OUR AMAZON SUPPORTERS

AmazonSmile is available in the Amazon Shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. You can now support Option 1 in the Amazon shopping app on your phone!

Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations:

- > 1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device (Must be most updated version of the app.)
- > 2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'.
- > 3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

Turn on AmazonSmile in the
Amazon app to generate donations.
amazon smile



We have welcomed **THREE babies** to the Option 1 client family this summer.
Please join us in prayer for these little ones and their parents!

Welcome TO THE World

Serving OPPORTUNITIES



Are you looking for a way to get even more connected to Option 1?

Option 1 is currently looking for **Client Advocates** for Tuesday nights. Our Client Advocates work side-by-side with those moms who have courageously said YES to life by leading them through our Earn While You Learn program. There is no class preparation work that needs to be done by the Advocate for the classes; all we ask is that our Advocates

come ready to love our clients exactly where they are. This is a twice a month commitment from 6-9 PM. If you have a heart for mentorship, relationship, and are looking for a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus, we'd love to have you! For more information, contact Laura at csd@option1.org today!

As part of our **reception team** you would be welcoming all visitors into our center, checking clients in and out of their visits, as well as, scheduling new appointments, and other day to day tasks that keep Option 1 moving. If you are highly organized, have proficient computer skills as well as excellent written and verbal communication skills, we would love to talk to you about volunteering as a receptionist! For more information, contact info@option1.org

Welcome to the Team cont.

Micah BAUER

I am excited to join the Option 1 Board as the new treasurer. I originally come from Memphis, TN, which is the "true South." I attended Mississippi State University and studied Software Engineering. During my time there I developed a desire to become a pastor, so I went to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO and acquired both a Masters of Divinity and Masters of Sacred Theology. It was here that I also met and married my wife of 8 years, Erin. We found ourselves in Brookings, SD, a totally new place for both of us, to serve at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church and have been incredibly blessed by our church family here for 6 years. We are grateful to have been given by God three South Dakota born children, Jonah (5), Gideon (3), and Elizabeth (1).

True to my Southern roots, I enjoy spending my free time smoking delicious meat on my smoker (I appreciate real BBQ, not what some people call "BBQs" AKA "taverns"). You can also find me making up silly games with my boys, brewing a good cup of coffee, or reading theology. It's even better if I get to drink coffee and discuss theology with college students, which is a main focus of my ministry at Mount Calvary.

My wife and I have been honored to attend several Option 1 dinners over the years and have been consistently impressed with the work that Option 1 is doing for God's Kingdom. Because life is created and given by God, we should honor it from the womb to the tomb and beyond. As Christians, we are called to care for people of all stages of life, so I'm excited to join the board as we work to encourage and equip mothers and fathers as they take on the God-given vocation of parenthood.

-Micah Bauer



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Lifekkeepers

OUR STABILITY FOR GIVING HOPE

Everywhere around us in this broken world we are being censored, shut down and disheartened by the daily news. There are record amounts of confusion, political rhetoric, and anxiety.

For believing Christians nothing changes over law. GOD says the work is not done! We still have the same calling, to love our neighbor. We still have the same King who sits on the throne amidst worldly chaos. We still have the same commission, to share the Hope that we have.

We are grateful for our LifeKeepers who consistently support the lifegiving work and ministry of Option 1. Our costs to reach the abortion minded woman; in her time of crisis are increasing each week as more and more censorship is placed on Pregnancy Resource Centers. We will stay focused on keeping our ministry and mission in this time of change and chaos. We want to **THANK YOU** for being a LifeKeeper. We need you, so we can reach her.

- Jessica Hardt – Development Director

JOIN US AS A Lifekeeper!

How can you come along and support the women and families coming through our centers every day? You can support these women with your time, prayer, and finances. Our financial supporters are what we call LifeKeepers. Our LifeKeepers provide the necessary consistent funding source for the Option 1 ministry. The cost to serve one woman throughout

her entire pregnancy is \$500 or \$46 per month. Please consider a monthly gift as they are critical to stabilizing our ministry by providing dependable funding throughout the entire year. Will you consider a monthly gift of \$46 to help cover the cost of supporting one Option 1 client throughout her entire pregnancy?



BECOME A LIFEKEEPER

Make your first, or increased, monthly gift today!

- Give online at option1lifekkeepers.org
- Contact Jessica Hardt at development@option1.org or (605) 692-1612



ABORTION POST-ROE

Now that abortion is illegal in South Dakota, women from SD will not get an abortion: ❌

While there are no more abortions being done in South Dakota, abortion providers are less than 2 hours away for most women. Aside from those, abortion pills are sold illegally online and mailed to women.

Big Tech is censoring pregnancy centers: ✅

Centers around the country are being blocked on major social media platforms. Option 1 has been censored on Facebook, Instagram, and Google, and blocked from advertising on Spotify.

Women can no longer receive care for miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies: ❌

After the Dobbs decision, a tremendous amount of misinformation was spread about treating miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies. Women have lost no rights in regard to these conditions.

Abortion providers always follow regulations: ❌

There have been local reports released about abortion providers breaking protocol to ensure women don't have

a chance to change their mind about getting an abortion. This endangers the woman all the more, not to mention the child being killed. This also eliminates the possibility of intervening with the Abortion Pill Reversal Protocol, which Option 1 offers to women.

Our work and yours is more important than ever: ✅

Option 1 will continue to meet the needs of those facing unplanned pregnancy and dispel the lies being proclaimed in our culture. As citizens of SD, we must be on guard as multiple political measures to make abortion LEGAL in our state will be on the ballot in November. We must CONTINUE to protect life at all stages.

What does this all mean?

We must never overlook the importance and power of prayer in this battle. Our help and our strength come from the Lord and prayer reminds us of our reliance on Him. The work to honor life and stand for truth is not limited to the work done at Option 1, either. We must stand for truth in our churches, our workplaces, and our homes. We are here to offer truth and hope to an ever-darkening world, and we are thankful for a God who is faithful to work all things together for His glory.

WE WANT TO BE THE FIRST CHOICE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Vision To be widely known and embraced by our community as a center of hope and healing for those confronted with critical life choices.

Mission To cultivate a community where those faced with an unplanned pregnancy are equipped to choose life through the love of Jesus Christ.

Elena MCKEOWN

Have you ever been asked to share your life's motto in six words? Several years ago, I was tasked with that assignment, and as I prayed on it, I was able to complete it after careful thought and consideration. My six-word motto, "Let them see You (Jesus) in me" still holds true for me. I appreciate this assignment because I have been able to use this still several years later as a way to measure what I need to strive for every day. Letting the Lord shine through in me allows me to prioritize the things I say "YES" to in my daily activities and the things I can let go or not take on as a task.

When presented with the opportunity to serve on the Option 1 Board, it was a "YES." Through Option 1 we are able to advocate for the protection of lives of the most vulnerable, and share the gospel with the women who walk through the door. Serving on the Option 1 Board allows me to let Jesus shine through me to others in our community. What a blessing this is for me! I'm surrounded by Board Members and Option 1 Center Staff who are deeply passionate and dedicated to the Mission of the ministry.



My name is Elena McKeown and I'm so grateful to be part of the Option 1 ministry serving on the Board of Directors. For the past 12 years I have worked at Mills Property Management, and currently serve as the Chief Operations Officer for the company. At home, I'm celebrating 25 years of marriage in October with my Groom, Landon. Together, we are raising five boys, four are with us and one is in heaven. They are 20, 18, 12 and 8 years of age. We enjoy spending time at football games, hunting, and enjoying the outdoors.

Please continue to pray for the Option 1 team that we are able to obediently serve and hold tightly to the Mission Statement of Option 1, which is: To cultivate a community where those faced with an unplanned pregnancy are transformed by the word of the gospel of Jesus Christ and equipped to choose life.

Welcome to the Team cont.



Mandy OLSON

My name is Mandy Olson. I live in Hendricks, MN with my husband, Tom, and three children, Camden, Emma and Livi. We love the outdoors and enjoy spending time together as a family.

I work as an RN at Family Wellness Clinic in Brookings. I enjoy caring for each patient that walks through our door alongside a team of kind and compassionate women.

In April I joined Option 1 as a board member. I am so honored to be a member of this team. The Christ centered approach and ways in which they serve the Lord through loving others is an inspiration to me in my personal life and something I look forward to being a part of for years to come.

-Mandy Olson

