

PLEDGE DONORS UPDATE APRIL '10

[Client]

Carol Hubbard

March 2010

THEME: COUNSELING

QUOTE #1:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13, NIV).”

QUOTE #2:

“[When a king has good counselors, his reign is peaceful.](#)” (African proverb)

INTRODUCTORY ARTICLE (224 -- shorter this month because of a 300-word Superbowl sidebar)

Hope for the Hurting

When John’s wife, Sally, was virtually immobilized with chronic depression, he was relieved beyond words that a [CLIENT] counselor was able to connect Sally with a compassionate Christian counselor just a few miles from home.

When single mom Julie discovered her teenage son was struggling with Internet pornography, she felt hopeless—until [CLIENT's] Counseling Department came alongside her with a confidential referral to a therapist in her area specializing in teen boys.

And when Rebecca found herself overwhelmed with the stresses of first-time motherhood, she called and received a gift of parenting resources that seemed to be written “just for her.”

[CLIENT] has Care Specialists, Referral Assistants and Counselors who are available weekdays to talk with callers, provide information and encouragement, suggest resources, provide local referrals and pray.

In fact, every month, the licensed Christian counselors at [CLIENT] respond to thousands of phone calls, emails and letters from hurting individuals and families. The top five issues are marital conflicts, relationships with adult children, applying “tough love” to marital crises, spiritual concerns and sex addictions/pornography. Substance abuse and eating disorders are close behind.

All of us have challenges in different seasons of our lives; but thanks to your support, the Counseling department is able to bring help and hope to thousands of people each month.

[SUPERBOWL SIDEBAR -- 300]

During Superbowl Sunday and Monday (Feb. 8-9):

- There were 1,160,461 unique visitors to [CLIENT website]
- The Super Bowl ad on our site was watched 305,540 times
- The Tebow interview was watched 762,897 times
- Survived an Affair was watched 29,717 times
- The Marriage Test was watched 49,474 times
- The Focus Story was watched 17,268 times
- Unplanned Pregnancy was watched 28,066
- Be Deliberate was watched 26,404 times
- Addictions was watched 36,519 times

“When my mom was 45 and pregnant, the doctor horrified her and my dad by asking, ‘Are you sure you want this baby?’ But my brother Sammy is now the delight of us all. Thank you for standing up for children, both born and unborn.”

“I, too, was told NOT to have my son 20 years ago due to severe kidney disease. I was only 21, my husband left me because I would not abort our child, and I was scared. But I stood my ground and have never regretted the decision to give life to my son. He’s now a sophomore in college, a great artist and a wonderful young man. Good message, [CLIENT]. Oh, and just for the record, I’m a liberal Democrat. :)”

“I was in the same position as Pam Tebow 24 years ago. When I became pregnant after years of infertility, I had also contracted dysentery in Egypt. My doctor said I should abort the baby because the medicine I needed would likely cause a deformity. But I knew God didn’t give me this child just so I could abort her. And, sure enough, everything turned out fine—in fact, more than fine. My daughter was homecoming queen at her high school, is in medical school, and plans on becoming a medical missionary.”

[FAMILY MATTERS]

How your partnership is impacting lives (284)

“Several years ago I suffered from severe depression. After seeking help and making very little progress, my husband called [CLIENT]. As a result, we not only received excellent advice from one of your counselors, but we were also sent some insightful resources. That marked the beginning of my ‘re-entry into life.’ Thank you for your words of wisdom and healing that helped to pull me out of my pit of depression.”

“Almost 20 years ago, my young son was tragically killed in a car accident. Shortly thereafter, I sent a brief note to Focus explaining what had happened. Just days later, one

of your chaplains contacted me, offering prayer and encouragement. He also sent a copy of *When God Doesn't Make Sense*, which was a tremendous help. Thank you for walking me through one of the darkest times of my life.”

“About a year ago, I discovered that my husband had a porn addiction. So I contacted your ministry and requested prayer for my marriage. I had never felt such incredible pain; yet, at the same time, I was comforted to know that there were others praying for us. I’m excited to report that God has answered those prayers in such miraculous ways! Not only has He healed my husband, but He’s healed my heart as well. In the wake of our struggles, my husband would now like to help other men who are caught in the clutches of pornography, and I have a desire to reach out to women who are suffering as a result of their husband’s addiction. The Lord has accomplished more than I could have ever imagined! God bless you and your ministry.”

BECAUSE OF YOU (145):

- To date, due to [CLIENT]'s Super Bowl ad, more than 12,000 people have asked for the free six-month subscription to *Thriving Family* magazine that we offer on our new [CLIENT] website .
- *Our FOF Malaysia office . . .*
 - * Conducted Heritage Builders training with local church leaders so they can, in turn, train parents on how to leave a spiritual heritage for their children
 - * Is delivering Plugged In Movie Reviews® for parents across the entire Asian and African region.
 - * Is airing Focus’ 90-second commentary on TRAXX FM five days a week
- The number of children in foster care in Colorado who are awaiting adoption has dropped from nearly 800, at the time of [CLIENT]'s first Wait No More™ event in Colorado, down to 365 . . . thanks to your support and key alliances with other state organizations!

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

- The citizens of Chile and Haiti to experience the love and compassion of God in spite of the devastation from the recent earthquakes.
- An increase in strong, connected, committed Christian families.
- A greater concern for the well-being of our children—from conception onward

[LETTER FROM CEO]--written by C. Hubbard] (218)

Focus on the Forums

During my years at [CLIENT], I've had the privilege of traveling to many countries overseas to meet with the staff at our associate offices. It's given me great appreciation for how similar—and different—human beings can be. All people have the same essential needs, but how they meet those needs can vary greatly. Take the issue of getting wise advice or support through a crisis, for example. In some countries, you rely on your extended family network ... in others, the village elders ... and in highly industrialized societies like ours, often trained counselors.

The hectic pace of life today makes it hard for families to build and maintain true relationships with like-minded peers. That's why we created the [CLIENT] Online Community—a family-friendly gathering place that focuses on real issues and topics facing families today.

Having licensed counselors join our forum discussions has been a real asset. Individual, couples and parents who wouldn't otherwise seek help are sharing their concerns on our confidential forum message boards—then getting helpful, wise feedback. Meanwhile, those just “listening in” benefit as well. And each and every post is personally answered by one of our therapists or a caring [CLIENT] representative. We're so very thankful for your partnership with us. May God bless you and your family!

[NAME]
President and CEO

P.S. Could we come alongside you or a loved one? Just call us at 888-XXX-XXXX.