

*Helping women and their families make life-affirming decisions through God's love.*



**But the  
righteous  
are as  
bold as  
a lion.**

- Proverbs 28:1

## An Act of Courage: "Emily's" Story



2:20 AM—That was the time "Emily" sent her first email to Life Forward. The subject line said "Pregnant and Scared." Emily's email ended with the question; "Can you please help?"

It took a lot of courage for Emily to send that email. She didn't know if she would receive judgement or support. Emily was unsure about her options and confused about how to proceed with her unplanned pregnancy. She thought that having an abortion would be the easiest way out of her circumstances. Yet, in the middle of the night, Emily reached out for help. She decided she could not walk her path alone. She took a chance that there may be people who care about her and want to help her.

This is just one of the hundreds of emails and phone calls that Life Forward receives at our centers in Clifton and North College Hill. Each time a potential client contacts us, it

is a bold act of courage. For women facing unplanned pregnancies, asking for help is the first step on their journeys that can lead to life.

The response of Life Forward's client services team to Emily's question "Can you please help?" was a resounding "Yes! We can!" Emily came in to our Clifton Center and was offered confidential services at no charge including consultation on her options, a 3D/4D ultrasound, referrals to community services, education and support.

Thousands of women in the Cincinnati region are facing unplanned pregnancies. They are scared and wondering if someone can help. Your partnership with Life Forward allows us to boldly serve women through God's love whenever and however they reach out for support. Thank you!

# Bringing Life to Croatia

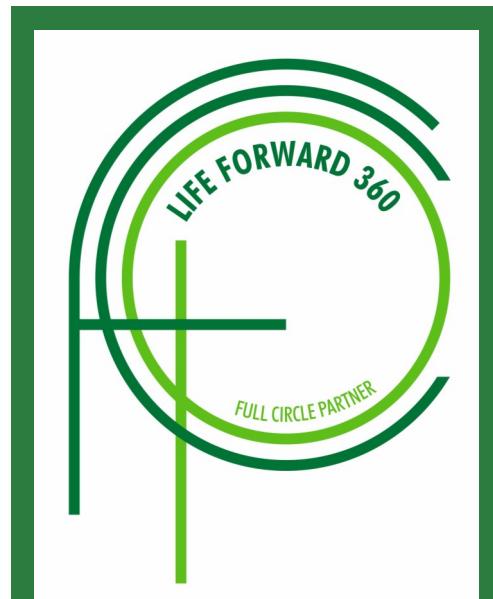
LIFE International



God put on Anita Jovanovic's heart to create a life-giving ministry in the country of Croatia. With prayer support, training, and resources from LIFE International's Eastern Europe office, she was able to begin Choose Life Ministry. Learning from crisis pregnancy centers in neighboring nations, Anita and her staff are now able to serve clients in need.

As desperate women learn about Christ's forgiveness and redemption, they find hope and new life. "Tonya" is a perfect example. She was in this crisis when she entered the clinic. But then, she heard about the life-giving message of Jesus Christ and chose life for her child.

Recently, a LIFE International team helped to dedicate Choose Life Ministry to the Lord in prayer. One team member shared, "We just celebrate with [Anita] at the beginning of this ministry, starting to bring life into this nation that is so overburdened with need."



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## Dare to Be!

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glory of God!



# Thank You!

# Q & A with Jean Masthay, Executive Director

Interviewed by Kevin Buckley, Communications Director



**KB: Can you share what inspired you to challenge the LF staff to "be bold as lions"?**

JM: Sure! Thanks for asking, Kevin. On my way to work one morning—stuck in a typical I-71 traffic jam—I wondered what the Life Forward ministry would look like in the future. I imagined more brave women seeking our services, more mothers in spite of pressure and fear choosing life for their babies, more women trusting their lives to Jesus. So if our clients—who often face enormous challenges—can find the courage to come to Life Forward for help, why shouldn't we trust God to boldly sail over any hurdle that stands between us and the means to serve more women?

**KB: How can we boldly affirm life in our culture?**

JM: I think the best way is to follow Christ's example. He's not partial (James 2:1-4). Every person is valuable—born and unborn, black and white, sick and healthy, young and old . . . (John 3:16).

**KB: How are you and the LF Board planning to be bold in your leadership?**

JM: Great question! At our last board meeting we made a commitment to more intentional and specific prayer. We're asking God to provide what's needed to expand our ministry by collaborating with the Healing Center to open a center within their facility. In this location we'll be able to serve many more women coping with a host of difficulties while also facing an unplanned pregnancy. We also want to train a Life Forward team to serve overseas with Life International, where life-affirming ministries are desperately needed with minimal resources.

**KB: How can Life Forward be bold in our ministry?**

JM: We have to be willing to step into new territories—even if the outcome isn't certain or the resources aren't clear. If we keep the ministry's mission in focus, we pray and our eyes are laser-focused on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) we can approach 2016 and beyond "bold as lions" (Proverbs 28:1)!

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# Volleyball

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