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For Immediate Release

Heartbeat of Toledo Fundraiser to Celebrate the Wondrousness of Life

Diana was just a teenager 31 years ago when she got pregnant the very first time she had sex. “I absolutely panicked,” she recalls. “My friends said have an abortion. I went to the phone book to call an abortion clinic, but called Heartbeat instead.”

“I give Heartbeat all the credit for my son being here today,” she emphatically states.

Today her son is 30, married with two children, a decorated war veteran, and a police officer.

With more than a hint of pride, Diana shares how her son saved a boatload of lives while over in Iraq. She reveals that he has also saved two lives as a police officer.

“If he hadn’t been around, who knows what would have happened,” Diana says.

Heartbeat of Toledo plans to celebrate the preciousness of life at their breakfast fundraiser, “It’s A Wonderful Life.” The free breakfast is set for Thursday, November 5, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Gladieux Meadows on Heatherdowns.

“People who come to the breakfast will have the opportunity to hear the Heartbeat story and listen to inspiring stories of women who have chosen life for their babies despite many obstacles,” says Lois Welch, Heartbeat of Toledo Board President.

According to Mrs. Welch, one of the purposes of the fundraiser is to allow Heartbeat to expand by

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relocating to a larger office. “We have run out of room,” notes Mrs. Welch. “We would like to expand our services to include ultrasounds and we need more space to offer that option to the young women we help.”

Mrs. Welch also notes that Heartbeat needs more space to due to the success of its parent learning center, Heart to Heart. “Three years ago we began Heart to Heart, a program which helps new and expectant moms to become strong, confident parents,” she says. Heart to Heart is an “Earn While You Learn” program where participants earn points by completing parenting modules. These points can then be used to acquire baby items including strollers, cribs, car seats, clothes, and more, at Heartbeat’s Baby Boutique.

For more information on this breakfast or to make a reservation, please call Heartbeat at 419-241-9131.

Heartbeat of Toledo has been in existence since 1971. Heartbeat provides information, free pregnancy testing, compassionate listening, educational materials, and assistance to girls and women dealing with unplanned pregnancies. The agency also offers prenatal and parenting lessons for moms and moms-to-be through its Heart to Heart Learning Center.

Additionally, Heartbeat offers speakers on abstinence, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases for community and school groups. All services are free and confidential. Heartbeat volunteers assist about 650 women each year.

Heartbeat has three locations: 2130 Madison Ave., 1020 Varland Ave. and 2910 W. Central. Appointments can be made by calling 419-241-9131.

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