

## ABRAXAS & YOUR COMMUNITY

# ABC Life Center Support

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The ABC Life Center is located in Franklin, PA (Venango County) about one hour from Abraxas Marienville. This center's mission is to assist with families before, during and after pregnancy. They provide pregnancy testing, pregnancy support, post abortion support, adoption referral, and sexual risk avoidance.

This program is non-profit and staffed solely on a volunteer basis. They average 50 clients at a time but can accommodate as many as 80 when fully staffed. Clients may be pregnant teenagers, single mothers, single fathers, or functioning families who need assistance with one or several children. ABC will remain involved with families who have children age two or younger. Everything provided by the program is at no cost to the clients.



A unique concept of this program is a "store" on site where clients can earn and spend "Baby Bucks". Clients are encouraged to make healthy choices and earn bucks by completing things such as going to school every day, keeping pre and post-natal doctor appointments, keeping pediatric appointments for their newborn children, attending sessions at ABC or attending AA or NA meetings if appropriate.

Girls from Abraxas I Mohican Dorm were excited to make, deliver and donate blankets for ABC's store. On May 31, 2018, the girls, accompanied by Jeanne Godlesky and Dave Fitch had the opportunity to deliver three dozen blankets, tour the program and meet with program director Kimberly Simons. Our girls were told that the blankets they donated may be used as a wrap for welcome baskets for newborns. The girls were so excited, they wanted to return to the facility and immediately begin making hats too!



When asked what they had learned from this experience, girls replied that they had no idea places like this existed, that there are more resources than one would think and they could not believe it was all free to those in need. Some wanted to know how to find such a place in their home communities so they could offer their time when they go home.

ABC was so excited and appreciative of the donation and the girls' interest and attitudes that they would like to develop a working relationship with Abraxas I and offer community service hours for volunteer services such as putting together welcome baskets, stocking the store shelves, laundering donated goods - the opportunities are endless!