

# Reaching Wichita and Beyond

Five interns arrive and thrive in Wichita, as they help our staff train locals to reach out.

Hannah was one of the young people impacted by our summer intern training team. She recently exclaimed,

"Knowledge does bring responsibility. I've learned a lot the past several months, about abortion and otherwise, and I can't get away from it—not necessarily that I would want to. There's something about the gospel and American culture, teenagers, and real conversations as a way of everyday life that I know I'm never going to be able to let go of. Those things have been important to me since I was 14 but it's really becoming rock solid now. The more I see of the hurt and confusion going on so close to me that I never noticed before, and the more I try to imagine the pain that so many girls my age face because of abortion—and simply because of the lies dumped on them in a secular culture—I know I can't just keep having a nice sweet little life, look the other way, and not do everything I can to reach out to them. Knowledge DOES bring responsibility."



I help mentor a group during our Wichita training event.

Our summer intern class came and went in what seemed like the blink of an eye, but their lives and our organization will forever be changed. Nearly 100 people that they helped train in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana will be forever changed as well.

Five people participated in our summer internship: Joanna Wagner (Atascadero, CA / Wheaton College), Katie Worley (Phoenix, AZ / Washington—St. Louis), Andrew Carlson (College Station, TX / Blinn College), Sarah Dufresne (Ventura, CA / Thomas Aquinas College), and Cody Reed (Louisiana Right to Life).

Although my involvement with the interns was initially focused in the area of helping them raise support, I did have the privilege of mentoring them during our Wichita training events. This included a seminar in which they were learners, two seminars in which they were teachers, and two days of outreach at Wichita State University.



Sarah and Andrew engage in a sample dialogue.

Led by their energetic JFA supervisor, Catherine Wurts, and our Director of Training, Steve Wagner, this class of committed young advocates amazed me with their work ethic and added to the office more laughter, entertainment, and general noise than is normal. They developed as speakers and mentors very quickly—even as quickly as some of our most accomplished trainers. Granted, our staff members worked incredibly hard to help these interns flourish, but the collective accomplishments of this intern class were truly remarkable.

*It will take an eternity for the unborn to defend themselves.*

The interns also helped train groups in Oklahoma and Louisiana. During the Wichita seminars and outreach, the interns trained people from several area churches and schools. A few of these were high schoolers who are now more ready to reach out to their peers these next few years and in college. A few others go to a local school, Butler Community College, and are prepared to help start a pro-life club on that campus. Still others learned several principles with which to challenge and encourage their own families.

One trainee, a local teacher, said, "The practice sessions (the best part) were very helpful. The presentations were well-paced, and it was nice to have many different presenters. The seminar helped get me more excited about engaging others in dialogue. I learned a lot of helpful information and strategies. It's also a good reminder that it is ultimately about people, not arguments."



Our office staff with the interns



Andrew and Joanna during an outreach event

Both groups of trainees joined some of our staff for an outreach at Wichita State University (WSU). Most of them had never talked with anyone about abortion or other controversial issues in public, but they remained calm, gracious, and willing to try their best. Many of the trainees stood by our "Where Do You Draw The Line" kiosk and engaged students and workers on campus. Others went around WSU with surveys to start conversations in a more relaxed fashion.

Many of the conversations between our staff, volunteers, and the students at WSU, went beyond the abortion topic and into areas of the evidence for objective truth, beliefs about God, our purpose on earth, and how other issues impact abortion.

Your support helped me empower our interns this summer. Your support also is a great encouragement as I prepare for the fall semester, which promises to be quite busy and fruitful!

### Prayer Requests and Praise Reports—August 2012

- Pray for each of the interns as they transition into this next school year. Each of them is ready to reach out in their spheres of influence!
- Praise God for these five interns and for all of the groups they trained this summer.
- Praise God that we were able to train many key students and parents in the Wichita area!

Defending human value together,

Jonathan Wagner