

Three Women Tell How an Ultrasound Affected Their Choice

Real life stories from *Save the Storks*, an organization that provides free ultrasounds to women.

Vanna is a 23 year old mother of a 4 year old who works fulltime and is currently separated from her Army husband. She was devastated when she had a positive home pregnancy test. Her estranged husband is the father, but he is not involved with their son, and she knew he would have nothing to do with this baby. She found our website on the internet while searching for help to fund her abortion. We explained that we do not do abortions but could talk to her about her options and offer her a free ultrasound. She lives about 90 miles from our Center, but we were able to schedule a time to meet her on the mobile unit. **When she saw her 14 week old baby on the ultrasound, she immediately bonded with her baby. She knew she could not abort this little one.** She happily received information on resources for support in her community, prenatal vitamins, pregnancy verification and ultrasound pictures.

Sheri, a 29 year old woman, entered the clinic by herself and took our card as she walked in. A little while later she came out asking us if Our Gift of Hope could do one final ultrasound to see her baby because the abortion clinic doesn't perform them. She wanted to know if it was a boy or girl. We brought her to our machine where we did the ultrasound. She was 13 weeks and 6 days along and we not only got to show her that she was having a little boy but she got to hear the heartbeat and see him jump and kick. After the ultrasound we spoke to her about all her options and services we would be able to assist her with. **She came to the clinic pretty much set on having an abortion, but after she saw her little one come to life we saw an immediate change in her demeanor. She walked away from both clinics with the picture of her little boy in her hand.**

At 21 years old, currently unemployed, in college and living with my mother, this past month has been very stressful. Just broke up with my boyfriend of 2 years and me and my mom are not getting along. On top of that, I took a home pregnancy test which showed positive. Could things get any worse? I do not want my boyfriend to know because then he would want to get back together – which I don't. He already has another child with another woman and I don't need to be his second baby mama. I can't tell my mom because she already seems to be always mad at me and this will make her even madder. So abortion was the solution – then neither one of them would need to know. Money is a problem. So I searched on line and found Solutions Mobile. Though I was told they do not do abortions, the first step would be to confirm I was pregnant and how far along I was. That was free, so I figured why not. So I made the appointment. The bus was very nice and both women who helped me listened to why I felt I could not have the baby and was seeking an abortion. I was embarrassed to tell them that, but they took it in stride and made me feel comfortable that I could talk freely to them. The pregnancy test was positive, so the ultrasound came next. At 11 weeks, I could see it was a child on the TV monitor. Baby was moving and I heard the heartbeat just briefly. I could already feel myself changing my mind about the abortion. After the ultrasound we talked more about abortion. I was asked if I wanted to view a video that would outline the abortion procedure that would be done if I was to go through with it. I signed a consent form and I viewed it. It was a nicely done video and I did learn a lot from watching it. **After seeing the ultrasound and viewing the video, I knew I could not have the abortion.** I went home and told my mom. I did receive the reaction I expected, but she asked me to give her a few days to think about it. A few days later, she came to me and said it was my decision and she would support it. So we sat down and made a list of things we needed to do and began planning for my baby – together.