

Cookies

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Cookie Gray

Founding and Executive Director of Life Care of Brandon

My name is Cookie Gray and for years I have watched numbers of young women come into our center dealing with their unplanned pregnancies – almost always alone. I kept thinking, “Something is missing here. Where are the fathers of these babies? Can’t we find a way to help?”

One morning, some years ago, I answered the phone at LifeCare of Brandon, a pregnancy resource center east of Tampa, Florida where I had served as executive director since its inception in 1987. Stuart Carver, whom I had never met, said he was calling in obedience to the Holy Spirit to offer his assistance. That conversation began a lasting friendship.

Stuart and I have had many conversations about God’s plan for families. He and his wife Vickie founded and continue to lead an organization to help build lasting families. I shared my vision with Stuart and asked if he could give it some thought. The result was the Birth of a Family platform. Birth of a Family has been an important part of LifeCare’s ministry ever since.

The success Birth of a Family has been phenomenal. Many of the young men we serve admit that they have never had good male role models. Some of them tell us, “I do not know how to be a husband or a father. That’s why I’m here. I want to learn how to do it God’s way.”

The testimonies that we’ve received from people completing the platform speak thankfully about learning how to communicate, love each other well, care for and discipline their children. We focus on how men can be spiritual leaders.

After over twenty years of serving as a pregnancy resource center director I am now seeing one of my dreams come true. We are reaching the fathers.