

NEW BEGINNINGS

Erika had recently broken up with her boyfriend when she discovered she was pregnant. At 40 years old, and mom to a 15-year-old son, she felt overwhelmed, depressed and alone. Fortunately, she was talking to a CHOICES volunteer who told her about the support we could offer, and she decided to come in to talk. Erika had heard of CHOICES but thought we only did pregnancy testing. She was in for a big surprise!



Erika & Artem

After meeting with our client advocate, discussing her needs and hearing what we had to offer, Erika enrolled in our Earn While You Learn parenting classes. She also decided to tell her ex-boyfriend, Orlando, about the baby. Both Erika and Orlando chose to attend parenting classes (although not as a couple) because they knew they needed the education to empower them going forward. Orlando is a first-time dad, and Erika felt there were some new developments in the last 15 years from which she could probably benefit.



Orlando & Artem

Through attending the parenting classes together Erika and Orlando reunited as a couple! It has been so encouraging to watch this transformation take place, and to see the fresh commitment to their relationship and parenting. They say that a lot of healing has been happening in their relationship because of their involvement with Earn While You Learn parenting classes.



Their son, Artem Hendrix, was born on September 19, 2019. He weighed in at 7 lbs. and 9 oz. A beautiful, healthy boy! Erika and Orlando say that CHOICES made a huge difference in their lives. They gained the courage to have this baby and start their lives together.

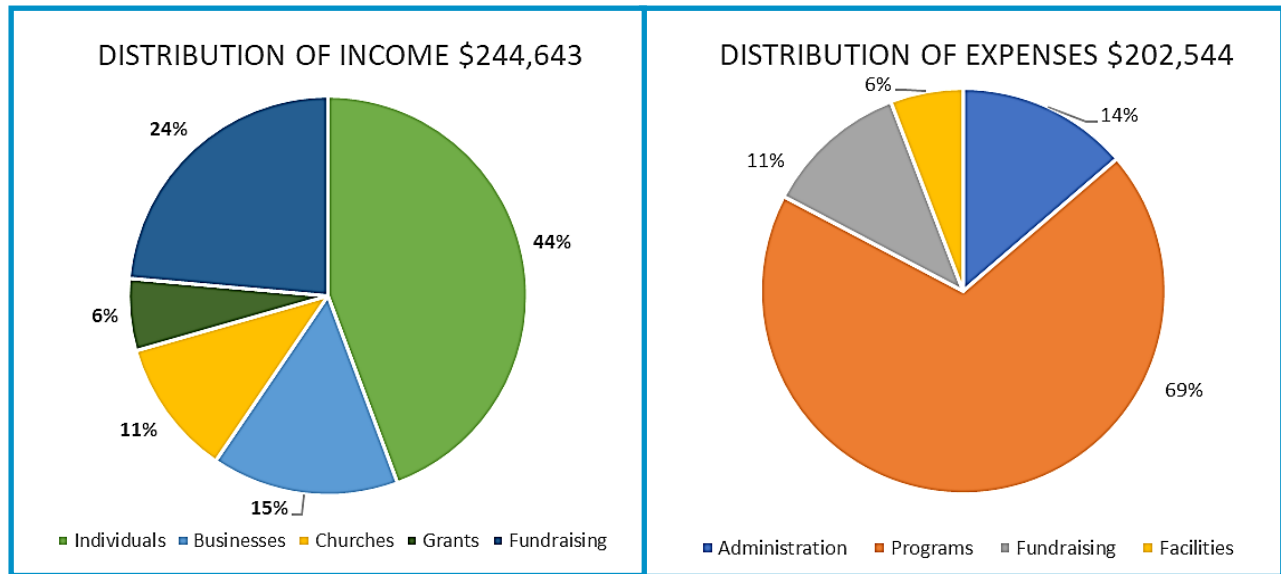
Erika and Orlando are quick to praise CHOICES for all that we offer. Both say how grateful they are to be able to learn and earn baby bucks to shop in the baby boutique for everything Artem needs. They say they don't know how they could do it without CHOICES. They often tell others about CHOICES.

Thank you for partnering with us to be that support for Teller County. We couldn't be here without you!



Big Brother Ashton & Artem

FINANCIAL UPDATE



CHOICES carefully weighs how we spend your donations to best benefit our clients. In 2019 much of the Earn While You Learn parenting curriculum went to a streaming model to supplement our DVDs through a company called BrightCourse. This is an improved and relevant way to share information with our young moms and dads. These modules have up-to-date visuals, current information, and additional opportunities for sharing the lesson. If a client needs to cancel due to an emergency, we can now text or email their lesson so they can stream the video right to their phone or computer. This allows them to come to their next appointment prepared to finish the classroom portion of that lesson. Technology can be helpful!

THANKS FOR LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| A & J Enterprises | Double M Concrete | Park State Bank & Trust |
| Adolph Coors Foundation | Flintrock Construction, Inc. | Peak Internet |
| Andrew Wommack Ministries | Hdaero Engineering, LLC | Reliant Financial Services, LLC |
| Ascent Commercial Group, LLC | Highmark, LLC | Roshek Group, Inc. |
| Black Mountain Pump Services, Inc. | IREA | Sister Friends |
| Casey's Lumber, Inc. | Keener Team Realty | Teller County Waste |
| Charis Bible College | M & S Snowplowing | The Dave Brown Team |
| City of Cripple Creek | Mallett Excavating, Inc. | Vayle Homes |
| Creative Providers Foundation | MBI Contractors, Inc. | Vollmer Real Estate Group |
| Credit Service Company, Inc. | Milan and Company, Inc. | William & Betty Osborne Trust Fund |
| Don Bush Enterprises | My Free Water Store | William A. Nein, CPA |
| Dos Lobos Enterprises, LLC | Newmont Legacy Fund | |

This Is Us
 Save the Date!
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020
CHOICES Discovery Dinner
 The Pinery on the Hill

2019 has been a year FULL of activity!

We have served **213** individual clients

There were 185 women and 28 men. Of those 213 clients **102** were brand new to CHOICES, and **111** were returning clients who are already connected to one of our programs.

We had a total of **1,189** client visits. Some of those visit highlights are:

- ◆ **102** - Pregnancy Tests

Pregnancy Testing is the true measure of our success in meeting the heart of our mission.

CHOICES' mission is to support the teens and young adults of Teller County, as they face life-altering decisions, empowering them to make healthy choices for themselves, their children and their future.

Of those 102 tests at their initial visit: 3 were truly abortion minded, 42 were abortion vulnerable, and 19 were undecided, with the remainder of clients being "likely to carry".

Of the 102 tests, 49 (nearly half) were positive.

- ◆ **31** – Ultrasounds

20 standard diagnostic ultrasounds and 11 training ultrasounds. Of those ultrasounds performed: 2 were abortion minded/undecided, 8 were abortion vulnerable, and 2 considered adoption.

- ◆ **37** - STI Appointments (21 total tests)

18 new STI clients, 3 repeat clients. 16 were female and 5 were male.

- ◆ **672** – Earn While You Learn (EWYL) parenting classes

Our clients participate in parenting classes anywhere from a few months to a few years, all based upon their needs and desires. As of 12-31-2019 we had 11 mentors seeing 27 Clients. Of those 27 - we had 9 couples! It's always encouraging when we can mentor moms and dads together!

- ◆ **311** – Shoppers in our Baby Boutique

While most clients shop at the same time as their class, these clients came in solely to shop. Some of their "Baby Bucks" were earned from one of our partner agencies. (Community Partnership, TRE, Early Head Start, Nurse Family Partnership, TESSA, Pitt Stop Counseling, LLC, and other Teller County agencies.)

- ◆ **19** – Certified Car Seat Checks

- ◆ **1,006** – Education for A Lifetime

1,006 is the number of students educated with *Pursue* and *Who Can Relate*, healthy relationship education, for a total of 150 classroom hours during the 2018/2019 school year. This includes WPHS, WPMS and CCVHS.

We certainly couldn't carry out the mission of CHOICES without all of our volunteers.

39 Volunteers served over **1,423** hours working in the CHOICES offices.

Our mentors served over 416 hours, and the Baby Boutique volunteers 717 hours.

We had many additional volunteers who put in *countless* hours designing and creating items for the Rocky Mountain Christmas Boutique. These artisans donated their time, talent and resources to help support the mission of CHOICES.

Thank YOU!!

A Note from CHOICES Executive Director...

Happy New Year and welcome to a new decade!

The last 10 years have been an opportunity for CHOICES to impact the lives of Teller County residents in powerful ways. The free services we offer are a welcome discovery to most of our clients who are in desperate need. Encountering loving, kind, and supportive CHOICES staff in that discovery is a huge bonus to them.

Such is the case of Erika. When she first arrived at CHOICES, she felt uncertain, alone and helpless as she faced bringing a baby into this world. Once she heard about all the ways CHOICES could support with education through our Earn While You Learn parenting classes, and how she could earn baby bucks to shop in the baby boutiques, things began to look hopeful. When Orlando joined her in the classroom, her hope increased even more. This is truly what we do here. We bring truth, education and hope into what seems like hopeless circumstances.

Our clients tell us regularly how CHOICES helped them in their current circumstances and helps them to get their lives moving in the right direction. Are they still faced with difficulties? Yes, on a regular basis, for that is life. But, having a commitment to EWYL classes and a mentor to learn and process with is transformative. We pray for them, we encourage them, and we also refer them to other resources that may be needed.

It is such a privilege to be able to serve alongside the staff at CHOICES. Our goal is to be able to shepherd each client in such a way as to bring transformation to their lives. We share the truth, plant the seeds, and trust God to water them and bring the growth.

As we launch into this new year, please know that our team is dedicated to the work we do, and we are so grateful for your partnership along the way. Thank you for trusting us with this precious gift of life!

God's richest to all of you!

Teresa Diamond,
Executive Director



THE CHOICES TEAM



Diane Allen

Program
Director

Lissa Wellborn

Assistant
Program
Director

Marcie James,

RN
Medical Testing
Director

Pat Martin

Assistant
Cripple Creek
Director

Jean Peck

Cripple Creek
Director

Mackenzie

Shunko
EFL Presenter

Jeni Smoot

Lead Client
Advocate (WP)



Dr. Scott Russell, MD

Medical Director of CHOICES.

Dr. Russell specializes in Obstetrics and
Gynecology at UC Health Front Range OB/GYN.

Dr. Russell generously donates his time
and expertise to support CHOICES.

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Jere Frisinger, Director

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Teresa Diamond, Executive Director