



## ***Introduction***

### ***A Ministry of***

**Serving ~ 1985 - 2007.**

We assist into existing organizations that are already serving women; whether in churches, abortion alternative centers, professional clinics, Pro-life groups, or support groups.

### **We are an International Ministry**

Our material has been order and shipped to individuals and ministries in South America, Africa, New Zealand, England, Scotland, Canada, Singapore, France, and Puerto Rico.

We have conducted training sessions in 15 of the continuous United States, Canada and New Zealand.

We provide seminars, training, materials, brochures and ideas to establish ministries to the 2nd victims of abortion. If there is already a group recovery ministry established, we suggest adding our one-on-one for those who will not attend group. Allowing you to minister to a wider range of women. We assist in establishing independent Post-Abortion recovery ministries. We desire to serve, and to be a resource -- not a parent organization establishing charters.

One of our goals was to establish a state training center in all 50 states. Those will aide us in reaching our goal of having one facilitator in each of the 62,000 cities in the US.

Victims Of Choice desires to serve every mother and father who has experienced abortion loss regardless of their religious or ethnic background. Our material has been developed by men and women of faith who have contributed to it's original creation and the 1996 and 2004 revisions. We are firm in our belief that God, through the Ministry of The Holy Spirit, heals. As long as we look to the Great Physician by rightly dividing the Word of Truth we will be able to experience and minister healing to others. We are not sponsored, directed or managed by any church denomination. We strive to be non-denominational in order to reach all people of all faiths and non-faith. We will not compromise the truths of scripture.

Of course personal beliefs are evident as you hear us speak, but in doing so we do not try to alienate anyone of a different belief, we desire to work together in order to help everyone come to healing that God offers.

We are only facilitators privileged to be in the room as the Holy Spirit brings about healing. It is vital to have a personal relationship with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to have the Holy Spirit's empowerment to be in the healing setting.

### **Accomplishments**

Trained over 1,000 women and a few men to use the unique, 10 session Christian, Therapy Model "My Abortion Grief Guilt and Shame Is Ending Soon" abortion recovery program in local churches, pregnancy care centers and independent ministries. Thousands of women have completed the sessions many of who are now facilitators or involved in healing ministry or other Christian outreaches to the wounded.

On May 11, 1986, Mothers Day, along with other organizations, Victims of Choice conducted the first National Memorial Of Mourning Day -- **M.O.M.'s Day**. Our desire is to establish permanent memorial sites in the local community for mothers and fathers, grandparents, siblings, and friends.

October 19, 1996, with Naperville, Illinois, Knights of Columbus Council 1369 we dedicate a permanent marker. May 10, 1997, Saturday before Mother's Day, conducted our first National M.O.M.'s Day observance at this marker.

**Empty Playgrounds** -- a CD of original songs, poems and readings is ready for production. At this time we need the funds to produce and market the CD.

## History and Background

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### Two Women's Story

In the early 1980's two women with the common experience of abortion learned about posttraumatic stress disorder from abortion. In learning what was happening to them because of abortion, they had the desire for other women to learn also.

These two women invited professionals, Dr. Vincent Rue, Dr. Terry Selby and others to conduct education workshops to which they invited all their friends and anyone who would attend. After these workshops, in which no answers were given, only identifying the problem, women came forward seeking consolation because of identifying with what was taught. In 1983 these women established Victims Of Choice with the ministry focus of reaching those hurting from abortion loss by offering hope, healing and closure.

They began interviewing mothers who, like themselves, had experienced abortion. They learned methods that worked in bringing about healing. With this wealth of information they began writing a model for abortion recovery with the leadership of Dr. Denton Collins, a family and marriage therapist. The material was developed for and by lay people under the counsel of pastoral and clinical leadership. A simple, step-by-step program that is easy to learn and use. The result -- *The Therapy Model of Crisis Intervention*. This guidebook has gone through several revisions since its 1987 publication. As time has passed and we have learned more about mothers and fathers who have abortion in their past and what works and what doesn't work in bring healing.

This book was revised in 1996 again in 2004 now titled *Abortion Recovery Facilitator Guidebook*. The 10-sessions are now known as "My Abortion Grief Guilt And Shame Is Ending Soon". The Guidebook is a detailed training tool to prepare the facilitator to successfully walk a participant successfully through the 10 sessions. Each of the sessions are given in outline and detail for the facilitator and participant. The Guidebook also includes a master of the participant exercises used in the ten sessions. This all in one book can be purchased from Victims of Choice via their website [www.victimsofchoice.com](http://www.victimsofchoice.com).

### 2008 Update

15 November 2007, Elizabeth Verchio retired from her responsibilities as director. Continuing to offer face to face and long distance facilitation continues to be her focus as well as offering her 12 years of experience to individuals and organizations as a trainer, speaker and consultant.

After over 22 years in ministry as of February 2008 – Victims of Choice, Inc. has been dissolved. Work under the name Victims of Choice will continue, though on a more local level and through our website [www.victimsofchoice.com](http://www.victimsofchoice.com). The only difference is there is not a State recognized incorporated entity, just women coming along side other women ministering God's hope and love. Materials will continue to be offered through the website until such time there is no longer a need.

In the early 1980's there were exactly **one** program designed for women to address post abortion grief.

The people involved with what would later be known as Victims of Choice felt there was a need for a more intense, one-on-one program. Being involved in post-abortion ministry, they saw women not willing or able to enter a group Bible Study. It was evident an alternative program was needed. These dedicated men and women set out to fill that need with the *Therapy Model for Crisis Intervention* and the then 9-step program. It was several years before other programs were offered on a national level.

Today, thankfully, there are more than 43 programs designed for women and men to address after abortion negative fallout. Hundreds of pregnancy care centers, churches, individuals offer these programs all across the US and other countries.

We are thankful we were able to play a role, on a grass roots level, in developing an excellent program and equipping individuals to address the needs of women all across the US and around the world.

Everyone associated with Victims of Choice are blessed because of their involvement in a healing ministry – because of the people we have met and friendships developed. The experiences of seeing women's lives changed through a well-developed program and the work of the Holy Spirit of God is indeed cause for worship and praise of The Almighty God.

**What does the future hold?** We do not know. There is a desire to edit and re-publish the therapy model in a format that is more suited for licensed and clinical counselors. Possibly, soon, that work will begin. Until that time, Elizabeth will continue to offer this excellent Christ centered program, keep the website updated and make the Guidebook available to anyone desiring a copy.

We ask for your prayers, encouragement and support as we do the work we have been given to do. May we all be found faithful at His coming and may we all hear "Well done" when we stand in judgment regarding our faithfulness.

*Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.* Hebrews 13:20-21 NASB