Written by Darci Tomky
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A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center Banquet's 2012 guest speaker Shelly Donahue returned again this year for a no-nonsense talk on abstinence education.

A large crowd gathered at Phillips County Event Center Saturday, Jan. 26 for the annual fundraising dinner.

This co-author of WAIT (Why Am I Tempted?) Training spreads the message that kids should abstain from sex until marriage.

"When you give the Devil an inch, he takes a mile," said Donahue. "We've got to keep the door shut on sexual sin."

She encouraged parents and grandparents to keep talking with their kids and to set the bar high when it comes to sexual self control.

A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center banquet guest speaker Shelly Donahue isn't afraid to get passionate about parenting and abstinence education.

—Enterprise photo

“They’re dying to talk,” said Donahue, who looks for all the teachable moments she can take advantage of with her kids, whether it’s role playing a situation or interviewing their prom dates.

She said kids today are very intellectually smart, but “nobody’s home when it comes to common sense!” They aren’t learning basic skills that make their brains better.

“Our culture is picking away at their protective covering, so we have to be that for them,” she said.

Parents put a very high standard on kids for schoolwork, sports and other activities, so why don’t they have a high standard for sexual self control? “When we were growing up, we had a bar and it was called marriage,” she said.

Donahue encouraged the audience to support centers like A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center and abstinence education, which has not been funded by the government since 2008. She said all the money is going to kill babies, so the focus should be on keeping those babies from being conceived.

Center celebrates good year

During the banquet, Jan Loesch, executive director of A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center,

reported that in 2012 they served a diverse clientele of 72 men and women, with only four of them being minors. The clients gave birth to 25 babies including four sets of twins.

She said it is the only center in Colorado that is mission-based, bringing vital resources to the communities in the counties they serve.

“As Christians, we are supposed to be atmosphere changers,” said Loesch. Many go to the center without hope, and Loesch is excited to be there for them and to provide them a place to get that hope—a joyful, confident expectancy that good is just around the corner.

The center is having a positive effect on teens and their relationship choices. Since the center began in 1999, Morgan County has experienced a 38 percent reduction in teen pregnancies.

In 2012, Loesch performed a week of WAIT training (a public school curriculum with a focus on abstinence and healthy relationships) to a total of 2,751 students in three counties.

The center now offers a powerful 11-week Bible study for women in the healing process of post abortion trauma.

Pastor Don Smith also gave a report on the new program to train men to mentor boys.

The evening concluded with some entertainment from vocalists Bryan Kroeger, Gary Koch and Mark Phillips.

[illegible] Phillips