

Why there is a need for a Mobile Ultrasound Van in Rochester, NY (real first-hand stories)

Our number one goal in encountering pregnant moms in need outside of local abortion facilities is to redirect the moms away from the abortion facility and toward the most immediate means of getting them the medical care and information, they need, most importantly an immediate path to a free ultrasound. Some are willing to drive 10-15 minutes away to have a free ultrasound, for others it is a bridge too far. Here are just a few examples (aliases used to respect confidentiality):

Michelle's Story - Michelle approached on foot and was receptive to the idea of free services. Since she had no transportation to drive 10-15 minutes away, she was asked if an Uber could be called and get her over to Compass Care or Embracing Options. She paused as if she was unsure if she could trust a stranger to put her in a car and send her somewhere. A Planned Parenthood escort stood nearby putting pressure on Michelle. One could see she did not want to go into Planned Parenthood but trusting someone she just met to put her in a car was just too big a leap for her. She decided to go into her appointment. I know she would have boarded a mobile ultrasound van, if we had one there.

John and Rachel's Story – John and Rachel stopped in the driveway, took the info, and refused the offer for free services or to come talk further. They parked and went into Planned Parenthood. About an hour later, John came out and came over to talk with a sidewalk advocate. Rachel was already in the back having the abortion. After helping John think through several points in regard to what is next for him and Rachel and seeing the regret already on his face, he was asked if there was anything that could have done better, before they went in, to redirect them. There was already a false narrative in our loving, peaceful, woman-oriented approach, but if there was a mobile ultrasound van visible present, this would have helped them choose life for their child.

3. **Lisa's Story** – Around 9AM, Lisa pulled into the Planned Parenthood parking lot and was not receptive. She went inside. Later, on her way out, she rolled down her window in the exit and wanted to talk. Lisa had just had a positive pregnancy test in Planned Parenthood, and she was looking for an STD test that had same day results. Planned Parenthood could only do an STD test that had results back in three days. Embracing Options could, but it was closed on Friday. Compass Care was called, and they could get her in at 12:30PM, but Lisa only had childcare for right then. Unfortunately, Lisa eventually canceled that appointment and likely had an abortion. If there was a mobile ultrasound van, she may have changed things for her and her child.

On May 17, 2019, the mobile ultrasound van from Troy New York was in full operation for the entire day from 7:30AM-4:30PM outside of the Rochester's Planned Parenthood. A woman heading in Planned Parenthood accepted and was immediately able to see her baby via ultrasound on the van. She went home with a picture of her baby in hand & very happy to choose life!

Outside of the downtown Planned Parenthood right now there is an average of 1-2 women **each** day, equaling 25-30 women served per month. Many lives would be definitely saved, and the ability to redirect vulnerable women in unsupported pregnancies away from Planned Parenthood, would significantly be increased, **when a mobile ultrasound van was present; in seeing their child though an ultrasound** these vulnerable moms, in unsupported and untimely pregnancies, can then be redirected away from the abortion facility toward the most immediate means of getting them the medical care and supportive information, that will really help them.