



SAN LUIS OBISPO A.L.P.H.A., Inc.

A California Non-Profit Corporation since 1980

In the beginning...

San Luis Obispo A.L.P.H.A., Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides non-judgmental support for those facing pregnancy, assistance in the first year of life, and education based on a respect for life.

Alpha began as a study group in the spring of 1979. Born out of a concern for the increasing number of teenage pregnancies, this group of concerned community members sought to research the issues involved with unplanned pregnancies. The primary focus was on the availability of services in the community; programs of public awareness and education regarding abstinence and contraception.

It was determined that community resources throughout the county were well established for the woman who chose to abort her unborn child. Once her choice was made, a number of agencies were available to make referrals and arrangements. Financial assistance and medical contacts were facilitated for her. In 1979, there were 1500 abortions in San Luis Obispo County.

The community resources for practical assistance, emotional support and educational programs were minimal and difficult to access for the woman choosing to carry her child to term. There were no organizations or agencies who provided a comprehensive approach that supported clients during pregnancy and early parenthood.

In January, 1980, Alpha was established with three beliefs. *First*, abortion should not be presented as the preferred solution to an unwanted pregnancy as abortion can be destructive for the woman as well as her unborn child, physically, spiritually and emotionally. *Second*, alternatives to abortion will be combined with the offer of practical, personal, day-to-day support for the woman facing a crisis pregnancy and beyond. *Third*, the decision concerning the pregnancy must belong to the woman and should be made only after exploring all possible alternatives.