



PRESS RELEASE/OpEd – TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries

August 31, 2016 8:30 a.m. CDT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: REV. STEVEN G. LIGHTFOOT

PASTOR / SENIOR DIRECTOR of DEVELOPMENT and SPIRITUAL CARE

EMAIL: STEVENL@TOMAGWA.ORG

PHN: 832-559-5220

Subject: TOMAGWA Stands Ground in Politicized Women’s Healthcare Debate

TOMBALL, TX TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries has provided quality healthcare to our community for 27 years. We have always held the health and dignity of our patients and the hope of our Lord Jesus Christ as our primary mission and ministry to the people we serve. We have provided medical, dental, mental, emotional and spiritual care to thousands of low-income individuals and families over the years, and always with the support of the compassionate people in the community, private and corporate foundations, and always without government funding.

TOMAGWA’s management and governing board believe that TOMAGWA is a ministry first, and that we do ministry through practicing medicine and dentistry, and by caring for the whole person. We believe that the patient is best cared for when we follow best-practices and most especially when we work within the will of God for His people.

Recently, our application to participate in a funding initiative for healthcare offered by a long-time supporting foundation was declined due to our policy not to provide birth control pills or abortifacients, and because we do not provide access to what the foundation refers to as “the full suite of family planning options for women, which ensure that women have available to them a choice in their reproductive healthcare.”

During conversations wherein we sought further clarification of the foundation’s rejection of our application, it was made clear to us that we could only receive funding from the foundation if we were willing to change our policy regarding our family planning practices, were to begin distribution of birth control pills, and if we were to provide access to other questionable services in order to meet each “patient’s choice” regarding reproductive health. We are not willing to engage in such policies, which we believe are not in the best interests of our patients and are clearly outside the teachings of our Christian Faith. Our decision to remain



steadfast in our current policy effectively ended a long-standing funding relationship with the foundation and our opportunity for nearly a quarter of a million dollars in essential funding along with it.

TOMAGWA will continue to seek funding to replace that which was lost to ensure that the access to quality care for our neighbors-in-need remains at current levels. The prayers and support of our community are appreciated in this time, and we continue to look to God for the provision He has always given to this ministry.

Those wishing to help us close this unexpected funding gap may contribute online at www.tomagwa.org. All gifts, large and small, are a blessing. Questions may be directed to Lee Ann Kroon, Executive Director, LeeAnnK@tomagwa.org or Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot, Senior Director of Development, StevenL@tomagwa.org.

Luke 16 teaches us that we can either seek the favor of man or the favor of God. Seeking the favor of man is temporal. Seeking the favor of God has eternal impact. Matthew 6 teaches us that we cannot serve two masters. We choose to serve God and not mammon. Thank you for your faithful support. May God richly bless you.

By His Grace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Ann Kroon".

Lee Ann Kroon
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven G. Lightfoot".

Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot
Senior Director of Development

###