

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Rebecca Kiessling hopes to put a face, a voice and a story to the issue of society's acceptance of abortion, especially in those cases of rape.

Kiessling, herself conceived after a brutal rape at knife point of her birth mother, will be the guest speaker at fundraising banquets next month in three Colorado communities.

One of the sites for her talk will be Holyoke, Colo. on Saturday, Jan. 23.

Kiessling, who has been featured in several magazines and interviewed on "Good Morning America," CNN, CBS News and EWTN, among others, will be in the area next month to benefit A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center of NE Colorado.

To those who believe abortion is okay in the cases of rape, Kiessling says on her website, "I teach others that your value is not based on the circumstances of your conception."

She adds, "Whenever you identify yourself as being pro-choice or whenever you make that exception for rape, what that really translates into is you being able to stand before me, look me in the eye and say to me, 'I think your mother should have been able to abort you.'"

Kiessling, a mother herself and also a family law attorney, says she is alive today because of "choices made, and people who fought to ensure abortion was illegal in Michigan at the time, even in the cases of rape."

She relates that her birth mother would have consulted with a crisis pregnancy center for guidance had one been available at the time. However, the advice she received steered her initially to abortion because she had been raped.

Kiessling will also speak in Brush, Colo. on Jan. 21 and in Yuma, Colo. on Jan. 22.

Jan Loesch, executive director for the A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center, said although the primary purpose of the three banquets is fund-raising for the Center's needs, the work of the Center, its impact and encouragement of volunteers will also be addressed.

Tickets for the Holyoke banquet on Jan. 23 at the Phillips County Event Center on the fairgrounds are \$25 each. Groups are also encouraged to organize tables of eight for \$200.

Information on tickets for the Holyoke banquet is available from Linda Fuesz at 970-774-7280.