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SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER

*We have been dedicated to serving with compassion
and dignity the immediate and long-term needs
of those facing unplanned pregnancies for 21 years!*



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knowledge • confidentiality • support

2021 Next Step Pregnancy Services Live Virtual Gala and Silent Auction

Saturday June 19th!

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GALA SPEAKER:



**Roni
Sasaki**

We will be welcoming Paralympic Gold Medalist, podcast host & author!
And we'll have some very cool items and experiences in our Silent Auction!

FREE EVENT: Register online at nssupport.org

2021

virtual gala

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Marta Matos
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Dear Friend of Next Step,

**"All of humanity's problems stem from
man's inability to sit quietly in a room
alone." ~ Blaise Pascal, 1654**

A few months ago, I watched a film called "Sound of Metal". The film was, in a nutshell, about a young man who discovers he is losing his hearing. He is a drummer in a heavy metal rock band and as such, subject to extreme volumes. On the surface it reads simply as the audience going along with "Ruben" (played by Riz Ahmed) as he reels from this sudden loss and seeks to get it fixed. But the film truly goes deeper than that.

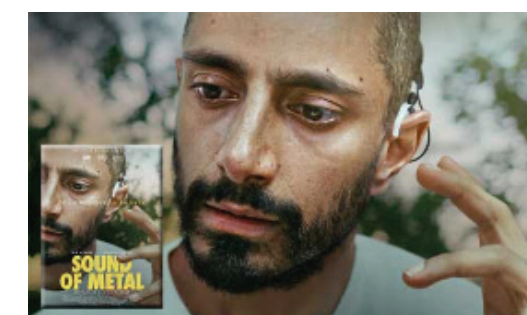
I believe its underlying message is that nothing is wrong with Ruben. There is nothing to fix. Being whole in the world is not the same as being whole in Christ.

**"Or do you not know that
your body is a temple of the
Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You
are not your own." ~ 1 Corinthians 6:19**

Ruben's character seeks to resume the life he had before, a life that has been wholly broken and without a path. He researches surgical solutions to what he sees as his loss. At the prompting of his girlfriend, he stays for a while in a community specializing in addicts who are deaf which clashes with his desire to 'fix' himself. While there, he is challenged to sit quietly and seek stillness, which is, God's Kingdom. I will not spoil the film but, in the end, Ruben finally sees himself as God sees him. Whole, unique and, fashioned "according to His love and wisdom" and not in need of fixing.



Heather M Vasquez
Executive Director
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(Continued inside)

Christmas Blessings through the Knights of Columbus

by Marta Matos

Christmas is all about God's incredibly lavish and generous love for us displayed in Jesus' birth. This abundant generosity of God was shown to us yet again this Christmas through an unbelievably generous financial donation to Next Step by the Knights of Columbus Council 676. It is wonderful to get to see and experience God's heart through His people.

Next Step had applied for a grant through the Knights of Columbus for a new ultrasound machine. Our ultrasound machine was outdated, and we now have two sonographers performing ultrasounds, and two nurses in training to do ultrasounds as well, so the need for a new machine was apparent. The Knights of Columbus not only covered the cost of the new machine, but also surprised us with a financial donation that none of us could believe!

Thanks to this donation we have been able to hire our second nurse (who was previously a volunteer while training to do ultrasounds) as a Next Step staff member. As we move forward with two nurses on staff, we are excited to soon be offering more frequent ultrasounds and to be able to perform them when needed for abortion vulnerable women. Also, thanks to their donation we can begin preparing to do STD/STI testing for our clients in the not-too-distant future.

Praise God for His endless generosity which we have seen and still see in so many ways in our lives and here at Next Step!



Prenatal Care Fund

by Barb Millett, RN

We are excited to announce the approval of the Next Step Prenatal Care Fund. Many of our clients who come in needing insurance for prenatal care qualify for Apple Health through the state. But what about those Moms who do not? It is a terrible feeling to tell someone (who may be working 2 or more jobs) "Sorry, you work too hard." Or "You just make too much money." While rare, there are times when our clients make just beyond the state's threshold for insurance. If it is not open enrollment season (typically November/December) these women cannot receive coverage for vital prenatal care (including 2nd trimester diagnostic ultrasounds, glucose tolerance testing for gestational diabetes, urine tests for preeclampsia and other necessary tests). All expenses must be paid for out of pocket. We are so blessed to now have a fund specifically designed to help clients in this unique situation. Those who are taking initiative to do their absolute best for their children no longer need to be denied services because of their superior work ethic.

Recent nssupport.org Blogs

"The Devaluing of Life"
and
"The Truth is Incontrovertible"



Dear Friend of Next Step...

(Executive Director message continued from cover)

"Serenity is no longer wishing you had a different past." (Joe, Sound of Metal)

You may be wondering about how this story ties in with Next Step Pregnancy Services and our mission to show the humanity of unborn children and to protect and defend their lives.



In a 2012 Prenatal Diagnosis article (obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com, 14 March 2012) "their research calculated a weighted mean across the U.S. of a 67% termination rate following prenatal diagnoses of Down Syndrome"

In other words, the possibility of giving birth to a baby with this "defect" was enough for many expectant parents to decide to terminate rather than welcome their perfect child into the world. That is a very staggering number to me. That well over half those children are snuffed out before ever being able to have dreams, have families, have experiences, have birthdays, have love - is a tremendous and wholly avoidable loss.

They are not damaged, disabled, and in need of fixing. Those who would see them as disposable are the ones who are truly broken. Next Step's mission is to speak for and defend those in need, within the womb and without.

Next Step Pregnancy Services Sponsor Highlight!

Campbell Auto Group - Volkswagen - A life-affirming organization and community sponsor. Check them out for your next car!



How to support Next Step

**Did you know you can support
Next Step Pregnancy Services
through Estate Giving?**

Charitable giving is a component of many estate plans and places like Fidelity and UBS Financial Firm have many articles and resources to assist.



Calling all Docs!

**Do you know (or are you) a
physician, physician's assistant,
or a nurse practitioner (retired
or active) who wants to join the
Pro-Life movement?**

Then we need your help! Next Step is looking for a second volunteer Medical Director to assist with new programs and sign offs on OB ultrasounds as we continue to serve those who are expecting to choose life! No ob/gyn experience is needed-- training will be provided.



IT Pros Needed

**Are you an IT guy (or gal) who
wants to serve in the Pro-Life
community?**

Next Step is looking for help with occasional IT work such as troubleshooting technical issues and assisting Next Step on their websites and fundraisers from the tech side! Shoot us a note!