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SUMMER 2020

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



GALA SPEAKER:
Patricia Sandoval

DETAILS INSIDE

Online Registration: nssupport.org

Please check out our
Blogs on our Client Site!
nextstepnw.com



- "Am I pregnant?"
- "When he's not interested in being a Father, what then?"
- "How can I be anything else if I am a Mother?"
- "How are we Different than them?"
- "What can a Pregnancy Resource Center do for Me?"

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Hello Dear Friend of Next Step!

"Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens." – J. R. R. Tolkien

I take a deep breath and let it out slowly. It's over. Or nearly. The last few months have been a mess. But they have also been a triumph. A triumph for the faithful and the true. A triumph for the brave and the stout of heart. A triumph really of the human spirit and what we can accomplish when tested. And boy were we tested. For my generation, (proud to be an "X"er) this has been the biggest single challenge to our way of life and understanding of ourselves, our community, and what our time on this earth can be.

And during that time Next Step Pregnancy Services remained true. True to our cause, true to our purpose, true to the women and babies we serve.

During the months of March and April Next Step served a whopping 451 clients for supplies ranging from food, formula, diapers, wipes, and clothes. We had 35 women come in for confirmatory pregnancy testing and 10 were intending to carry. We did serve some women with whom a pregnancy was not necessarily welcome news. There were 4 abortion vulnerable women and 9 who were very unsure. Uncertainty and fear colored a lot of the choices that were being thought about. I'm grateful we had our nurse Barb, our volunteer RDMS Rosa and our old-timers Nancy and Marta to give counsel, knowledgeable insight and compassion to those coming to us during this time. Although the outcome was not always known I feel confident our ministry gave of ourselves over and over again throughout the long and uncertain days.

And that's what we can do. Remain true to protecting the unborn and nurturing relationships between mothers and children.



Heather M Vasquez
Executive Director

NEXT STEP GALA HAS GONE VIRTUAL

Please look for your invitation!

Saturday June 20th at 7pm

Stay tuned in the month of June for an interview with our speaker Patricia Sandoval with our own Tom Curran on Sacred Heart Radio and Carrie Abbott on KCIS!

Next Step has some wonderful certificates, gift baskets and a trip coming your way! Look for an email for more info and see how you can bid!

REGISTER AT nssupport.org



Please check out our blogs on nssupport.org

“What does it mean to Empower Women?”

“My Mom”

“For I know the Plans I have for You.”

“You are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”

“What’s your Silver Lining?”

“Why Should Pregnancy Centers Remain Open during COVID?”

“Where there’s Life there is Hope.”

2020 GOALS PROGRESS

At the start of the year the staff and I talked about what we wanted to accomplish for 2020. Mind you this was pre-COVID! The completion of our top prioritized goal - which was getting our two nurses trained and ready for ultrasounds - I'm happy to report is about halfway complete! Unfortunately due to the health crisis we had to slow down the training. But we're nothing if not resilient!

Currently we have two wonderful volunteer RDMS (registered diagnostic medical sonographer) who come once per week and once per month respectively. Much as that was a blessing I wanted to be able to offer ultrasounds everyday all day!

A study out of University of California in Obstetrics and Gynecology (January 2014 - Volume 123 - Issue 1 - p81-87) showed that 4.8% of pregnant women who were scheduled for appointments at Planned Parenthood with “low and medium decision certainty” who chose to have an ultrasound prior to the procedure changed their minds and did not abort. The analysis was from over 15,000 women seeking abortions. There was an estimated 1.3% of women scheduled who chose to not see the ultrasound but still changed their mind about aborting. Granted there were women whose “decision certainty” was high and viewing the ultrasound or not did not deter them from their position. But I will say again - 4.8% who were able to visually share the humanity of life within their womb decided to carry to term. And that is a wonderful thing.

Being able to offer that visual as often as we can has been proven to save lives! And we are so close - praise God!

“Feed your faith and your fear will starve.” - Anonymous

SPONSOR SHOUT OUT

Transblue - This superior group has stood by Next Step through thick and thin. Plowing our parking lot and de-icing, beautifying our building into an inviting peaceful place for families, being our go-to on all things maintenance. All free or at low cost and all with a heart for God and the unborn! www.transblue.org



American Heritage Girls Troop 821 - This group has a heart for the Unborn! Whether helping gather donations or putting together newsletters - these kids rock! Based out of St. Pius in MLT serving as a Christ-Centered troop for girls aged 6-18 and beyond! Move over Girl Scouts! www.americanheritagegirls.org



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Welcome our New Nurse Volunteer Barbara!

After 18 years as an oncology nurse I took time off to be there full time for my 2 elementary school aged children. I began sketching again. Desiring a worthy subject I turned to painting babies in utero. Little did I know God was preparing me for a special ministry. I began painting portraits for mothers who lost their unborn babies (through disease and/or trauma) but had their images preserved from ultrasound. Recently, I reached out to Next Step Pregnancy Services to see if I could incorporate my nursing degree into honoring the life of the unborn. What an amazing group of Godly women I found and I am so grateful they have welcomed me with open arms. I am so excited to now be learning to perform limited OB ultrasounds myself. *Praise God!*



Sue (left) and Barbara (right)

Volunteer Spotlight on Sue C.

Volunteering at Next Step Pregnancy Services is extremely rewarding. It is an honor to meet and help parents provide for their babies and children. I have witnessed the panic of a young father whose wife gave birth to twins prematurely. We were able to give him blankets, clothes, diapers, wipes and more. The staff at Next Step is incredible and I look forward to working with all of the volunteers. *Next Step is a blessing!*

Do you want to continue to receive the newsletter mailing or would you prefer to receive all communications electronically? Let us know! See the Insert! And check out our new donation page on the web!