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SUMMER 2022

NEWSLETTER

We have been dedicated to serving with compassion and dignity the immediate and long-term needs of those facing unplanned pregnancies for 24 years!



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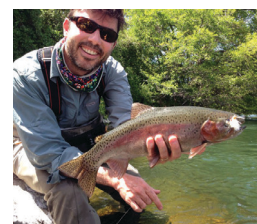
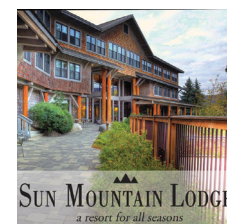
Want to be an Angel? Next Step's Angel of the Day program is back!

Last year it cost \$703 per day to keep us open and serving. That works out to \$58 per month! If you would like to fund the operation of our clinic for 1 day per year, you can sign up to be one of our Angels. If you want to commemorate a family member's birthday or an anniversary, you can designate that day as the one you sponsor. For more information about this unique kind of commitment donation, contact Heather... heather@nextstepnw.com



NEXT STEP GALA 2022 September 24th

Some Silent Auction Highlights
to get you as excited as us!



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Dear Friend of Next Step,

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." - Corrie ten Boom

On August 2nd, three young women approached our corner on 64th and 196th and assumed spots in front of our flower bed with large signs, green knit beanies, and anger. They looked to be 18-22 with dark kohled eyes and colorful hair. Busy as we were with our work, we wouldn't have even noticed them to be honest had they not been screaming themselves hoarse, their voices piercing our frosted windows.

They had bright green stickers and shirts to match their hats that proclaimed them as part of a group called Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights.

This group, which originated out of Central and South America, in countries such as Mexico, El Salvador, Chile, Colombia, and Argentina had now arrived here. "The Green wave has now hit the U.S." Their aim is clear and their mantra precise - "Abortion on demand and without apology"

Their goal (which we all know now was not achieved) was to "stop the Supreme Court from decimating a long-established constitutional right that is central to millions of lives and society as a whole."

I won't rehash what has been said repeatedly about the clear lack of such a right in our constitution ---neither verbatim nor in a perceived way--- but only say that a society that fights for the



Heather M Vasquez
Executive Director



(Continued inside)

The Next Step Pregnancy Services Gala is next month! Have you purchased your tickets?

The Gala will be held on Saturday, September 24th, at 6:00pm, at Holy Rosary Church in Edmonds.

The evening will include music from some talented kids from American Heritage Girls troop 821, drinks, a tasty dinner from Twelve Baskets, raffles and heads or tails fun. We'll also have Next Step's legendary Dessert Auction, and a dynamic young pro-life speaker, Rebekah Hagan, a champion of the pro-life movement! All emceed by Mr. Kevin Van Hollebeke!

We will also offer a virtual silent auction opening a week prior to the event – Monday September 19th – featuring resorts, trips, tickets, gift certificates and more.

You can register here to get access to the silent auction as well as purchase tickets to the event, choose delicious dinner entrees, and even choose tablemates to enjoy the night with.



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PLEASE REGISTER AT: nssupport.org/gala2022

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Dear Friend of Next Step... (Executive Director message continued from cover)

acceptance of the killing of another person is no sane and ethical place. Is the right to abortion central to millions of lives? Is it an essential ideal? I say no. The essential gift of life is one of the most profound given to us and to deny this gift, strip away this gift from another, is an act that cripples and ravages “society as a whole.”

Back to the three young women – Marta, ever our peacemaker, ventured out to the corner. I was in no mood to be charitable, another reason I am thankful for the team He has put together here. She welcomed them, asked them to “please do not vandalize our sign as it is private property”, and to come in and check out our clinic. This is not an unusual event. Our response to attacks, protestors, questions -is to “come in and see for yourself”, and to date no one had yet taken us up on the invitation. Until now. All three of the girls came slowly in the door, eyes down, their reluctance palpable.

Marta proceeded to show them the boutique and layette room, explained our services and what we can offer. She showed them our counseling rooms and explained about our medical services and the various reasons a woman may come in seeking care. All the while they shuffled slowly behind her, silent, eyes downcast, random nods here and there. Finally, they made their way back out, not much of a response to our “thanks for coming in” and were gone.

responding generously when faced with an unplanned pregnancy and the attitudes of those of us who faced an unplanned pregnancy that didn't end up “ruining” our lives. Rather than the sense of maternal bonding and protection earlier generations experienced upon finding themselves carrying. Suddenly another's happiness was what we wanted. Sure, we still had dreams and hopes. Still had plans and things we wanted to achieve. And we did. We did it all. Because we could and we knew we could. At the same time, we were championing our children. Holding them. Guiding them. Losing sleep. Watching an endless loop of Daniel Tiger. Seeing the world wholly anew through their young eyes. What changed? Why does this generation believe it has to be either/or? Have we, as women, fallen so far back again that we do not believe in our own resilience, our own purpose and contributions to society? Our own drive to rock our world, achieve greatness, overcome fears, and be moms to boot?

Well, we can. And do. My mom did it. I've done it. I pray my daughters know they can do it.



Who knows what impact the brief interaction may have caused, or if even one of their hearts was moved with a need to know more. But we are not called to pressure others into believing as we do. We are called to show---to embody our faith and what it can do. We are called to act.

The founding members of the group Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights sent an open letter to ‘society’, and they asked – remarkably – the same as we ask of you, of ourselves, and that He asks of us - “a great rising of people of conscience to act”.

I will say it again – now is the time for – ‘a great rising of people of conscience to act.’ To defend, to protect, and to change minds and move hearts. These women are hurting. They are confused. They have been told all their lives that they are ‘masters of their own fate’ and what they want – is theirs for the taking. Then Bam! Pregnant. And suddenly their futures are not their own. Suddenly another's needs potentially take precedence over their own, and they feel cheated somehow. Somewhere there is a transition between the attitudes of many women today who haven't been encouraged to think of

I pray those three young women know they could do it too should the need arise. We are called to show the way, to embody our faith and what it can do. We are called to act. We are called to be resilient women and mothers. And we can start by protecting our greatest gift.

It was with reluctance that we said goodbye to our longtime Board President Bill Kessler in May. Bill has been an integral part of the Next Step Board for over 10 years, serving as Board President for the last 6+ years. He has added his legal advice and expertise whenever it was needed, and he continually surprised us with his resourcefulness at connecting Next Step with business owners and skilled professionals who have benefitted our clinic. His faith and commitment to our mission will be missed. Not to worry – we still know where he works!



Some of our awesome Next Step Pregnancy Services 2022 Gala Sponsors!





WANT TO JOIN THEM?
Email heather@nextstepnw.com for how!



Volunteer Highlight

Hi there! My name is Rebekah, and I began volunteering with Next Step this year to become more active post-graduation in promoting the culture of life. I work full time as a dental hygienist, but the highlight of my week is serving and supporting our wonderful clients, stocking supplies, and getting to witness ultrasounds of new life. I am grateful to be part of an organization where compassion, encouragement, and positivity are evident in each person's work and I'm excited to continue assisting Next Step in post-Roe America. Outside of teeth and babies, I enjoy hiking with my boyfriend (who I met at a pro-life youth group!) and traveling around the PNW.



We are worn out!

Thank you to our most recent Baby Bottle Campaign host churches! During this past quarter, St. Alphonsus (Seattle), St. Mark (Shoreline) and A New Day Church (Lynnwood) collectively raised \$8,968!

ACCREDITATION NEWS

The news is – we are still moving forward. Slowly but surely. Next Step will take the next step to medical excellence. Please keep us in your prayers as we move through this extensive process.

