



19526 64th Ave. West  
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FALL 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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knowledge • confidentiality • support

**Next Step is actively seeking more medical professionals to head up our STD program.**

As a soon to be accredited medical clinic we hope to move forward in offering an expanded medical program for our community including our signature early diagnostic ultrasounds, STD testing, and APR (Abortion Pill Reversal) services.

We need you! Seeking an MD, DO, ARNP, PA, Certified Nursing Midwife – do you fit the bill? This is paid per diem almost entirely remote position. Interested? Contact [heather@nextstepnw.com](mailto:heather@nextstepnw.com)

## Volunteer Highlight Meet Sherri!

My name is Sherri Gerhardt. I retired from my career job in November of 2019. Over the years, I have volunteered time in various ways and feel it is important to not only my wellbeing but for the community as a whole. As such, I have been fortunate to work alongside many great people that have enriched my life, with some becoming great friends. After being retired for close to a couple years and getting into a new pace of life, I was actively looking for something to give time to.

One day I was driving to Lynnwood and was stopped at the light by the Next Step Pregnancy Services building.

I noticed there were some protesters on the sidewalk and was wondering what was going on? Looking at the protester's signs, it was immediately clear they were pro-choice supporters. I wasn't sure why they were in that location and read the business sign to see what the business was? Well, I saw it was a business that evidently offers pregnancy services. I had no idea what was there before this. I decided that when I got home, I would look up what the business was and possibly volunteer there!

I read about Next Step, what they offered and their beliefs and decided to contact them to talk about volunteering. After completing all the necessary process to be brought on as a volunteer, I started to regularly work there. This November will mark one year since I started, and I continue to be thankful for Next Step and that I can support such a worthy place. It is critically important, especially in these days, that the services offered here be provided.

It is critically important that women have support when they are facing difficulties. This clinic offers free, quality services, in confidentiality that can mean the difference between life vs. abortion of a precious little life. I am blessed to be a small part of this support (and I have already made some great friends with the incredible staff and other volunteers)!



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*Ultrasound Nurse*

**Marta Matos**  
*Executive Assistant*

## Dear Friend of Next Step,

**"God, who foresaw your tribulation, has specially armed you to go through it, not without pain but without stain." - C.S. Lewis**

The 2022 Next Step Pregnancy Services Gala was a huge success! It was not without a few hitches – software problems, protests, running out of salads! – but still, as always, the Next Step family prays, adapts, and prevails!



**Heather M Vasquez**  
Executive Director

## NEXT STEP GALA 2022 September 24th

This year, the year that Roe was overturned, the pro-life movement made huge strides, many more babies continue to be spared, widespread abortion access was pushed to greater heights, and many pregnancy resource clinics, Next Step included, were targeted, protested, and vandalized. Yet those hits, as they came, only succeeded in creating a stronger bond between pregnancy resource clinics in WA, pushing folks who otherwise were undecided, into choosing life, and highlighting the very real struggle to protect women, babies, and families from the horrors of abortion loss by offering real options, real compassion, and real encouragement.

Here are some of the wonderful moments shared at the 2022 Next Step Gala! And a huge thank you again to all who made the event possible, successful, and joyous!

(Continued inside)



Kevin singing the praises of the scrumptious desserts!



# NEXT STEP GALA 2022

September 24th



Ready for a busy check-in!



Table centerpieces ready!



Music with American Heritage Girls Troop 821 and friends



Twelve Baskets preparing that tasty salad!



Before dinner drinks.



Sherri getting all the tasty wine ready!



Waiting for dinner!



Our awesome emcees for the night!



Marta and Eudis selling raffle tickets for the cash case!



Rebekah Johnson volunteer extraordinaire and pals



Father Matthew leads us all in prayer



Dinner is served! Thanks Joe!



Our awesome dessert auction was a hit!



Mr. Kessler!

The Gala and Silent Auction has netted over \$105,000!



Rhonda got the famous Whiskey-Soaked Apple Pie!



Kevin shares the powerful work for the final Ask!



Linda wins!!



Heads or Tails has begun!



Thank you for coming!



Rebekah Hagan spoke powerfully on the sanctity of life!



A few protestors outside Holy Rosary making noise.

And another huge thank you to our sponsors!!

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Thank you to everyone who made this a success!

- Holy Rosary Church
- Twelve Baskets Catering
- American Heritage Girls Troop 821
- A New Day Church with Tedd Girgus
- Glimmer Glass Photography / Suzy Petrucci
- Kevin Van Hollebeke and his partner
- Rebekah Hagan
- The Next Step staff, Board, and volunteers
- Especially - Steve and Sherri Gerhardt
- All the dessert bakers!
- And you!! All you wonderful guests and supporters!