

SUMMER 2024



NEWSLETTER

We have been dedicated to serving with compassion and dignity the immediate and long-term needs of those facing unplanned pregnancies for over 25 years!



nextstepnw.com • nssupport.org • 425.329.4569 knowledge • confidentiality • support

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
Marilyn Thornton

VICE PRESIDENT
Denise Mullins

SECRETARY
Keleigh Muzaffar

TREASURER
Julianna D'Angelo

BOARD MEMBER
Josh Cummins

BOARD MEMBER
Kim Cummins

BOARD MEMBER
Nicole Forman

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
Deacon Craig Lundberg

STAFF MEMBERS

Stephanie Stoke, MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Heather Vasquez
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barb Millett, RN
NURSE MANAGER

Carrie Hill, RN
STAFF NURSE

Marta Matos
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Nancy Tribble
OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Halyna Naumenko
FRONT DESK RECEPTION

“Iron sharpens iron” ~ Proverbs 27:17

In trying to come up with what to write about for this newsletter time and time again I kept returning to the kerfuffle over the commencement speech made by Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker, father, husband, Catholic. The speech was made on May 11th at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. He spoke boldly about a great many topics ranging from our failed leadership (government and Church) as well as the growing support for degenerate cultural values in media,” (Butker,5/11).

He did not shy away from topics that, in some circles, may have caused offense. What doesn't nowadays? He shared courageously about his frustration with our leadership and ultimately our fellow Catholics, allowing themselves and their faith to be “private, hidden away, harmless”. Not his exact words - those were from Bishop Barron.

I felt his (Butker's) words regarding women embracing their vocation as wives and mothers to be uplifting, pure of heart, and profound. And exactly as I always understood Christ's call to us to be. Now more than ever before!

“If we are going to be men and women for this time in history, we need to stop pretending that the “Church of Nice” is a winning proposition.” (Butker, 5/11)

I believe the idea of embracing your vocation and leaning into it to be something for all of us to advocate for and defend. Why is it the very idea of a woman holding fast to her commitment as a wife and mother must supersede any desire for career or other such pursuits? The answer is - it doesn't.

(Continued inside)



Heather M Vasquez
Executive Director



2024 Next Step Pregnancy Services Gala and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday September 14th.

Where: Holy Rosary Church in Edmonds.

Expect a beautiful evening, dinner, our scrumptious dessert auction, lots of silent auction items, inspiring words, and a powerful share from our keynote speaker, "The ProLife Doc", Dr. William Lile.

Invites and registration are coming soon.

<https://nssupport.org/event-details/>

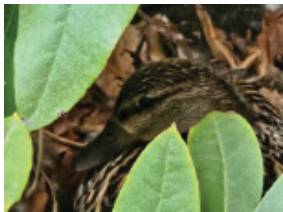
Email heather@nextstepnw.com for more information.



Dr. William Lile, D.O., FACOG, the "ProLifeDoc", is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Founder of ProLifeDoc, Inc. he has dedicated his life to stopping abortion. The tools of modern Obstetrics are used to show the life within the womb from the moment of conception. Ultrasound and fetoscopic videos are used to show the personhood and personality of the pre-born. Heart surgery at 22 weeks and even blood transfusions at 18 weeks are available to babies while still in the womb. "A Patient is a Person, no matter how small." Dr. Lile serves as a member of the Focus on the Family Physician's Resource Council, a Medical Advisor for Priests for Life, and member of the Heartbeat international medical Advisory Council. *"Bill Lile is the best friend that the unborn could ever have."* ~ Dr. James Dobson, Family Talk Radio



Next Step Pregnancy Services Attracts All Kinds of Moms!



Every morning over the last month as I was walking into the clinic, I would encounter a spritely brown duck on the walkway leading towards the door. She would pop out from behind one of the small rhododendron plants lining the building and waddle to and fro not leaving the spot. Her feathers would puff up and a low hiss would issue from her dark beak. I would give her a wide berth!

After the first couple times it happened, I tried to glance around the shrubs to see what was causing the duck to linger on our busy corner! It wasn't until just this last week that I finally saw what she was so ardently protecting. Peering behind and above the rhodie I spied a little nest of twigs and feathers and nestled deep into the depression were several small cream-colored eggs.

Well of course! What other reason would an animal continue to linger in such a loud and busy area? Like all mothers she was concerned about her babies.

Most animal mothers are really not that dissimilar to human mothers. They are watchful. Protective. Nurturing. Selfless. Can be hostile if she feels her babies are threatened. They will use fur and feathers from their own bodies to keep their babies warm and sheltered. It is instinctual. A mother's love is built in.

Which is another reason why the act of abortion is so very unnatural.

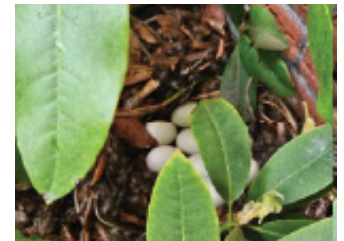
Now I know that in the animal kingdom there are times when an animal mother does abandon her young if the threat is simply too much. Sometimes the threat comes from the male of the species! Or abandon young that are small or sickly. I know the animal world can be extremely brutal.

The same can be said for our culture! But that response is not typical, not innate.

The raw response, the organic response is something that can't easily be explained. As someone that has given birth to two children, I know firsthand that instinctual reverberation that exists between a mother and her young. In utero and without.

Which is why when a mother aborts her child that act echoes in her mind and heart for months, years, sometimes decades. That act severs the cord, the connection between her and her child. It can be a mortal wound. It is in fact - for the child.

Ever vigilant over her little family, one day she and her babies were gone. Safe hope. I am struck by the beauty of motherhood. And how mothers and mothers-to-be come in all shapes and sizes to our little clinic on the corner. I like to think she sensed a kinship with all the moms coming in and out of Next Step. And felt this was a safe place for her and her babies.



“Iron sharpens iron” (continued from cover)

Many of the complaints from those who were unhappy with Butker’s speech (admittedly most vocal were those who push the same degenerate values Butker and those of us who espouse our faith believe contribute to the disorder of our society) centered upon what they mistakenly took for a slam against women who pursue their dreams outside home and hearth. I read and reread the speech and nowhere did I understand that his intent was to imply women should “take a backseat to their men”. I think rather that his purpose was to not only glorify marriage and motherhood, but to highlight the contrast between those who live only for themselves versus living for others – your spouse, your children. In no way was the intention that pursuing one’s dreams negates a life as a wife and mother, but to emphasize the need of those pursuits to serve and save a country on the brink.

We need to affirm motherhood.
~ Heather Vasquez

Beautiful Landscaping!

Neither rain nor cold could keep the Friends of Next Step from braving the elements to beautify our lovely clinic! Thank you to everyone who came out to help remove weeds, spread soil, and plant flowers. The clinic now looks just as welcoming outside as it does inside!



Thank you! Kim and Josh Cummins, Marilyn Thornton, Jacob and Nicole Forman, Nicholas, Robbie, and Helena Yen, Abby Pinard, Alyssa and Francie House, Dennis Halpin, Eoin, Vander, and Ryan Ritter, Anne Lombard, Eleanor Dusch, Isabella Couarrubias, Linda Charcas, Donna Vago, Grace and Stephen Heinrichs, Ricky Buyce, and Scarlett Vasquez



We have both been involved with Next Step Pregnancy Services for almost two years – longer than we have been married! Nicole is also involved as a Next Step board member for about that same time. Being a small part of the clinic’s dedication to serving women and families is a passion of ours both – advocating heavily not only the right to life but for the wellbeing of families in our community. We believe this mission of Next Step is imperative to changing society’s narrative of motherhood, fatherhood, and pre-born babies’ livelihood, through providing entirely free ultrasounds, resources, and materials to our neighbors in need. This year, we had the honor of even being clients, seeing our precious baby via ultrasound 10 weeks into his or her life alongside our wonderful nurses and clinic support volunteers. There is no bigger blessing having a strong support system like this clinic to celebrate new life and first-time parenthood! If you have any inclination to donate your time to Next Step, please consider this your warm and open invitation to do so! The success of this clinic is entirely dependent on generous donors and volunteers, and however you can contribute to our organization will directly benefit local families in need of love, support, and compassion. God bless you! ~ Nicole and Jacob



NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
LYNNWOOD WA
#151

19526 64th Ave. West
Lynnwood, WA 98036

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



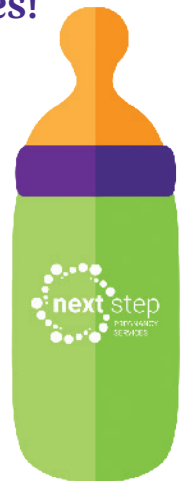
Next Step at the Market!

I hope you will stop by to visit the Next Step Booth this summer! We'll be at Edmonds Market on June 22nd and August 3rd, and at the Everett Market on July 14th and July 21st. For the first time ever, we'll be at the Fair on 44th in Lynnwood on September 7th!



A huge thank you to the following for baby bottle campaigns, formula grants, and diaper and clothing drives!

Thank you to **St. Paul Orthodox Church** in Brier, **North Sound Church** in Edmonds, **St. Alphonsus** in Ballard, **Knights of Columbus** at **Monica Parish** for their donations of clothing and diapers, and the Seattle Archdiocese for the Rice Bowl Grant to purchase formula.



Stay tuned for more info on this phenomenal gathering of strong Pro-Life advocates and speakers! Saturday October 19th at Cedar Park Church!

<https://www.abundantlifewa.org/conference/>

