

SUMMER 2025



NEWSLETTER

The vision of Next Step is to affirm the intrinsic value of both mother and child by connecting women with the resources they need to choose life.

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FRONT DESK RECEPTION

If more of us valued food and cheer, and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.
~ Thorin Oakenshield, *The Hobbit*

Truer words have never been spoken! Unfortunately, Planned Parenthood's abortion services continue to be booming industry. The day AFTER Mother's Day they released their annual report, and the numbers are truly staggering. This is data pulled from their 2023/2024 fiscal year statistics. They will go down in history for performing over 400,000 abortions in a single year. (402,200) To break that monster number down - that is 7,735 babies in a single week, or 1,102 babies in a single day. Or, and this is a terrible and miserable statistic, 46 babies were killed in an abortion at a Planned Parenthood **every hour**. That is horrific.

And lest we forget who is paying for these murders, listen to this - according to their own annual report - PP received **\$792.2 million** in "Government Health Services Reimbursements & Grants". That's a really long-winded way of saying "taxpayer dollars". Paid for by you and me. An extremely disheartening reality.

And yet - **"Yet hope remains while all the Company is true."** (yes, more Tolkien, I can't help myself).

I am honored to say that our company remains true. True to our mission and our vision. True to our clients and their lives touched by crisis, uncertainty, fear, and sometimes duress. Next Step remains steadfast in an increasingly

(Continued inside)



Heather M Vasquez
Executive Director



Nurse Manager Barb with Gracie Bernadette - Next Step Miracle!

Save the Date!

**Saturday September 20th
Holy Rosary Edmonds
Doors open at 5:30pm**

If you have ever been to a Next Step Pregnancy Services' Gala, then you know how truly inspiring and delightful the evening is! And this year will be no exception. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for an evening of unique finds at our Silent Auction, tasty appetizers, a plated dinner courtesy of Arista Catering, full flavored hops gifted by Georgetown Brewery and the Connolly family, scrumptious desserts for our famous dessert auction. Enjoy games and music, as well as an uplifting keynote address from international pro-life speaker and attorney Rebecca Kiessler whose inspiring words and experiences will solidify why your support of Next Step matters and will stay with you long after the night is at an end.
Invites coming soon!



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

REBECCA KIESSLING

Early Thank Yous to some of this year's Gala Sponsors for their continued encouragement and promotion of our Pro-Life Clinic!



beresfordlaw.com



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Nurse News!



Carrie, our lovely staff nurse (left), is well on her way to becoming our 2nd Ultrasound Nurse, freeing up Barb, our Nurse Manager, for other needed tasks. We continue to be booked solid on ultrasounds and other medical appointments - which is awesome! But we are all looking forward to Carrie taking on some of that work. No one more than Barb!

Looking to volunteer?

Why not here at Next Step! Please contact heather@nextstepnw.com for more info on how you can be a part of this exceptional team.



Sorting donations is just one of the many needs here at Next Step. Easy, enjoyable environment, real pro-life work in action!

Letter from the Executive Director (continued from cover)

hostile state. We recently became aware of a “watchdog” group determined to rid WA not only of Next Step but many of the pro-life organizations that work to offer viable alternatives to abortion.

But -

I feel encouraged by your continued financial and prayerful support, confident in the sacredness of our work, and in fact bolstered by these outside challenges. I relish the opportunity to “do battle” for what is right and true. For I know I am not alone.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT)

Thank you - Heather M Vasquez

New Mission Statement!

Next Step has a new mission statement. Over the last few years, it became increasingly clear that our mission statement was not capturing all that we felt was our core. A Mission Statement committee was formed which consisted of myself, our Medical Director Dr. Stoke, and three of our board members. After 3 long meetings deeply considering our work and what we want to say, accomplish, and what we are passionate about - we came up with this:

“To offer free compassionate care and material support to women and families before, during, and after pregnancy, no matter the circumstances.”

What do you think? I'd love to hear your thoughts!

**Board
Member
Spotlight!**

**Denise
Mullins**



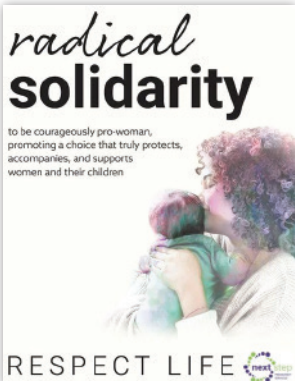
I have been blessed to serve on the Board of Next Step for over 27 years. Not knowing what I was getting into, I said “yes” when asked by my friend’s mom, Alice De Gennaro, to join her new organization. She asked me because, as a young 20-something, I could relate to the young women whom she hoped to serve. After a couple of years, Alice and her husband moved cross-country to be closer to their families. At that point, she asked me to be president of the board saying, & I quote; “all you need to do is keep track of time at the meetings.” And so, it began.

As is often true, the Lord knew what I needed before I did. Over the next few years, the call to save precious lives touched my heart deeply, as my husband Kevin and I struggled with infertility. No wonder I felt called to do this work! (Blessed to tell you that our 3 children, now 20, 18 and 14, are healthy and thriving!)

Shifting some of my time priorities, I recently resigned from the Board. Looking back on the last 27 years - I have served with this ministry under 2 names (originally Angelorum, remember?), 3 logos, in 4 different locations, with 6 Executive Directors, under 2 doctors’ licenses, for more than 20 fundraising galas, and with dozens of fellow board members. While much has changed, the heart and soul of this ministry has remained the same... compassionate care to assist women and families as they bring precious new life into this world.

I would be remiss if I did not give another shout-out to Kevin. He has walked alongside me in this ministry, not just as the supportive spouse, but also playing his own vital role as tech support and database developer. Although we are stepping back a bit, we will both continue to serve Next Step for years to come.

Keep up the good work, Next Step! You are a blessing to so many!



Sanctity of Life Presentation

The Newman Center Frassati Goup hosted a talk by Executive Director Heather Vasquez in April on the Sanctity of Life and how Next Step stands in the gap between what is certain and what is mercurial in today’s society.

If you are interested in checking it out, follow this link:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/NhAwpWiy9c4NtNAh6>



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FEMM News

As of this writing, we are about 85% of the way to completing the FEMM certification! As Director, I have learned so much more than I thought! And having two daughters has made the process even more compelling and solidified my belief that knowledge is power!

The ability to know yourself and your gifts genuinely promotes respect and accountability for one's own body and the gift it truly is as young women.



Listen for us on
Sacred Heart Radio!
AM 1050 / FM 100.3

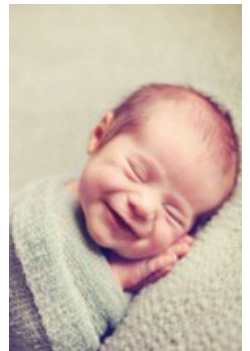
Accreditation News!

Two years down and One more to go! Next Step is busily preparing for our 3-Year mark - when we'll have our AAAHC renewal. Please keep us in your prayers.

Thank You's are in order!

The following churches and organizations provided much needed support to our client families this Spring through financial donations, baby bottle campaigns, and supply drives!

- **St. Monica** KOC Council 11642
- **St. Alphonsus** Parish Baby Bottle Campaign
- **Binky Patrol** for handmade blankets and quilts
- **Newman Center and Holy Family Young Adult Group** for beautifying Next Step!
- **Frassati Young Adult Group** for the Theology on Tap Presentation and Q&A



Pope John Paul II greets a young Robert Francis Prevost aka Pope Leo XIV

Omnis vita pretiosa ~ All life is precious. Continue to keep the Holy Father in your prayers and pray his affirmation of the sanctity of life will encourage more life-affirming change.