

# THE VISION

THE NEWSLETTER OF INNERVISIONS HEALTHCARE — WEST DES MOINES

1355 50th St., Suite 400, West Des Moines, IA 50266 | [info@ivhcare.org](mailto:info@ivhcare.org) | [www.ivhcare.org](http://www.ivhcare.org) | 515-440-2273

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## Early Prenatal Education Program Comes to IVHCare

Earlier this year, InnerVisions HealthCare introduced a new program called *"You Matter"*, an early prenatal education program designed to help bridge the gap for new moms between pregnancy confirmation and the first obstetrical appointment. Nurses assess risk behaviors and work with patients to design a program tailored to their specific needs and to instill healthy pregnancy behaviors. During their appointment, the patients receive personalized instruction in the areas of health, nutrition and exercise with easy-to-read printed materials, a supply of prenatal vitamins, and lots of emotional support.

Assistance is also available for patients who need smoking cessation help, drug and alcohol abuse programs, and connection to community resources. Gift cards to address their needs are given as perks for attending appointments. In preparation for the roll out of this program, the nursing staff completed training in a unique method of patient instruction proven to increase understanding and learning of new information.

Improving the health and well-being of women and children in the United States is a significant public health concern and InnerVisions HealthCare is going to be part of the solution. The staff is excited about the *You Matter* program and proud to be improving health care right here in the communities where we live, work, and worship.



The logo on the bag of prenatal supplements, brochures, and medical information that our nurses give to the patients.

## THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the sponsors and guests for making our 6th Annual Gala a success! To view photos from the event, visit:

[www.ivhcare.org/2017-gala-photos/](http://www.ivhcare.org/2017-gala-photos/)



FROM THE DIRECTOR:

## Not A Time to Judge



There is something missing in our culture's strategy to end abortion. No matter who we are or what we believe, we all do it. We have a tendency to shame unwed mothers. Once we discover that the girl next door – our niece or granddaughter – is pregnant out of wedlock, we say to one another, "did you hear that she's pregnant!?" What are we thinking? It's a combination of disappointment, disapproval and shame.

This is not the case at InnerVisions. Our staff provides a soft place for people who are being judged to come for acceptance. Pregnancy is not a sin. These women will never feel judgment or embarrassment at InnerVisions. As a society, and as Christians, we are confused. There's certainly a paradox, since we preach that sex outside of marriage is wrong, yet we see a baby as 'okay'. How can we as Christians be a solution to this issue and work to change this negative message?

Let's first share love and forgiveness. Then, we must educate the world on God's plan for our sexuality and why that is important. Finally, we should celebrate the pregnancy. God's gift to all humanity is the gift of life. We are ALL made in His image, no matter who gave us life on earth.

We've recently seen on national news sources that a young, high-achieving teen was rejected from attending her Christian high school graduation. This would have been an appropriate time for the school community to embrace her and respond first confirming her salvation through Christ's forgiveness, then providing education to her and her peers, and finally embracing this young woman and her baby with love.

As a culture, once we stop judging and begin loving and supporting, only then will we truthfully see what God can do to change the hearts of others and end abortion.

In Love,

  
Jenny Condon  
Executive Director

CLIENT TESTIMONY:

## Working Together to Overcome Obstacles

Amanda came to us with an unplanned pregnancy. She was living in a difficult situation, has two other children and was uncertain she wanted to keep the pregnancy since she didn't think she could make ends meet as a single mom. The nursing staff was able to pinpoint some specific barriers she was facing and, with the support of some gracious supporters, helped her overcome those hurdles. We even found a new vehicle to ease her burden! Now, Amanda is living on her own, in a stable work environment, and has chosen life! Her due date is this summer.



# A New and Improved Baby Bottle Campaign!

InnerVisions is blessed with amazing volunteers who are eager to serve this ministry in creative ways and whose generosity makes this ministry strong and effective. Mary Nell Carpenter, Joleen Larson, and board member, Patti Brown are excellent models of what this means. As co-coordinators for our new Baby Bottle Campaign, their effort to help raise awareness and funds for the clinic has surpassed expectations.

A simple idea, the Baby Bottle Campaign, requires both organization and tenacity. They have designed creative displays, banners, baby bottles and literature exhibiting a heartfelt message about IVHCare, and have spread our positive mission to hundreds of people. It's as simple as taking a bottle, filling it with loose change, and then returning it in a week or two. According to Mary Nell, witnessing young women with unplanned pregnancies leaving the clinic empowered to choose life is what motivated her to take on the Baby Bottle Campaign. "I love marketing and sales so being a coordinator of the campaign was a perfect fit for me," says Mary Nell, "My goal is to contact churches and schools of all denominations and wherever else the Holy Spirit may lead me."

Passionate about the pro-life cause, Joleen sees how the loose change adds up. When a family's contribution is combined with those of other families in their school or church, great things happen. For many, this is a simple way to make a big difference. Family members, young and old, come together to fill their bottle, and, bit by bit, the change, cash, and checks add up to help InnerVisions HealthCare with its life-empowering work.

The campaign isn't just about raising funds though; it also raises awareness. "I invite them to visit and tour the clinic if they have not already done so," says Mary Nell, "and then encourage them to host a Baby Bottle Campaign for the ministry." By making personal contact and being present at the churches and schools, Joleen and Mary Nell are bringing the mission of IVHCare to many others who are not familiar with the clinic or its work. If you are interested in hosting a Baby Bottle Campaign in your church, school or organization, please contact Mary Nell and Joleen at 515-440-2273.



*Mary Nell and Joleen pose with their baby bottle display with former board member, Joe Henkels and Fr. Dominic Assim, pastor of Assumption Church in Granger.*

## Save the Date for IVHCare Events

There are two special events coming up: the inaugural Bucks for Babies Appreciation Event is on Tuesday, August 29th at the newly renovated and historic Tea Room in downtown Des Moines. This is an exclusive, invite-only event for all the faithful monthly supporters of the Bucks for Babies program, as we'll extend a token of gratitude towards them. For more information, visit: [www.ivhcare.org/b4b](http://www.ivhcare.org/b4b).

Next, our Knights of Columbus Dinner Dance will be held at Sacred Heart in WDM on Saturday, September 23rd. Tables can be purchased for \$400; sponsorships available. For more information, visit [www.ivhcare.org/2017DinnerDance](http://www.ivhcare.org/2017DinnerDance).



# Beads 4 a Cause

A few months ago, we received one of the most precious gifts: the gift of a young girl sharing her time & talent with the clinic!

Twelve year old Isabella has a passion for helping people in need, and so she created “Beads 4 a Cause”, where she designs, creates, and sells bracelets and donates the proceeds to charity. After she visited InnerVisions, she wanted to partner with us.

Isabella understands how many girls her age and older could need the services of InnerVisions. She also appreciates the fact that InnerVisions exists as a soft place to fall, a clinic which supports, educates, and empowers women in need.

Since Isabella started “selling” the bracelets for this ministry, she has donated more than \$2100 to the clinic. Amazingly...this equates to approximately 4 ultrasound and pregnancy appointments!

Thank you, Bella, for your generous spirit. If you're interested in purchasing a bracelet from Bella, place your “order” today by contacting Bryan ([bryan@ivhcare.org](mailto:bryan@ivhcare.org)).



## INNERVISIONS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

InnerVisions HealthCare  
1355 50th St., Suite 400  
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515.280.4706



Gifts can be made electronically: [ivhcare.org](http://ivhcare.org) and click on “Donate”

We're also grateful if you prayerfully consider making a gift of stock or including “InnerVisions HealthCare” in your will, in your trust, or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or a retirement plan.

Does your employer participate in a charitable giving program (e.g., United Way) or do they match gifts? Contact HR at your company and ask them to include InnerVisions.

Do you shop with Amazon? Choose InnerVisions as your charity of choice, and a percentage of your purchase will be donated!