

THE VISION

THE NEWSLETTER OF INNERVISIONS HEALTHCARE – WEST DES MOINES

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Success in the Follow Up

One of the keys to InnerVisions' success – and one of the touching compliments the nursing staff receives – is their commitment to following up with patients. After the emotional pregnancy appointment, where the patient receives counseling and an ultrasound, the nurses follow up with them to see if they have any questions or concerns about their pregnancy.

Leading the way for the past six years is Nurse Diane. Faithfully serving the clinic and the many mothers in need, Diane is like everyone's caring grandma. She reaches out to patients within two weeks of their appointment to find out how they are feeling, if they are nauseous, have any questions, or need any additional support. By this point, Diane can figure out if the mom has chosen life (parenting or adoption), is on the fence, or has terminated her pregnancy.

Our commitment to women doesn't end when they leave the clinic. If the patient is willing we continue empowering her for the rest of the pregnancy (and beyond). As the mother's due date draws near, Diane invites her to return to the clinic for a new mommy gift: a bag of mom/baby goodies! This is often the icing on the cake for the patient, who – within the past year – was seriously considering terminating the pregnancy but now has a beautiful child.

The follow up calls made by Diane are critical to the program. If she doesn't talk to the patient, she leaves a message and persistently reaches out. Sometimes the patient's silence communicates an

abortion, but Diane – very lovingly and compassionately – mentions that we can even help if the pregnancy was terminated by an abortion, and invites her to return to the clinic for post-abortion healing.

Time and time again, we learn how grateful the patients are to hear Diane's voice. And here at IVHCare, we're so grateful for her prayers and steadfast commitment to reaching out to the mothers in need. Thank you for your service, Diane! Keep up the good work!



Nurse Diane touches base with a patient.

Leaving a Legacy and Planning for the Future?

Help build the clinic's long-term sustainability by including InnerVisions HealthCare in your will, in your trust, or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan. A small percentage for you, makes a big difference for InnerVisions.

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Pro-Life Legislative Landscape in Iowa



A recurring question I get is "how is the recent pro-life legislation in Iowa impacting InnerVisions HealthCare?" Recently, the governor signed into law a bill that limits abortions after 20 weeks and adds a 72 hour waiting period. The second part of the bill was contested and a lawsuit against the state of Iowa ensued. In September, the district court upheld the state law, and now the case has been passed along to the Iowa Supreme Court.

Additionally, legislators have slashed funding to abortion facilities throughout the state, which has led to some providers closing their offices. There is talk, however, of those funds being re-allocated to pregnancy resource centers and medical clinics. Unfortunately political rhetoric doesn't always lead to practical, concrete actions. To date, IVHCare has not received any re-allocated money from the defunding. Having applied and received government funding in a past career, I know first-hand there are always consequences that come with that funding. If we were presented with the option, we would use great caution before participating in order to protect the mission.

Since our founding, the clinic has faithfully responded to the needs of the community. Whether abortion is outlawed or not, women will continue to experience unplanned pregnancies and they will seek help. IVHCare steadfastly remains on the front lines serving women in need – with or without government funding.

Sometimes our mission requires us to stand up for what we believe in. This summer, the State of Iowa requested our help in upholding the 72-hour waiting period. We were happy to offer our expert testimony for the State, and were delighted to hear that the District Court upheld the governor's bill.

At the clinic, we continue to pray for God's guidance for both the legislators and judges, but we know that these intimate decisions on which life and death hinge come down to a woman's choice, and so we ask you to continue to pray and support our patients, that they may choose parenting or adoption, and join the more than 580 women we've helped since our doors opened.

In Life,



Jenny Condon
Executive Director

PATIENT TESTIMONY:

"A beautiful baby in there!"

A few weeks ago, a woman in her mid-20s came to the clinic. She was 7 weeks pregnant and had five children. She was hurt, vulnerable, and isolated. This young woman had three obstacles to face: first, a serious medical condition; second, a lack of emotional stability; and third, a lack of social support from her friends & family. Even her best friend told her that she wouldn't be able to handle another child! All signs pointed towards abortion.

She learned about IVHCare through a Google search: "pregnancy services Des Moines". She wanted information on abortion: the procedures and risks. After meeting with the nurses, she remarked: "You were so kind, patient, and non-judgmental. You made me feel comfortable and not ashamed." We were able to collaborate with a doctor on her medical condition, who said that it wouldn't prevent a normal pregnancy. The nurses proceeded with an ultrasound and upon her leaving the appointment, they suspected she was still struggling.

Then, five days after her visit, she spontaneously called the clinic to update the nursing staff. After she had consulted with her husband, together they decided to parent. She admitted to the nurses, "there is a beautiful baby in there!" She's not out of the woods yet, but please say a prayer for her and her family as they prepare for their new bundle of joy.



Empowering Youth around the Community

Consider inviting the experienced nurses from InnerVisions HealthCare to share an empowerment program workshop with your students, youth group, or organization. Topics include 'Four Facets of Purity', 'Sanctity of Life', and 'STDs (basic & advanced)'. All are abstinence-based, surrounding God's plan for our sexuality. For more information, contact our Empowerment Coordinator, Brooke Van Bruggen, BSN, RN, brooke@ivhcare.org.



"The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent – a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body...the angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation... what on God's good earth is more glorious than this; to be a mother?"

- Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty

Save the Date: 2018 Gala

7th on the 7th: Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 7th, the 7th Annual Gala for IVHCare! We're glad to announce that Cal Thomas, syndicated columnist, pundit, author, and radio commentator, will join us to share some cogent thoughts about his experience with crisis pregnancy clinics and inspire us as we continue in this mission of empowering women and saving babies!



KofC Dinner Dance Recap

Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, and dinner guests for their role in the Fall Dinner Dance on Saturday, September 23rd organized by the Knights of Columbus. This year it was hosted at Sacred Heart Parish, and it was the most successful to date.

Special thanks to Steve Vonnahme, Bill Wieland, Jim Bates, and Julia Balducki for all their hard work and dedication, not to mention the countless Sacred Heart Knights who assisted.

Our Sponsorship levels coincided with the four degrees of being a Knight of Columbus, and this year's sponsors were the following:

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INNERVISIONS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

InnerVisions HealthCare
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West Des Moines, IA 50266
515.280.4706



Gifts can be made electronically: 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!

