

THE VISION

THE NEWSLETTER OF INNERVISIONS HEALTHCARE — WEST DES MOINES

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New Study on Abortion Effects

Having worked with so many women who have had past abortions, the nursing staff understands the significant negative consequences – physically, emotionally, and spiritually – of that decision. It tends to haunt the patients throughout their lives. We truly want to save them from that anguish.

Of course, the first challenge is how to deal with the misinformation widely regarded as “facts” in our society. Little has been published about the “after effects” or “side effects” of an abortion procedure.

Recently, however, there was a study conducted of post-abortive women seeking counseling services. It was published in the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons. Priscilla K. Coleman, Ph.D. was the lead researcher for the study entitled: “Women Who Suffered Emotionally from Abortion: A Qualitative Synthesis of Their Experiences”. A chilling passage has this to say about the most significant negatives associated with abortion:

“...many women voiced deep feelings of loss, existential concerns, and reduced quality of life, with heart-wrenching clarity. For [them], the abortion experience became a pivotal point in their lives, impacting their self-image, their personality, and their connectivity to others. Specific commonly experienced negatives included living with having ended a life, regret, shame, guilt, depression, anxiety, negative self-appraisals, and self-destructive behaviors. At the extreme, 49 [of the 1,000] women voiced a lack of desire to continue living based on the reality of their choice and the heartache that ensued. The vast majority of women did not cite only one or two negative outcomes, but instead described a complex constellation of adverse consequences, often centered on the life lost.”

The results of this study are certainly not surprising to us, but instead validate our experience and further strengthen our resolve to work tirelessly to remove obstacles from pregnant women so that they feel empowered to embrace a life-affirming decision.

We hope this information confirms your decision to continue supporting InnerVisions HealthCare, in our effort to empower, educate, and encourage one woman, one child at a time. We appreciate your support, and so do the pregnant women and girls who come to the clinic!

If you -- or someone you know -- are struggling emotionally or spiritually from an abortion, you are not alone. IVHCare offers confidential and compassionate post-abortion support, whether the abortion was yesterday or years ago. Contact us today and we can get you the help you deserve. Call 440-2273 or text 783-1286 and ask for a nurse.



FROM THE DIRECTOR:

The Empathetic Approach



Whenever asked to explain what we do here at InnerVisions Health Care, I start by saying that we “empower women and save babies.” The word “and” between the two thoughts is intentional. We first focus on empowering women with an empathetic approach and truthful information about all of her options. Our goal is to save the mother first, so that she can then rescue her baby.

For over 35 years, I've been a Registered Nurse, spending most of my career in the Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery at Mercy Hospital. I first heard about InnerVisions HealthCare at church, and worked as a volunteer nurse, Director of Nursing, and then as Assistant Director, and now serve as Interim Executive Director.

It's been an absolute joy caring for expectant mothers and I feel so blessed to be part of an organization that allows me to fuel that passion and drive. But all of our success at the clinic is really because of – well, obviously, the Holy Spirit and – our empathetic and compassionate approach. Time and time again, we hear that our patients don't feel judged or condemned when they come to clinic. Once we establish that rapport, the expectant mother feels more comfortable and more willing to listen to the counseling which we provide.

Join me in praying for the future of the clinic, that God may continue to guide women to our doors and that we may continue to speak mercy, truth, forgiveness, and compassion so that they may be encouraged to choose life.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Froyen".

Melanie Froyen
Interim Executive Director

CLINIC TESTIMONY:

“What about an abortion after rape?”

At a recent empowerment program workshop, during the Q & A, one teenager asked about abortion after a rape. Our nurses gave a great rhetorical response: “well, why not ask the child of a rape victim what he/she thinks about the mother's decision?” That was a unique perspective that the teenager hadn't considered.

From the back of the room, a teenage boy reluctantly and embarrassingly raised his hand to offer a follow up comment: “Um, maybe it would be a good time to share with you that my mom was raped, and I am that child. I have great parents and I'm glad my mom didn't abort me.” The room went silent and there wasn't a dry eye.

What a courageous boy to share his story, and the entire workshop benefited from that testimony! We just never know what God has in store when we come to your youth group, school, or church and share about the important work we do at IVHCare!



Mother's Day 2018

What are you planning on doing special for your mother to thank her for choosing life? Send us your creative ideas of what you're planning, and we'll anonymously post them on social media to give all our supporters some ideas!



Tamales por la Vida

Now here's a story you'll want to read and share! Last year, 9-year old Nicholas was at the capitol at a pro-life rally, and asked his mom, Yolanda, what was going on. Yolanda explained how sometimes there are moms who didn't want to get pregnant and don't want their babies and some people want to harm them. Nicholas' generous heart said: "well, we should help them. Can we give them money?" Yolanda, said sure, but she had another idea. "Let's take the money and instead of giving it to InnerVisions HealthCare, let's make tamales, and sell them, and donate the money to the clinic!"

A few weeks ago, Yolanda, her mother from Mexico, and two friends, made 500 tamales, packaged them up, sold them, and donated \$800 to our clinic to underwrite the programs and services! Thanks to Nicholas, Yolanda, and everyone who participated in the "*Tamales por La Vida!*" Yolanda and her team plan on doing this again, so check our Facebook page for future updates: www.facebook.com/ivhcare
Muchas gracias, Yolanda y Nicholas!



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.

Baby Bottle Update

In 2017, we had a wonderful start to our annual Baby Bottle Campaign! There were 16 churches, schools, and organizations that participated and we earned nearly \$29,000 to help support the clinic's free programs and services!

Our two volunteers, Mary Nell and Joleen, crisscrossed the metro area introducing and raising awareness of InnerVisions HealthCare and the important work we do. If you'd like your church, school, or organization to do a service project in the summer or fall, let us know and we'd be happy to put you in touch with them. For more information, visit: www.ivhcare.org/babybottles.



Baby Bottle Coordinators, Mary Nell and Joleen, pose with Fr. Remi and Joe Henkels of Assumption in Granger during their baby bottle campaign back in June 2017.

INNERVISIONS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

InnerVisions HealthCare
1355 50th St., Suite 400
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!

