

# THE VISION

THE NEWSLETTER OF INNERVISIONS HEALTHCARE

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## Memorial Service for Pregnant Moms and Unborn Babies

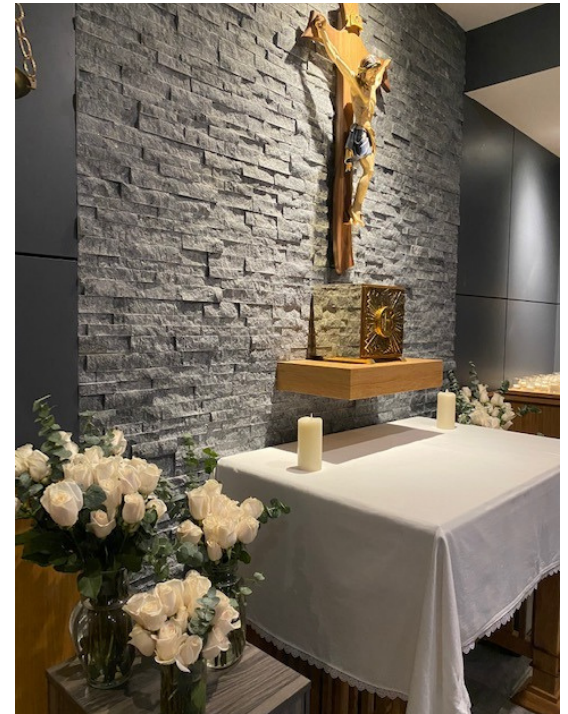
In the Bible, we read of the Massacre of the Innocents, in the nativity story found in Matthew (2:16-18), in which King Herod orders the execution of all male children under two years old in search of the Messiah. This is why some faith traditions celebrate this feast day around Christmas, usually December 28.

To imitate this memorial, of sorts, over the last several years, InnerVisions HealthCare has held occasional memorial services for the moms who have chosen to terminate their pregnancies, and for the babies who have been victims of that decision.

We noticed that if we truly believe in our mission of “Empowering Women and Saving Babies”, then we need to grieve the losses as much as we celebrate the victories, knowing full well that the source of any victory is the Lord (see Deut 20:4).



Being the ones in the trenches, our nurses have spearheaded this effort, which has provided some “closure” to the loss that they experience. In a similar way that funerals help families grieve the loss of their loved ones, this Memorial Service gives the nurses, advocates, and volunteers an opportunity to pray for the women and babies.



*A rose for each baby lost*

Through the ultrasound, the nurses and the moms are often the only eyes who will ever gaze upon these unborn children. This memorial service is a way to honor the unique lives of those babies who won’t see for themselves the light of day. No one else will grieve the loss of these babies, other than our nurses and staff.

During the prayer service, the nurses take turns reciting the names of each baby whose life has been extinguished, while a candle remains lit in his or her memory.

So far, the clinic has done this twice a year, but we look to regularize the Memorial Service and promote it.

InnerVisions HealthCare

FROM THE DIRECTOR

## *Cor ad cor loquitur*

HEART SPEAKS TO THE HEART



In the *Confessions*, Augustine has a passage in Book 12 that exhorts God to “speak truly in my heart”, and combined with Psalm 15:2 (“he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart”) has become the context for the expression *cor ad cor loquitur*, the heart speaks to the heart.

This expression is one that aptly describes the work we do at InnerVisions. Through the ultrasound, both a medical instrument and a medical procedure, the heartbeat of the unborn child speaks to the heart of the mother in need. Both hearts are crying out for help, but for different reasons.

And this year’s judicial decision regarding the 2018 Heartbeat Bill will be significant. This bill was passed in 2018, just a week or so before Mother’s Day, but an injunction was placed on the bill preventing it from being enforced. There have been recent attempts to revive it, so we wait.

In the meantime, we’re making contingency plans on our patient process – not our mission, though! – should the injunction be removed, and the political landscape change again, just nine months after Roe vs Wade overturned.

Join us in praying for guidance among the political actors, that the best pro-life laws can be passed and upheld to ensure the assistance to pregnant mothers in need, as well as the protection of unborn babies.

God bless,

Theresa Welch, *Executive Director*

### PATIENT TESTIMONIAL

## Some Christmas Presents Aren't Found Under the Tree

Just before Christmas 2022, our nurses served an at-risk pregnant patient who, due to a water leak, found herself homeless in negative degree temperatures. She is the primary caregiver of her father, one-year old son, and is pregnant; the situation was dire. After exhausting some local housing resources, we decided that the best option was for a hotel room for a week.

We didn’t have time to request donors to assist financially, so we went ahead and booked the hotel room. However, the Lord provided a donor who wanted to make a restricted

donation to help a mom in need during the Christmas holiday- for the exact amount of the hotel room!!

Our nurses could see the stress release from her shoulders, as tears of gratitude streamed down her cheeks. This woman had been through a lot in her life. She provided for so many, and today we saw her. We chose to help her. And the Lord used this donor to make it happen. The beauty of the Lord and His goodness is always a source of encouragement to the nurses. After Christmas when we talked to the patient, she was so grateful for all we did.

# She's Back!



**T**his newsletter, we want to feature Joan Miller, mom, wife, Sacred Heart parishioner, and one of InnerVisions' greatest cheerleaders.

Joan started volunteering years ago, but decided to take a "sabbatical". We accepted her resignation if she would promise that it was only "temporary", thus making it a sabbatical. Well, she came back to us about 3 years ago, and has joined the advocates as part of the new patient process we implemented several years ago.

In her own words, Joan had wanted to get involved with something in the pro-life movement, but as she came to understand the work at InnerVisions, it inspired her even more: our commitment to saving babies and helping mothers know they matter.

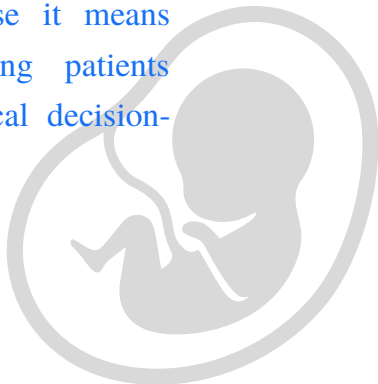
She loves the prayerful and positive atmosphere of the clinic, where everyone – patient, staff, and volunteers – who walks through the door feels important.

What we love about Joan is her positive attitude, her strong work ethic and her spontaneous prayer. We cover each day with prayer in the morning, but Joan is known for her prayers in the moment of need. She blesses our team with her strong faith and commitment to serve everyone around her.

Are you interested in getting involved as a volunteer? Joan says this: "your time will be well spent at InnerVisions. Everyone here is so important to the clinic's success. When you get involved with InnerVisions, you get involved with God's creation!"

Thanks, Joan, for sharing your many gifts with the women and babies of InnerVisions!

**70%** of the pregnancy patients who come to InnerVisions arrive before 7 weeks gestation. This is significant because it means that we're serving patients during their critical decision-making process.



## 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. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Theresa or Bryan at InnerVisions for any planned giving information.





# THE MIRACLE OF A HEARTBEAT



ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER, DR. WILLIAM LILE

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1**

IOWA EVENTS CENTER

PRESENTED BY:



SECURITY SERVICES

Since 1992



## DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH?

We are in need of a couple more Spanish interpreters to assist our Spanish-speaking patients. If you're interested, contact Brooke, our Director of Patient Resources at [brooke@ivhcare.org](mailto:brooke@ivhcare.org).



# BIKING FOR BABIES



Mark your calendars for the regional ride on June 24th.

## INNERVISIONS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

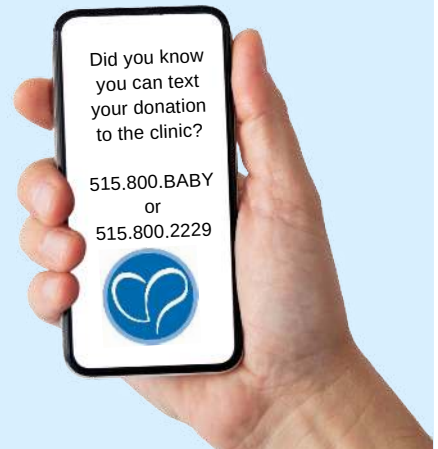
InnerVisions HealthCare  
1355 50th St., Suite 400  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
515.280.4706



Gifts can be made electronically: [ivhcare.org](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 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.



Did you know you can text your donation to the clinic?

515.800.BABY  
or  
515.800.2229

