

THE VISION

THE NEWSLETTER OF INNERVISIONS HEALTHCARE

FALL 2024, ISSUE 2

info@ivhcare.org

www.ivhcare.org

515-440-2273

CLINIC STAFF

Theresa Welch, RN
Executive Director

Dr. Greg McKernan, DO
Medical Director

Dr. Shannon Hood, DO
Dr. Tom Mallisee, MD
Dr. Sandy Ruhs, MD
Volunteer Medical Staff

Brooke Van Bruggen, BSN, RN
Director of Patient Resources

Sammy Freund, BSN, RN
Director of Nursing

Stephanie Hamell, BSW
Shift Supervisor

Sara Huegerich, BSN RN
Candace Johnson, RN
Rachel Prohaska, RN
Brienne Tigges, BSN, RN
Staff Nurses

Elise Kerr
Joleen Larson
Schedulers

Maria Haas
Stacy Halbach
Relationships Program
Educators

Jo Helling, RN
Marcia Konrad, RN
Kaeleigh Wilhelm, BSN, RN
Volunteer Nurses

Sandy Cooper, PhD, MSN
Evette Dombrosky
Terri Dvorak
Lisa Fargo
Melanie Froyen, BSN, RN
Shelly Hahn
Mary Haselton
Cindy Jensen
Joyce Lillis, MS, RN
Kim Mallisee, BSN, RN
Joan Miller
Jeanne O'Connor
Stacy Sturdivant
Volunteer Advocates

Diane McGuire
Diane Rodts
Volunteer Follow-Up
Coordinators

Bryan Gonzalez
Director of Development

Crystal Patterson
Development Coordinator

Now What? Serving Women in a Heartbeat Law State

As you've heard by now, the Heartbeat Law is now enforceable in the state of Iowa. While lives will certainly be saved by this legislation, we also know that hearts don't change just because of the political or legal process. Hearts are changed through one-on-one interactions with women in need. This is where places like InnerVisions come into play, since our nurses meet with these patients "in the trenches".

And so, even though we rejoice that abortion restrictions are now enforceable after a fetal heartbeat is detected, we still have our work cut out for us. So, what now?

If you attended our gala, this might sound repetitive, but it's important to share that women don't need brick and mortar facilities in Iowa to obtain an abortion. Both "abortion tourism" and purchasing abortion pills online are on the rise. In fact, our



NEWS

Women stock up on abortion pills, especially when there is news about restrictions

Bottles of abortion pills mifepristone, left, and misoprostol, right, are shown, Sept. 22, 2010, at a clinic in Des Moines, Iowa. Thousands of women stocked up on abortion pills just in case they needed them, according to new research published Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, in JAMA Internal Medicine, with demand peaking in the past couple years at times when it looked like the medications might become harder to get. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall, File)

Read Less

by: The Associated Press
Posted: Jan 3, 2024 / 05:02 AM CST

sources tell us that the abortion industry encourages women to "stock up", just in case they need the pills at a certain point (*see advertisement images above and to the left*).

So our mission of Educating, Empowering, and Encouraging pregnant women continues, even in a state with some abortion restrictions. Women are even more desperate now, and finding them and inviting them to have a conversation so that they can make a fully educated decision is of crucial importance.

We thank all of the politicians, lawyers, and lobbyists who have contributed to the legal process; now it's up to you and us to serve these pregnant women and unborn children during their difficult times. Let's get to work!



Worried about the possibility of an unplanned pregnancy? Getting pills ahead of time is not a bad idea. Find out how at plancpills.org

PLAN C

FROM THE DIRECTOR

InnerVisions as a Good Samaritan



"But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day, he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back'" (Luke 10:33-35)

At InnerVisions HealthCare, we contrast the Good Samaritan with the Innkeeper. Both the Good Samaritan and the Innkeeper are helpful to the man: one helps him during his immediate crisis; the other helps "take care of him" for the long-term. In Pregnancy Help Organizations (PHOs), many resource centers, maternity homes, and adoption agencies help after the woman has made a life-affirming decision.

Ever since our founding, but especially in recent years, InnerVisions has really identified with the Good Samaritan: as the one who helps the woman through the difficult time of discovering her unplanned pregnancy. Confused, angry, bitter, hurt, vulnerable, wounded, injured – these words could be said of the man on the road to Jericho, and can be said of the women who come through our doors.

We take the principle that our Lord gives in Mark 12 and apply that to our patients. We know that the women who come through our doors need to address their situation with the heart (emotional), soul (spiritual), mind (mental), and strength (physical); therefore, our Good Samaritan nurses and advocates address these during our appointments.

We share this with you to give you a unique vision inside (see what I did there?!) to the work we do at InnerVisions that wouldn't be possible without your support. Thank you for being "Good Samaritans", joining us in serving these women in need.

Yours for Life,



Theresa Welch, Executive Director

PATIENT TESTIMONIAL

Help in the Hard Times

Normally we like to share a recent patient testimonial, but a few months ago, we received an email from a former patient, and it's just too good not to share. Some of you may have already seen this, but this woman was an Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) patient, and so sharing it again reminds you all that we provide the APR – and that it works! – but also that the patients who come through our doors really are grateful for InnerVisions and the people who support us:

I'm not sure if the same people work at InnerVisions when I was helped but wanted to send over my gratitude. I'm forever thankful for the help this company and community provided me when I was struggling in the hardest part of my life. My son is 2.5 years old now and I'm in college full-time majoring in psychology. I just finished my first year with all A's! I took summer break off. I've moved out on my own in a 3 bedroom apartment so my son can have his very own room. I've had the same job since January of '23 and it's going well, though I'm excited to start my career and get a different job down the road in my field of study.

Terri Pays It Forward: One Patient at a Time



Connecting with the pregnant patients who come through our doors is personal for Terri Dvorak. As a teenager she had an unplanned pregnancy. While it was an emotional journey, ultimately, she decided to parent because she had a lot of support and love in her life.

Motivated by this, Terri is “paying it forward” and providing support and love to the patients who come through our doors.

Terri has been a volunteer since 2019 after hearing about InnerVisions through a baby bottle campaign at her church. She first joined as a receptionist, and now has been serving as a patient advocate since 2021. She understands that “God guides us all in different ways and it is rewarding to feel that you are making a difference in many lives.”

That’s so true, Terri, and we’re so grateful that you are helping us in our mission of educating, empowering, and encouraging women.

In the report, *Discovering the Brain*, Sandra Ackerman states that since most newborn babies are born with about 100 billion brain cells, called neurons, the brain must grow at an average rate of **250,000 neurons per minute** throughout the pregnancy.

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 legacy giving information.

Gala & Dinner Dance Update



In late May, our guests heard an amazing keynote address by Claire Culwell, who shocked the crowd when she shared that her 13-year old birth mother had a successful abortion while she was pregnant with Claire. She refers to herself as a "twinless twin". Reach out to us if you want a copy of Claire's talk. With your generous support, more than \$560k was pledged or donated through the Gala!

Save the date for next year's gala: June 5, 2025 at the Iowa Events Center.

Just last week, more than 200 guests gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas for the annual Knights of Columbus Dinner Dance benefitting InnerVisions. We raised just over the \$50k goal that we had set, but it's not too late to make an additional gift for that event!

NURSES NEEDED

We are still on the look out for a few staff nurses. If you or someone you know is a nurse and looking for a change in career, please email at info@ivhcare.org.

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 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.

