

# THE VISION

THE NEWSLETTER OF INNERVISIONS HEALTHCARE

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## October is Respect Life Month: What This Means for Us at InnerVisions

Each October, some sects of Christianity observe Respect Life Month, a time to reflect on the God-given dignity of every human life – from conception to natural death. While much of the conversation focuses on protecting the unborn, the Christian call is broader: to uphold the value of every person, at every stage of life.



At InnerVisions Healthcare, this call is lived out daily. Inspired by Matthew 25:40 – *Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me* – the clinic provides life-affirming medical care and compassionate support to women facing unplanned pregnancies. But it doesn't stop there.

Rooted in biblical principles, InnerVisions puts the corporal works of mercy into action: feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, visiting the sick, and more (cf. Mt 25). These are not abstract ideals, but

concrete realities expressed through prenatal care, STD testing and treatment, counseling, ultrasounds, and material assistance – completely free of charge.

Yet, what sets InnerVisions apart is not just **what** we do, but **how** we do it. Each patient is met with dignity, compassion, and a commitment to walk alongside her – regardless of her circumstances or decisions. One patient put it best: “They didn't stop caring when the baby was born. That's when I needed help the most, and they knew how to continue supporting me.”

In a culture that often politicizes life issues, InnerVisions offers a different narrative – one rooted in Christ's mercy and presence. Being pro-life isn't just about what we're against; rather, it's about who we're for. And we're **for** both the mom and the baby.

This Respect Life Month, may we each ask: *Am I living a faith that welcomes, heals, and walks with others?* At InnerVisions, that's what it truly means to respect life.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Looking Ahead to the Future



Our mission remains clear: to empower women facing unplanned pregnancies with compassionate, life-affirming medical care. During my first six months, I reviewed last summer's strategic planning retreat and conducted interviews to develop our 3-Year Strategic Plan, concluding in December 2027; now I want to share it with you.

Our top priority is growing patient capacity. Despite legislative changes, we know that abortions continue in Iowa and we have to keep intercepting patients before they reach the abortion industry. By expanding clinic hours, increasing staffing, and enhancing both digital and local outreach – including targeted Spanish-language marketing – we aim to increase weekly patient appointments.

To support the medical care team, we're also strengthening our network of patient resources. Through initiatives like presumptive Medicaid enrollment, we're removing barriers to making a life choice. We're also investing in bilingual staff and volunteers to ensure language is never a hurdle for our Spanish-speaking patients. If you are bilingual and are interested in furthering our mission, please reach out!

Next, we're striving for excellence through data-driven decisions. One of our core values -- a commitment to excellence -- compels us to make decisions informed through data. One of our team members is currently pursuing a Business Analyst Certification to help us make smarter, more informed decisions across our marketing, donor relations, and patient care efforts. This added expertise will empower our board and staff to better understand and act on the data we collect, helping us stay proactive and continue leading the way in the pregnancy help movement.

Finally, as a Christ-centered ministry, we're committed to prayer. We invite you to join us in praying for our patients as they navigate some of life's most difficult decisions. To get involved, email us today.

This strategic plan is more than just a roadmap – it's a reflection of our mission to walk with women in crisis, offering hope, healing, and the love of Christ. Thank you for partnering with us in building a stronger, more compassionate future.

Thank you for your continued support!

Loralee Chase, *Executive Director*

*According to the State Data Center of Iowa, in 2023, there were 53,326 Latinos in Polk County, making it the largest population of Latinos in any Iowa county at 22.4% of the state-wide population.*

### 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 Bryan at InnerVisions for any legacy giving information ([development@ivhcare.org](mailto:development@ivhcare.org)).

# Champion for Compassionate Care



We are grateful for the dedication and heart that volunteers like Joyce Lillis bring to our mission. A seasoned health care professional with over 25 years of experience, Joyce has made an invaluable impact through her volunteer work. With a background in nursing, education, and business, Joyce brings a unique skill set to her role as a Patient Advocate that enhances the mission, programs, and services that we provide our patients.

Joyce's journey has been one of passion and purpose. After earning her Master's degree in Nursing and Health Education, she quickly became a leader in her field, teaching, mentoring, and providing compassionate care to patients. Her work at institutions like the University of Iowa and Mercy College of Health Sciences shows her commitment to elevating others, a value she continues to champion at InnerVisions.

As a volunteer, Joyce has worked tirelessly with pregnant women in need, while also providing mentoring and advice to the staff and other volunteers at the clinic. Joyce has been described by patients as amazing, nice, caring, sweet, welcoming, great, exemplary, and excellent. Her dedication to making a difference is truly inspiring, and we are so fortunate to have her as a part of our team.

Thank you, Joyce, for your unwavering commitment to our mission and for the positive impact you make.

## PATIENT TESTIMONIAL

# Navigating Fear and Uncertainty with Knowledge



A young mother, facing an unplanned pregnancy while caring for her infant daughter, came to our clinic uncertain about her future. Recently separated, she was considering abortion, but felt overwhelmed by the choice. During her first ultrasound, no gestational sac was visible, and the nurse explained that conception likely occurred later in October. The patient's decision was influenced by the father's identity, and she was leaning toward abortion if it was the new partner.

Nevertheless, she left the clinic with a new perspective after learning about her options and abortion risks. Over the next few weeks, she returned for

ultrasounds, with viability confirmed at her third visit. By her fourth ultrasound, she chose to parent, expressing hope for her relationship and plans to establish prenatal care.

Throughout her pregnancy, our nurses continued to support her, and in July, she welcomed a healthy baby girl. Both mom and baby were doing well, and she expressed deep gratitude for the services she received.

This story highlights the strength of a woman navigating fear and uncertainty, ultimately choosing the path of parenting with the support and information she needed.

# Gala & Dinner Dance Update



Many thanks to the nearly 1,200 guests who joined us at our 14th annual gala benefitting the life-affirming mission of InnerVisions HealthCare!

During the evening, we celebrated the more than 2,336 women who have made life-affirming choices to save more than 2,336 babies! Our keynote speaker, David Bereit shared many stories during his career, starting at 40 Days for Life and most recently as the newly-minted Executive Director of Life Leadership Conference. With your generous support, more than \$600k was pledged or donated through the Gala!

*Cut this out and hang it somewhere so you don't forget!*



## 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REBEKAH HAGAN  
INNERVISIONS GALA 2026  
JUNE 4TH, 2026

SAVE  
*the*  
DATE



## 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.

