

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN  
MAKING CONFIDENT & HEALTHY  
LIFE CHOICES



Carrie Slaton, Executive Director

## A Message From The Executive Director

**H**ow has God been showing up in your life so far this year? This is a question I was asked just

recently, and I had no problem coming up with an answer to it.

### In Awe of God's Blessings

I am constantly humbled and in awe of God's goodness, grace, patience, and love. He is consistent in my personal life, and also in the life of our ministry.

- He has provided us with a beautiful new facility where we can serve our clients and make them feel loved, valued, and special. We have heard from our clients and visitors that they feel calm and peaceful when they walk through our doors.



New ultrasound machine & exam room!

- He has provided us with a brand new, state-of-the-art ultrasound machine that allows our clients to see their babies as early as five weeks and five days.
- He has brought three new women to us who have been struggling with a past abortion decision; they are currently working through our Abortion Recovery & Care program so they can be forgiven and set free from the guilt and shame they have experienced.

### Have Questions or Want to Share Something With Us?

If you'd like to hear more about what's happening here at Next Step, **I would like to personally invite you to come and meet some of our team at our first community engagement night on Thursday, March 23.** I would appreciate the opportunity to meet some of you and hear how God has been showing up in your life.

Blessings always,  
Carrie

# empower

## Empowered Because of You!

**BECAUSE OF YOU, A WOMAN WAS SUPPORTED & A BABY HAS A FUTURE**  
Your support empowered Rachel to choose life.

**H**er mind was racing. “Impossible,” she thought. **Scared and in shock, she lacked the time and finances to care for a baby.**

**At 23, Rachel was working two jobs to put herself through school** to be an ultrasound technician, and she was supporting her recovering alcoholic father.

**Scared. In shock. Hesitant.**  
How could she have a baby without more stability & support?

**She took the pregnancy test before a mid-term and couldn't focus on the exam after seeing the positive result.** Finally, having done her best but fearing failure, **she wrote “I just found out I'm pregnant” at the top of her exam** and turned it in. Instead of ignoring it or simply failing her, **Rachel's professor contacted her, told her about Next Step, and had**

**compassion** for how this pregnancy affected her ability to think clearly.

She considered abortion for lack of resources.

**Rachel was scared and overwhelmed by this unexpected pregnancy. She considered abortion, but her boyfriend wanted to parent the baby. But Rachel had many concerns, including finances.** Because of her schedule, she couldn't meet with her Client Advocate (CA) during the day. So, Next Step made special arrangements for evening appointments with her CA. Next Step provided resources and gave referrals for additional local resources.

**Rachel appreciates her dedicated CA who supports her mentally, emotionally, and spiritually through this journey. This support has empowered her to**

**keep going, especially since her mother isn't in her life.** Rachel

is participating in the Earn While You Learn program, which provides important pregnancy and life lessons while providing “bucks” she can “spend” in the resource room. The CA is praying for Rachel and encouraging her spiritually.

**With the help of one special teacher and your support, Rachel is empowered and excited about her future as a parent.**

Now engaged, Rachel and her fiancé are painting the nursery and preparing for a baby boy in August. **Because of your support, an impossible circumstance became an empowering and joyful new adventure!**



Rachel is empowered & excited to keep going!

## New Nurses!

Meet our two new registered nurses, Christiana and Courtney. They both recently completed training as obstetrical sonographers. Their addition to our team allows us to offer more ultrasound appointment opportunities.



Christiana Ying

Courtney Basbas



**SANDRA SILVA**  
Reproductive Grief Care Coordinator



## Peace & Freedom After Abortion

Next-Step offers a bible-based program for women who have experienced abortion. **With compassion and understanding for the wounds left from an abortion, this small non-judgmental group class will lead you through the healing process of God's forgiveness and love, to new peace and freedom in your life. Find healing and resolution through this program.**



Now accepting 1-on-1 appointments for those who want to learn more. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. All correspondence will be treated sensitively and confidentially.

Email [sandra@next-step.org](mailto:sandra@next-step.org) or call 925-425-0414 to connect with someone who cares about you.



## Youth Group Visit

The Celebration Church youth group came to Next Step for a tour and talk in February. They learned about Next Step's mission and the value God places on every human life. They enjoyed seeing models of babies at different stages of pregnancy and went home with a gift bag that included a model of a 12-week fetus to share with family and friends. The youth group prayed for Next Step and brought diapers and financial gifts. We enjoyed them and appreciate their interest and support!



Knights of Columbus present a check to cover the cost of an ultrasound machine.

## New Ultrasound Machine!

The Pleasanton chapter of Knights of Columbus raised funds to purchase a brand new ultrasound machine! This enables us to stay up-to-date and offer the best care. Thank you for being our knights to the rescue!

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Message



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Woman & Her Baby!



New Ultrasound  
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Up-to-date!



Get Peace &  
Freedom After  
Abortion



Youth Group Visited  
For Talk & Tour



Meet Our New  
Nurses

## Calling Our Prayer Warriors!

We are looking for some people to join our email/text prayer chain to partner with us in praying for our clients who are in the pregnancy decision-making time. This is often a very difficult time for these women and we would like to have a team of people surrounding them in prayer. If you are interested send an email to [info@next-step.org](mailto:info@next-step.org).



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