

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN  
MAKING CONFIDENT & HEALTHY  
LIFE CHOICES



## A Message From The Executive Director



Carrie Slaton, Executive Director

**W**e've been hearing so much talk around the state of abortion in our country, I want to share with you how Next Step is responding to this.

### Next Step Remains a Safe Place for Help and Healing

Since our inception in 1988 we have always been about caring for both the woman and child. As the political landscape shifts back and forth we remain steadfast. We continue to do what we have always done.

We provide a safe place for the woman facing an unexpected pregnancy to process everything she is thinking and

feeling. We help her slow down and figure out for herself, without all the outside pressures, what is the right decision for her. We meet her where she is, and offer her the grace, love and compassion that Jesus has offered each of us throughout our own journey.

### Our Position on Abortion Laws And Politics

We at Next Step believe that the politics behind fighting abortion laws are a separate ministry calling, and we leave that part of the battle to those God has called to serve in that area of ministry.

God has called us to fulfill a specific mission, to empower women to make confident and healthy life choices as they face an unexpected pregnancy. In order to

protect and fulfill our mission, we do not engage in political activism.

We do, however, belong to a national affiliate that monitors legislation, court decisions, and other issues that impact Pregnancy Centers. If you have questions or comments regarding any case within the pro-life movement, you can contact NIFLA (National Institute of Family Life Advocates) at [admin@nifla.org](mailto:admin@nifla.org).

### We Couldn't Do This Without You!

Thank you for partnering with us on this journey. We are at a critical point in history, and it's because of your faithful support of our ministry that we are able to support life, and continue being that safe place for the women in our community.



# Hope Inspired By You!

**BECAUSE OF YOU, A BABY BOY IS ALIVE TODAY!**  
Your support gave Sara the choice of birth over abortion.



**H**ave you ever found yourself in a situation that seems impossibly bad, and then it gets worse? That's where Sara was when she called us.

### **A desperate situation.**

Mom to a special needs child; in a custody battle; threatened with home eviction; and now 8 weeks pregnant.

**When we first met Sara, she was 8 weeks pregnant** with her second baby, in a custody battle for her first, and facing eviction. She was anxious, stressed and concerned about her pregnancy because she already has a son with congenital disorders.

Sara met with a Next Step Client Advocate. **We assured her that we would help her through every step of this pregnancy.**

Sara welcomed the resources and emotional support. As the pregnancy progressed, **the ultrasound showed that her baby had developmental abnormalities.** Sara was heartbroken. Her Client Advocate prayed with her and continued to support her through phone calls and meetings.

**Sara was urged to abort at 25 weeks by two doctors. They said the baby wouldn't survive. Sara felt pressured to abort, however she wanted to give her baby a chance at life.** Next Step staff continued to support Sara through prayer and emotional support.

**At 27 weeks Sara's baby boy was born. He immediately went to NICU** for special care, and went

through multiple surgeries to correct some of the disorders. **Sara's baby is now 3 months old!** Though still in the NICU, he is improving every week and gaining weight.

We gave Sara resources and gas gift cards to help with the cost of driving to UCSF hospital. **Sara's Client Advocate also met with the father of the baby to encourage and support him.**

**Sara is so glad she made the decision not to abort and gave her son a chance at life.** The struggle isn't over, but she knows she's not alone. Because of your support, Next Step is here to continue to guide and help her on this journey.

**Sara wanted to give her baby a chance at life!**

### **Sara felt pressured to abort.**

Two doctors urged her to abort. They told her there was no hope.

## New Team Members

**MEET NEXT STEP'S NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS.**

**Lisa McTiernan**  
Events & Community Outreach Coordinator



**Melissa Taylor**  
Communications Manager



**JOSHUA MICHAEL LIU**  
Memorial Scholarship



# Scholarship Winners

Next Step is honored to present the Joshua Michael Liu Memorial Scholarship Award.

Joshua Michael Liu was born with a birth defect, which was fatal shortly after birth. His parents cherished the value of all human life and chose to honor him with the legacy of awarding annual scholarships in his name to a graduating high school senior who also demonstrates cherishing human life.



2022 Award Winner: Tessa Brubaker

“I am the product of an unplanned pregnancy. I emerged from a bleak situation but I had the gift of life and opportunity to shine into dark places. Every child deserves the right to live regardless of the circumstances of their conception and every mother’s life is precious and worth supporting.”



2022 Award Winner: Ava Roberts-Stewart.

“Life is not only a gift, it is an unexplainable joy. I want to help women know they are worth more than abortion, that their children can be loved unconditionally and even break the cycle that they were brought into.” Ava is working toward a nursing degree.

## Support for Reproductive Loss and Grief



Recently our staff and volunteers completed training with Reproductive Loss Network, **to learn a biblical standard of care to support those grieving reproductive loss**, including miscarriage, stillbirth, infertility, and abortion. These losses are not often openly acknowledged, and **biblical application can bring eternal hope and restoration**. We are excited to begin offering this service to women and families in our community.

## He’s Not Alone With Parenting Support

### Young Single Dad Feels Supported & Doing Great

Meet Greg, a young single dad, and his son Ryan. **Greg is doing an incredible job raising his son and is thankful for Next Step’s support!** He has been meeting with Lisa, one of our Client Advocates, for the past 10 months. Lisa has been working with Greg on **parenting support programs: *Being a Father, Single Parenting, Discipline Foundations***, and many others. Greg is so grateful for your support, knowing he is not alone as he walks this journey!



Greg and his son Ryan.

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Feels Supported &  
Doing Great!



Meet Our New  
Team Members

## 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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to [next-step.org/give](http://next-step.org/give).

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