

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN
MAKING CONFIDENT & HEALTHY
LIFE CHOICES



Carrie Slaton, Executive Director

A Message From The Executive Director

Thanks to the efforts of the staff at California Family Council, I and other

California pregnancy center directors were invited to attend a lobby day and represent Next Step at the State Capitol in Sacramento earlier this year.

Sharing Information

We were honored to be introduced in both the Senate and the Assembly, and recognized for the work we are doing in our communities.

Many of us were able to have meetings with our local Senator or Assemblymember in their Sacramento offices. I was fortunate to spend time with the Legislative Director of Senator Glazer's office. I was able to share with her about

the services we are providing and the women we are serving. She was very interested to hear how we are supporting women and families in our community.

Bringing Awareness to What We Really Do

There have been several bills written this year specifically targeting pregnancy centers. Bills stating, we are fake clinics, we don't have licensed medical professionals on staff, and we use false or misleading advertising. Of course, we know this is not accurate, however many of our legislative officials believe this is who we are.

My hope by attending this lobby day was that I could change that narrative for at least one person working in the offices of our elected officials. I ended the day feeling encouraged, that there is



Carrie and other pregnancy center directors at the California State Capitol in Sacramento.

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Hopeful Because of You!

BECAUSE OF YOU, A WOMAN WAS GIVEN HOPE ABOUT HER OPTIONS

Ava no longer feels alone and abandoned.

Ava was crying when she walked through the door. **She felt alone and abandoned** and was unsure about what to do about her pregnancy. **Abortion seemed like her only option**, but she was deeply distressed by the idea.

Alone. Abandoned.

She felt hopeless and only knew of one, awful, option: abortion.

Ava continued to cry throughout most of her visit, revealing challenging circumstances to her Client Advocate (CA). She'd had a difficult childhood. Because of that, **Ava doesn't have a good relationship with her mother and couldn't talk to her about this pregnancy. Ava's boyfriend isn't available**

either because he is gone often, working far away. Ava confided in her CA that she had previously

They discussed her options—all of them.

She met her baby for the first time through ultrasound.

had an abortion and suffers with regret and emotional distress. The CA offered understanding and information about Next Step's free Abortion Recovery and Care program. Ava's CA listened to her story with compassion and affirmed her feelings. **The CA assured Ava that she is not alone, and that we are here to support her through this difficult time.**

Ava and her CA discussed her options and what each one would

look like for her. They discussed fetal development and **Ava**

had an ultrasound to learn more about her pregnancy. The CA and Ava also discussed her spiritual background. With Ava's permission, she shared the "Peace with God" booklet and they talked about her relationship with God. **The CA prayed with her.** Ava was no longer crying when she left the Next Step office. **Ava's ultrasound allowed her to see her baby and its heart-beat, and she realized she wasn't alone and had more options than abortion.**

She left with hope instead of despair.

She had more options & support than she knew was possible.



Carrie at the California State Capitol.

Executive Director Message, continued

now one person in Senator Glazer's office aware of the REAL work being done by pregnancy centers.

Along with California Family Council, and California Alliance of Pregnancy Care, I will continue to represent us at our State Capitol whenever God calls me to do so. California is not an easy state to be in for the work we are doing, however our God is bigger than any law or bill and we put our trust fully in Him.

It continues to be my honor to serve in this role, thank you for your faith and trust in me, and our team of incredible staff and volunteers.

Blessings always,
Carrie





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 or call 925-425-0414 to connect with someone who cares about you.



Volunteer Spotlight: Kaisa Kimmerle

Kaisa has been volunteering with us for about 6 months. She has been helping with the resource room and other projects weekly. Kaisa is originally from Finland. She has been married for over two years and has only been in our area for about a year. She was hearing and seeing a lot about the topic of abortion in the media and she prayed that she could somehow be a help in that area. Then one Sunday, Next Step showed up at her church, Valley Community Church in Pleasanton. It was an answer to prayer! She connected with us and has been helping ever since. We're thankful to Kaisa for having a heart to serve and we're thanking God for planting that seed in her heart that brought us together!



Here Are Some Client Babies From 2023!



As a 501(c)3 organization, Next Step is grateful for the generosity of supporters like you!

Scan the code to give
Online. It's easy! Or go
to next-step.org/2023.



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 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.

Calling Our Prayer Warriors!

In This Issue



Executive Director Message:
Bringing Awareness About
Pregnancy Centers to the
State Capitol



Get Peace & Freedom
After Abortion Through
This Compassionate &
Confidential Healing Process



Because of You: She Has
Hope To Consider All of Her
Options



Volunteer Spotlight: Kaisa
Kimmerle - From Finland
With a Heart to Serve