

# EMBRACE

graceplace  
PREGNANCY AND HEALTH CENTER

A photograph of a man holding a baby. The man is wearing a black baseball cap with the words "GIRL DAD" in white. He is wearing glasses and a brown jacket. The baby is wearing a white onesie with a floral pattern. In the background, a woman is smiling and holding another baby. The overall theme is family and parenthood.

LOVE GIVES

Pastor Jimi Pitts

*Importance of Faith*

Isaiah and Brianna

WHY DADS MATTER

To Grace Place

2021 Edition



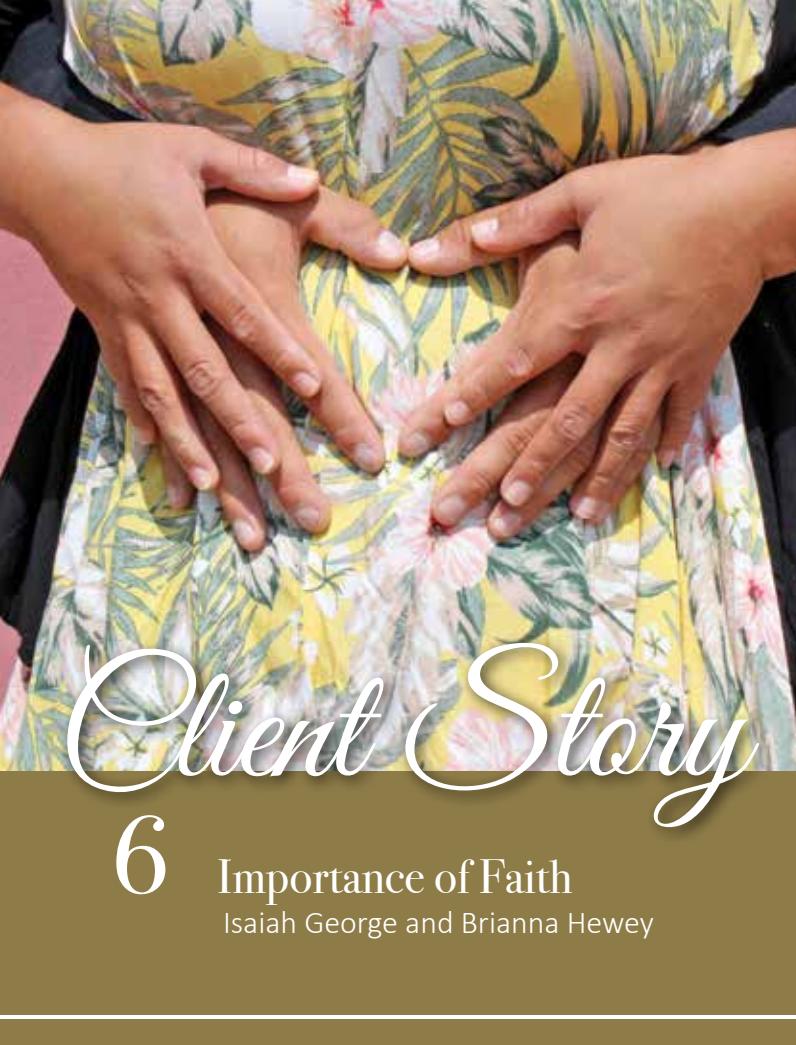
# joy

[joi] • noun

happiness not based  
on circumstances

James 1:2-4

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Paul McPherson  
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# letter from *Editor*



Hello!

Welcome to our eighth annual “Embrace Grace Place” publication. I am beyond grateful our community is regaining some sense of normalcy. This pandemic has brought with it times of great uncertainty. Both anxiety and fear of the future have permeated the atmosphere. This is true for our clients facing unplanned pregnancies. However, looking back on this past year, I am in complete awe of just how good our God is! How can we not praise Him seeing everything He has provided!

We have been so blessed to partner with Washington Heights Church Ogden, Utah. Through their generous donations, we have purchased a new ultrasound machine where a beating heart can be seen at 5 weeks, 6 days! Praise God! Our amazing Four Corners community blessed us with the best Steps4Life ever! Wait, there is more! Our prayers were answered with the addition of a Men’s Ministry Coordinator. What else can be said except “Only God”! He provides! “Praise Him from whom all blessings flow.”

As we have seen, God’s provision often comes from unlikely places and unlikely people. This is a reoccurring theme throughout Scripture. From Adam and Eve, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Elisha and Daniel to name a few, we see how God provides at just the right time. The miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000 is the premier example of God providing when our own means is inadequate. God delights in making up what we lack. He is faithful and keeps His promises. Our responsibility, if you will, is to trust and obey. God will meet our needs both spiritually and physically. “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

I pray that God speaks to you today, through the articles in this magazine. Each person’s story shows God’s protection, provision, hope, and faithfulness.

For HIS Kingdom

*Heather Faverino*

Heather Faverino  
Grace Place Executive Director

# EMBRACE

## graceplace

PREGNANCY AND HEALTH CENTER

**EDITOR:**

Heather Faverino

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:**

Hannah Begay

*Cover Photo By: Alyssa Foster Photography*

Grace Place Pregnancy and Health Center exists to offer unconditional care and support with pregnancy issues and healthy lifestyle choices, affirming LIFE in every situation.

*Whether a pregnancy test is negative or positive ...*

*Whether a women is abortion vulnerable or not ...*

*Miracles happen at Grace Place everyday!*

### GRACE PLACE PREGNANCY AND HEALTH CENTER

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[www.graceplacecenter.org](http://www.graceplacecenter.org)



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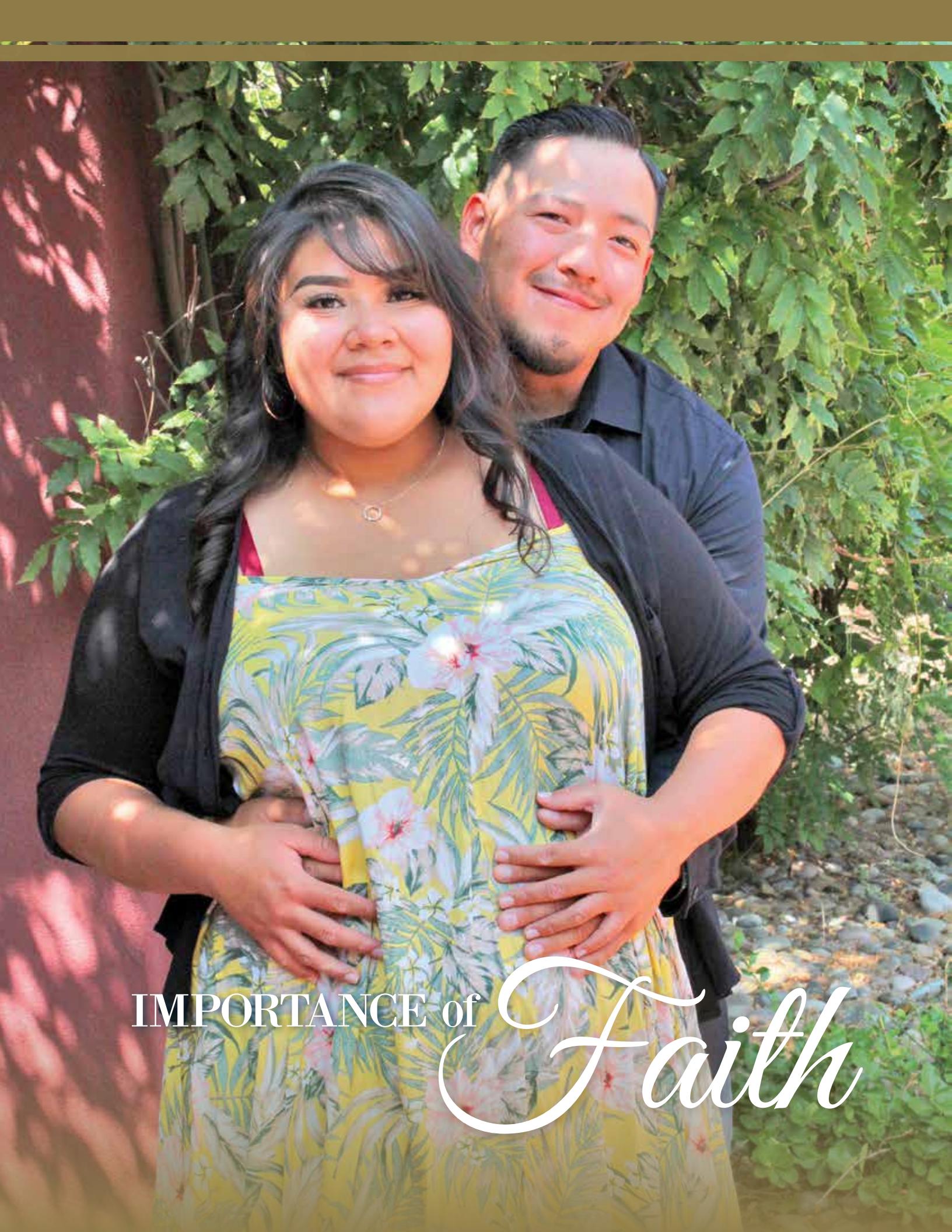
We are a LIFE-affirming pregnancy resource center. We exist to help women through their pregnancy and supporting both the mother and father by providing the following services at no charge:

- PREGNANCY TESTING
- PREGNANCY OPTIONS EDUCATION
- LIMITED ULTRASOUND
- LIMITED STD TESTING
- PARENTING EDUCATION FOR MOMS AND DADS
- MEN OF VALOR – A PLACE FOR DADS
- POST ABORTIVE SUPPORT FOR MEN AND WOMEN

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IMPORTANCE of *Faith*

..... BY: ISAIAH GEORGE and BRIANNA HEWEY .....

The creator blessed us with the miracle of life. Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, we faced our share of struggles. Being new parents while fighting a virus, has certainly been difficult. Due to state restrictions, Brianna was faced with going to the doctor's office alone, while I remained in the vehicle. Emotionally worn, at such a precious moment, we couldn't experience the moments we ever so graciously waited for. Luckily with time, restrictions began to decrease, and we were soon able to experience the excitement of baby's early ultrasound and doctors' visits. Blessings certainly come with its newfound difficulties.

During baby's first ultrasound, the Sonographer discovered a left ovarian cyst, measuring 10 cm. Hoping it would deplete over time, we put off Laparoscopic surgery. During that crucial time, Brianna tested positive for the Covid-19 virus at 16 weeks pregnant. The time we needed to be hand in hand the most, we were forced to quarantine and isolate from one another for 14 days. There were many a night where I heard cries of pain and discomfort. I felt like my world was upside down because there wasn't a single thing, I could do to help her when she needed me the most. Brianna's struggle with the virus gave her respiratory problems in the process of needing surgery, which resulted in postponing the operation once again.

At 20 weeks pregnant, Brianna endured a surgery that resulted in an incision measuring 9 inches in length, from pelvis to an inch above her belly button. The cyst upon removal grew 4cm bigger than anticipated, now measuring 14cm in size. During the operation, I sat in an empty room for 7 hours praying for the health of my baby and the love of my life. As many thoughts ran through my head, the operating doctor finally entered the room to briefly prompt me on the success and difficulty of the operation. Momma and baby's resiliency of strength mixed with a warriors' mentality gave them the clearance to come home, just two days after abdomen surgery.

A month out from surgery, Brianna is now recovering very well. Baby is doubling in size at a healthy rate and was revealed to be a baby boy. Through the struggles of fighting through the adversity of what has been dealt. I am thankful for what the creator has blessed me with. We are surrounded by a great support system that only wants what's best for us and our little family. Faith in knowing that we have each other is all that I could ever ask for.

Grace Place, along with the "Men of Valor" program has been a tremendous help. Giving us the emotional, educational, and material support needed in this difficult time. Growing up in the community we live in... It seems that there aren't too many individuals focused on helping

and leading expectant parents to a sense of positive importance of parenting. The staff here at Grace Place have given us a caring, informative and judge free experience on helping us become better parents day in and day out. Grace Place is the perfect environment for any, experienced or inexperienced parent preparing for the challenges of parenthood.



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· · · · · BY: MISSIONS & OUTREACH PASTOR JIMI PITTS · · · · ·

Washington Heights Church (WHC) is in Ogden, Utah and has been around since 1956. It may have changed programs, music, and approach but it has never lost its focus in helping people meet and follow Jesus. Every year from Thanksgiving to Christmas, Washington Heights Church seeks out opportunities to serve, impact, and give back to the community with no strings attached in a project we call Love Gives. Why? Because it's a church that exists for its community by gently pointing to Jesus through actions and words.

Around September of last year, the WHC staff talked about how to help and respond to the many lives being lost through abortion. Together we thought the best approach would be to contact a clinic or two to see where their greatest needs lie. Two months prior to this we had taken supplies to the Navajo Nation and thought it would be a great place to start. I contacted my Navajo leader and asked for a suggestion. He indicated there was a place in Farmington called Grace Place and that I should look at their website. I looked them up and made the call sometime in October. Heather, from Grace Place, answered



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the phone. I began explaining who we were and about our Love Gives Project. I asked her a few basic questions like, "Do you need diapers, baby clothes or baby supplies?" She indicated this would be wonderful. Then I asked, "What about equipment?" She said their greatest need would be a new ultrasound machine because their current one was becoming outdated. I asked how much would a new one cost? She said from \$30,000 to \$45,000. Then she told me why it would make a difference. She mentioned they were just talking about this and couldn't believe I called. I could hardly contain my excitement, but thanked her for her time, made no promises and said I'd get back to her. What she didn't realize, at the time, is that the WHC staff had already set the donation at \$42,000! I ran the idea past our staff and within the week called and let her know we'd be donating \$42,000 for an ultrasound machine.

Within weeks of our announcement at church, someone placed us in contact with Pre-Born who ended up covering \$16,000 towards the ultrasound machine. We paid the remaining balance and gave Grace Place the remaining money for what we committed. The team and I delivered both money and supplies in February of 2021. It was such an incredible moment being able to surprise Grace Place



with not only an ultrasound machine but additional funds. The story didn't end there. God was still working behind the scenes in our church. In May of 2021 I asked if there were any additional funds left from our 2020 Love Gives project. Our finance person said YES! I expected a couple of thousand, but she said \$45,000. I couldn't believe it. We do many things for our community during Love Gives and had committed any additional funds to go to Grace Place. I thought we'd make another trip down to Grace Place and let them know we wanted to see the ultrasound machine and surprise them with the money. The first week of June



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we made the trip. Heather was explaining and showing us the difference, the new machine makes when I said we really came down for another reason. I let it hang in the air a bit before I told her more money had come in than expected and that we are committed to honoring God and making a difference in the lives of the unborn. What a joy it was to give an additional \$45,000. It's hard to explain the joy, excitement, and awe of those moments. Because of God's grace, He allows us to be part of it.

Heather said they were literally just talking about hiring an additional nurse but didn't have the funds set aside. She said you're not going to believe this, but the amount we had been praying about is this exact amount!

God orchestrates the universe while at the same exact moment He has some random church in Ogden contact a ministry called Grace Place to make a difference in the world we live. We not only serve a God who cares, but a God who is full of surprises.

Washington Heights Church gives with no strings attached and believes in the work and ministry of Grace Place. Although there are hundreds of miles between us, God has created a bond between these two ministries through generosity and friendship.



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# Unplanned BLESSINGS

## REACH

When you support Grace Place Pregnancy and Health Center, you help us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a broken world. Consider the facts:

- Roughly 121 million unintended pregnancies occurred each year between 2015 and 2019 around the world. Of these unintended pregnancies, 61% ended in abortion. This translates to 73 million abortions per year.
- The unintended pregnancy rate is significantly higher in the United States than in many other developed countries.
- In 2011, 45% of women in the United States said that their pregnancy was unintended. 42% of unintended pregnancies end in abortion in the United States.
- Approximately, 47% of New Mexico women who give birth, do so after an unintended pregnancy. In 2017, 51% of babies born in New Mexico were to unmarried women. In San Juan County 53% of babies born are to unmarried women.
- A 2015 study commissioned by Care Net surveyed 1,038 women who had abortions. 61% of these women surveyed discussed their decision to terminate their pregnancy with the father of the baby. More than 1/3 of women indicate the father of the baby was most influential in their abortion decision
- *In 2020, 97% of moms who saw their baby on ultrasound at Grace Place CHOSE LIFE!*

## SERVE

Our caring staff and volunteers serve our clients day to day through a variety of services, which cost our clients absolutely nothing, thanks to the generous support of our donors.

Grace Place offers unconditional care and support through the following free services:

- Pregnancy testing
- Pregnancy options education and support
- Limited ultrasound
- Limited STD/STI Testing
- Adoption information and referral
- Parenting classes for both mom and dad
- Material Services, i.e. diapers, baby clothes, cribs
- Men of Valor
- Making Life Disciple Mentors
- Post Abortive Support for both women and men

## LOVE

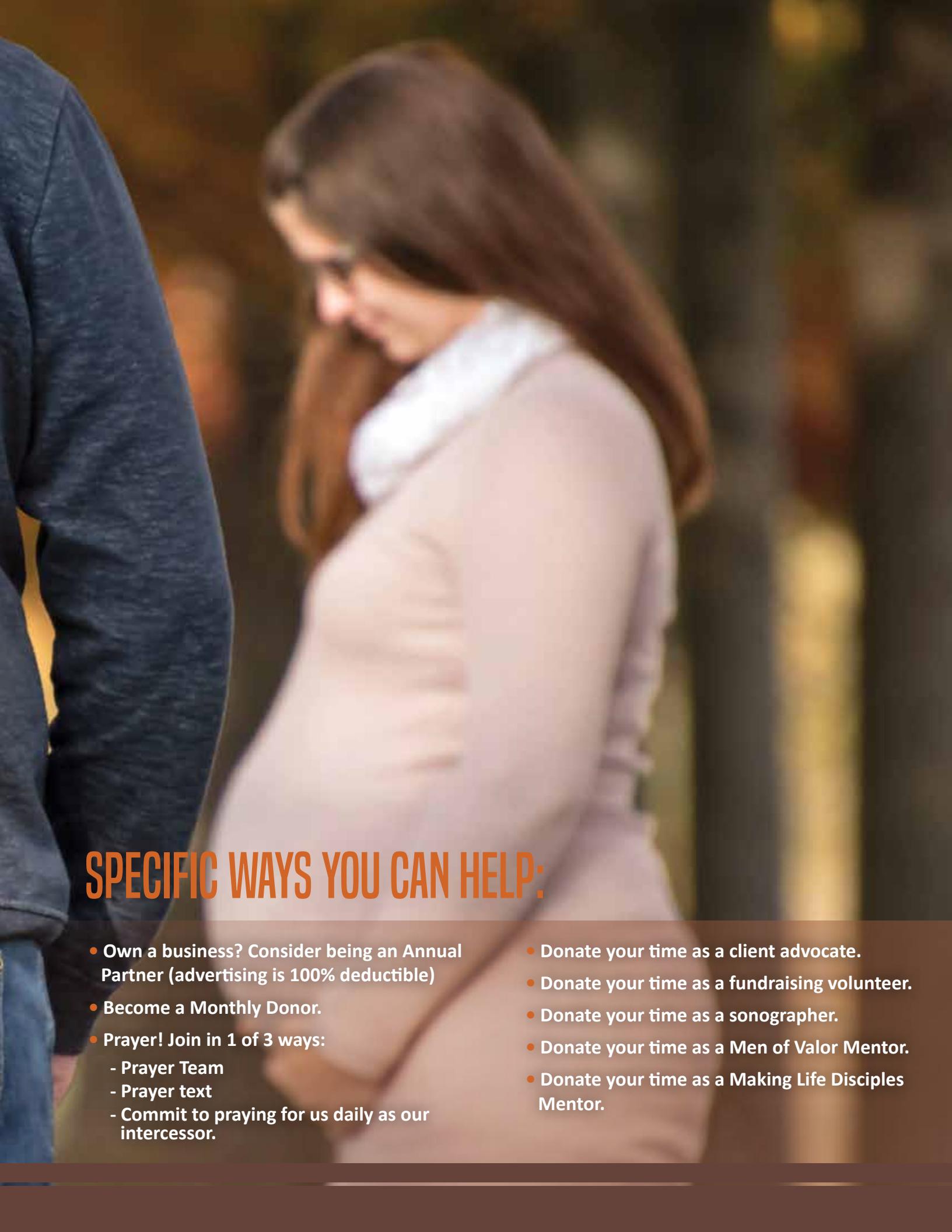
As a volunteer or donor you are participating with us to love the moms, dads and babies of San Juan County unconditionally.

As a volunteer or donor you have the opportunity to offer hope to those who feel they have no hope.

As a volunteer or donor you are helping to save the lives of future generations.



Sources for statistics used: center for disease control and prevention (CDC), NM Department of Health, Care Net, NM Women's Indicator Report, and Guttmacher Institute.



## SPECIFIC WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Own a business? Consider being an Annual Partner (advertising is 100% deductible)
- Become a Monthly Donor.
- Prayer! Join in 1 of 3 ways:
  - Prayer Team
  - Prayer text
  - Commit to praying for us daily as our intercessor.
- Donate your time as a client advocate.
- Donate your time as a fundraising volunteer.
- Donate your time as a sonographer.
- Donate your time as a Men of Valor Mentor.
- Donate your time as a Making Life Disciples Mentor.



# Love the Children Learning Center



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"... BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE"

- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

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# Why Dads *Matter* to GRACE PLACE

..... BY: HEATHER FAVERINO .....

Grace Place understands that dads play a crucial role in their baby's lives. We see several types of dads walk through our doors; those who pressure their partners to terminate the pregnancy, those who strongly seek to protect the lives of their unborn baby, those who actively accept responsibility offering help to their partners and those that remain passive placing all decisions onto their partners. In addition, we see single dads who may not have had a father figure in their lives looking for guidance and support. While circumstances vary, these men have similar fears, concerns and questions much like the moms facing an unplanned pregnancy. We know that dad has a significant influence over the outcome of the pregnancy and of the parenting of the child. We acknowledge and accept God's call to minister and serve the men who come through the doors at Grace Place.

Roland Warren President and CEO of Care Net says it best ... change is sweeping the pro-life movement. Not only do we want to offer moms compassion, hope and help during

an unplanned pregnancy, we want to equip and empower dads to be involved, responsible and committed.

Research shows that the father of the unborn child often has a huge impact on the woman's decision to abort or keep her child.

- A 2015 study commissioned by Care Net surveyed 1,038 women who had abortions. 61% of these women surveyed discussed their decision to terminate their pregnancy with the father of the baby. 38% of the women surveyed indicated that the father of the baby was the most influential on their decision to abort their child.
- 3 in 4 men, who knew of their partners pregnancy also discussed it with their partner prior to the abortion decision. Further, men, whose partner chose abortion listed themselves as the most influential factor in that decision.

Additionally, Care Net's survey on men whose partner has had an abortion found the following:

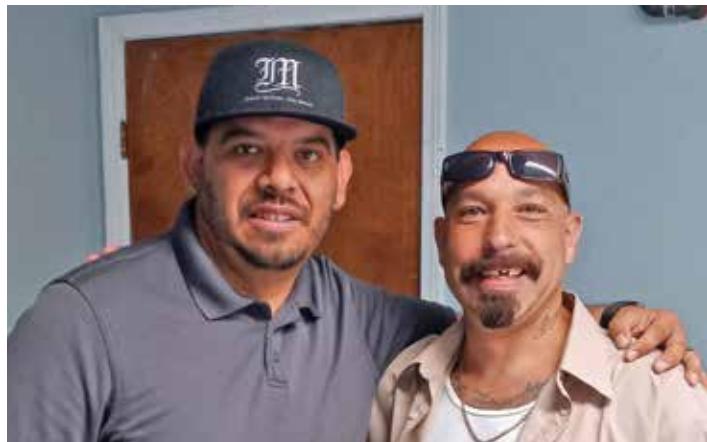
- 54% of men indicate they were aware of local pregnancy centers that offered help at the time of their partner's

abortion but only 5% spoke with someone at one.

- 95% of men indicate they did not discuss the abortion decision with anyone at a local church, even though 50% of men were attending church at least once a month.

This data presents a great opportunity for pregnancy centers to impact individual families by reaching dads. Grace Place has been intentionally reaching dads since early 2014. Since that time, we have implemented a specific fatherhood curriculum. In addition, we have been blessed with men volunteers, created a “Man Cave” and updated the decor to be less feminine. We have also been pleased to announce our men’s ministry “Men of Valor”. In our obedience, to serve more and more men, God was preparing the heart of Armando Grijalva to join Grace Place as the Men’s Ministry Coordinator.

In February 2021, Armando Grijalva joined the Grace Place team as a full-time staff member working directly with our dads! Armando has been in ministry 16 years beginning with youth ministry and community outreach in 2004. Armando believes in the power of a transforming God who is willing to meet people where they are but never leave them there. Armando has looked into the eyes of desolate people and has seen God light up the dark places



bringing hope and healing. Witnessing God’s miraculous reconstruction and God’s unending grace for all, is enough to keep Armando serving the Lord! We are happy to have him serving with us! In Armando’s own words ... “Strong dads make strong families.”

It is common for a dad to ask simple questions like “will I be a good dad?”; what if I’m not prepared to be a dad?” A young man entering the world of fatherhood unprepared may feel lost or afraid of what lies ahead of him. The Men of Valor program was created to come along side these men and equip them for the journey that begins the moment they step inside our door. Our goal is to reach the hearts of these dads by training them to be the best men and

An advertisement for On the Spot Cleaning Services. The left side of the ad features a young boy with glasses and a gold chain, shirtless and wearing jeans, crouching on a wooden floor and mopping it with a red mop. The right side contains the company's logo, which consists of a blue circle with the word "onthespot" in white lowercase letters, and "CLEANING" in a smaller, bold, black sans-serif font below it. Below the logo, the services offered are listed in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font: "HOME • BUSINESS", "INDUSTRIAL • FLOOR CARE", and "CLEANING SERVICES". At the bottom, the company's address and phone number are provided in a smaller blue font: "514 West Pinon Street", "Farmington, New Mexico 87401", and "(505) 327-0592".

fathers they can possibly become through education and parenting support. We are able to equip dads by providing physical, emotional and spiritual support encouraging them to implement what they learn here at the center within their own homes. By doing so, our Men of Valor program is helping to grow strong families in these three key areas.

An important aspect of the program is providing a safe place where a dad can speak freely about issues confronting him without the worry of criticism or judgment. The Man Cave is that place! It is a place within the walls of Grace Place where he can receive help managing the stress and worry that comes with fatherhood. Men of Valor strives to ignite a passion in these young men to be a loving father, a strong leader and equip them for what they were designed to do. The goal is to raise up a generation of MEN who are stepping up to the plate to lead their children. Imagine a generation of young men who would not be just a statistic for a pregnancy center. Proverbs 22:6 says "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."

Grace Place believes that when pregnancy centers invest in equipping women and men to build healthy, stable families they actually change the future ... not only for our children but for entire communities for generations to come.

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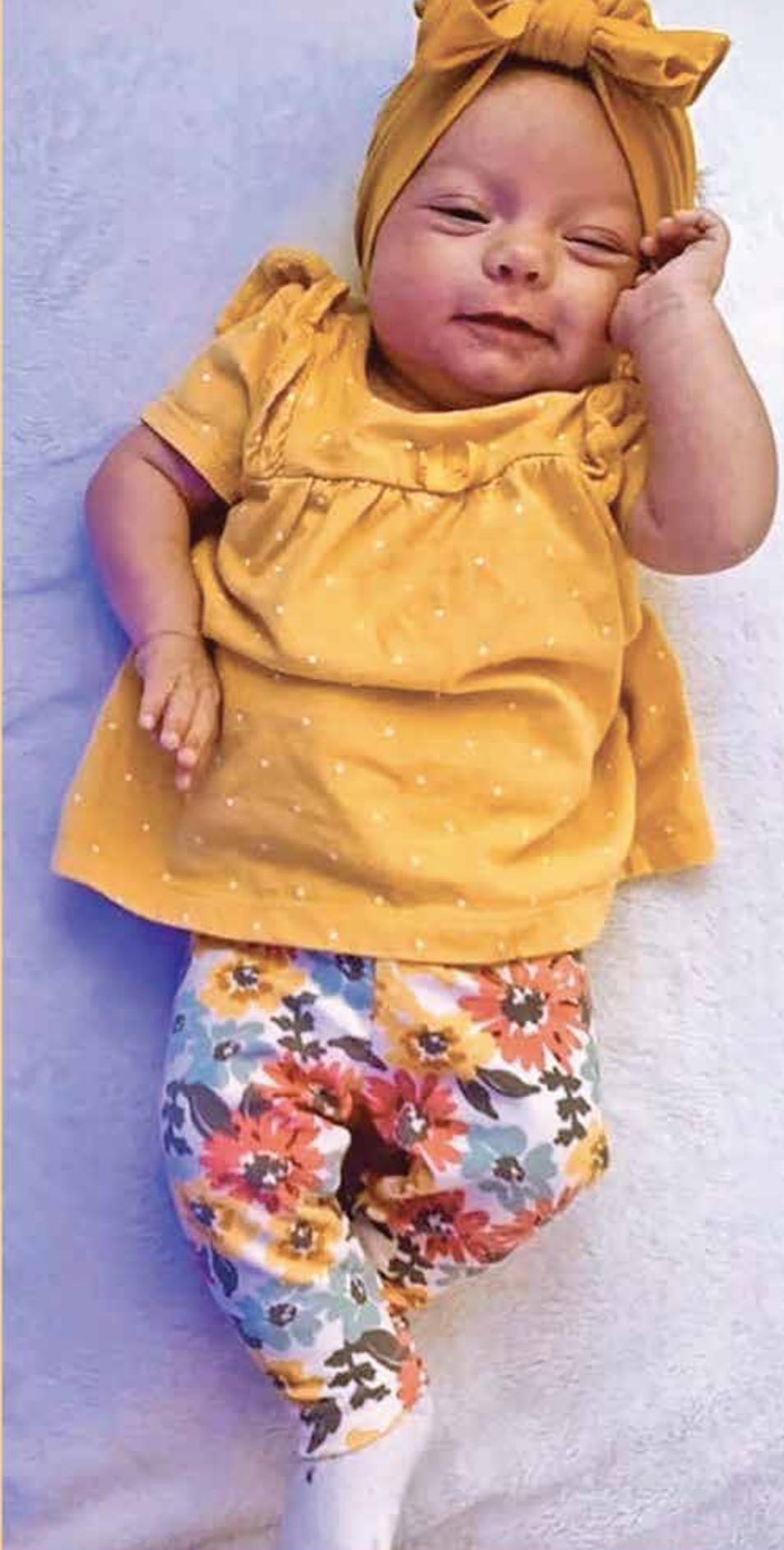
Before I formed  
you in the womb

# I Knew YOU

and before you  
were born

I consecrated you;  
I appointed you  
a prophet to  
the nations..

- Jeremiah 1:5





# GREATEST *Love Story* EVER TOLD

Lindsay Johnson - Grace Place Volunteer

..... BY: LINDSAY JOHNSON .....

"Am I pregnant?" When faced with an unplanned pregnancy, that is a scary question. Unresolved shame and hurt from child abuse led me to a windy road that was filled of searching and wondering if love existed or if sex would be the only thing, I was ever good for. My first experience with an unplanned pregnancy was in September of my Sophomore year of high school. I was sitting in choir, and I remember asking a dear friend of mine if she would take me to get a pregnancy test and allow me to take it at her house. As I sat in her bathroom and waited for the results, I remember my life flashing quickly before me. What would I tell my family? How would I finish high school? How would I afford to even feed a child? Are all my hopes and dreams miles away and out of touch? Sure enough, I was pregnant. I dropped out of high school, got my GED, and began life as a mom and wife at the raw age of 16. It was not but a few years later, I was divorced and dating someone new. After just a few months I realized I was pregnant again, but this time, I hoped for a beautiful life together. It did not take long to realize the man I had been dating was abusive and manipulative. I soon found myself stuck in domestic violence with two babies before my 20th birthday. I had not completed my education and getting away from him seemed financially impossible and mentally I was not sure I

deserved anything better. After a few years of marriage, we had a baby boy and although we were married, it brought no joy to those who knew me knowing I was sinking further into his grip. Finally, after 7 years, I woke up one Friday morning and decided that it did not matter that I did not have a steady income or a plan for making ends meet. My children and my safety were more important, and I decided to leave. Soon my life was overwhelming, under satisfying and I could not, for the life of me, figure out how a girl with so much ambition for life had ended up here. I began drinking and once I realized I could escape reality in a bottle, I was hooked. Drinking became my favorite past time, and it was not long before I began making unhealthy choices for

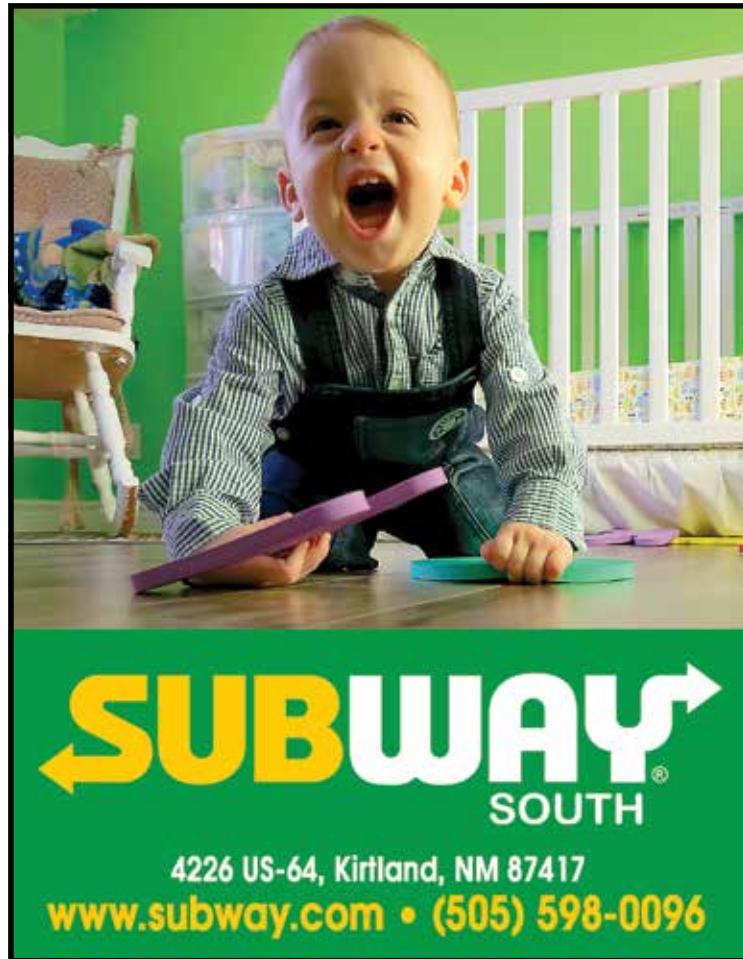
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**MERRION**  
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FAMILY FOUNDATION

me and my children. After 3 years of spiraling into a drunk abyss, I met a man and within 8 weeks of knowing him, I was pregnant again. Yes! I was that girl that people roll their eyes at and wonder, "will she ever learn her lesson?" I was done having children and I had no interest in going through with this pregnancy. I had never contemplated abortion before, but I could not imagine going through this once again and facing the disappointment that met me at the end each time. Love had never worked for me, and I could not believe that this would be any different. I was unstable and unprepared. After talking to the man that is now my husband, he assured me that this baby's life was worth saving and loving. I am so glad I did. This baby boy led us to marriage and then led me and my other children to the sweetest love story I have ever experienced. The love story of JESUS!! All the trials that tried to destroy me, led me to the only thing that could save me.

It is no coincidence that the life of Jesus began with an unplanned and unprepared mother. Can you imagine the look on Mary's face? It had to be pure shock but never any doubt. She knew a God that was loving and one that had a plan for every single life. It is just like God to execute his fiercest missions with the most unlikely servants. I

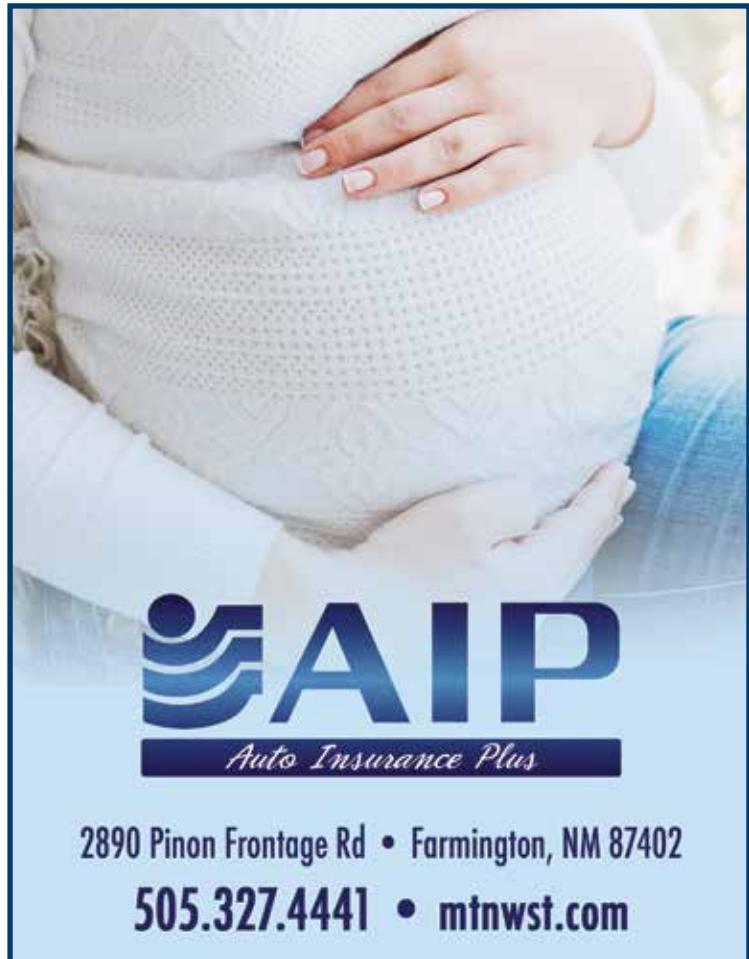
volunteer at Grace Place because they are the people that open the door and warmly welcome girls like me in. They do not roll their eyes and condemn girls who cannot seem to get together. They come alongside them and gently share God's word and love them with the arms of Jesus. They understand just like God, that every single life no matter how unlikely they come into this world matters and has purpose. Often people do not take the time to find out the story behind the unplanned and unprepared pregnancies. They sit back and judge from afar. That is not what we see Jesus doing repeatedly during his time here on earth. Jesus shared truth and he loved people well. Grace Place is where women and girls go after they sit on the bathroom floor and watch their lives flash before them. They receive people who are not sure if they can do this on their own. With a ministry like Grace Place, they make the impossible seem possible and most of all through their testing and ultrasound, they allow the abortion minded connecting them to their child and realize that the life inside of them was exactly what God intended. 1 John 16:14 instructs us to do everything in love. I am so grateful for Grace Place and their mission to love people to life!



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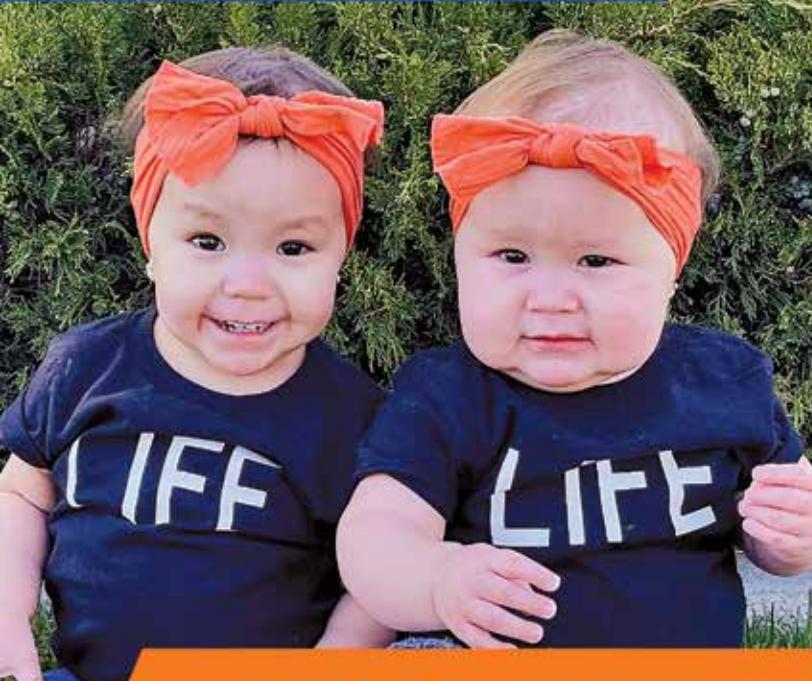


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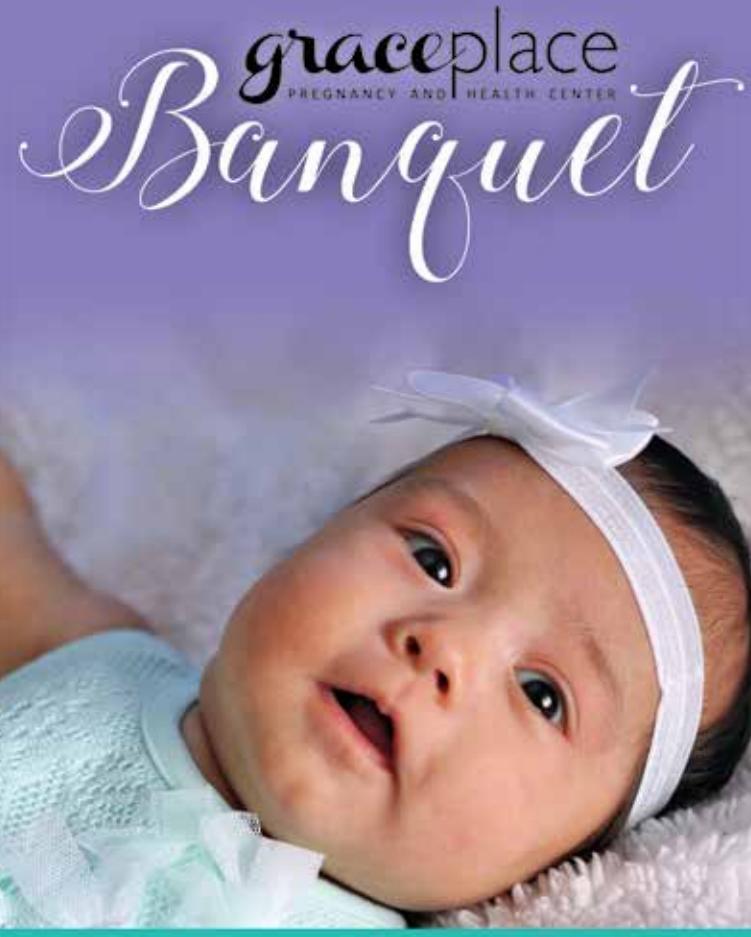
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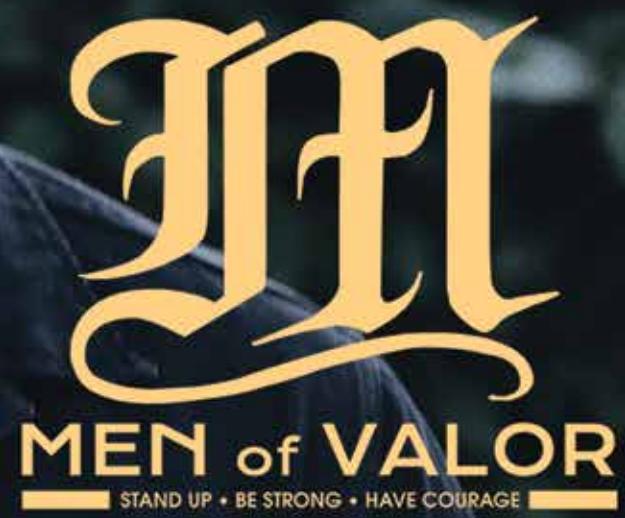


November 2022



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PREGNANCY AND HEALTH CENTER

- **Cindy Colson, RN**  
Nurse Manager
- **Jana VanderHoven, RDMS**  
Sonographer
- **Nancy Lindsay**  
Client Services Manager
- **Lucia Saunders**  
Center Director
- **Shelena Heath**  
Administrative Assistant
- **Heather Faverino**  
Executive Director
- **Armando Grijalva**  
Men's Client Services Coordinator
- **Hannah Begay**  
Marketing & Media *(Not Pictured)*



MEN ENCOURAGING MEN  
**BECOME THE MAN**  
YOU WERE MEANT TO BE

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