

EMBRACE

GRACE PLACE
FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

FROM LOST TO SAVED

Cason and Dallas Tolbert

Who Would Have Ever Thought?

Roger Drayer

ROE OVERTURNED

Heather Faverino

2022 Edition



You are a chosen generation
a royal priesthood, a holy nation His
own special people that you
may proclaim the praises
of Him who called you
out of darkness into
His marvelous light

- 1 Peter 2:9

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Grace Place Volunteer



letter from *Editor*



Hello!

Welcome to our ninth annual "Embrace Grace Place" publication. **Friday, June 24, 2022, marked a monumental day in history!** In upholding Mississippi's pro-life law and overturning Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court has paved the way for states to make laws regulating abortion based on the values of their citizens. It creates a culture of LIFE throughout our great nation. Sadly, in NM, things won't change (yet). NM will continue to be the "abortion tourism state." in fact, we will get more women and men seeking help because the states around us will more than likely outlaw or limit abortion access.

Therefore, we will press forward in our mission to offer compassion, hope, and help to each person who calls, texts, or walks through our doors. Those who come in are often hurt over a relationship, struggling with their situations, and trying to figure out, "What do I do now?" It doesn't matter what is going on with the laws because right now, she (and often he, too) is in a crisis; she needs answers, she needs someone who will listen, who is ready to take her by the hand and walk through the storm with her, who will bring hope to what seems like a hopeless situation. Yes, we rejoice that Roe v. Wade was overturned! Honestly, I am still in awe that I was able to see Roe v Wade overturned in my lifetime. Still, I look forward to a day when our community, right here in the Four Corners Region, celebrates LIFE to such an extent that no one sees abortion as an option. But until then, women and men are experiencing pain, confusion, and fear. They are unsure what to do. Our job is to reach out in the middle of that frighteningly difficult situation and offer life-affirming hope. We share Christ's love, bring practical help, and stand beside those who call on us. It's what we do.

Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all. (Galatians 6-9-10a)

Heather Faverino

Heather Faverino
Grace Place Executive Director

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- Abortion Information
- Adoption Agency Information and Referrals
- Medical Referrals
- Ultrasound
- STD/STI Information and Testing
- Parenting Education and Support
- Maternity & Infant Supplies
- Abortion Recovery
- Support for Men

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FROM LOST TO *Saved*

BY: CASON & DALLAS TOLBERT

Cason and I have been together for four years. For the past three years, we struggled as a couple, and it got a little more complicated when we had a miscarriage; I didn't know I was pregnant until it was too late. It messed with me mentally; I was so confused and depressed, always asking what-if questions. Months passed, and we got the best news we were expecting again.

During my pregnancy, we struggled financially and had many complications in our relationship. When I went into labor, I was in labor for 7 hours. During those seven hours, our son wasn't cooperating; he didn't move once. The nurses had me lay in different positions, buzzing him with a baby buzzer (it didn't harm him, it was more

like a tickle for him), and they also had me drink lots of cold liquids but no response. After seven hours, his heart rate started dropping, making all of us concerned; the doctor decided to do an emergency c-section. I was so scared, but thankfully, Cason and my mother stuck by my side and gave me the best support. During the surgery, everything was going perfectly; after intense tugging on my organs and dry heaving, I heard our son's first cry. It was the most beautiful sound I've ever heard; Cason said, "he's so beautiful," and his face lit up! But sadly, the happiest moment ended when I lost a lot of blood and went unconscious; the nurses had to make Cason leave the room. I woke up in the recovery room; doctors said I lost a lot of blood and had to have surgery.

After an hour, I finally saw our son. It was amazing; I spent the night holding him in my arms. But not even 24 hours later, our son had to be transported to Albuquerque. Cason was flown out with him, and since it wasn't even 24 hours since my surgery, I couldn't go. Later, I traveled to Albuquerque with my brother. We finally arrived, and when I saw him, it was heartbreaking. He had an IV in his head and had so many cords hooked to him, as well as oxygen. The doctor said he had inflammation in his blood and would need antibiotics. He was also hypoglycemic, which put him at high risk for seizures, and he couldn't keep his oxygen above 95 percent. After a week in the NICU, we could finally go home, but our son would have to stay on oxygen. We were so excited to go home, but it wasn't easy. On the way home, our car overheated and shut off. After hours of being stranded and trying to fix the vehicle, an angel in disguise pulled over and helped us. Our car finally started, and he followed us halfway home to ensure our car didn't shut off again. We were finally home, and our son remained on oxygen for two months before being cleared by the doctor.

Five months later, when our son turned seven months, I noticed I was having pregnancy symptoms, and because of financial situations, I researched and found Grace Place. They were able to see me right away when I called. They gave me a pregnancy test, and the next thing I know, it was positive! I was so surprised and wasn't expecting another child so soon; I started crying, filled with worry. Mary, (the client advocate) did her best to comfort me and asked if she could pray for me. I don't remember the last time I prayed, but I felt so relieved when I did. On my way home, I gave Cason the news, and he was also shocked. He felt stressed because we were already struggling financially. We comforted each other, and I told him that I had a great feeling about Grace Place and wanted to continue going.

I am now 30 weeks pregnant, and our son will turn 1 in a few weeks. We've been coming to Grace Place for almost

six months. It was one of the best decisions we've ever made. Before Grace Place, we struggled as a couple. We had trust and commitment issues and the inability to compromise. Things were hard because Cason was not emotionally available. He was taught at a young age that "men should never show feelings." and not having a father in his life made him more stubborn. While attending weekly parenting classes, Cason met Armando and participated in "Men of Valor." It was a great program that helped Cason so much. Armando gave excellent advice to Cason; he taught him that he was more than just the financial provider in the family and that it was okay to make mistakes. Armando helped us so much through our issues; he taught us how to communicate and work through our problems healthier. When we decided to get married, Armando did our premarital counseling! He gave us great advice, and because of him, Cason and I are happily married! We have learned to forgive and help each other move on from the toxic past.

Before Grace Place, we also struggled as parents. Because we are first-time parents, and my recent diagnosis of depression and anxiety made things harder. Thankfully, Grace Place is a place where they are judgment-free and helped us. Once a week, we meet and watch educational videos on parenting and do worksheets. My favorite is earning baby bucks because of how helpful it is! We don't ever need to scrape up money again for diapers and clothes because they provide them.

Grace Place has been so helpful and made us feel welcomed. We went from lost, confused parents to parents who opened their hearts and accepted Jesus into our lives. The staff at Grace Place is like a second family to us. They are super helpful to our son, who loves seeing them whenever we go. I am very excited to continue our future with them and cannot wait to welcome baby number two into this world and introduce him to our Grace Place family.



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WHO WOULD HAVE EVER Thought?

BY: ROGER DRAYER

My relationship with Grace Place has developed over the years due to a series of events you might call "who would have ever thought"? I want to preface this story by first saying that I have always believed in the sanctity of life and that the baby in the womb has a right to life.

It all began one Sunday after church. A close friend, Larry, asked me if I was going on the walk. I asked, "what walk?" There was a table in the lobby at church with signup packets for the annual Steps4Life walk. I took a packet and proceeded to seek donations from my friends. I am retired, so, fortunately, I had the time to go "knocking on doors." Surprisingly, I found myself going back for more signup packets.

When picking up the packets, I got to know some of the people at Grace Place. Little did I know that a friendship would develop as we shared a common conviction for life. I now consider them as family.

The day of the walk was very festive and exhilarating. It was wonderful to see so many people gathering together to celebrate life and show the public solidarity in support of life. In the following years, especially with the covid-19 virus, God continued to knock my socks off as He exceeded the goals set for each year. As a side note, I typically wear my Steps4Life tee shirts to the gym, so people know I support life.

In years past, I made a list of donors on a handwritten piece of scratch paper. This year I decided to get a little more organized by typing out my list of donors. I stepped back and looked at the list and realized just how many friends with whom God blessed me.

Most people, men, in particular, see their purpose in life tied to their vocations. I suspect I and many people, after retirement, are looking for a purpose in life. Several years after participating in Steps4Life, I realized THIS is now my

purpose: to do whatever I can to promote life.

A year or two later, while the song Do Something by Matthew West was being sung at a church service, there was a video of people holding up signs related to the song. One sign read, "champion a cause." That just reinforced my mind and heart that my involvement with Grace Place and championing pro-life was my cause.

I like the words "choose life." When a pregnant woman decides to go full term, I think of those words. I thank God that she chose life. Those words can be found in Deuteronomy 30: 19, which says, "Today I give you the choice between life and death... Oh, that you would choose life..."

God has blessed my wife and me financially with His money and has allowed us to donate money to Grace Place. It gives me such pleasure to share in the ministry through our financial support.

I pray for Grace Place during my prayer time. Among other things, I pray for the people at Grace Place and the various services they provide. They genuinely have a place in my heart, and I think it is important to lift them to God.

Armando Grijalva was brought on board at Grace Place to provide ministry services to their male clients. Grace Place has what they call "the man cave." It is here where the men can freely open up to Armando behind a closed door. Grace Place has a men's program called Men of Valor. The goal of this program is for men to become a man after God's own heart. Their motto is "stand up-be strong-have courage." It was through Armando that my heart for the male client was nurtured. Armando gave me a wristband that reads, "dads matter." I wear it 24/7 and



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will say a quick prayer for the Grace Place male clients when I notice it. About every 10 to 12 days, I go to the man cave to pray for Grace Place, their male clients, and the Men of Valor program. Over the months, my relationship with Armando grew. We spent time together in what I call "sharing life." He gave me wise counsel when I had some difficult situations in my life. Unfortunately, Armando recently resigned. However, he will be my friend for life.

Over the years, as my relationship with Grace Place grew, my passion for the unborn has increased. Without going into detail, I have become involved in other activities that support life. One day, while praying about the abortion issue, I came up with a motto that pretty much summarizes my feelings about abortion and its solution. It is "changed hearts-changed minds- saved lives." In light of the recent overturning of Roe v Wade, New Mexico is sure to pass laws that support abortion. Fortunately, I see Grace Place as a safe harbor and a light in the darkness for their clients. It is here where their clients receive compassion, support, and, most importantly, grace.

So, there you have it. One simple question, "are you going on the walk" led to a chain of events where all I can say is, "who would have ever thought"?



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When you support Grace Place, 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.
- New Mexico is an abortion tourism state. Abortions are legal through all 9 months of pregnancy. New Mexico does not have any state-level abortion restrictions—such as waiting periods, ultrasounds, parental notification, mandated parental involvement, or limitations on publicly-funded abortions. A 13-year-old can have an abortion, a surgical procedure, without her parents even knowing.
- 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 2021, 96% of moms who saw their baby on ultrasound at Grace Place CHOSE LIFE!

Our professional staff and volunteers serve our clients day to day through a variety of services at no cost to our clients, thanks to the generous support of our donors.

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

- Pregnancy Testing
- Options Education
- Abortion Information
- Adoption Agency Information and Referrals
- Medical Referrals
- Ultrasound
- STD/STI Information and Testing
- Parenting Education and Support
- Maternity & Infant Supplies
- Abortion Recovery
- Support for Men
- 24 Hour Helpline

As a volunteer or donor you are participating with us to love the moms, dads and babies of the Four Corners Region 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.

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

- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



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ROE Overturned

BY: HEATHER FAVERINO

The Supreme Court of the United States overturned more than 230 cases since 1810, but likely none of these have generated such controversy as the overturning of *Roe v Wade*. Since the leak of an early draft of the Supreme Court's opinion, we have seen anger and false claims regarding what this overturn means for women and our state laws. We have seen protests and division among those that claim to be on the same side and some who have taken this moment to flaunt their previous abortions pridefully. Furthermore, some major companies have already changed their benefits packages, including travel compensation for employees who leave their states for abortions. Pro-abortion activists are sharing false information that the legal penalty for abortion will be more extreme for women who abort than for those who rape women. So many misconceptions are out there, making it even more challenging for women to navigate to the truth when they need real support and unbiased information.

HERE ARE THREE OF THE MOST REPORTED FALSE CLAIMS WITH ACCURATE INFORMATION.

1. Women are being prosecuted for seeking or obtaining an abortion. False; the reality is that there are no current state laws that specifically target women seeking an abortion. Instead, the laws typically focus on clinicians and prescribers who provide abortion. Medical professionals must abide by their licensing laws, which is no different when prescribing or performing abortion procedures. For example, in a state that permits abortions through 15 weeks of pregnancy, but an abortion provider chooses to provide it through 20 weeks gestation, that provider would violate the state law. This is true for all licensed healthcare professionals.

2. Women with life-threatening pregnancies, such as ectopic pregnancies, will not be able to obtain medical care legally in states that do not permit elective abortion, putting women at risk for harm or death.

False; the reality is that no abortion laws in any state in America prevent treatment for women with ectopic pregnancies and other life-threatening conditions. Women with threatened miscarriages to ectopic pregnancies can legally obtain care in all states. This false statement derives from the misconception that removing an ectopic pregnancy is a type of abortion. That is not true. An ectopic pregnancy develops outside the uterus, typically in the fallopian tube.

Most of these embryos die spontaneously but can still cause life-threatening internal bleeding for the mother. The typical treatment is using medications or surgery to remove the embryo and possibly the fallopian tube. The bottom line is that the management of ectopic pregnancies remains the same pre and post-Roe.

3. Abortion is needed because of the "hard cases" such as rape, incest, fetal anomalies, and danger to the mother's life. False. First, the American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG) reports that in America, the most challenging of cases-rape, incest, fetal anomalies, and danger to the mother's life, is extremely rare – accounting for only 1-3% of all "abortions." Second, it is essential to define the term abortion. The only purpose of "elective or induced abortion" is to end the baby's life and no more. It is never done for the life of

the mother. It is a false narrative to say that abortion is necessary to save the mother's life. In rare circumstances, separating the mother from her unborn baby may be medically necessary to save the woman's life. When the baby is too young to survive outside of the womb, the unintended consequence of losing the baby's life is not the same as an induced or elective abortion. When a life-threatening complication occurs after the 22nd week of pregnancy, a premature delivery may be performed, saving the life of both the woman and her baby.

SO, WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

AAPLOG reported in a recent article that 75% of abortions are performed because the mother states she cannot afford the child, or the child would interfere with school, work, or the ability to care for other children. In addition, AAPLOG shares a study that 58% of women who aborted did so to "make others happy." Guttmacher Institute (founded by Planned Parenthood) states that their abortion research reveals primary themes of financial constraints and lack of partner support.

All these statistics are not surprising to us at Grace Place. We know that women need healthcare advocates, accurate pregnancy information, tangible resources,



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and ongoing support to make their own life-giving choice. **This is why we exist!**

We show love towards every woman, man, and family who needs support and unbiased information during some of the most challenging times. We support them with pregnancy testing; options consultation (including education on parenting and adoption, parenting and child raising, and abortion); pregnancy verification letters, medical services (early obstetrical ultrasounds, health screens, STD/STI testing, and referral for treatment); prenatal and parenting education; material assistance; sexual risk avoidance education; after-abortion recovery support; referrals for medical care; as well as referrals to vital community and public health resources. We do all this while meeting their spiritual, material, and emotional needs. We spend time with each woman and man, listening, answering their questions, and offering support and education. All of this is done so that they make an informed pregnancy decision.

Grace Place is a safe place for both women and men to slow down, take a breath, and decide what is best for them. This is their decision and should not be made impulsively. A recent study published by the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons and reported by the Population Research Institute said that nearly three-quarters (73.8%) of women with a history of abortion



***“We can’t let *critics* get away with simply
assuming the unborn aren’t valuable
human beings”***

BRYAN CRAWFORD

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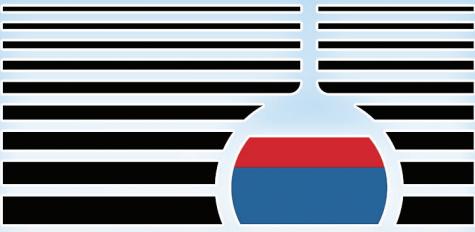


admitted that they experienced at least subtle forms of pressure to terminate their pregnancies. More than half of the women reported that the perceived pressure was significant enough to influence their decision to abort. Of the 987 women surveyed, more than half (58.3%) indicated that they decided to abort to make others happy. Nearly 30% of survey respondents admitted they feared losing their partner if they failed to terminate the pregnancy. The study also found that two-thirds of the women (66%) knew in their hearts that abortion was wrong. Many women (67.5%) said that the decision to terminate their pregnancies was one of the most complex decisions of their life.

At Grace Place, we understand that women and men face such a complex decision. Therefore, we do not receive state or federal funding and make no money off a woman's decisions. We offer life-affirming services to empower women and men to welcome their children into the world. We provide personalized care at no cost in a safe, respectful, compassionate, and confidential environment with professional staff and volunteers. By providing practical assistance and referrals to needed resources, our goal is to improve health outcomes for women and promote health and well-being for themselves, their children, and their families for generations to come.



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Before I formed you in the womb...



I Knew
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and before you
were born

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

- Jeremiah 1:5

MEET OUR Client Advocates

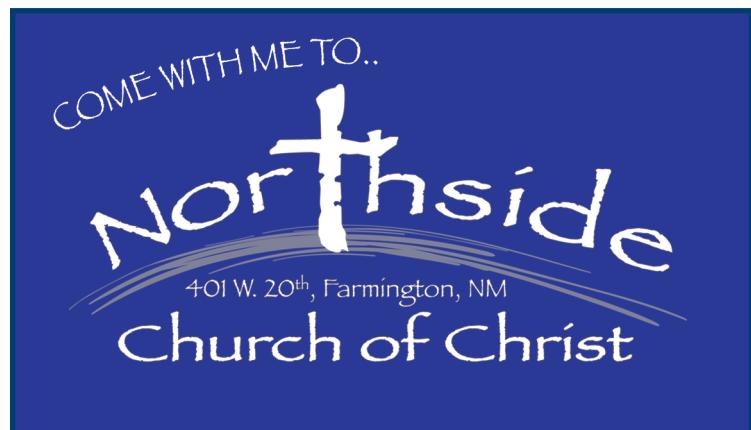
Suzanne & Mary



Suzanne

The sparkle of a baby's eyes and their sweet giggle has always been able to stop me in my tracks. I knew early on that I wanted to extend my love of children as a vocation, and I was able to teach elementary students for 30 years. I raised two incredible daughters and had the privilege of caring for my two grandsons until they entered school. The first time I volunteered for Grace Place was because my oldest daughter was a liaison for the Steps4Life fundraising walk for her church and encouraged me to do this for my church. I have always been an advocate for life and followed the ministry of Grace Place, so I jumped at the opportunity to do this and continue to be the Steps4Life Liaison at First Baptist Church Aztec every year. The Lord spoke to me as I became more familiar with Grace Place, its people, and the amazing ministry they provide for the Four Corners area. I knew I was being called to become more involved, and He gave me a desire to become a Client Advocate volunteer. In January 2017, I began my training, made amazing new friends, and felt joy and fulfillment like I had never imagined. I use my teaching skills and passion for life within the parenting education program. I have always been publicly pro-life and was told more than once that I did not have the right to encourage a parent not to have

an abortion when I couldn't give them an alternative. Grace Place is the alternative. Grace Place has allowed me to put my faith and action into words. We provide help and resources for any prospective parent. My heart has been blessed so many times, and as a bonus, I often get to cuddle and rock a precious baby!



- A fellowship dedicated to following the Bible as our only guide to Jesus.
- A fellowship where life is precious. That is why we support **GRACE PLACE**.

SUNDAY: 9:30 am – Worship
11:00 am – Bible classes

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 pm Bible Classes



Mary

I am the Monday Client Advocate volunteer at Grace Place. I have been a part of this ministry for 14 years, and it has been a joy. I have had the opportunity to get to know our clients through teaching parenting classes, providing pregnancy tests, helping with material needs, and, more importantly, and by God's grace, helping with the client's spiritual needs. I am privileged to work with an amazing staff of godly women and feel very much part of the team, working together as God leads us to help those who walk into Grace Place. "Give, and it will be given you" Luke 6:38. I have truly received more than I have given at Grace Place. It has been a blessing to be a part of the clients' lives and see their lives transformed as God uses what can be a scary situation to grow them closer to Him. I have had the privilege of seeing God's good work in many clients – I watched as one client who attended my parenting classes moved forward from a life filled with prison and drugs to one of a devoted mom who works and attends church. Pregnant women come in confused and scared. I have the incredible opportunity to offer them support and options and help them realize they can give birth to the life within them. I so appreciate being able to pray with clients. I remember one client breaking down and crying and saying no one had ever prayed for her. Most importantly,



I get to share the gospel with the clients and have had a few accept Christ. What a Blessing!!! I am very thankful for God leading me to this beautiful ministry and for the staff allowing me to be part of it.

A baby is sitting on the floor, smiling broadly with their mouth open. They are wearing a green and white striped shirt and dark overalls. In front of them are some colorful plastic toys. In the background, there is a white crib and a wooden chair with a basket of laundry on it. The wall is green.

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A logo for FFDW (Fortner • Drake • Wells) Faith & Family. The logo features a stylized blue 'F' and 'D' intertwined with a wavy line. To the right of the logo, the names 'Fortner • Drake • Wells' are listed in a blue banner, with 'Faith & Family' written below it in a smaller, cursive font.

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