

EMBRACE

GRACE PLACE
FAMILY HEALTH CENTER



**UNEXPECTED TURNS:
HOW GRACE PLACE HELPED ME
EMBRACE MOTHERHOOD**

Eryk Lee

**"... EXCEPT IN THE
CASE OF RAPE ..."**

Jocelyn Wilson

**TO EVERYTHING
THERE IS A SEASON**

Heather Faverino

2024 Edition

"I am
confident
of this,
that He
who began
a good
work in
you will be
faithful to
complete
it."

Phil. 1:6



contents

04

Letter From Editor

06

Client Story

Unexpected Turns: How Grace Place Helped Me Embrace Motherhood

Eryk Lee



12

Time For Change

15

To Everything There Is A Season

Heather Faverino



08

"... Except In The Case of Rape..."

Jocelyn Wilson



21

Donor Spotlight

Shining Light In The Darkness: The Legacy of Grace Place

Pastor Robert Schlauger



letter from

Editor



Hello!

As we reflect on the past year and the incredible journey Grace Place Family Health Center has been on, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment. It is with mixed emotions that I share the news of my departure as Executive Director. This decision was not made lightly. My husband and I have spent many hours seeking the Lord's guidance, and we feel called to move to Arizona.

I believe that Grace Place will benefit from fresh leadership and new perspectives. The exceptional team God has put together will continue to thrive and advance our mission with the same passion and commitment that has always defined our work.

The 11th annual edition of Embrace Grace Place magazine marks not only a celebration of our accomplishments but also a transition to new leadership and new opportunities. Just as seasons change, so too does our ministry evolve. We are entering a time of renewal and growth.

This edition embodies the spirit of Grace Place- celebrating stories of resilience, hope, and transformation within our ministry. It is a testament to the unwavering support of our prayer warriors, donors, and volunteers who have made Grace Place a cornerstone of inspiration. In the pages ahead, you will find stories that inspire, inform, and ignite.

As we navigate this transition, I am filled with gratitude for each of you who has embraced our mission and contributed to our success. Your passion fuels our commitment to serving with excellence and compassion.

Thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you for the past 10 years.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Heather Faverino

Heather Faverino
Grace Place Executive Director

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UNEXPECTED TURNS: HOW GRACE PLACE HELPED ME EMBRACE MOTHERHOOD

BY: ERYK LEE

A year ago, my life looked entirely different. I was preparing to move out of the country, taking dressage lessons, and working as a delivery driver for a local restaurant. Everything was falling into place, and I only had to purchase my flight tickets. But in a twist of fate, my seat was booked by someone else as I was checking out, and suddenly, the future I had envisioned was on hold. Little did I know that this wasn't the only unexpected turn coming my way.

Not long after, I found myself at Grace Place Family Health Center, seeking confirmation for something I never imagined—pregnancy. I had just met someone, and after taking a home pregnancy test, I wasn't sure about the results. I was nervous. I didn't know what to

expect, and the thought of going anywhere else filled me with fear. I was afraid I wouldn't be accepted or treated kindly. Despite my fears, I went anyway.

To my relief, the staff at Grace Place were nothing like I'd feared. They were polite, welcoming, kind—everything I needed at that moment. I felt safe, and that was the beginning of my journey with them. I had no idea how much they would impact me in the months to come.

As I adjusted to the reality of my pregnancy, I found joy and comfort in the services at Grace Place, especially the parenting classes. They weren't just about earning baby bucks; they were a valuable resource in preparing me for motherhood. I liked how casual and comprehensive

they were, and they really helped supplement the medical care I was receiving for my daughter. I even won a gift basket that helped us get through the holidays!

One of the most magical moments of my pregnancy happened at Grace Place during my first ultrasound. I'll never forget staring at the screen and seeing this tiny little being—my baby—bouncing around like a gummy bear. I remember she waved her little stubby arm at me, as if to say, "Hi, mamun!" That moment made everything feel real. I was going to be a mom, and I felt an instant connection to my daughter, Teaghyn.

But my pregnancy journey wasn't all smooth sailing. I survived two car accidents, just eleven days apart, while pregnant. The second accident happened when we were returning from the towing company after the first crash. A younger driver lost control of their car, and despite our best efforts to avoid them, we collided with the back of their vehicle. The stress that followed was overwhelming—insurance issues, scrambling to regain my footing, and most of all, worrying about my baby. Was she okay? Would everything be alright?

Grace Place was there through it all, helping me navigate the uncertainties. I remember going for my 22-week ultrasound, right after my birthday. I was so quiet as the technician worked quickly, not saying much. I didn't look at the screen because of the angle I was in, and the worry was eating me up inside. "I got everything but the heartbeat," she said before pointing me to the exit. I was in a surreal stupor driving back to my parents' house, unsure of what was going on. Was my baby okay? I couldn't even bring myself to tell them the gender yet because I was so worried.

As December rolled around, I held my breath. We threw a gender reveal party anyway, and I finally received the call that changed everything—Teaghyn's head was shaping normally, her heartbeat was strong, and we had a stack of new ultrasound photos. That day was such



a relief after all the stress and fear I'd been carrying for weeks. My little gummy bear was doing just fine.

On March 4th, just shy of her due date, Teaghyn Annaleigh made her entrance into the world. I remember the exact moment I wrapped her in my arms and curled up beside her, exhausted from labor but so proud. Becoming a mom was the single most incredible accomplishment of my life. For the first time, I felt like everything I had gone through—the stress, the accidents, the fear—had been worth it.

Grace Place played such a pivotal role in my pregnancy and beyond. They were there during the hardest moments, offering support, comfort, and reassurance. They weren't just a health center; they were a lifeline. They helped me take Teaghyn's medical journey in stride, and they made sure I never felt alone.

Looking back, my life has completely changed since Grace Place entered the picture, yet in many ways, it's also stayed the same. I'm still me, but now I'm a mom. And as much as I love my ability to parallel park like a boss in Brooklyn or my degree in criminal justice, nothing comes close to the pride I feel as a mother to Teaghyn.

Thank you, Grace Place, for being there through it all. I'm forever grateful for the role you played in this journey.

An advertisement for Robbins Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. It features a baby in a blue onesie standing in a snowy landscape. The company name 'ROBBINS' is in large, bold, white letters, with 'HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.' in smaller letters below it. There are small mountain icons at the bottom. The address '1317 Schofield Lane Farmington • New Mexico 87401' and phone number '505-465-8655' are listed, along with the website 'www.robbinshvaconline.com'.

An advertisement for Clark Family Dentistry. It features a baby sitting and holding a toothbrush. The company name 'CLARK FAMILY dentistry' is in white text, with a logo of two stylized human figures above the word 'dentistry'. The address '141 West 20th Street Farmington • New Mexico' and website 'www.clarkfamilydentistry.org' are listed, along with the phone number '(505) 325-7121'.



"...EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF RAPE..."

BY: JOCELYN WILSON

Many people feel that I do not have the right to be alive. "Abortion should be rare and infrequent; except in the case of rape or incest." These words echo throughout the United States. I was conceived in rape, but am privileged and grateful to be alive. My name is Jocelyn Wilson.

After I was born, I was immediately placed for adoption. It was no secret that I was adopted – my family told me I was chosen and loved. In fact, I remember being rudely arrogant growing up, telling my friends that their parents just got pot luck when they were born, but I was chosen and special.

Growing up, I never knew the circumstances surrounding my adoption. It was not until I was an adult that I found out that my birth mother had been raped. My birth mother

bravely ignored the societal belief that babies should be aborted in the cases of rape or incest. My mother took God's commands seriously and she gave me life. I was fortunate to have met her before she passed away. I thanked her for my life and she said she never, ever considered ending my life. I will be forever grateful to her and to God for the chance to experience this amazing life.

After graduating from high school, I pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education. I was then offered a Grad Assistantship and completed a Masters Degree in Special Education, with an emphasis in Behavior Disorders/ Emotionally Disturbed. I was thrilled to accept my first teaching job in Ganado, Arizona at Kinlichee Boarding School, on the Navajo Reservation. I was the first Special

Education Teacher ever at Kinlichee, and cherished every minute of teaching in that classroom.

Aside from teaching children with special needs, my lifelong dream had always been to adopt a "United Nations" family of children. I had always envisioned myself as a single parent. God had a different plan, however, and He had me meet an amazing man who felt adoption was a wonderful idea as well.

Ken and I married and together we continued to teach. Over the years we have adopted six of our 7 children. Our family has weathered joys and sorrows, trials, and triumphs, just like every other family. We strongly believe God has knit us all together.

The Lord has truly given me life and given it to me abundantly! I pray that every child would be given the opportunity to live, grow, and love, no matter the circumstances of their conception, just as my birth mother gave me the chance.

--So the next time you hear someone say, "...except in the case of rape," ask that person what choice the innocent baby has. God knows the plans He has for that baby, and His plan is for an abundant, blessed life.

We support Grace Place!



Thank you for protecting the lives of the unborn and for all the support you provide to the men and women in our community. Your work makes a difference!

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UNBORN – WITHOUT DIMINISHING THE
VALUE OF ALL HUMAN LIFE."
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Time For Change

reach

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

- New Mexico is home to 17 virtual abortion providers and 11 in-person providers.
- New Mexico is an abortion tourism state. Abortions are legal through all months of pregnancy, and we do not have any state-level abortion restrictions- such as waiting periods, ultrasounds, parental notification, mandated parental involvement, or limitations on publicly funded abortions.
- New Mexico as the most lenient laws regarding abortion in the world. We are right up there with China and North Korea as far as the killing of innocent child is concerned.
- The number of abortions performed in New Mexico has increased by more than 400% since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. That's according to a study that says interstate travel across the country continues to grow for the procedure.
- New Mexico has seen one of the most dramatic increases in abortion in the country because of demand from out-of-state patients. The total number of abortions performed in New Mexico in 2023 were 20,950 (71% out of state) = 14,875 abortions were from out of state women.
- In 2023, 98% of moms who came to Grace Place to receive compassion, help and hope CHOSE LIFE!

serve

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

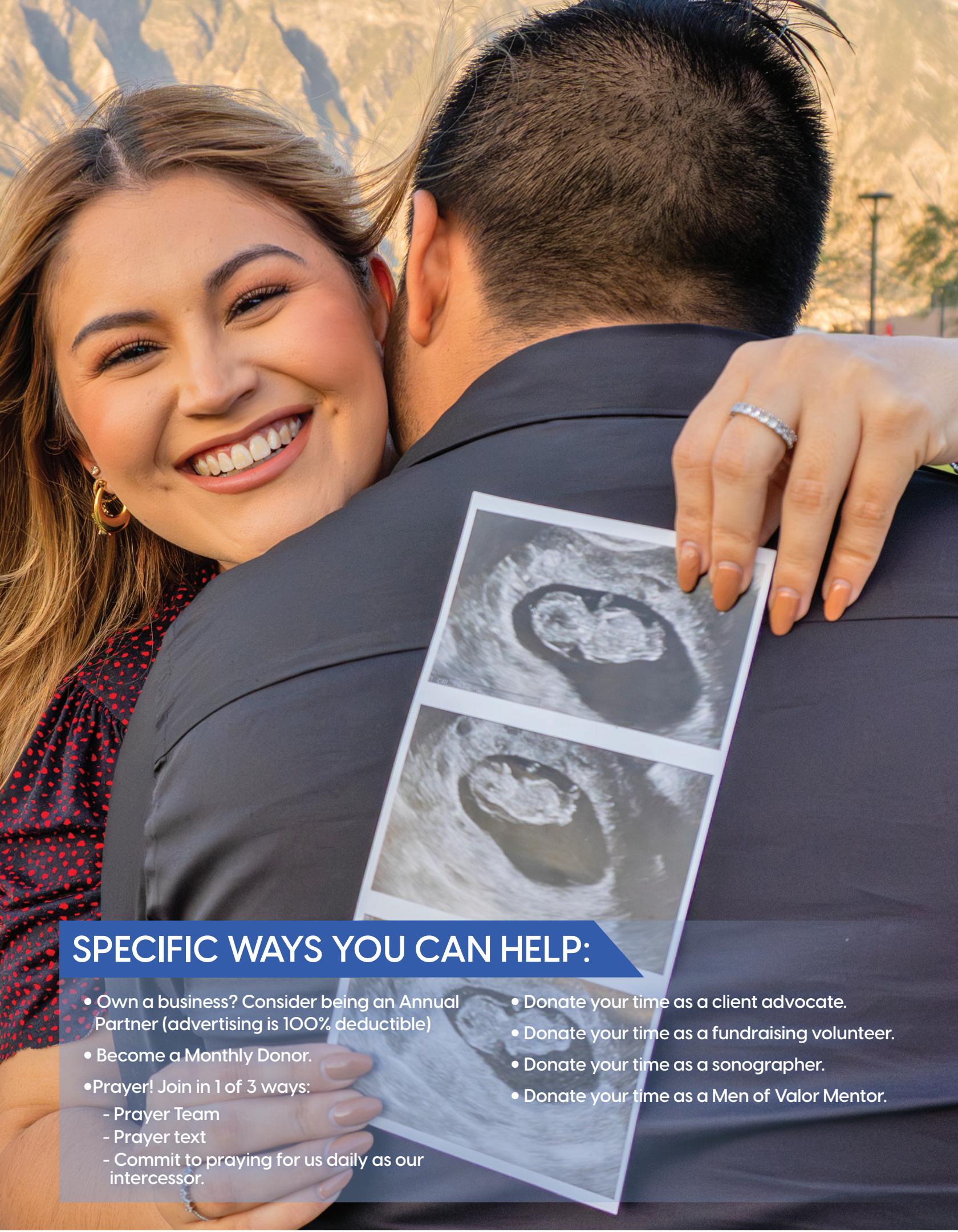
love

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.

Love the Children Learning Center



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

- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

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To Everything There Is A SEASON

BY: HEATHER FAVERINO

The journey of Grace Place Family Health Center began on April 1, 1990, with the opening of the Animas Crisis Pregnancy Center, dedicated to serving women and families in San Juan County, New Mexico. Before the center opened its doors, a devoted group regularly gathered to pray and discuss ways to assist women facing crisis pregnancies. Among them were Pastor Gary Pinion, Tammie Bacon, Jeannie Wyatt, Leslie Fitz, Bill Fortner, Karin Britt, Mark Frederick, Lisa Dible, and Gordon Crane Jr. Their unwavering commitment laid a solid foundation of prayer and support that continues to this day.

Susan Schlauger, the founding Executive Director, led with a tender heart, mentoring staff, volunteers, and clients alike. Susan, alongside her husband Bob, who served as Senior Pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in Aztec, was surprised when the board of directors invited her to become the Executive Director. Despite her initial doubts, she embraced the role with selfless dedication, including personal visits to incarcerated expectant mothers. Her deep love and care for the community are still felt today,

and her prayer over the center proudly hangs in Grace Place, inspiring all who serve.

In January 2004, a new season began when Debbie Joslin assumed the role of Executive Director. Under her leadership, Animas Pregnancy Center transformed into Grace Place for Women, marking a period of significant change from 2004 to 2016. Key initiatives included the "Earn While You Learn" Parenting Program and the introduction of ultrasound services in 2006, our relocation to the Butler Avenue site in 2009, and the launch of the Fatherhood Initiative in 2014, providing critical support and resources for fathers. These milestones were pivotal in our journey.

My season at Grace Place began in July 2014 when I joined as the Development Director under Debbie Joslin's guidance. Little did I know that God had bigger plans for me! In March 2016, a leadership transition occurred, and I was appointed interim director while the board conducted a search for a permanent leader. To my surprise, in June, they offered me the position without even interviewing me! Despite initial doubts similar to



GET TO KNOW ANDREA

- Favorite Scripture is 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 because His grace is enough, and my strength is only found in Christ.
- Most excited to see how God uses this ministry to impact our community.
- One of my most favorite things to do on days off is to travel around our area and see all of God's beauty. I love living here!
- A little unknown fact about me is that I am a pianist.
- Favorite coffee is a Vanilla Breve from Durango Joe's, just in case you want to meet me there.

those of my predecessors, I accepted the role in July 2016. Although I surrendered to the Lord, uncertainty lingered about the board's decision. However, over the past decade, I have witnessed God's remarkable work firsthand at Grace Place. I've truly embraced the reality of the saying, "If He calls you, He will equip you." I rely on His strength daily, knowing that I cannot fulfill this role alone.

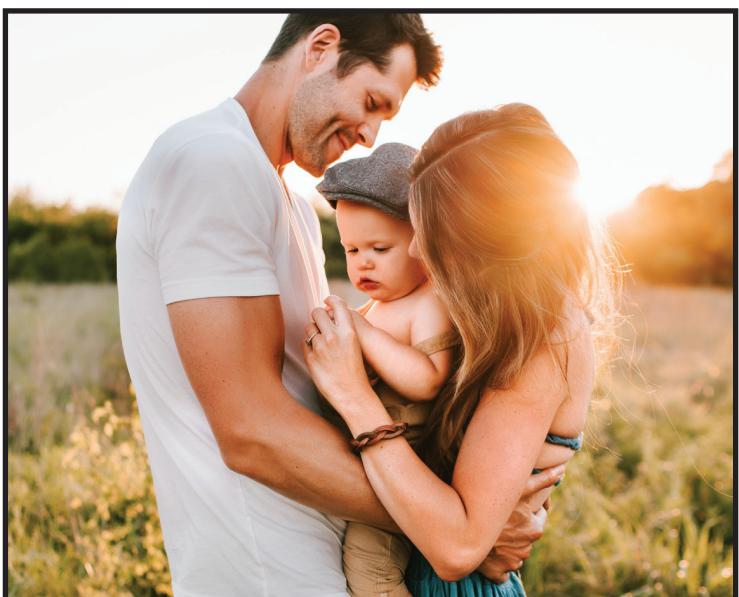
As I marked ten years with Grace Place in July, I reflected on God's unwavering faithfulness and provision. Looking back, I'm struck by the remarkable timing and alignment

of people and events that He orchestrated. Over the past decade, we've diligently built upon the strong foundation laid before us, adapting to the changing landscape of our organization and those we serve.

In 2021, we strategically focused on reaching more abortion-minded women through targeted digital advertising and initiated a comprehensive rebranding effort to better align with our mission and vision.

The historic overturning of Roe v. Wade on June 24, 2022, was a moment I never imagined witnessing in my lifetime. This landmark decision has led to the protection of countless precious lives across our nation. Yet, our attention remained on the state level, which has become a destination for abortion tourism due to its lax regulations. Despite these formidable challenges, I held steadfastly to the belief that God has positioned us in this remarkable state and the Four Corners region for such a pivotal moment in history. It became evident that God had laid the groundwork for this monumental event through our addition of staff, rebranding, name change, and the establishment of our Digital Center.

While we legally remain Grace Place for Women, Inc., we now operate as Grace Place Family Health Center, a



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name that more accurately reflects our mission to serve women, men, mothers, fathers, and children. Recognizing the significant role fathers play in the decisions of abortion-minded women, we strive to create an environment where they feel welcome and supported.

In 2022 and 2023, we expanded our team and fully embraced digital outreach strategies, leading to the successful launch of our Digital Center. Over 1,000 clients have reached out to us through this platform, confirming the vital role of our digital presence. By strategically marketing our services and offering round-the-clock availability, we've effectively engaged with individuals seeking abortions, guiding 95% of them to choose life.

None of this would have been possible without those who came before us and God's guidance in directing our steps. As I write this, I am entering a new season in my life as I step down as Executive Director of Grace Place Family Health Center. This decision was not made lightly. My husband and I have spent significant time seeking the Lord's guidance, and we feel called to move to Arizona. I am confident that Grace Place will benefit from fresh leadership and new perspectives. The exceptional team we have built will continue to thrive and advance our

mission with the same passion and commitment that has always defined our work.

As I step into this new season, I carry with me the lessons, memories, and blessings of the past decade, trusting in God's guidance for what lies ahead. Rest assured, our commitment to our mission stands firm, even as we grow and change. At Grace Place, our fundamental values remain unchanged, regardless of our name, logo, or even who is at the helm as the executive director. This is God's ministry, and He will work through all of us as we humble ourselves, be obedient, and be willing to serve Him through Grace Place. We're steadfast in our mission to provide life-saving alternatives to abortion, empowered by the gospel, no matter what season it is.

In the Bible, seasons represent different phases and transitions in our lives. Just as nature moves through cycles of spring, summer, autumn, and winter, our lives are marked by seasons of growth, productivity, reflection, and rest. Understanding these spiritual seasons can offer profound insights and comfort as we navigate our journeys.

As I pass the baton to Andrea Pena, I am confident that Grace Place is in good hands. Andrea has served in both

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the formal ministry and the nonprofit sectors for over thirteen years, with the last six years as a development officer for another local nonprofit. She is a committed Christian who has surrendered the calling to this position to the Lord, knowing this work is done only through His strength. Her educational background includes B.A. in Bible and Teacher Education, followed by a Master of Education from International Baptist College & Seminary (IBCS) in Chandler, Arizona. Her career experience primarily includes organizational leadership, public relations, marketing, and fundraising. She and her husband, Stephen, are both from the Four Corners area and have two daughters, Sadie Grace and Sophia Joy.

As the new Executive Director, Andrea is committed to continue Grace Place's legacy as the "Leader in Life Affirming Care" in San Juan County. The need to support this cause is clear when considering Bible passages like Psalm 139:14-17, which reveals that only God Himself is the author of each fearfully and wonderfully made life. Whether a client, donor, volunteer or staff person in relation to Grace Place, we commit to care to the God-ordained lives that are impacted here. Although this is a season of change, we place it in the hands of the One who never changes, and we are excited for what is ahead at Grace Place Family Health Center.



The image shows a pregnant woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a blue t-shirt. She is holding a stack of four ultrasound images of a fetus in her hands. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting. In the top left corner of the image area, there is a white circular logo for 'CRITERION BUSINESS SERVICE' with the word 'CRITERION' in bold capital letters and 'BUSINESS SERVICE' in smaller capital letters below it.

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A photograph of a family of four walking through a grassy field. A man in a denim jacket holds a baby in a yellow onesie. A woman in a red floral dress and a straw hat holds the hand of a young boy. Another young boy walks alongside them. The background shows a line of trees and some distant lights.

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CONSECRATED YOU; I APPOINTED
YOU A PROPHET TO THE NATIONS.

- Jeremiah 1:5



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SHINING LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: The Legacy of Grace Place

BY: PASTOR ROBERT SCHLAUGER

I support Grace Place because it stands as a life-giving promoter and protector in a world that often promotes and supports death. Grace Place speaks God's truth in a world filled with Satan's kingdom of lies. This ministry recognizes that a child is a person—male or female—human, with all its body parts and personality. My support for Grace Place stems from my awareness of how God's plan and design have brought them to their efficient ministry of today.

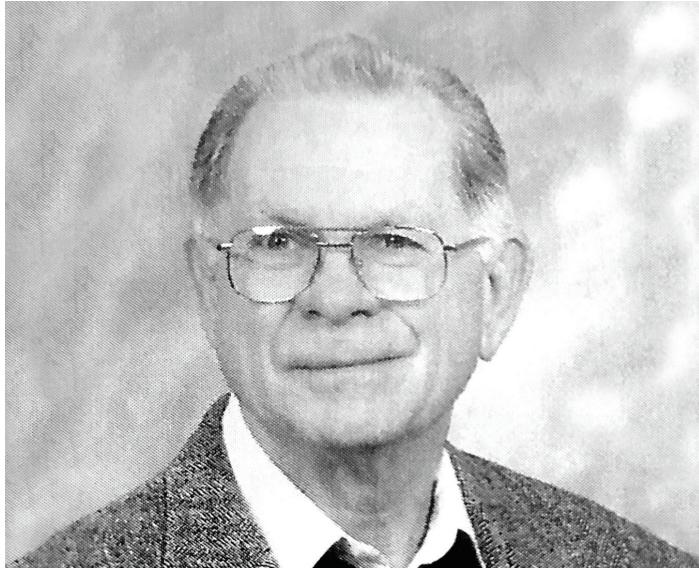
My wife was the first director when this ministry began with a God-given dream. It started with a building, counselors, much prayer, urine tests, diapers, and love for the clients. Grace Place still embodies these qualities and has been blessed with so much more. It ministers to families, reaching out to men as well. They have ultrasound machines to show mothers their baby's beating heart. Grace Place is a light in the darkness, and when it is darkest, the light shines the brightest. Where there is light, darkness can no longer exist.

Years ago, when the Lord was preparing me for ministry, I was in my mid-30s. I didn't care much about poetry, but suddenly, God started pouring poetry into me. It happened so fast that my wife, Susie, would act as my

scribe. One of those poems talked about what happens when light shines and darkness disappears. It reminds me of John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."

A year ago, I faced a health crisis with septic pneumonia. Despite my struggles, God has given me the ability to remember what needs to be remembered. I preach my notes, but often the Scripture flows naturally. I know that God could call me home tomorrow, and I would go singing "Glory Hallelujah." But I also know that He verifies Himself, and I love to help people see God at work in their lives.

After Susie passed away, I started writing and reflecting on all the places where God had been at work, often unnoticed. It's wonderful to see His hand in our lives, and this realization has become very important to me in my position to pass on this legacy of Grace Place. I have stayed involved with Grace Place in multiple ways. The prayer text line, being a church partner, attending the annual banquet, and advocating for participation in Steps For Life. We have even remained donors throughout all the years. In this time I have been fortunate enough to watch closely as Grace Place has grown. I have been able to



build close relationships with the Executive Directors that followed in my wife's place and through that I have come to see all that God has done.

I often think about a prayer my wife wrote, which hangs outside my office and at Grace Place. It speaks to the faithfulness to the mission, even when the outcome is uncertain. This resonates deeply with me,

"When our doors opened on April 1, 1990, how nice everything looked, and some was held together by tape and lots of love! That first day opened and

a client actually drove up in our driveway. I was terrified to think that she thought we knew what we were doing! The test was negative, but we were able to minister in Your name that day Lord. Not many clients that first 9 months, we did a lot of bible study and counseled each other..."

- Susan Schlaugher

Reflecting on my journey with Susie, I see God's guidance in every step. From our move from Sacramento to Fort Worth to Aztec to the small miracles like clear merging lanes and finding each other on the road, to a few packages of diapers and now 3D ultrasound machines and a full medical staff, God's presence was evident. These memories are a testament to His faithfulness and plan. Seeing Grace Place grow from, "Not many clients that first 9 months" to a clinic that serves hundreds a year.

Supporting Grace Place is about preserving this legacy of faith, hope, and unwavering commitment to God's mission. It's about shining a light in the darkness and knowing that where there is light, darkness cannot exist. Thank you for the opportunity to share this with you, and I look forward to continuing this journey of support and ministry.



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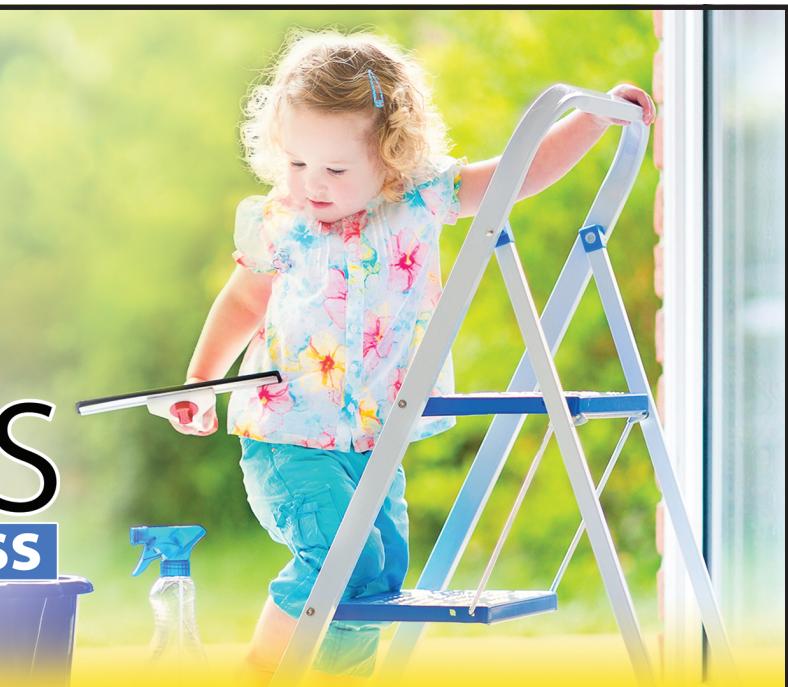
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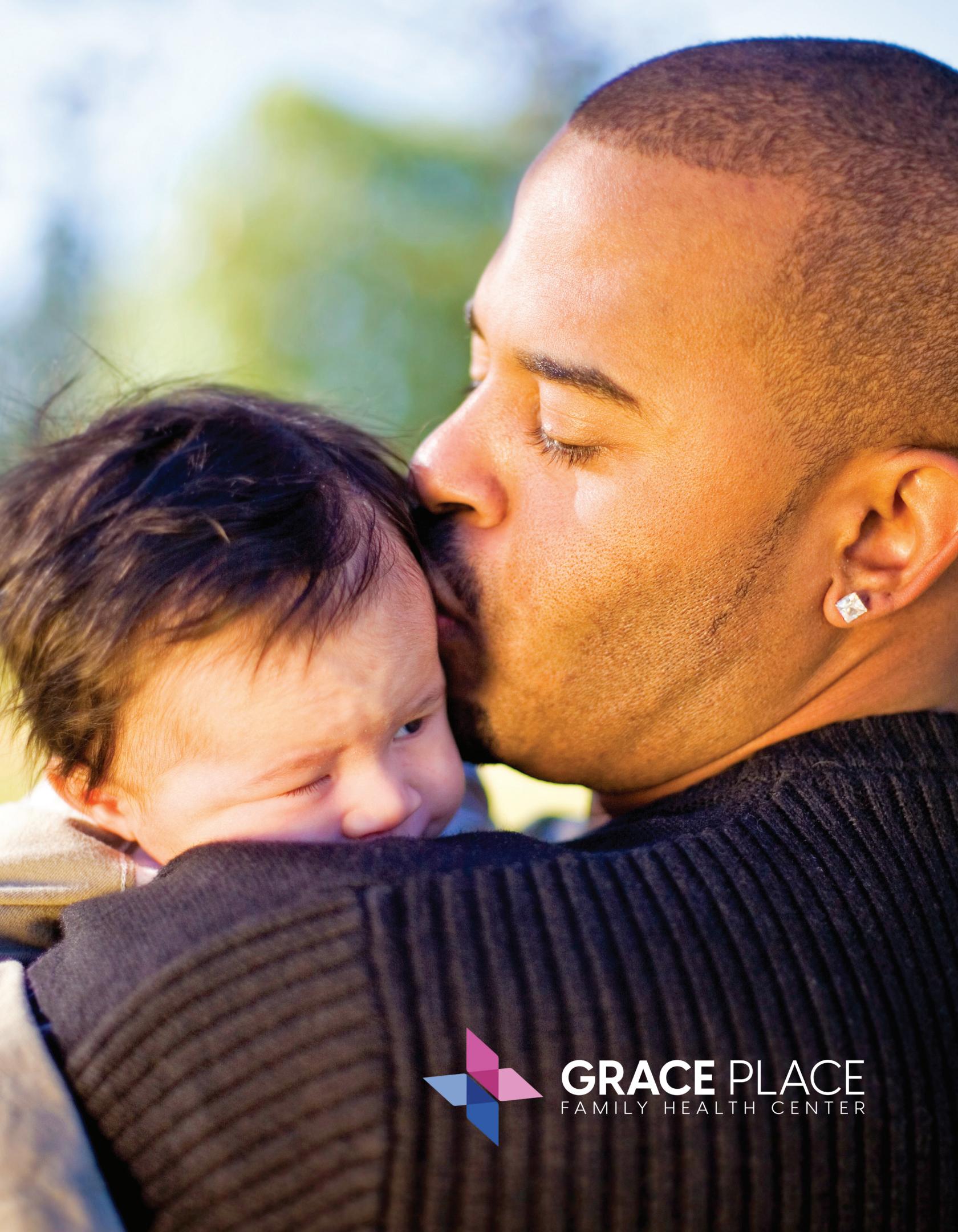


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