

## Prayer Points

We are extremely grateful for your prayers that are essential to the work we do every day. To subscribe to our weekly prayer emails, visit [firststeptolife.com/pray](http://firststeptolife.com/pray).

### Please pray for the following:

- that the women in need of our services will see our advertisements, schedule appointments, and come into our office to receive the care and compassion we are ready to offer each of them.
- that voters will take a strong stand for life at the November elections.
- that hearts will be softened in our community and nationwide to see the truth that life is valuable and sacred from conception to natural death.
- that those in our communities affected by the many storms this spring would be aided, encouraged, and comforted as they work to rebuild together.

## Issy's Story

In the ongoing battle for life, Assure Women's Center stands in **the eye of a relentless storm**. Daily, we face the growing culture of death, the pressure of Big Tech interference, and the turbulent emotions of women in crisis. Yet, amidst this tempest, stories of profound courage emerge, reminding us of the calm and clarity we can provide.



One such story is that of Isabelle "Issy," a high school junior whose journey captivated hearts at our recent Imagine banquet.

When Issy discovered her pregnancy, she was in a whirlwind of fear and uncertainty. With her mother and sister Gabi by her side, Issy turned to Assure, stepping into our doors and the calm center of the **storm**. At Assure, she found compassion and support. After her baby appeared on the ultrasound screen, tears of joy replaced fear, and in that moment of clarity, a beautiful plan took shape: Issy's sister and her husband would adopt the baby!



In May 2021, Issy gave birth to Malachi. Through a kinship adoption, she ensured her son would have a loving home while maintaining a relationship with her.



Issy's story, shared at our banquet, showed Assure's role as a lighthouse in the **storm**. To watch her full story, visit [firststeptolife.com/videos](http://firststeptolife.com/videos).

With your support, we'll continue to be that unwavering presence in **the eye of the storm**, for other young women like Issy.



## About Us

### Mission Statement

*To be the first step for women facing an unplanned pregnancy, transforming their fear into confidence by addressing their physical, spiritual and emotional needs, and equipping them to make healthy, life-affirming decisions.*

### Partner Website!

Keep abreast of the latest Assure happenings by visiting our partner website at [firststeptolife.com](http://firststeptolife.com). This website serves as a resource for you. It features photos, videos, upcoming events and much more.

Check in to view the amazing results made possible by your support of Assure Women's Center, subscribe to our newsletter, view past newsletters, and request urgent prayer emails.



### Tour Schedule

Regular monthly tours of our newly remodeled Hartford Office, located at 6510 Sorensen Parkway, are open to the public on the last Monday of each month at **6pm**. Please RSVP your attendance by calling the Development Office at **402-390-9700** and asking for **Amanda Musilek** or sign up online at [firststeptolife.com/tour](http://firststeptolife.com/tour).

**Tour Opportunities**  
July 29 | August 26 | September 30

### Patient Statistics

January – May 2024

Appointments Scheduled • 865  
Appointments Kept • 701  
Positive Tests • 602  
Negative Tests • 98  
Life Choices • 454  
Percentage of Women at Risk for Abortion Choosing Life • 77%  
Patients Rated Abortion Determined • 37%  
Patients Rated Abortion Minded • 33%  
Clients Attending Parenting Class • 56  
Clients in Advanced Classes • 34  
Clients in Life Basics Classes • 38  
Baby Boutique Visits • 458

### Leadership

**Brian Finley, MD**  
NE MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
**Doug Bauer, MD**  
IA MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
**Toni Clarke**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Val Bokowski**  
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
**Chris Schlesiger**  
PATIENT RESOURCES DIRECTOR  
**Amanda Temoshek**  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

### Board of Directors

**Christine Clausen-Cannon**  
PRESIDENT  
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**Ross Polking**

### Advisory Council

**Fred Baker**  
**Marie Belin, MD**  
**Jonathan Davidson**  
**Tammy Day**  
**John H Kellogg Jr, Esq.**  
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**Linda Pohlman**  
**Larry Roland, Esq.**  
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**Kelsey Stupfell**  
**Erika Volker**  
**Senator Brad von Gillern**  
**Precious Watson-Murphy**



SUMMER • 2024

# Eye of the Storm

by Toni Clarke • Executive Director

Spring in Nebraska is always a challenge. This Spring, we experienced many tumultuous storms throughout Omaha, Southwest Iowa, and the surrounding areas. We have seen footage of neighborhoods in **the eye of these storms** and watched in horror as tornadoes uprooted trees, destroyed homes, and leveled buildings. Some of these storms have personally affected many of you and your communities. When we pair these literal Spring storms with the figurative political and social storms we are experiencing, it can be easy to feel discouraged.

The normalization of abortion in pop culture and society and Nebraska's current pro-abortion ballot initiatives are both wreaking havoc in our community.

As societal attitudes towards abortion continue to slip further and further from Biblical truth and the abortion pill becomes more readily available, it is increasingly more challenging to reach those women most at risk for abortion.

A greater sense of apathy and tolerance toward abortion continues to grow, even among Christians.

The pro-abortion movement is capitalizing on this apathy to push their agenda forward. If passed, the "Protect our Rights" ballot initiative would enshrine a "right to abortion" in the state of Nebraska at any time for almost any reason. This initiative poses a devastating storm, seeking to decimate the lives of Nebraskans and those traveling to Nebraska for abortions. The lives of the unborn are squarely in **the eye of this storm**. In the face of this onslaught, there are pro-life efforts ready to counteract the pro-abortion initiative. Seven states have failed to pass pro-life initiatives because the pro-life community was divided. We must band together as a united front against this political attack to protect women and children while there is still time!

The normalization of abortion in pop culture and society and Nebraska's current pro-abortion ballot initiatives are both wreaking havoc in our community.

At Assure, we remain steadfast in providing a safe place for women to receive the information they need to make life-affirming choices as they walk through the storms they

face. Using an honest and gentle approach, our services are provided at no cost and without judgment. We proclaim the truth about life, address all of their options, and share the gospel in a God-honoring way. Assure is honored to walk with each woman we serve through the tremendous storm she faces.

At various times in our lives, we all face different storms. Those who know me know I always have a song on my mind. The words I am humming today are:

*"In the eye of the storm, You remain in control.  
And in the middle of the war, You guard my soul.  
You alone are the anchor when my sails are torn.  
Your love surrounds me in the eye of the storm."*

- Ryan Stevenson, "Eye of the Storm"

My prayer for each of us is that we stand firm during these times, knowing that God is with us in **the eye of the storm** and resting in the truth that He remains steadfastly in control.

*Toni*



## Church Spotlight

Amid whirlwind and difficulties, we know that we can trust God to be in control. This past Spring, Assure's steadfast ministry partner, **Harvest Church of Minden, Iowa**, quite literally weathered **the eye of the storm**.

In the wake of the April 2024 tornadoes, Harvest Church faced the total loss of their church building. Minden was one of the towns squarely in **the eye of April's storms**. Speaking about the damage, Lead Pastor Kurt Barman stated, "We were in a direct path of the tornadoes. Nobody was hurt in our congregation, but we did lose our building. The only thing left standing was the bathroom areas. It has allowed us to empathize with our entire community."



In this challenge, Pastor Barman shared the beautiful perspective Harvest Church has kept, "We know that the church is not the building itself, but rather the people.



While we no longer have church walls, we are out in the community being the hands and feet for our Lord." Pastor Barman also detailed that Samaritan's Purse came to Minden and together they saw 20 individuals come to salvation in Christ through their efforts! They are now working to walk alongside these new believers and get them plugged into Christian community.

Harvest Church has faithfully partnered with and blessed Assure for years. Now, we want to take this time to bless them in return. Prayers for wisdom and discernment as the church makes final decisions regarding designs and bids over this next month would be greatly appreciated. In addition to praying, if you'd like more information on how you can help Harvest Church, please contact **Amanda Musilek** at **amanda@assureomaha.com**. Thank you for your steadfast encouragement as we support our ministry partner in the wake of these **storms** and challenges!



## Volunteer Spotlight

The **storms** that the women Assure serves are facing can **often be unimaginable**. Providing Christ-centered truth and assurance to each woman who walks through our doors remains the hallmark of Assure's ministry and mission. **Joyce Schlosser** is just one of our incredible volunteers who exemplifies this tenet of care.

Joyce has faithfully served the women and families at Assure for the past 11 years, first as a receptionist and later as a patient advocate. Additionally, Joyce's husband, Al, assists with the laundry in Support Services, serving alongside his wife. One of the most impactful things Joyce has seen throughout her time at Assure, is the ability to use our patient process to provide calming, non-judgmental support to young women in **the eye of life's storms**. Joyce stated of this impact, "I get to see these girls experience the love and acceptance that they truly need at the time they come in."

Regarding how Assure's process meets women exactly where they are amidst these tumultuous times, Joyce shared a beautiful story of one of her very first patients, "She changed from very frightened and worked up at the beginning of the appointment to calming down and ultimately choosing to parent by the end of the appointment! Later, when she came in for the second and third time, she asked if she could give me a hug, and then the father of the baby asked to give me a hug as well." Joyce shared that seeing God's ability to move these women and grow the love each has for her child, regardless of the circumstances she is facing, has been incredible.

Additionally, Joyce emphasized the awesome power of prayer at work through Assure's ministry, not only over the women served, but also over staff and volunteers. What a beautiful testament to God's power to meet each of us in **the eye of every storm** we face!

If you would like to join Assure as a volunteer, please contact **Amanda Musilek** at **amanda@assureomaha.com** for next steps. We would love to have you!



Joyce Schlosser

## 2024 Imagine Banquet

On May 9th, nearly 1,500 supporters attended Assure's annual IMAGINE banquet at the CHI Center in downtown Omaha. Sponsored by Lorelee Hunt Byrd and chaired by Doug and Sandi Peterson, the evening featured keynote speaker Seth Dillon, CEO of The Babylon Bee, who delivered a compelling message blending together both humor and conviction. To watch the video of the banquet, visit **firststeptolife.com/imagine**.



A significant challenge was laid before the attendees: to raise \$500,000 by June 14th to unlock an additional \$125,000 from some generous donors. The response was overwhelming, with the goal not just met but surpassed! This incredible show of support underscores the pro-life

community's deep commitment to Assure's mission of saving women and babies from abortion. Our deepest gratitude goes out to each of our faithful supporters who partnered with us in this challenge!

Assure also announced that the 2025 Imagine banquet will be held on Thursday, April 24th, featuring special guest **Allie Beth Stuckey**, conservative commentator and host of the podcast "Relatable." We can't wait to see you there!



For information on sponsorships for the 2025 banquet, contact **Amanda Temoshek** at **atemoshek@assureomaha.com**.



## Secure Your Legacy

Have you considered the profound impact your legacy could have on protecting the sanctity of life? By including Assure Women's Center in your will, you can ensure that your values and commitment to helping women and saving the unborn continue for generations.

Many people think estate planning is something to be done later in life, but the truth is, it's never too early to start planning for the future. Creating a will is an act of love and responsibility, ensuring that your wishes are carried out and your hard-earned assets are distributed according to your desires.

At Assure Women's Center, we understand the importance of making this process seamless and accessible. That's why we've partnered with **GiftWise**, a trusted online platform that allows you to create a legally binding will quickly, easily, and at no cost to you. In less than 20 minutes, you can:

- Craft a will that reflects your values and priorities
- Designate Assure Women's Center as a beneficiary, leaving a gift of any size
- Provide for your loved ones while securing a meaningful legacy

By taking this simple step, you can be assured that your commitment to protecting life will endure long after you're gone. Your legacy gift to Assure Women's Center will not just be a donation, but a powerful tool that empowers us to continue offering compassionate care, practical resources, and life-affirming options to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Don't delay in safeguarding your wishes and making a lasting impact. Visit **giftwise.com/assureomaha** today to create your will and ensure your values live on, shaping a future where every life is cherished and protected.



Honorary and Memorial gifts are ways to honor and remember someone while also furthering the mission of Assure Women's Center.

To learn more about Assure's Honorary and Memorial Gifts Program, please call our Development Office at **(402) 390-9700**.

## Business Spotlight Superior Green Inc.

Assure Women's Center is honored to have the unwavering support of Superior Green Lawns, a family-owned landscaping and lawn care company.

Since 2005, when Assure Women's Center acquired our Hartford Office, Superior Green Lawns, under the leadership of owners Randy and Connie Hollingsworth, along with their sons who work in the business, has been a steadfast partner in our life-affirming mission. Rain or shine, they've generously provided all our lawn care and snow removal services at no cost.

**"We believe all babies, born and unborn, are precious, and we believe all life should be protected. Our company is honored and humbled to help Assure Women's Center save lives," said Randy Hollingsworth.**

Superior Green Lawns' generosity isn't just saving us money; it's allowing us to channel more resources directly into life-saving services. Every dollar not spent on lawn care and snow removal is a dollar towards ultrasounds, options counseling, support services, education, and post-abortion healing. To learn more about this incredible family business that tends to lawns while championing life, visit **www.superiorgreenlawns.com**.

### HONORARY

**For Mary Ann Adams**  
Michael Harris

**For Joe Benes**  
Angela Cutler

**For Martin Cannon**  
Rodney and Terese McKee

**For Toni Clarke**  
Gay Tillotson

**For John and Robert DeYoung**  
Robert and Julie DeYoung

**For Shirley Ness and Juliet Fitzgarrald**  
Jim and Cheryl Fitzgarrald

**For Grace**  
Cecilia Guerra

**For Samantha Hagge**  
Andrew Lester

**For Denny and Claire Hartford**  
Sharon Struve

**For Beckett Helms**  
Don and Julie Helms

**For Isabelle**  
Timothy and Carla Raglin

**For Issy**  
Deb Howard

**For Abel and Ezra Johnson**  
Jordan and Stasia Johnson

**For Chuck Larsen III**  
Dr Charles and Kathy Larsen

**For Baby Lathrop**  
Larry and Linda Johnson

**For The Logans**  
Senator Steve and Cathy Erdman

**For Carieneal Mitchum**  
Carol Clough

**For My Son Dan**  
Warren and Cathy Dougherty

**For Emily Pedersen**  
Danna Swartz

**For Prescott boys, wives, and grandchildren**  
Stephen & Dawn Prescott

**For Lori Severson**  
Brandi Burkett

**For Carolina Tranmer**  
Amy Smith

**For Jane Waldo**  
Nathan and Jillian Waldo

**For Yahweh**  
Steve Dutton

**For Sarah Yentes**  
Scott and Faye Stryzewski

### MEMORIAL

**For A Child Lost to Abortion**  
Lindsay Kelly

**For All Aborted Babies**  
Edward and Theresa Watson

**For Scarlett Andersen**  
Chris Andersen

**For Laura Arkfeld-Mohr**  
Randal and Bonnie Smith

**For Harper Rae-Hope Aubushon**  
Anonymous

**Lyle Bardsley**  
Don and Pat Schleiger

**For Jackson Bell**  
Justin and Johanna Bell

**For Dex and Karen Boorum**  
Doug and Tonya Isaac

**For Julie Ann Buda**  
Cindy Petrocchi

**For Annabelle Faith Buttermore**  
Daniel and Kristin Buttermore

**For Brandon Cook**  
Terry and Kelly Thielen

**For June Dawson**  
Marylee Vecchio

**For Dylan C**  
Jacob and Brittany Willis

**For Lexie Elsey**  
Elizabeth Fowlkes

**For Jean Enke**  
Philip Enke

**For Don Fruciano**  
Evan Fruciano

**For Colonel Richard Gene Grammer**  
Lolis Coward

**For Junior Graves**  
Rachel Graves

**For Jaylen Hearnese**  
Robert and Julie DeYoung

**For Jim and Donna Hoey**  
Gail Brow

**For Adline Jackson**  
Toni Clarke

**For Jamie**  
Matthew Johnson

**For George 'Felix' Johnson**  
Cindy Petrocchi

**For A & A Kozubal and Baby Peanut**  
Anna Colón

**For Nancy Mandolfo**  
Charles and Laurie Ortman

**For Jessica Manna**  
Daniel and Suzanne Gornell

**For Talitha May**  
Anonymous

**For Lucas McElroy**  
Amber McElroy

**For Tom McGill**  
Cindy Petrocchi

**For Gail Louise McGovern**  
John McGovern

**For Ormund, Nancy, & Paul Meyer**  
David and Lou Ann Meyer

**For My Mom who was adopted**  
Larry and Melinda Rasmussen

**For My Son Nick**  
Bev Weis

**For Nancy Anne Nelson**  
Mary St Pierre

**For Our Mothers & Fathers**  
Steven and Sheryl Wohleb

**For Our Aborted Grandchild**  
Ken and Karen Schnepf

**For Our Children**  
Daniel and Christine Nordstrom

**For Bev Pohlman**  
Kennard and Linda Pohlman

**For Marvin Riley**  
Kennard and Linda Pohlman

**For Andrew Ulrich Ronning**  
Richard and Laura Ronning

**For Annabelle Ropp**  
Harold Berry  
Sherry Buhrmann  
Deloris Hansen  
Amenuveve Kudzu  
Steven Page

**For Shirley Rosacker**  
David and Melissa Rosacker

**For Sami**  
Kaci Caldwell

**For Jamaar Sauer**  
Roland and Kristi Horeis

**For Dona Schleiger**  
Don and Pat Schleiger

**For Chet Thomas**  
Harvey Ben and Jennifer Hunter

**For John Winchester**  
Marcia Winchester