

Prayer Points

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

Please pray for the following:

- that Assure will be able to innovatively reach the women in need of our services through our social media outreach efforts.
- that women who have taken the first dose of the abortion pill will contact us, come in for appointments, and receive the care necessary to reverse the abortion medication and save the life of their child.

- that pro-abortion policymakers will be stopped from instituting a constitutional right to abortion in Nebraska's legislature this year.

- that this year's annual IMAGINE Banquet will stir hearts to continue supporting the mission of Assure and **stand firm** against the lies of the pro-abortion movement.

Standing Firm Against the Abortion Pill

The use of the Abortion Pill is continuing to climb. A recent report from the Charlotte Lozier Institute stated that 74% of abortions in Nebraska are by the Abortion Pill. Young women can order the pill online without ever seeing a physician. Assure Women's Center's staff has been trained to help women who have taken the first pill in the two-pill regimen, as there is a medical protocol to reverse the abortion before it is complete.

In early December, Assure was contacted by Mya, a woman in her early 20s who was filled with regret and desperately seeking answers. Just the day before, she had taken the first dose of the Abortion Pill two-pill regimen. Now, with it almost time to take the second pill to complete the abortion, she had changed her mind and feared it might be too late.

When Mya called Assure, the team member who took her call listened with compassion and without judgment. She scheduled Mya for a same-day ultrasound to check on her pregnancy status.

Sitting anxiously in the exam room awaiting the results, Mya's mind raced. Had she already harmed her unborn baby by taking that first pill? Was it too late to save this pregnancy that she now wanted? When the almost 10-week-old preborn baby appeared on the ultrasound screen with a strong heartbeat, Mya was overcome with emotion.

Since the pregnancy was still viable, the nurse educated Mya about potential risks and connected her to a provider from Sancta Familia, Assure's partner in Abortion Pill Rescue, who prescribed her medication to stop the abortion from continuing. Equipped with new information and support, Mya left with hope for the life of her baby.

Women need to know that there is hope for reversing the abortion pill if they act right away. If you know of anyone who has taken the Abortion Pill and regretted their decision, please have them call Assure Women's Center as soon as possible, as there may still be time to save the baby!

Adopt-A-Family and Year-End Challenge Results

Thank You for Making our 2023 Year End a Record-Breaking Success!

Assure's 2023 year-end giving was an unprecedented time of provision and hope. Thank you to all who **stood firm** and **spoke out** through their generosity!

A record number of compassionate donors stepped up to adopt families this Christmas. Thanks to you, 67 families were abundantly blessed with gifts and food to brighten their holiday. Your generosity allowed wide-eyed children to wake up to unexpected and deeply cherished presents under their trees on Christmas morning.

"How humbling it is to see caring hearts providing for the children and parents we serve during the Christmas season," said Emily Pedersen, Support Services Supervisor. "Our conference room, traditionally used for training other pregnancy centers, was filled to the brim with your donations for the 295 men, women, and children involved this year in the Adopt-A-Family program."

Not only that, but last year's year-end challenge was the largest ever, as we needed to raise \$500,000 to receive \$75,000. The Challenge was met and exceeded! Donors gave over \$500,000, unlocking the \$75,000 challenge gift. By God's grace and your faithful support, we surpassed our goal. More lives can now be rescued from abortion than ever before!

At Assure, we are left in awe and filled with praise for all that you helped accomplish in 2023. Thank you for **standing firm** and **speaking out** for life through your selfless giving. We could not continue this lifesaving work without you. From all of our staff, thank you!

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.

Let this website serve 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 or use the site to RSVP for a ministry briefing and tour, subscribe to our newsletter, view past newsletters, and request urgent prayer emails.



Assure
WOMEN'S CENTER

Mailing Address
PO Box 34638
Omaha, NE 68134-9998

402-390-9700
firststeptolife.com

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.

Tour Opportunities

Feb 26 | Mar 25 | Apr 29

Patient Statistics

January – December 2023

Appointments Scheduled • 2,119

Appointments Kept • 1,776

Positive Tests • 1,584

Negative Tests • 192

Women at Risk for Abortion Choosing Life for their Baby • 1,208

Percentage of Women at Risk for Abortion Choosing Life • 77%

Patients Rated Abortion Determined • 36%

Patients Rated Abortion Minded • 33%

Clients Attending Parenting Class • 115

Clients in Advanced Classes • 40

Clients in Life Basics Classes • 43

Baby Boutique Visits • 746

WholeHeartEd

January – December 2023

Total Video Views • 5,470,666

Total Social Media Reach • 50,422,384

Social Media Post Engagement • 10,921,314

Class Presentations • 120 Students • 2,798

Leadership

Brian Finley, MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Doug Bauer, MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Toni Clarke
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Val Bokowski
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Chris Schlesiger
PATIENT RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Amanda Temoshek
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Erika Volker

Senator Brad von Gillern

Precious Watson-Murphy



Stand Firm. Speak Out.

by Toni Clarke • Executive Director

As Executive Director of Assure, I am often asked how I thrive in pro-life work in such a hostile environment. I must admit that God has protected Assure from many attacks, but the threats remain. My answer to that question is found in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, "**Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.**" This is not our mission statement. It's not even something we routinely discuss, but it is how we operate.

Assure's desire is to be the first step for women facing unplanned pregnancies. That statement alone puts us in the crosshairs of the enemy. Recent statistics show that 80% of women who see an ultrasound will choose life for their unborn baby. It is why the abortion industry strongly opposes Pregnancy Help Organizations. If they can prevent women from seeking out organizations like Assure and instead encourage them to use the abortion pill, their business will thrive, and the culture of death will prevail. According to the Lozier Institute, 74% of abortions performed in Nebraska are chemical – carried out via the abortion pill.

So, we are always on guard, looking for ways to protect the women we serve, our staff, and our volunteers. We are constantly seeking ways to reach and serve women in our offices before they place an order for the abortion pill. We **stand firm** in our faith, knowing that God will prevail. We are courageous and strong no matter what obstacles we may face. We serve our community with love through our pregnancy and support services and relationship education at no cost to them.

One of the things we are on guard for is a ballot initiative here in Nebraska that could potentially legalize abortion until birth. Abortion advocacy groups will begin collecting signatures and spending millions of dollars to confuse and mislead voters with language that is very vague and deceptive. Assure will **stand firm** on the premise that life begins at conception and continue to present the truth about life to those we serve.

Many thought the overturning of Roe v Wade was the end of abortion. It has not been. In fact, there appears to be a bigger war raging, and we must **stand**

firm. If we don't, our pro-life state will fall to abortion rights advocates and become an abortion tourism state. We cannot allow that to happen.

We need you to **stand firm** with us. What can you do? Be on your guard and educate yourself. Don't be swayed by the tactics of the enemy. Nebraska Family Alliance can provide information about the upcoming deceptive ballot initiative. Don't sign the petition. **Stand firm** by praying for Assure, the women we serve and our elected officials. Be courageous and strong, even in the face of opposition. Consider joining us as a volunteer. We are always in need of women to walk alongside the mother making a life-or-death decision and help her see truth. In all things, work with a Spirit of love.

I pray that whatever challenges you face today, you will cling to the words of 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, "**Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.**" May these words be a powerful reminder of our role in God's great plan.

Toni

Volunteer Spotlight

Since May of 2023, E.Beth has served as a volunteer advocate here at Assure Women’s Center. E.Beth stated that she has always cared deeply about Pro-Life causes, and felt drawn to caring for women facing decisions around abortion. In college, E.Beth was confident in respectfully **speaking out** on life issues, but felt convicted to put her faith into action by serving the real women facing these situations. Her strong desire to be the “boots on the ground” in the fight for life led her to Assure.



E. Beth Hemphill

After connecting with Assure through her church, E. Beth realized she could have a major impact for life by giving her time as a volunteer advocate. Assure’s advocates facilitate the patient’s appointment, present her with her options, talk to her about her current situation and support, share the Gospel with her, and make sure she has a constant safe presence in the room. Speaking about her experience in the role, E.Beth said, “There is such a specific process - there is no point where you’re wondering what to do as the volunteer. Your job is simply to follow the process and stay committed to the woman in front of you.”

The Gospel conversation is E.Beth’s favorite part of the appointment. She mentioned that with some women, this is the first time they make eye contact with her in the appointment. E.Beth’s goal in each appointment is to provide a calm and constant presence and make sure each woman she serves walks away filled with truth and clarity. “No matter what the women choose, when they think of Assure, I want them to remember how positive they felt with the experience they had with me,” says E.Beth. While she doesn’t always know what each woman she serves will choose, E.Beth shared that she **stands firm** in the confidence that the outcomes are in God’s hands.

If you are looking for ways to **stand firm** and **speak out**, please consider joining us as a volunteer advocate! If you’d like to learn more, visit firststeptolife.com/volunteer.

Business Spotlight



The aroma of freshly roasted coffee beans wafts through the air at Stories Coffee Co., a local coffee shop and roastery owned by Dan and Brooke Loutzenhiser. Though Stories had been a community staple for years, the Loutzenhisers breathed new life into the business when they purchased it in 2017.

“We wanted to keep the original vision for Stories alive - being a place where people can gather, enjoy a cup of coffee, and connect,” said Dan. “But we also hoped to grow the business into something more.”

And grow it has. Through the Loutzenhisers’ leadership, Stories has expanded from one coffee shop into a full-scale roastery with five locations and a mobile coffee cart.

“We have a passion for investing in people’s stories as much as they’ve invested in Stories over the years,” said Brooke. “It’s so rewarding to see customers come together, form friendships, and share life here.”

The Loutzenhisers’ commitment to community extends beyond the walls of the cafe. Each quarter, they donate a portion of Stories’ proceeds to a local nonprofit making a difference.

“One organization we chose to support was Assure Women’s Center,” said Dan. “They provide free services to women facing unplanned pregnancies, and we love their work.”

From the coffee they serve to the community they foster and the organizations they support, Stories is all about bringing people together and fostering community. Assure is grateful for the support of Dan and Brooke Loutzenhiser and Stories Coffee Co. and their willingness to **stand up** for women facing unplanned and unsupported pregnancies.

Church Spotlight



Assure is proud to honor our faithful ministry partner, Kingsway Christian Church. Kingsway has partnered with Assure in ministry for over 20 years through prayer and financial support. Since 2000, Kingsway has generously and faithfully given to Assure, helping us reach women and families in need in Omaha and beyond. Assure was honored to sit down with Kingsway’s lead pastor of four years, Pastor Rich Milliken, to learn more about how Kingsway continues to **stand firm** and **speak out**. “We are very proud to support Assure. We want to be a generous church and make a difference in our community and around the world,” said Pastor Milliken. Kingsway is not ashamed to **stand firm** in the truth. Outside the church building, a blue yard sign stating, “Remember the Unborn – Jer 1:5” graces the lawn. Regarding addressing life topics at Kingsway, Pastor Milliken stated, “We don’t back away from hard topics. We go through a passage of scripture, and scripture directly addresses these topics with truth and grace.” Pastor Milliken detailed that 20% of Kingsway’s offerings currently go to global, regional, and local partnerships and ministries.

Pastor Milliken explained, “Kingsway was birthed out of the leadership’s bold assurance that the Gospel still gives hope.” This hope underlies each step Kingsway takes. With services in-person and online every Sunday at 10:00 am, Kingsway invites anyone seeking a church home to join them. For more information, visit Kingsway at www.kingswayomaha.org.

2024 Imagine BANQUET

Buy Your Seats NOW!

Mark your calendars for Assure Women’s Center’s annual Imagine Banquet presented by Lorelee Hunt Byrd on **Thursday, May 9th, 2024!** We are thrilled to welcome back popular keynote speaker **Seth Dillon** at the CHI Health Center in downtown Omaha.

Seth Dillon is CEO of the **Babylon Bee**, a leading Christian satire website known for its witty and insightful commentary on faith, politics and culture. Seth’s experience as an entrepreneur and thought leader on the role of humor in today’s polarized climate will inspire attendees to **Stand Firm and Speak Out!**

We are honored to have former Attorney General **Doug Peterson and his wife Sandi** serving as Honorary Dinner Chairs. **Rich Bott**, President of Bott Radio Network, will lend his talents as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

The Imagine Banquet is Assure’s largest annual fundraiser, bringing together thousands of supporters to celebrate our life-affirming work. As one of the nation’s leading pregnancy resource centers, Assure provides critical medical services, education, and support for women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Individual seats are just \$45, with various sponsorship packages available. Visit firststeptolife.com/imagine to register. This inspiring evening of dinner, fellowship and entertainment promises to sell out fast, so reserve your spot early. Join us on May 9th as we **stand firm** and celebrate life!



Creating a Lasting Legacy with Assure

As we begin a new year, many of us take time to reflect on the past and make plans for the future. For Assure Women’s Center supporters, there are meaningful ways to create a lasting legacy that will make a difference for women facing unplanned pregnancies, even after you’re gone.

One powerful option is to include Assure Women’s Center in your will or estate plans. By designating a gift to Assure in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy, you can establish a legacy of support without giving up assets today. Your estate gift will help ensure Assure can continue providing critical services like free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, education and more for women facing unplanned pregnancies, even decades into the future.

To make the process quick and convenient, Assure has partnered with GiftWise to offer an online will-writing tool at no cost to you. In just 20 minutes or less, you can create a legally binding will and include gift provisions to the charities and causes most important to you. Getting started is easy:

- 1. Visit www.giftwise.com/assureomaha to create your account. There is no cost to you.
- 2. Follow the step-by-step instructions to complete your will.
- 3. Name gift recipients, like Assure Women’s Center, and determine the gift amounts or percentages.
- 4. Download and print your finished will. Be sure to sign it according to your state’s laws and store it in a safe place.

It’s that simple! Take control of your legacy today while supporting Assure’s mission. Give the gift of continuing to **Stand Firm and Speak Out** for life, even after you’re gone, by including Assure Women’s Center in your estate plans. For more information, contact **Amanda Temoshek** at atemoshek@assureomaha.com.



Tributes

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**.

HONORARY

- For Abby Beasley**
ReRUNS R Fun Inc
- For Brian & Emily Brummund**
Barbara Stevens
- For Mary Cawley**
Ann Drebot
- For Joan Davis**
Linda Birge
- For Pete & Karen Faubel**
Rob and Juli Elston
- For Teresa Frazier**
Barbara Stevens
- For Gabriel**
David and Mary Pumphrey
- For Ken & Amy Gatewood**
Doug and Jean Wilshusen
- For Bob Hackett**
Brenda Hackett
- For Mara Halweg and Barbara Gornell**
Daniel and Suzanne Gornell
- For Kathy Larsen**
Dr Keith and Rosalee Christiansen
- For Chuck Larsen III**
Dr Charles and Kathy Larsen
- For Barb Malek**
Karla Struble
- For Prescott children & grandchildren**
Stephen and Dawn Prescott
- For Bill Reeg**
Cher Reeg
- For Melissa Roybal**
Timothy McGinnis
- For Jacob Rupp**
Lloyd and Susan Rupp
- For Kathy Scott**
Julie Schoerke and Kevin Gallagher
- For Dan & Jennifer Shrader**
Barbara Stevens
- For Nellie Steadman**
Bradley Steadman
- For Joe & Amy Stevens**
Barbara Stevens
- For John & Laura Stevens**
Barbara Stevens
- For Bob & Sheryl Suddick**
Barbara Stevens
- For Jon & Ann Wilshusen**
Doug and Jean Wilshusen
- For Coni Worley**
Roger Perrigo
- For Denise Wurgler**
Dustin Kowalewski
- For Yahweh**
Steve Dutton
- For Josiah Lynn Broschat**
Brandon and Emily Broschat
- For Roy Doty**
Mae Doty
- For Kathy Farrens**
Scott and Trista Farrens
- For Donald Godfrey**
Bill and Ann Vorthmann
- For Ruby Godfrey**
Bill and Ann Vorthmann
- For Todd Graham**
Ginger Graham
Marlee Kissler
Linda Kunze
- For Ellen Grosse-Rhode**
Thomas and Shirley McShane
- For Terry Headley**
Wynetta Headley
- For Dan Heuer**
Deb Heuer
- For Bradley Hitz**
Karen Hitz
- For Chavon Hodges**
Maxine Hodges
- For Nancy Mandolfo**
Charles and Laurie Ortman
- For Nettie Marino**
Lyle and Connie Yates
- For Bennet Marlowe**
David and Karen Ashby
- For Gail Louise McGovern**
John McGovern
- For Ormund, Nancy, & Paul Meyer**
David and Lou Ann Meyer
- For My Mom**
Bev Weis
- For Joan Newland**
Paul and Stacey Dobesh
- For Carolyn Placzek**
Daniel and Kris Placzek
- For Karla Richardson**
Anonymous
Dawn Kruse
Mark and Lynne Pitner
Kevin and Debora Smith
- For Mary Lynn Roberts**
Joseph and Monica Connell
Eric and Kristen Eisenman
Tom and Constance Eyman
James and Sheryl Jaros
Jeff and Laura Kupfer
Donald and Barbara O’Bryan
Michael and Teresa Shank
- For Robert Temple**
Rob and Theresa Temple
- For John Wenninghoff**
Norman and Sharon Timmerman
Mary Wenninghoff
- For Kayla Wilkins**
Craig and Shelly Wilkins

MEMORIAL

- For Capt & Rev John Birch**
US Army
James Timms