

Learn ways to cultivate LIFE for babies, families, and our community.

theVine

A PUBLICATION OF THRIVE WOMEN'S CLINIC • ISSUE 3 • WINTER 2020

Baby De'Vante 2020 redeemed

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Vine
keepers
Supporting Thrive
Women's Clinics



Letter from the Executive Director

Your light is comforting our clients

Feeling weary? Has the election, the pandemic, and all the ramifications made your heart heavy? Mine, too. It has been a dark year. Yesterday the Lord

moves on to other news.

Light brings hope. Candlelight, firelight, the big bright moon and stars all bring peace and comfort. In John 1:4-5 we learn in Jesus was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. Hallelujah! He is shining in us and with us at Thrive. He shines through YOU as you invest in our ministry to bring Jesus into our clinics to women and men experiencing crisis pregnancies.

Clients often say Thrive feels safe, loving and brings them hope. YOU help make this a respite from their lives of condemnation and noisy fears

encouraged me. A visitor came and we had a lovely visit—with masks. She surprised me with a very large gift to Thrive in honor of her mother who was a very dear former staff member. God knew I needed encouragement for this battle we face daily.

This morning I was reinvigorated by an email. A young student was seeking guidance to establish a pro-life organization in her school to protect the unborn. I burst into tears. Her email bolstered me. God is bringing a new generation to protect the unborn and their mothers. One person like this young woman can lead the charge!

I am glad Christmas lights went up earlier than usual. My next door neighbor had his 12-foot tree lit and shining in early November. It rushed in new hope that this dark season will soon end. We are also finding relief as election season ends and the media

because Jesus shines here.

Even with our reduction in clients due to increased safety measures, the statistics below show YOU are still impacting families and changing this generation.

The challenges persist and our clients continue to face unprecedented pressure to terminate their pregnancies. Please give generously to Thrive now. Be generous with your prayers, your pocketbooks, your hearts. Giving is an act of worship and we need your participation.

Stuff doesn't matter, but people do. 🌱

Mary Jayne Fogerty

Executive Director, Thrive Women's Clinic

Jan-Nov
2020
Statistics

New client visits:
1,348

Babies saved:
173

New believers:
37

Calendar of Events

Jan. 17, 2021: Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Feb 6th & 20th: 9-1pm – Volunteer training

April 1, 2021: Festa della Donna women’s brunch featuring Sheila Walsh

May 8th & 22nd: 9-1pm – Volunteer training

[Vinekeepers.org/get-involved](https://vinekeepers.org/get-involved)

Your leader is staying focused



Mary Jayne Fogerty received the “Focus Champion” Leadership Appreciation Award from Pre-Born!, a prolife nonprofit that equips leading pregnancy centers throughout the nation with training and grants.

Volunteers save lives and stretch your dollars

Thrive relies on about 100 frontline volunteers, including these top team members:



Nurse – Melody Benson serves faithfully in addition to her full-time nursing job. Her friendly demeanor puts clients at ease.



Advocate – Priscilla Baitup (center) is a longtime volunteer who never misses a chance to share the Gospel with clients like Maria, who came back to introduce her baby.



Male Advocate – Mark Smith (left) loves working with new dads like this one, who earned his parenting course completion certificate. Mark, a former youth pastor, has continued to mentor Thrive fathers of various faiths virtually throughout the pandemic.

OhKnow launches on Instagram

Follow our education program to learn about LIFE in the womb and sexual health. [@OhKnowEducation](https://www.instagram.com/OhKnowEducation) 



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THRIVE LEADERSHIP

- Dr. Steven Harris**
Medical Director
- Mary Jayne Fogerty**
Executive Director
- Meredith Hall**
Director of Clinic Services
- Vicki Keifer**
Director of Stewardship
- Kontessa Kiel**
Director of Client Services
- Wade Souza**
Men's Coordinator

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Vinekeepers are the supporters of Thrive Women's Clinic, which has four locations in Dallas County that provide services at no cost for women and their partners experiencing unplanned pregnancy. Our non-profit outreach ministry extends Christ-like compassion that values the family and empowers them to choose life.

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For clients:
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Baby De'Vante

Peace and calm abide inside the home of Baby De'Vante Junior. By his contented coos, one might forget that the past year brought pandemic, racial tension, political firestorms, job losses, and pervasive fear.

For De'Vante and Netta, the fear started in February, even before the pandemic began. Netta was unexpectedly pregnant, and the couple was seeking an abortion when they ended up at Thrive Women's Clinic.

"How do I say—we got redirected by the staff at Thrive," Netta said with a smile as she burped her newborn baby boy this fall.

At her first Thrive appointment, Netta was a bit surprised when the Thrive advocate asked her questions about her faith. "I wasn't as close to God as I should have been," she confessed. The most vivid moment of her appointment came next, when the advocate stepped out of the counseling room.

"She left this empty chair. I was alone in the room, but He was there," Netta recalls. Her Christian faith was rekindled. "I felt like I could have this baby and He was saying 'This is what I have for you.' I felt like He was with me no matter what."

Next, her boyfriend, De'Vante, joined her in the exam room, where Clinic Services Director, Meredith Hall performed a sonogram.

"Meredith got us excited about it," Netta recalls. "The way she showed us everything on the screen made it feel so real. Everything she did and said made it exciting."

De'Vante was struck by Hall's caring spirit.

"She didn't force us," he said. "There was no pressure. We prayed. She brought us closer to God. That was very moving for me as a father and a man to know that God is with me."

They took home a box explaining how to join an Embrace Grace mom's group and made plans to come back to Thrive for a follow-up sonogram. Then, coronavirus hit. Thrive shut down for six weeks. Both

De'Vante and Netta had jobs at a fast-food restaurant, but they worried about finances. Then, De'Vante recognized one of his customers at the drive-through window: Nurse Meredith Hall. She had no idea the couple worked at the restaurant down the street from her house.

"We had seen their hearts change after that first appointment at Thrive, but we lost contact and we weren't completely sure what choice they made about having the abortion," Hall said. "I was so excited to see Netta's growing baby bump. I got to bring them back a note of encouragement and a grocery gift card from Thrive."

Soon after, both De'Vante and Netta lost their jobs. More and more people were getting sick with Covid-19. Still, they didn't second-guess their decision to choose life for their unborn baby. Netta had joined the Embrace Grace group with other expectant mothers at a local church. The women met faithfully—virtually and at the open gazebo in Netta's apartment complex.

"I wasn't letting fear take over me any more like I was when I was thinking about abortion," Netta said. **"I know**

God has a plan for me. I see it through the people he put into my life this year."

De'Vante believes the pandemic has been a positive experience. He has a better job now.

"As a couple—as a country—we're having to learn to have faith bigger than our fear," he said. "People are getting back to their families and humanity and away from the things of this world. We're being with the people who matter. I'm glad we all got to go through this. As a couple, it has brought us together. It has spiritually and emotionally changed our lives together."

He now admits he didn't really want an abortion in the first place.

"If we had gone the abortion route—wow, what we would be missing out on," De'Vante said as he patted the head of little De'Vante Junior nestled on his chest. "I'm totally grateful He steered us in this direction." 🌱





redeemed



Cruising through Christmas cheer

You delivered clients a festive drive-up holiday experience.

The worldwide pandemic has canceled so many things this year, but Jessica was thrilled to hear that Thrive Women’s Clinic was NOT going to cancel the annual Cookies with Santa Christmas party for client families like hers.

Last year, she loved watching her one-year-old son, Ivan, excitedly build glitter nativity crafts and encounter Santa for the first time.

“It was such a good warm family event and I knew I wanted to let him experience this every year,” she said, “even if we have to drive through!”

This year, Ivan’s eyes lit up through the open car window as his mom slowly rolled through the holiday wonderland created by about 50 of Thrive’s donors and volunteers at the parking garage at Fellowship Bible Church Dallas. Many decorated their cars parked along the party route in “Trunk-or-Treat” style. At various stations, Olaf, a nativity angel, Charlie Brown, and Santa greeted them—with masks, of course—and delivered Christmas goodies through car windows.

Little Ivan was mesmerized by the long green fingers of the Grinch, who is actually the husband of Dr. Kathlyn Kight, one of Thrive’s volunteer physicians. A tiny Cindy Lou Who from Whoville, Dr. Kight’s daughter, pranced up to Ivan’s car



- 76 client families**
- 3,000 diapers**
- \$1,500 in gift cards**
- 15 festive holiday stations**
- 50 volunteers**

window to pop apples and oranges into his stocking.

Thrive staffer Lana Hopkins helped check in about 76 cars full of client families like Ivan's.

"Oh, we just love this event," Hopkins said. "It's always fun to see your clients in such a family atmosphere. It reinforces the fact we really do care about our clients. It's encouraging to see the babies that were saved because of our clinic."

She was thrilled when her former client, Kelly, drove up with her children, including her new baby boy.

"When I went to Thrive last year, I didn't have insurance and my husband was in between jobs," Kelly recalled as she introduced her new baby through the car window. "Thrive encouraged my husband and me to be a team to raise our child. It really helped strengthen our family."

Kelly stopped at the first station to collect a gift card and diapers before rolling up to hear a jubilant group of about 10 children jumping and shouting, "Merry Christmas!"

This group of children was volunteering with four families from a community group from Watermark Community Church.

"We really try to be intentional to do things to bless others, and this was a great opportunity for us to get our kids out here and serve as a family," said David Acosta. He and other parents helped the children decorate wintry Christmas posters with scriptures such as 1 John 3:1. "How great the love the Father has lavished on us!"

That love is not lost on Nora, a Thrive client who drove through the Cookies with Santa event with her husband, three children, and carrying a new baby on the way. "This year has been hard," she admitted, but being part of the Thrive family has made all the difference.

"Thrive always brings my mind and spirit back where I need to be," she said with a smile. "When I start to have fear and hear all the negative things around me, I can talk to someone at Thrive about God or come to an event like this and everything is brought back into perspective for me in my role as a mom. I feel loved and encouraged." 🌿



Medical Director celebrates 20 years at Thrive

Dr. Steven Harris looked at Kristal's sonogram. He had seen this rare condition before in his 30 years of practicing obstetrics and gynecology in Dallas.

Her baby boy's intestines had come out of the abdominal wall and were floating freely in the amniotic sack.

He knew Kristal came to Thrive Women's Clinic

considering abortion, and he knew this diagnosis was no reason for her to terminate her pregnancy.

"This condition is called gastroschisis, and it is actually very fixable," he explained to her gently. "It's a journey, but ninety percent of babies with this problem end up doing extremely well."

He could see Kristal's heart was changing.

"I think that made her love grow even more as she knew the baby had a problem," Dr. Harris explained. In 20 years as Medical Director at Thrive Women's

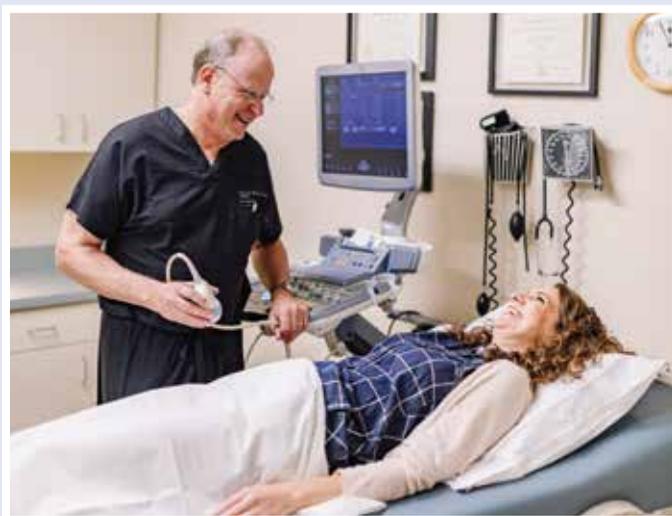


Dr. Harris with Kristal and Baby Ashton. He has made a full recovery.

Clinic, he has found that educating a client about her situation can often help her overcome the fears that sometimes lead a woman to consider an abortion. “You start thinking: This baby is not a problem. This is my baby with a problem, and I’m going to do all I can to help fix it.”

Kristal chose life for her baby and Dr. Harris connected her with the right specialists for a successful pregnancy, safe delivery, and corrective surgeries for Baby Ashton. Now, he is 2 years old and has made a full recovery.

Every month for the past two decades, Dr. Harris has served clients like Kristal at Thrive Women’s Clinic. As Medical Director of the ministry, the clinic operates under his medical license. He works in



private practice, but all his work for Thrive is on a volunteer basis.

“He is so committed to providing education and guidance to Thrive nurses and doctors,” said Mary Jayne Fogerty, Thrive’s Executive Director. “He approves all Thrive’s medical policies, helps screen new medical volunteers, and comes several times a month to our Central Dallas clinic to meet with Thrive nurses, review client charts, and meet with clients with pregnancy concerns. He has long been the medical cornerstone of this ministry.”

Dr. Harris believes in Thrive’s mission to provide compassionate care to women and their partners experiencing unplanned pregnancy.

“Thrive is an amazing clinic,” said Dr. Harris. “The thing I love about Thrive is the love for the patient. Thrive is not judgmental, regardless what a patient decides. We just love them. It’s based on Christ’s love. That gives them the hope of the future and the world that Christ can open up for their child—and for them.” 🌱

Scan the code below with your phone camera to watch Kristal’s story, or visit: <https://qr1.be/M9TB>



Dr. Harris leads our stellar medical team of doctors who donate their time to Thrive. All of them are licensed practicing medical doctors of obstetrics and gynecology.



Dr. Mie M. Sohn-McGowan



Dr. Garrett Garner



Dr. Elizabeth Coronado



Dr. Adrienne Browning



Dr. Kathlyn Kight

A client shows gratitude

It is a little odd to get donations from a different state, so our Thrive development team reached out to this donor to find out how she heard about Thrive. That uncovered an amazing story that started in our clinic 2 years ago when Amy* came in seeking an abortion at age 18.



She was quiet at first in the counseling room with her Thrive advocate, but tears came as she explained how she was led into a deceitful relationship with a married man. The baby's father wanted her to get an abortion, and she feared shaming her Catholic family. One of our physicians was available in the office that day to talk to her and explain away some of the medical misinformation the baby's father had conjured.

Amy returned two more times, still unsure about what to do with her pregnancy. Our staff had many encouraging conversations and let her know God was with her. She started taking steps to find a doctor, quit her job, and possibly move

to another state with her mother. Staff continued to call and email Amy, but soon stopped getting a response and never knew the outcome.

Two years later, her financial donation arrived in Thrive's mail.

"I have an amazing baby now, and am grateful for all of your help that got me through my hardship," she wrote in an email to Thrive. "This is just a way for me to say thank you. Please keep up your meaningful work."

What prompts YOUR generosity?

We'd love to hear your story next time you make your donation at [Vinekeepers.org/donate](https://vinekeepers.org/donate). 



**Name changed to protect privacy*

FALL EVENT ROUND-UP



FROM TOP, CLOCKWISE: Event Chair Orlando Salazar and his wife (left) with guests. Client Nicole with Baby Kyle Grace. Executive Director Mary Jayne Fogerty with board members Lexie Graben, Peyton Harris, and Kim Meiser.

Celebration and Fundraising Dinner

Our annual event was a dazzling evening that displayed God's work at Thrive Women's Clinic. Thrive Baby Kyle Grace enchanted our hearts with her lively spirit on stage, and we all learned something new about life in the womb through our OhKnow education program. We love seeing so many of you in person as we spaced out our tables, encouraged masks, and served individual appetizer plates in efforts to curb Covid-19. With just half of our typical attendance, we raised 95% of our fundraising goal for this event. **THANK YOU!**



Watch keynote speaker Jim Denison tell Thrive supporters about the cultural challenges facing today's LIFE issue: <https://qr1.be/1IKS>

Watch the story of Baby Kyle Grace: <https://qr1.be/OYTW>



Save this date:

Celebration and Fundraising Dinner

Oct. 7, 2021 - Featuring guest speaker Jonathan Evans, son of Dr. Tony Evans and chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys

Some cold temps and Covid-19 can't stop our drive.

Thanks, golfers, for braving the weather to Golf Fore LIFE!

The pandemic led us to postpone this annual springtime tournament, but the frigid October chill produced a fun and unforgettable event at **Maridoe Golf Club**. This year's golfers enjoyed an enhanced experience with steaks, caddies, and stellar staff who did a spectacular job accommodating the unpredictable elements. (They even provided pocket hand warmers—nice!)

Special thanks to Maridoe Golf Club, 44Farms Beef, and event chairman Orlando Salazar.



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Women's Brunch

April 1, 2021

The Dallas Arboretum



Featured speaker: Sheila Walsh, the multi-talented contemporary Christian vocalist, songwriter, evangelist, author, inspirational speaker, and television host. Sponsorship opportunities and full table reservations will be available online soon, or contact clawson@thrivewomensclinic.com



Dallas Life, Inc.

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Pictured: THRIVE client, Melody and her children.

Give The GIFT of LIFE

CHOOSE YOUR PERFECT GIFT!

- \$100**
For two Month's of Diapers
- \$200**
Mentors a new parent for one month
- \$500**
Provides her first sonogram
- \$750**
To teach a high school class about LIFE

Make your year-end gift to Thrive TODAY!

Three reasons why:

1. The pressure to abort is stronger than ever in 2020.
2. The CARES Act gives tax perks to donors, but ONLY for 2020.
3. YOU choose your favorite Gift of Life in our online catalogue.

ONLINE CATALOGUE:

Vinekeepers.org/vine2020



LOCATIONS:

Central Dallas Clinic

6500 Greenville Avenue
Suite 600

Dallas, Texas 75206

NOTE: This is our corporate and mailing address.

East Dallas Clinic

12959 Jupiter Road
Suite 260

Dallas, Texas 75238

West Dallas Clinic

3901 Holystone St.
Dallas, Texas 75212

Irving Clinic

1111 W Airport Fwy
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