

Learn ways to cultivate LIFE for babies, families and communities.

theVine

ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 2019

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Women's Clinic



Letter from the Executive Director

As you reflect on your life, how do you mark events? I often consider my children's ages. I joined Thrive's team when my daughter was in middle school and my sons were in high school. Now they are grownups, finished college years ago, and living in Nashville, Austin and Dallas.

Fifteen years with Thrive have flown by! **My motto is "change is good," and things have changed!**



Our staff and budget have tripled. We added our West Dallas Clinic, moved our Greenville Clinic, and launched our Irving Clinic. We helped two international clinics launch and enjoy our partnership with them.

Fifteen years ago we were advertising to

potential clients in the Yellow Pages book. Now, all of our advertising is online. Technology has ramped up. Clients can now make online appointments and we often communicate with them through texts. This year we hope to go paperless and eliminate client paper files!

I have learned to walk by faith and take risks knowing God will provide for Thrive with funding, staffing, volunteers, clients, and continued passion to protect the unborn and their mothers from abortion. I enjoy seeing clients come back to visit, such as the one in the photo at left.

Much has changed, but our mission remains the same: we continue to serve our clients in an intimate and personal way addressing each privately and individually with the love of Christ and with our free services because of your generosity.

Even after 15 years Thrive is an invigorating and exciting place to work. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this.

To God be the glory,

Mary Jayne Fogerty
Executive Director, Thrive Women's Clinic

Jan-June
2019
Statistics

New client
visits:
1,109

Babies
saved:
133

New
believers:
32

You turned on the lights in Africa

You've sent even more blessings to **Latter Glory Clinic**, our partner pregnancy center you helped launch last year in Uganda:

- A generator with an ongoing fuel supply so lights and sonograms can still shine despite frequent power outages.
- The salaries of the Ugandan director and assistant director.
- Doppler units so local medical teams can visit the slums and allow moms to hear their babies' heartbeats.

Latter Glory reports sonograms are leading many moms to choose life. Thank you.



Last month, Thrive nurse Vivian Summey joined another Thrive staff member for a week working in the Uganda clinic and nearby churches.

Your first Irving baby is coming!

The first baby you saved from abortion through our new **Irving Clinic** will be born this month! Alicia* came in December with her boyfriend, seriously considering abortion. After their first sonogram, **Nurse Vicki Germer** prayed with them, but they left unsure. They came back for a second sonogram and Alicia said **the sonogram calmed her fears and helped her feel positive about parenting**. We are rejoicing that she chose life!



How you gave Mandy* a picture of faith

When Mandy first came to Thrive she was shocked about the pregnancy and unsure if she would have support from her boyfriend. God provided the perfect volunteer advocate at Thrive for her: **Lexie Graben**. Lexie shared her own testimony about how the gospel changed her life as a single parent and they prayed together. For the next five months, Mandy attended Earn While You Learn classes about pregnancy and her baby. Judah* was born in late November and his father has agreed to offer support. They attended our Mother's Day Client Party, where they had this photo taken by Lexie, who was also our event photographer. 🌱

SAVE THE DATE!

North Texas Giving Day 2019

Thursday, Sept. 19 from 6 a.m. to midnight

NorthTexasGivingDay.org/thrivewomensclinic

You're bringing LIFE into public schools

Thrive's new STD education program gains access to Dallas-area school districts



“Take your piece of gum and chew it,” said Vivian Summey, Thrive Nurse and OhKnow Educator, talking to a couple of 8th grade volunteers she brought to stand in front of their health class at Frasier Middle School in Mesquite.



OhKnow teaching team Vivian Summey (left) and Lauren Valentine (right).

“Now, take it out of your mouth and trade with your neighbor,” she said. “Chew your neighbor’s gum.”

“Whoa!” they chimed in disgust. “Ew! I’m not doing that.”

Summey chuckled and explained. “You’re saying you’re not going to chew this gum, yet a large percentage of you will go out and have oral, genital, or other kinds of sex, which are far more dangerous than chewing this gum. So let’s walk

through the risks of being sexually active.”

This is how Summey gets the attention of the public school students she is teaching about

sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and sexual health in Dallas-area public schools. Thrive nurses have been teaching a fetal development class since 2010 and added a second class on STD education in 2018. Together, these two class offerings form **OhKnow, Thrive’s education program**.

OhKnow is now approved for **Richardson, Garland, and Mesquite Independent School Districts**. Teachers in those districts can log on to Ohknow.org and schedule a presentation. The classes are also offered with a spiritual emphasis for private schools and church groups.

Already in 2019, **OhKnow nurses taught 24 classes on fetal development and STDs for 2,240 students** all over the region. **OhKnow is on track to more than double the number of presentations this school year.**

Why are schoolteachers eager to have Thrive nurses come teach these topics? Middle and high schools are required to teach fetal development and sexual health by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and OhKnow offers to bring in the classes for free.

Dallas has the highest increase in the nation

“This presentation has changed my attitude about having sex and makes me want to remain abstinent.”
–Student response after OhKnow:STD presentation

in cases of **chlamydia and gonorrhea**, according to the Centers for Disease Control. **Syphilis** is alarmingly on the rise all across the nation, and can affect newborns. Antibiotic treatments are proving less and less effective. Additionally, certain Dallas zip codes have the nation’s highest teen pregnancy rates in the nation.

“It’s definitely an epidemic problem,” Summey said.

Dallas ISD and the City of Dallas recently approved a “safe sex” education programs backed by Planned Parenthood, despite outcry from many Thrive supporters and others in the community. As an alternative, Thrive believes the **OhKnow:STD presentations, though secular, discourage the risky sexual behavior that is a key part of the life issue.**

“When students understand the consequences

of risky sexual activity, they will seek healthier relationships that ultimately honor God’s plan for sex and family,” Summey said. “Partner this with our fetal development program teaching when life begins, and **we can build a generation that will find abortion unthinkable.**”

OhKnow:STDs is an interactive multimedia presentation that lasts 30-45 minutes and includes quizzes, statistics, eye-opening photographs, and gripping anecdotes from our nurses’ experiences in the pregnancy clinic. Educators teach the statistics of various protection methods but stress sexual purity as the only foolproof way to avoid these consequences.

All the school teachers gave the highest rating on a survey and indicated they want to invite OhKnow back next year. 🌱

How does OhKnow get into public schools? The SHAC and YOU

Each Texas school district has a Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC), a group of parents and community members who meet to approve health-related education and services for the district, such as OhKnow. Thrive is actively working to earn representation through YOU in other districts, including Dallas ISD.

“The SHACs are a key way to **influence the messages our children are hearing about sex** and health in public schools,” said Meredith Hall, Thrive’s Director of Clinic Services. “Consider applying for these committees in your own districts to let your voice be heard.”

Search online for your district and “SHAC” to learn more.



Know anyone interested in hosting a class?

Choose from two 45-minute class options: Sexual Health or Fetal Development

- Church youth groups
- Health and science teachers
- School nurses
- Youth education programs

Sign up at OhKnow.org

The leadership long-game

Executive Director Mary Jayne Fogerty celebrates 15 years

Thrive is celebrating longevity of leadership as Executive Director Mary Jayne Fogerty marks 15 years of visionary guidance, which is longer than any other director in Thrive's 36-year history.

Fogerty, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, joined Thrive in 2004 as Director of Development and was appointed to her current role less than two years later.

"I remember feeling very ill-equipped," Fogerty admits, "but I loved being in urban ministry where I could share the gospel, so I stepped in out of obedience to God."

That has been her mantra ever since: Walk through the doors God opens with faith He will show up in marvelous ways.

Fogerty is quick to embrace opportunities that God presents, whether it's opening new clinics, supporting pregnancy centers in developing countries, or embracing new technology to reach abortion-minded women through their cell phone searches.

She takes every chance to tell about God's work for life in Dallas, whether on a radio show or on the go.

"I was recently at a dinner party in the Hamptons with my husband's work, and I got to tell a woman about what I do," Fogerty said. "She opened up about her own abortion in the past and shared her whole experience. That happens all the time. God has really emboldened me and this has become such a part of my identity."

Under her leadership, Thrive has:

Built a strong brand

Fogerty's leadership has kept Thrive operating in

the black financially with a healthy reserve every year. She does this through wisdom, grant-writing skills, genuine connection with donors, and a deep faith in God's provision.

Spurred Growth

With fervent research, financial forecasts, and other due-diligence, Fogerty worked with the board to embrace the opportunity God brought forth to open a fourth clinic. The Irving location opened in November.

Also under Mary Jayne's leadership, Thrive:

- Began two annual client parties to celebrate their families at Christmas and Mother's Day.



"One of the biggest contributions Mary Jayne has made to this organization is excellence. She has made Thrive a leader in the field and people from around the country and the world come to her for advice on how to start and maintain a pregnancy center."

-Clare Smitham, Thrive's Board President



Mary Jayne Fogerty with clients.



Fogerty and Thrive team lobby in Austin.



Fogerty values relationships with other pregnancy center directors in the area.

- Developed the OhKnow education program for local schools.
- Helped launch a nonprofit called BraveLove to redefine our culture's view of adoption.
- Supported the launch of two international clinics in Chile and Uganda.

You support a firm foundation

Our staff of 32 often features fresh faces that bring new insight, but our organization also operates with the loyalty and wisdom of long-serving staff.

- Kay Morton, Nurse – 21 years
- Earlene Jones, Director of Client Services – 20 years
- Dr. Steven Harris, Medical Director – 20 years
- Lisa Roberts, Nurse – 18 years
- Vivian Summey, Nurse and OhKnow Educator – 15 years 🌱

Celebrate with us!

Donate **FIFTEEN** in Mary Jayne's honor:

\$15
a month

15 days
of Google Ads
reaching abortion-minded
women \$1,250

15 pregnancy
tests with
nurse
consultation
... \$1,500

15 boxes
of diapers \$375

15 sonograms
... **\$3,750**

Vinekeepers.org/donate or mail a check
with the accompanying envelope.

You
sparked
hope



We had no idea Rebecca's story at Thrive started 10 years ago in the sonogram room.

Most staff in the Thrive offices knew Rebecca Ibarra as the modest, godly mom of five who volunteered faithfully every week, quietly organizing our baby store. She small-talked about her family beach vacation, her son's wrestling tournaments, and her church group.



But not many knew she first walked through Thrive's clinic doors 10 years earlier as a client in a spiral of self-destruction.

"That year, 2009, I was raising an 8-year-old and a one-year-old," she recalls. "I was living with a man who was not my husband. When the pregnancy test came back positive, overwhelming anxiety just washed over me. What do I do now?"

She shakes her head to think about how complicated her situation had become over the years.

As a child, she vividly remembers the real spiritual experience of getting baptized at First Baptist Church in Leesville, LA. Her parents got divorced, she joined the military at age 17, had a baby and got married by 18, and eventually worked her way up to well-paying jobs at large

companies. When her family stopped going to church, she descended into a dark season.

"I drowned myself with cocaine, alcohol, chain smoking and a party lifestyle. I became the complete opposite of who I knew I should be," she said. "I would go to Planned Parenthood when I needed Plan B contraceptives."

Nobody at Planned Parenthood presented her with options or listened to her story. Luckily this time, she found Thrive through a Google search.

"Thrive was so welcoming, like I was in someone's home," she recalls. "My nurse showed me the sonogram and said I'm 16 weeks pregnant. I saw a squirming baby boy."

She said her advocate's loving approach in the counseling room broke down barriers that allowed her to be open.

"This flood of emotion came out of me," she said. "I had gone through one traumatic event after another. The divorce, drugs, alcohol abuse, and covering up a rape I had suffered. Hiding beneath all that was such a heavy burden."

Her advocate kept reminding her that despite all her decisions that brought so many difficult consequences, Jesus still loved her.

"I felt like this was the beginning of something," Rebecca said. "I look back at that moment, and **I can say hope started there.** It was like a light you could barely see, but **I left the office knowing I could choose life for my son—and for myself.**"

She accepted the advocate's invitation to attend Watermark Church. God began to work in powerful ways. She married the baby's father, and they built a family.

"We started to break down those walls in our lives with so much sin and started the healing process, she said. "We have five kids now, including the youngest we took in for a relative through guardianship. **Our lives are completely different and that's all because of Jesus. He really can change you.**"

He is now using her story as a platform for His glory as she serves as an ambassador for life at churches and various events. Her message?

"Every man, woman and child who has any interaction with Thrive is truly being changed, and an imprint of Christ is being left," Rebecca says. "I'm proof." 🌱

2019 Volunteer Guide

More at Vinekeepers.org/get-involved

We can't run this ministry without you! We have ongoing opportunities for doctors, nurses, and anyone willing to help with prayer, office work, client relations, event planning, and advocacy in your churches.

TOP
NEED

Client advocates (Lay counselors and mentors)

- Meet clients one-on-one, or teach group classes
- AM or PM shift, 3-4 hours weekly or bimonthly
- Men, women, and Spanish speakers needed
- One-year commitment
- Stellar training provided

NEXT ADVOCATE TRAINING: Oct 12 & 26, 9a.m. - 1p.m. (Attend both sessions.)

SHADOW AN ADVOCATE: Want to see how it works? Contact beaston@vinekeepers.org



SEE OUR VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION:
[Vimeo.com/vinekeepers](https://vimeo.com/vinekeepers)

ONE-TIME SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

Cookies with Santa - Dec. 7 -
Help throw our Christmas party for client families - at Watermark Community Church. Vinekeepers.org/cookies



2019 Volunteers of the Year

(Left to right) Frances Eubanks, Lexie Graben, Patty Cerpa and Louisa Harrington



Thrive mourns a team member

In 26 years on staff at Thrive Women's Clinic, **Jamie Thigpen** said her favorite thing about her job was seeing the Body of Christ at work.

"It has been amazing to see volunteers from so many different places in Christianity and from many different churches working together serving the Lord," she said. "As they come and go, God has been faithful to bring more just like them."

We can only hope God would bring us another like Jamie Thigpen.

Jamie passed away in July and will be so greatly missed. She had a gentle and quiet spirit and served with excellence as our staff accountant. She started at Thrive as a volunteer when all bills and payroll were on paper, graduated to an Apple computer with a six-inch screen, and eventually brought us into the era of Quickbooks. She mentored clients and diligently proofread all our publications. She adored her grandchildren. We were honored to call her our friend. We rejoice that she is in the Lord's presence today.

This newsletter is dedicated to her, and may any typos you find serve as a small reminder of the many reasons we miss her here at Thrive.

If you wish to send a sympathy card to her family please send it to Thrive Women's Clinic, 6500 Greenville Ave., Suite 600, Dallas, Texas 75206.

You're driving life!

Our golf tournament was a swinging success May 6, with about 100 golfers helping raise more than \$77,000! We're excited next year's tournament will be at the exclusive Maridoe Golf Club. Thanks to all of our sponsors.

Ad Pages Printing	Vista Bank	Baker Brothers Plumbing
Campisi's Pizza	Move It Storage	
Carmel Car Wash	Walt & Anne Waldie	Kemp Enterprises
Pardue Companies	Alterra Design, LLC	GMBL Consulting
Raymond Construction	Capital Plus Financial	Bibbentucker's Ferguson
Sharp Insulation	Chaparral Insulation	Colquitt Dental
Doug & Margaret Jordan	Casci Plaster	Trinity Fellowship Church
Sarah Fultz Interiors		



Mark your calendar!

September 19 - North Texas Giving Day

October 3 - Celebration Dinner at Frontiers of Flight Museum

October 12 and 26 - Volunteer training (Must attend both sessions.)

December 7

Cookies with Santa client party (volunteers needed.)

January 19, 2020

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Learn more at Vinekeepers.org/events



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clare Smitham, Chair

Austin Starke "Tracy" Taylor III, Vice Chair

Peyton Harris, Treasurer

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Patty Cerpa

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Dr. Steven Harris

Medical Director

Mary Jayne Fogerty

Executive Director

Meredith Hall

Director of Clinic Services

Earlene Jones

Director of Client Services

Kontessa Kiel

Director of Operations

Wade Souza

Men's Program Coordinator

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.

For clients:

ThriveWomensClinic.com

For supporters:

Vinekeepers.org



Facebook:

FB.com/vinekeepers

FB.com/thrivewomensclinic



Instagram:

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Dallas Life, Inc.

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Vinekeepers.org

Client website: ThriveWomensClinic.com

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TAKE FLIGHT FOR LIFE

CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISING DINNER

FRONTIERS OF FLIGHT MUSEUM



Featuring

Dr. Damon Friedman,
U.S. combat veteran and
former member of the
Air Force Spec Ops Elite



OCT. 3, 2019

VINEKEEPERS.ORG/DINNER

Vinekeepers
Supporting Thrive Women's Clinic

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
Suite 229

Irving, Texas 75062



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