

ALSO INSIDE: Jim Denison to equip you at our fall event
Abortion Pill - What do you know? • Absent dads - You're rewriting the legacy

thevine

A PUBLICATION OF THRIVE WOMEN'S CLINIC • ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 2020

Vine
keepers
Supporting Thrive
Women's Clinics

Illuminating
LIFE

New Sonogram Machines Arrive! | PAGE 4

Letter from the Executive Director

Transformational light

Over the years I have purchased dozens of orchids. I love their beautiful exotic blossoms and their long enduring blooms of 4 to 8 weeks making them a great value. But, I have historically tossed them out when the last bloom falls. This year I wanted to get one to rebloom. I learned to place it in a southern window and water lightly each week. I faithfully followed the directions for 9 months and recently one branch extended and four buds had formed on my smallest plant. It was beginning to rebloom! It worked! I had no idea the importance of the right light.

Six months ago, I purchased African violets that never rebloomed. After some research, I learned they need

a northern window. I placed them in north windows and left town for a week. I figured it was worth a try. Upon my return they were all in full glorious bloom! I found that miraculous. Again, it was the right light that enabled them to blossom.

Thrive is a light in the darkness for our clients, especially now. As they face uncertainties of unplanned pregnancy piled on top of fears fueled by the coronavirus, YOU are the light of the Lord giving them hope, courage and wisdom to continue their pregnancies. Through our free sonograms and talks with their advocates, we see the Lord transform their hearts and their faces reflect peace and joy—even through their face masks. Your support moves them forward to choose life and flourish.

This is our theme for this season: A light in the darkness. We get this quote from a client who called us at the height of this pandemic from the literal doorstep of an abortion clinic. Our staff took time to counsel her with the hope of Jesus. She chose life and said, “You have been a light in a long dark tunnel.”

Thank YOU for being the light of Jesus, transforming lives and allowing women and babies to blossom into God’s beautiful plan for them. 🌱



Mary Jayne Fogerty

Executive Director, Thrive Women's Clinic

Jan-July
2020
Statistics

New client
visits:

827

Babies
saved:

101

New
believers:

25

Welcome, new board members!



Lexie Graben - Professional photographer, mom of two, former Thrive event co-chair and Volunteer of the Year for her service as a client advocate/lay counselor. Her photos are featured throughout Thrive publications.



Richard Kerry – Licensed Professional Counselor, father of three, and care pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Dallas. His mother was a teen mom who inspired his involvement in the life movement.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 7

Giving begins for North Texas Giving Day

Sept. 17

North Texas Giving Day

Sept. 24

Celebration Dinner featuring Jim Denison

Oct. 27

Golf Fore Life at Maridoe Golf Club



Baby Kylo says hello

Baby Kylo is thriving! His mom chose life at Thrive after two heartbreaking abortions. We are filming his amazing story to share with you later. Meantime, enjoy his smile! 🌱



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director of Clinic Services

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Kontessa Kiel

Director of Client Services

Wade Souza

Men's 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



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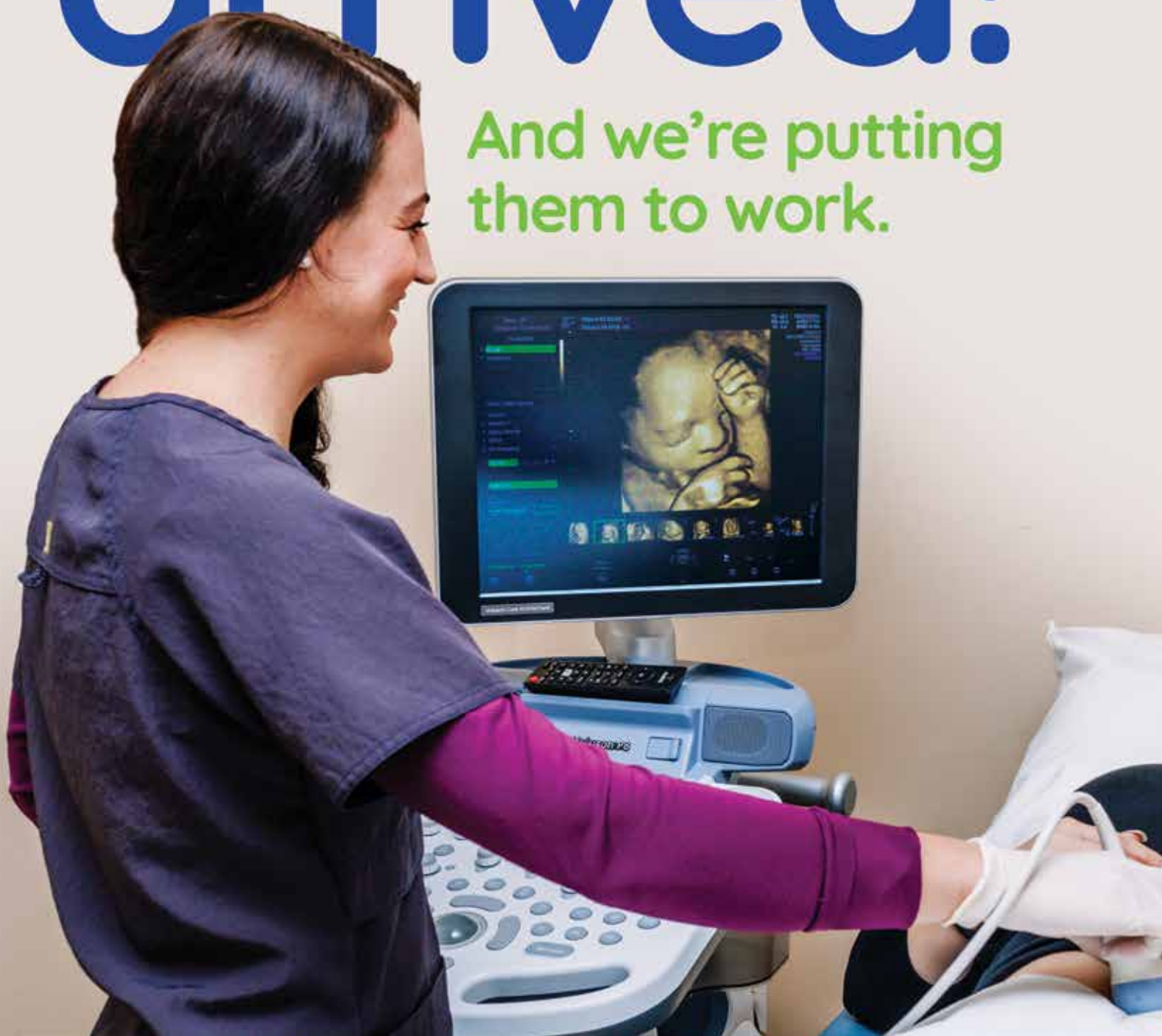
Instagram:

[/vinekeepers](https://www.instagram.com/vinekeepers)

[/thrivewomensclinic](https://www.instagram.com/thrivewomensclinic)

Twins arrived!

And we're putting them to work.



Thrive Women's Clinic is celebrating the arrival of two new sonogram machines displaying LIFE more vibrantly than ever.

Last year, Thrive staff realized images were not coming through clearly on the sonogram machine at our East Dallas location. That prompted a rigorous, six-month application process for a grant from Focus on the Family, which also required a 20 percent matching contribution.

"God went beyond our expectations," said Mary Jayne Fogerty, Thrive's Executive Director. "The McCamey family provided the match and Focus on the Family approved TWO sonogram machines for us!"

The new machines, placed at the Central and East Dallas Clinics, feature better imaging and wireless capabilities that can transmit photos to clients and doctors instantly.

"There is no other tool more powerful in deterring

abortion than sonogram technology. Why? It allows a mother to meet her baby for the first time," Fogerty said. "Every day, when clients see their babies in their wombs, hearts are changed."

With funding provided for that equipment, **YOUR dollars can now stretch to our frontlines, equipping our staff, advocates, and programs that speak directly into the hearts of the women in Dallas County considering abortion today.**



Watch it!

For a quick demonstration by Clinic Services Director Meredith Hall scan the code with your phone camera or visit [Bit.ly/newsono](https://bit.ly/newsono).

The sonogram moment: Clients share how sonograms made the difference



Alison:

"They asked me to do a sonogram and at first

I didn't want to because I was scared. But I did it. Twins! It changed everything. At 8 weeks, I chose life. My babies are the biggest blessing in my life.



Alysha:

I was looking for abortion clinics and ended

up at Thrive and had a sonogram. I saw his heart beat. At that moment, I was just like, well, I guess I'm going to be a parent. I was six weeks and four days when I chose life.



Kristal:

I go in for the sonogram and see the baby.

Wow, the baby's bigger than I thought. The nurse explained the sonogram shows the baby had a condition, but she said she's seen babies come out of this completely fine. I realized my child needs me, and that's what got me to change my mind. Thrive connected us with all the specialists we needed, and Ashton is two years old and thriving now.



Gretchen:

As soon as I saw the sonogram and I saw him

moving around, it was an indescribable feeling. I decided right there to keep him.



Rebecca:

As I'm laying there, I see the screen

and it's a full-blown baby. This flood of emotion comes out of me. Hope started there. I left that office knowing I can choose life for my son. It's the greatest blessing that ever happened to me. 🌱



They need diapers. You're stepping up!

Many of our clients are facing financial struggles and feelings of isolation due to this pandemic, but YOU are helping show God's love and provision in these tough times.



We continue to provide pregnancy tests and sonograms in our clinics during the coronavirus outbreak, but our parenting courses are online only. We've missed seeing these families

in person! Our hearts were warmed when about 60 client families came to two Diaper Drive Up events this spring and summer, funded by YOUR donations to our grocery fund. THANK YOU for providing diapers and baby supplies for our clients who chose life.



Watch 1-min of our Diaper Drive-up!

Open the video by scanning the code with your smart phone camera or visit bit.ly/DiaperDriveup.



OhKnow goes online


When schools worldwide went virtual, our OhKnow education program was ready.

Thrive nurses spent the first part of the Spring 2020 semester traveling to more than a dozen public and private schools throughout the region to teach fetal development and sexual health. When the pandemic hit and schools turned virtual, OhKnow's full schedule of remaining in-person classes was canceled.



However, teachers were clamoring for online curriculum. Our staff quickly filmed the presentations and reached more students virtually in the second half of the semester. This fall, our dynamic OhKnow team has revamped our virtual course offerings and is ready to infuse this generation with this powerful education—online or in person.

Interested in our free courses?

- Targets late middle school/high school
 - Invite Thrive nurses to present in person at your school or church
 - Virtual/homeschool option available online
- Register at OhKnow.org.** 

The Abortion Pill 101



Life activists like YOU should know the changing face of abortion

The Abortion Pill

AKA: Chemical abortion, medical abortion, self-managed abortion, do-it-yourself abortion, RU486, mifepristone/misoprostol

When: Prior to 10 weeks of pregnancy

Where: After a clinic visit, doctors prescribe a series of medications to take at home.

Price: Around \$500

How: The first medication breaks down the lining of the uterus, which protects the developing baby. The second pill, taken at home, expels the baby within 24-48 hours through cramping and heavy bleeding.

The Morning-After Pill

AKA: Plan “B”, emergency contraception (NOT the Abortion Pill)

When: Within 72 hours of unprotected sex

Where: Over-the-counter pharmacy or online

Price: \$12-\$50

How: Can prevent ovulation and/or fertilization of an egg

The Story

Meredith Hall, Director of Clinic Services

About 40 percent of abortions in the U.S. are now through the abortion pill. Our clients ask about it nearly every day. It seems so simple in theory: Pop a pill and make it all go away. The truth is much more complex.

We educate clients that this chemical abortion actually requires a series of pills and clinic visits

before 10 weeks of pregnancy. After 10 weeks, a surgical abortion is required. Clients often grimace and shake their heads at the idea of an invasive surgical procedure, but the physical and emotional risks of the abortion pill should not be discounted.

The abortion industry calls it the “do-it-yourself” or “self-managed” abortion. It’s 95-98% effective and is considered the “safer” choice by abortion providers. However, it brings risk of a ruptured ectopic pregnancy that can only be diagnosed by a physician through sonography and labs. It can also bring hemorrhage, infection, and incomplete abortions requiring surgical intervention (Mayo Clinic). That’s why the FDA recommends medical supervision and Texas requires three clinic visits for abortion pill prescriptions. Even so, many websites are selling the medication online.

There is hope. Abortion Pill Reversal treatment is becoming more available in the area. That’s where Rachel* found hope after calling Thrive at the height of the coronavirus pandemic this spring. She welcomed prayer, but she was still determined to abort since her boyfriend revealed he is married. Staff continued to pray. She called back after having taken the first abortion pill.

“I immediately regretted my decision,” Rachel said, describing a traumatizing experience in the abortion clinic where women were “herded through like cattle.”

That day, she called the Abortion Pill Reversal hotline, which led her to a local clinic to start the reversal medication. She later emailed her Thrive nurse to report healthy sonograms.

“This baby has a heartbeat!” she said. 🌱

**Client names changed to protect privacy*

The other side of the story

Every abortion story includes a father. YOU are inspiring him to step up.

When Jared came into Thrive Women's Clinic with his girlfriend, he had no reason to think this story would end differently than their last two abortions.

"At the abortion clinics, nobody really talked to me. I was just there," he said. He was surprised when he was included in the conversation at Thrive.

"That's when I met Wade," Jared said. Thrive's Men's Ministry Coordinator, Wade Souza, is a young father himself who could empathize with Jared's fears and insecurities about being able to provide for a family.

"He understood my struggle," Jared said. "I walked out of there with a clear mind about what I was going to do."

Jared finally had a conversation with his girlfriend about parenting. Together, they chose life for their baby, who was born in November. The couple returned for ongoing mentoring and community.

In 2019, Souza and his dedicated team of male volunteers met with 115 male clients in a total of 166 total sessions—more men and sessions than ever before!

"Many men we counsel have never had a conversation with another man about the Gospel, biblical manhood, sexual integrity, marriage, and the like," Souza said. "Many had an absent, abusive, or neglectful father and have never had positive male role models or peers. Many aspire to provide a better childhood for their children than their fathers and communicate a commitment to parenting."

Although Thrive suspended in-person mentoring sessions due to the coronavirus outbreak, **the Men's team has led 57 virtual dad training and mentoring sessions since March**. That includes a Virtual Guy's Night with prizes, testimonies, and prayer.

Souza, a graduate of the University of Kansas and student at Dallas Theological Seminary, volunteered for two years with his wife at Thrive before he came on

staff. Over the past 5 years he became a father himself and has personally counseled 237 men. Each one heard the Gospel and a godly vision for fatherhood.

Souza said many men who come to Thrive have fallen prey to the lie of "my body, my choice" and thrust the decision completely on the baby's mother. Others see only the "costs" associated with raising a child without considering the devastating effects of abortion and blessings of parenthood.

"We get to invest in the next generation of fathers and the generations to come," Souza said. "What an amazing opportunity!"

What's to come after the pandemic?

- **Men's Social Event at Top Golf** to build community among new Thrive dads.
- **The Man Cave opens** at our East Dallas Clinic for counseling sessions. It includes a mini-fridge, sports décor, and a men's library.

James (below): "I am learning how I should conduct myself as a father and as a man. Meeting with the Thrive Men has played a major role in





my life—each session I leave with a more positive attitude, am more sensitive to my partner's needs during pregnancy, and the things we talk about I'm putting into practice. Thrive is a place I can come to get advice and encouragement, regardless of what I'm going through.” 🌱



Scan the code with your phone camera to watch Andy's story to see his journey into godly fatherhood. Or visit [Bit.ly/thrivemen](https://bit.ly/thrivemen).

115 men

attended 166 mentoring sessions in 2019

Pandemic stats: 57 virtual meetings with male clients March – June



When Jared and his girlfriend came to Thrive, he expected to be ignored like his previous experiences at abortion clinics. He was surprised to be included in the conversations at Thrive.

It wasn't until later in life that **Clare Smitham** understood the real reason she grew up serving at Thrive Women's Clinic alongside her mom, **Diane Jones**.

Clare went with her mom to donate baby clothes, served at Thrive with her youth group from Scofield Church, and worked on the administrative staff during summers in college.

"As a young person, I was passionate about life in the womb and speaking out for life, even in my public school," said Clare, who now serves as Thrive's board president. "I found great joy in seeing the needs of men

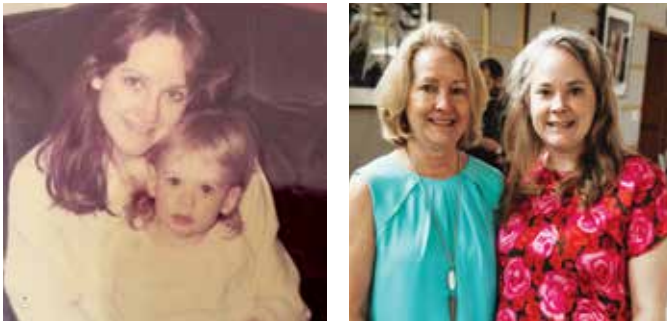
and brought along her kids.

"They know what abortion is and why it breaks hearts and families."

Diane and Jay have faithfully and generously donated to Thrive's ministry and chaired our 2018 Celebration and Fundraising Dinner. Diane has also helped open the first clinic and served on the board for a number of years, including as board president.

Their life-saving legacy continues with their children.

"Thrive is a part of our family," Diane said. "We love that clients receive biblical truth and are treated with love



Diane Jones and her daughter, Clare Smitham, have both served as Board Chair of Thrive Women's Clinic.

It all made so much more sense to Clare when she learned later in life that she had been unplanned, herself.

and women met, seeing the hope they have when they hear their alternatives and the hope in Jesus."

It all made so much more sense to Clare when she learned later in life that she had been unplanned, herself.

Her mom, Diane remembers the call she got 40 years ago.

"The lady on the other end of the line, at Planned Parenthood, told me I was pregnant," she remembers.

She felt broken by her own choices. "I told the Lord that I would have the baby."

In one week, Diane and Jay got married with the help of their families. Their union stands strong to this day.

"In the 1960s and 70s, family problems were family secrets," Diane admits. "We did not talk about the unplanned pregnancy. Not at church or with close friends or relatives. So much shame and guilt. We knew how to keep a secret."

Clare arrived in April 1982, and Diane became determined to help other women facing unplanned pregnancy.

"My attitude about life and babies changed when I first held her," Diane said, so she got involved at Thrive

and dignity. Thrive gives families a new life with Christ."

Clare is proud of her parents' story.

"The decision that they made to choose life really changed the course of who they were and their commitment to Jesus," Clare said. "God honored their decision to choose life." 🌱

Leave a legacy of generosity in your family

Parents, involve your children in decisions about giving to ministries they want to support out of a family fund, such as the Smith Family Fund.

We'll walk you through it. Contact
vkeifer@thrivewomensclinic.com.

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

THRIVE WOMEN'S CLINIC CELEBRATION DINNER

Keynote Message from
Dr. Jim Denison

September 24, 2020

The Statler Hilton

In person or Virtual
After Five Attire



Celebrate the light YOU are shining on life



In this era of rapidly shifting cultural tides, Dr. Jim Denison is a thought-provoking and highly-esteemed culture expert that equips believers to navigate even the most polarizing current events. The Denison Forum of Truth and Culture helps 200,000



DENISON FORUM
NEWS DISCERNED DIFFERENTLY

followers discern daily news differently through

his podcast and blogs. Dr. Denison is crafting a personal virtual message for Thrive supporters shedding light on an issue close to his heart: The Sanctity of Human Life.

***CDC and local social distancing guidelines will be followed. In addition, the hotel has many enhanced safety measures in place and adjustments to seating and service delivery are being made to protect the safety of our guests. Contact our event coordinator at clawson@thrivewomensclinic.com with questions.*

**Sponsorship opportunities available.
Individual tickets are \$250 each at
Vinekeepers.org/dinner.**

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Kari & Peyton Harris
Sandra & Paul Magnuson
Cindy & Tony Weber

**As of August 10*



Golf Fore Life

October 27 • Maridoe Golf Club

Our annual spring Golf Tournament has been rescheduled for a beautiful autumn experience at the premier Maridoe Golf Club. We are excited to treat our sponsored teams to enhanced features, including a caddie for each foursome and a steak dinner from 44 Farms.

**Register your foursome! Team sponsorships begin at \$5,000.
Vinekeepers.org/golf**

Special thanks to our 2020 Golf Sponsors

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NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY Be the Light!

Every client has a story. Every story needs light.



Schedule your gift beginning
Sept. 1, 2020

North Texas Giving Day is Sept. 17, but you
can schedule your gift as early as Sept. 1.



To donate, visit:
[northtexasgivingday.org/
thrivewomensclinic](http://northtexasgivingday.org/thrivewomensclinic)



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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