

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

# theVine

A PUBLICATION OF THRIVE WOMEN'S CLINIC

FALL 2021

## Stepping out

*Mary Jayne Fogerty retires after 17 years of leading in faith.* | **PAGE 4**

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Life's a priority—and a party—at Park Cities Baptist Church

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Redemption—Christine honors her aborted babies

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Your unique skills are needed

Vine  
keepers  
Supporting Thrive  
Women's Clinics



## Letter from the **Board President**

# Honoring Mary Jayne's legacy; looking for a leader

Dear Thrive Supporters (Vinekeepers),

It is with gratitude for Mary Jayne Fogerty's 17 years of service to Thrive Women's Clinic that we carry out our search for the next Executive Director. Mary Jayne has led with excellence. God has used her to grow this ministry to serve women and men seeking answers for unplanned pregnancies, to steward our

*Mary Jayne Fogerty (right) with  
Cindy Pardue, Thrive Board  
Chair, at a recent pool party  
celebrating Thrive volunteers.*



financial resources well, and to encourage pregnancy centers around the world. Read more about her work in this edition of *the Vine*. We will miss her leadership, but we are confident in Thrive's bright future as a strong force to combat abortion and bring LIFE to our community.

Earlier this year, Mary Jayne shared her decision with the Board of Directors to retire by the end of 2021 to spend time with family. We immediately began working with her to ensure a smooth and successful transition. We have an excellent Executive Search Committee made up of donors, businesses and community leaders, volunteers, and board members. We have also retained an outside consultant, Charlotte Keany, to assist in our search.

As we get closer to securing the right leadership for Thrive, would you please commit to praying for Thrive and for our committee? Would you ask your church to pray for our search? Pray for wisdom as we seek God's heart for His ministry. Pray that God will lead us to the right person who has the passion and gifts to serve as Thrive's next Executive Director. 🌿

**Cindy Pardue, Chair**

Thrive Women's Clinic - Board of Directors

**Jan-July  
2021  
Statistics**

New client  
visits:

**932**

Babies  
saved:

**164**

New  
believers:

**83**





## Calendar of Events

**Oct. 5:** Celebration & Fundraising Dinner

**Sept. 23:** North Texas Giving Day

**Oct. 9 & 23:** Volunteer training

**Dec. 11:** Cookies with Santa client party

**Jan. 16, 2022:** Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

[vinekeepers.org/events](http://vinekeepers.org/events)



## GET EQUIPPED FOR LIFE

### Your talking points:

#### The Texas Heartbeat Law and the Supreme Court

- In May, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed the Heartbeat Law banning abortion after a heartbeat is detected, at about 6 weeks.
- **The law will go into effect Sept. 1, IF** it is not stunted by challenges in court. A pro-abortion coalition already filed a challenge in mid-July. Be on the lookout for news in coming weeks.
- This Texas law is unique because it is not criminally enforceable. It allows individual citizens to sue abortion providers in a civil suit.
- Recently, the Texas Senate passed the **Chemical Abortion Restriction Bill (S.B. 4)**. This is meant to restrict access to abortion pills, which are becoming more available through online delivery services to administer first-trimester abortions at home. The House will consider the bill this fall.
- On another front, the **Supreme Court will hear its first major abortion case this FALL**. The Mississippi case restricts abortion after 15 weeks. This is the first abortion bill to test the court's new conservative majority. Expect **a ruling in SPRING 2022**.
- When abortion is outlawed, we are ready to help these families THRIVE!



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**Meredith Hall**  
Acting Director of Clinic Services

**Vicki Keifer**  
Director of Stewardship

**Kontessa Kiel**  
Director of Client Services

**Arri Evans**  
Men's Ministry 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](http://ThriveWomensClinic.com)

**For supporters:** [Vinekeepers.org](http://Vinekeepers.org)



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



# Stepping out

*Mary Jayne retires and reflects on the faith walk that thrust Thrive into a new era*



## YOU'RE INVITED

To honor Mary Jayne in two ways:

### 1.) Reception

Saturday, Oct. 30

in Dallas, 6:30-8:30 pm, come and go.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres.

RSVP by Oct. 15 at the QR Code at right.

### 2.) Leave a message!

Write a quick note or use our simple video tool.

RSVP or leave  
your message



[Vinekeepers.org/Mary-Jayne-Tribute](https://vinekeepers.org/Mary-Jayne-Tribute)

had been connected with the help she needed.

This is why Fogerty still loves her job after 17 years: Every day, God brings us new men and women in pivotal points of LIFE who need to hear the hope of the Gospel.

And, every day Fogerty loves watching God open new doors—from phone calls like that to larger expansion opportunities that could launch Thrive into new levels of Kingdom impact as an organization.

“If He opens a door and you step in, He will be faithful,” she believes.

After all, it's the same message Thrive brings to clients in the counseling room who are considering abortion: God has great things for you if you step out and put your trust in Him.

For Fogerty, it started when she was offered a position she didn't feel ready to take.

The phone rang at Thrive Women's Clinic late this summer. Most staff members had gone home for the day, so Executive Director Mary Jayne Fogerty answered. The woman was at the hospital, scared that she wasn't prepared to give birth to a preemie the doctors said was coming very soon. Fogerty, who is soon retiring after 17 years at Thrive, didn't take her number for someone to call her back.

“I'm coming,” Fogerty told her. She packed up the tiniest baby supplies she could find from Thrive's baby store and headed to Parkland Memorial Hospital. She prayed with this expectant mom, discussed substance abuse, encouraged her, and pointed her to Thrive partners.

“She just needed to be loved,” Fogerty said. A follow-up call revealed this mom was doing well and



## Author, model, mom

Before Thrive, Fogerty had a variety of different experiences. She graduated from the University of Texas, had three children, wrote a book, starred in commercials, worked in a school, and sponsored Cambodian refugees settling into Dallas homes. She fell in love with nonprofit work and took a job in development to join her sister at Thrive, then known as the Dallas Pregnancy Resource Center.

She loved sharing her faith with clients in the counseling room.

“I wanted the hardest, abortion-determined clients,” she says. “Why? I wanted to see God work.”

Thrive felt like the perfect place for her to serve—but to lead?

About 18 months after her first day at Thrive, the board asked her to become the new Executive Director.

“I felt ill-equipped and wasn’t sure I could do it,” she said. But she stepped out, and has now served longer than any other leader in Thrive’s 38-year history. “God has equipped me along the way and I’ve learned so much.”



**Fogerty sharing the Gospel in the counseling room.**



## New ways to address abortion

How has the ministry changed under Fogerty’s leadership? She has moved Thrive out of the era of the Yellow Pages. Now, Thrive reaches clients on their cell phones through strategic online advertising.

But the evolution is bigger than that.

Thrive was already saving babies from abortion before her arrival, but Fogerty led the ministry into a new era of addressing deeper dimensions of the life issue with its clients—dimensions such as open adoption, equipping and honoring families who choose life, and preventing unplanned pregnancies in the first place.

Fogerty wanted more clients to consider adoption as an alternative to abortion. To help remove the stigma of secrecy and shame, she helped found Bravelove in 2012. The non-profit frames adoption as a selfless act of sacrifice that can allow a mother to maintain a lifelong relationship with her child.

Fogerty believes Thrive’s job isn’t done after clients choose life. One way she has acted on this belief is by developing, with her client services team, a robust program of educational courses and mentorships with new parents. Through these sessions, clients can earn enough baby supplies to cover the first two years of life. The program has grown to provide about 700 sessions each year.

Men are also an important factor in the decision to abort. They need to hear they have a voice in the decision and feel equipped for fatherhood. Because of this, the men’s ministry team had 88 mentoring sessions in the first half of 2021 alone.

To honor clients who choose life, Fogerty initiated a



new tradition of client parties at Christmas and Mother's Day. Fogerty treasures the times at these parties where she gets to visit with flourishing families.

Fogerty also wants Thrive to become a force to PREVENT unplanned pregnancies in the region. Her medical team developed the OhKnow Education program that reaches about 2,400 students each semester in public and private schools. By teaching fetal development and sexual risk aversion, OhKnow can foster a generation that honors sex as God intended and considers abortion unthinkable.

That's the kind of innovation Fogerty embraces.

"This ministry is never stale," Fogerty says. "God is always bringing new opportunities. I truly believe if you're not growing, you're dying."

When the opportunity arose to open a fourth clinic in a key area of Irving in 2018, she worked with the board to open the new location.

When international partners reached out in 2019, she mentored leaders launching pregnancy centers in Uganda, Kenya and Chile.

When COVID-19 hit in 2020, Fogerty empowered staff to initiate telemedicine, virtual mentorships, and even a drive-through Christmas experience. Once again, she was on the frontlines.

"I talked my husband into wearing an elf costume with me so we could dance and greet our clients as their cars drove by," she chuckled.

Now, it is time for Fogerty to step out in a new direction. She will work with the board to secure new leadership and retire from Thrive by the end of 2021.



In fact, she feels Thrive has expanded her own sense of motherhood.

"I call Thrive my fourth child," she says. "I've poured into it, nurtured it, and watched it grow up. The people involved in it are my extended family. It will always be a part of me." 🌱

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## MARY JAYNE'S WORDS

### On Stewardship

"When people are sacrificing to give, you look at money differently.

Thrive has met budget every single year since I started. (The only exception is the year we opened our fourth clinic in Irving. We forecasted that we would take a year to get back on track, and we did.) Over the years, God continually showed me that Thrive was His ministry and provided for our financial needs through unusual ways, not what was always expected."

### On Her Village

"The community of pro-life leaders in our area and around the world has been a blessing to me personally. They are some of the greatest people I have ever met with hearts full for our mission.

I love the relationships—with staff, volunteers, donors, and partners. God has broadened my world a thousand times. How often do you get to work with people who all have the same passion and who will pray with you?

It's all a puzzle God works together. I'm just one piece of it." 🌱



Fogerty at Thrive's Mother's Day Party.

She will take a long break and spend time with family, including three grown children and her 91-year-old mother. She'll likely keep a toe in prolife ministry, and she will always have a heart to help young mothers.

# YOUR support is keeping Jan on the line

**W**hen Andrea takes her weekly call from Thrive Staffer Jan Cassidy, sometimes she is sitting in the closet with the baby to get a moment of peace from the four older children.

Another client mother often talks to Cassidy from the ladies' room in her office building because she is working hard to bring home the bacon for her family.

Cassidy has never met any of her current clients in person, but they are eager to take her calls no matter where they may be. They all say she is making a world of difference through mentoring sessions over the phone.

"Whatever it takes," Cassidy said, "I just want to be good ol' dependable Jan who can be a reliable cheerleader and encourage them."

Cassidy has brought compassionate, life-saving counsel to around 2,000 clients in her 15 years at Thrive. For now, an autoimmune disorder keeps her at home while Covid-19 remains a reality. In a typical week, she takes as many as 20 mentoring sessions over the phone.

Cassidy and her clients discuss infant care, healthy relationships, and any other topics these mothers need to thrive. Many of them are taking online courses about parenthood, which they discuss with her as part of the homework. While they all come from various faith backgrounds, they all welcome the prayers "in Jesus' name" that she offers at the end of each call.

"I'm just so thankful I can still serve in this way," Cassidy said.

...

**Andrea thought she was calling** an abortion clinic when she first called Thrive.

"The baby's dad wanted an abortion and I was crying so hard I hung up the phone the first time," said Andrea, who already had a teenager and toddlers at home. "I'm glad I called back. Thrive saved my baby."

Throughout her pregnancy, she had regular sessions with Cassidy on the phone.

*"I can always depend on my*

*session with Jan to re-center me and remind me that I am a good mom and I can do this,"* Andrea said. "We've talked through so many parts of motherhood, from my baby's first words to my oldest learning calculus. I've never met Jan in person, but I don't know if I could have gotten through some of these hard times without her."

...



**"I have nobody to support me** in Texas," said this new single mom from the Middle East. She came to the U.S. for a marriage that failed, but she stayed in Dallas to work and support her family that still live in her home country,

where they have no running water or electricity. "Jan has made me feel loved." Through her mentoring sessions, she has earned enough "baby bucks" to come to our Central Clinic baby store to buy diapers, a baby swing, and more. 🌱

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**“Whatever it takes, I just want to be a reliable cheerleader and encourage them.”** -Jan Cassidy





# Your churches coming to LIFE: Park Cities Baptist Church

It was a Saturday in May, but families dressed in Sunday best started lining up at the doors of Park Cities Baptist Church (PCBC).

Longtime PCBC Member Laura Thornton smiled. This was the first year PCBC had hosted Thrive's annual Mother's Day Party in the church's Great Hall. As Thornton greeted the guests, she realized these were the shining faces of the actual lives saved through her church's longstanding relationship with Thrive Women's Clinic.

"I've been at the church about 20 years, and I always remember putting money in baby bottles for Thrive," said Thornton. "Now, I've really started to understand what Thrive does."

Thornton led a team of about 50 PCBC volunteers who prepared a bilingual program, food, decorations, games, family photography, and gift baskets for about 50 Thrive families. Careful planning was required as this was the church's first large event



Rachel Wood, a dedicated volunteer recruited from the pews of PCBC.

"This ministry is focused on the life of the baby AND the mom, sharing the Gospel every day," Thornton said. "They can essentially save TWO lives—mom and baby—with every appointment. That's exactly the type of ministry we want to get behind and support."

Thornton's church has led her on her own journey to personal involvement. She first dropped coins in a baby bottle donation 20 years ago, and later attended a Thrive event and took a tour. She has now organized the Mother's Day party and serves as an advocate counseling abortion-minded clients in the clinic.



since the pandemic began.

Many of these families at PCBC that day—with pudgy newborn babies or lanky spunky teenagers—were once considering abortion until they came to Thrive Women's Clinic at some point in past years. At Thrive, they chose life after receiving pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and counseling, which is all provided for free—thanks in part to the financial generosity from churches like PCBC. In addition, many of these moms and dads raised their families with wisdom gleaned from their Thrive mentors like



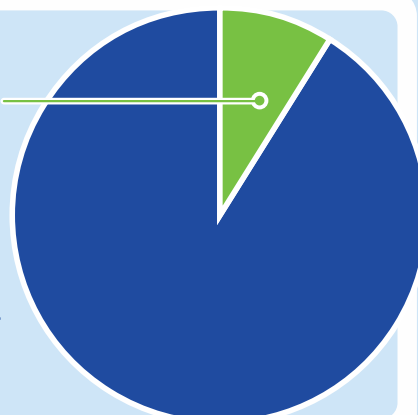


“If a church wants to play an active and impactful role in combating abortion in this community, look no further than Park Cities Baptist Church as a shining example,” said Mary Jayne Fogerty, Thrive’s Executive Director.

**Park Cities Baptist Church supports Thrive with:**

- Monthly financial support
- Volunteers who serve as regular client advocates, event planners, and more
- A Sanctity of Human Life Sunday celebration each year in January
- An annual campaign inviting members to fill baby bottles with funds for Thrive
- Hosting Thrive’s 2021 client Mother’s Day party, providing 50 volunteers in partnership with their Amigos Spanish-speaking ministry 🌱

**About 9 percent** of Thrive’s annual budget of \$2.1 million is funded by churches.



**Would YOUR church like to partner with Thrive?**  
[vinekeepers.org/church-partner](https://vinekeepers.org/church-partner)

## Thrive clients at PCBC

While enjoying their time at Park Cities Baptist Church, these Thrive clients reflected on motherhood.

### Teilia

God led us to Thrive when we discovered I was pregnant with my second baby. I was really worried because I had been dieting and riding on roller coasters and all those things you aren’t supposed to do. I found Thrive and they gave us peace about this baby. I found more than a clinic. Just look at this party. They actually care.



### Shumawa

I moved here from Burma and I had a hard time. This baby was a surprise and I had nobody in Texas. I went to Thrive and they were the only ones to listen to me and my feelings. I talk to my mentor every Thursday and she prays with me. I do the lesson, and I learn things like anger management and how to listen to my kids. God is working on me. I really appreciate Thrive. This party is one more way Thrive makes me feel warm.



### Karina

Thrive helped me with my very first baby and we were so young. I wasn’t even in contact with my mom and my sister. At Thrive, they spoke the word of God over me. It’s emotional to even think about that time. Now we are in a better spot, and my babies are age 3, 5, and 6. I have a good relationship with my mom and sister, and we keep coming to this party every year because I love the atmosphere. 🌱



# When the enemy steals, you can give back

**M**y last abortion was at the age of 29. Ten years later, I still had so much shame, not knowing what people would think or say about me.

It started at the age of three. I was sexually abused and molested in many ways—a brother, a cousin, an uncle—but had no idea that this was what was happening to me or that these relationships were inappropriate. It took my innocence away and took a toll on my life as a child, then as a teen, and as an adult. Over the years I began this downward spiral of not trusting men. When I wanted their attention, I had been taught how to get it. I believed I was wanted or needed ONLY if I was given that certain attention. It grew my promiscuity, recklessness, irrationality, and many other harmful behaviors. I did not know that this would affect my future in so many ways, into my time at the University of Texas at Arlington, and beyond.

The Bible says in Matthew 19:5 that “Two shall become one flesh.” That means one body, one mind, one soul. I became “one flesh” with so many different men, so many different souls, there was no room for Me to be who God created me to be. I had allowed myself to be controlled by the enemy.

This brought the type of grief where a woman begins to lose her emotions, her goals, her ambitions, her personality, and who she was called by God to be. **That kind of grief is what led me to abort my child – then 3, 6, 12 children total – on the altar of convenience through abortion.**

The guilt was debilitating, even years later. Eventually, the Holy Spirit led me back to a beautiful, reconciled relationship with my earthly father. See, my parents made sure my siblings and I knew the Lord. At the age of six, I understood and trusted Christ as my Lord and Savior. I wish I could say that changed everything at that moment, but it wasn't until decades later that things began to change.

My father encouraged me to go to counseling. I attended a small group class at my church called Forgiven & Set Free, specifically for those who have had an abortion. I began to understand that there is nothing that would ever separate me from

God's love. I also understood that for me to be free I had to forgive. I willingly forgave my oldest brother, many family members, those who hurt and betrayed me, and most importantly, **I forgave myself.** That made room for me to understand me and focus on the most important relationships in my life. I now have two daughters, ages 24 and 19, and two granddaughters, ages 5 and 2.



**Christine (right) with her mother, two daughters, and two granddaughters**

I now understand: Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.

I had been on the receiving end for most of my life, and now my heart was changing to become more like Christ. I started sharing my story so I could inspire restoration in others, and asked Him where I should start **giving.**

**My desire was to give in the area that I believe has had the most impact on my life: the sexual abuse and my 12 abortions.**

My mother, Ethel Williams, told me about a Thrive Women's Clinic Celebration Dinner she attended with a friend, Kelly Cunningham. My pockets did not run deep, but I knew I could donate something.

**To honor my 12 unborn children, I started out with a \$12/month donation to Thrive.**

This may seem small, but I believe God will multiply as He sees fit to impact His Will for the Kingdom. This is part of the redemption process of what God has brought me through. I am so grateful to the Holy Spirit for placing it on my heart. 🌱



# How can **YOU** save babies in Dallas?

These individuals found unique ways to use their own gifts, talents, and resources to support Thrive and cultivate LIFE.

## Floor to ceiling boxes!

For her birthday, Laura Williams created an Amazon baby registry with items to equip Thrive mamas who chose life. She posted it on her social media and asked friends to donate—but she didn't stop there. She emailed a pro-life influencer named Allie Beth Stuckey, who has



more than 300,000 followers on Twitter and 290,000 on Instagram. When Stuckey posted the same challenge for her birthday, hundreds of packages started pouring in.

"The Amazon warehouse called us to make sure there wasn't some kind of mistake," said Vicki Keifer, Thrive's Director of Stewardship, who has organized distribution of the items to Thrive clients. "It was an amazing outpouring of generosity."

## True badge of honor

At age 14, Levi Merchant can say he has saved babies in Dallas County.

How? By earning his "Respect Life" badge through Trail Life, a church-based scouting program. To earn his badge, he began researching pregnancy resource centers and found Thrive Women's Clinic. He scheduled a clinic tour with his mom, Amber Merchant.

"I was so impressed with his dedication," said Vicki Keifer, Thrive's Director of Stewardship. Levi decided to set up a table at his church where he could share about Thrive and give people baby bottles to fill with funds for Thrive.

**His project raised \$243.89 for Thrive.** He presented his project to the Trail Life board and received his badge.

"This isn't just money for a clinic," said Levi. "It's helping save the lives of these babies."



## Baby store makeover

After sitting for a year without clients coming in person due to COVID-19 restrictions, our Central Dallas Clinic baby store needed some care! Leanne and Jeremy Moore brought in shelving and friends with professional organizing skills to make the store better than ever. As pandemic restrictions softened, clients were ready to shop with "baby bucks" they earned by taking parenting classes through our Brightcourse program. 🌱





**Dallas Life, Inc.**

6500 Greenville Ave. Suite 600 • Dallas, Texas 75206

**Vinekeepers.org**

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# YOU'RE INVITED TO **RISE UP!** AND CELEBRATE LIFE!

*Celebration and Fundraising Dinner*

**BENEFITTING THRIVE WOMEN'S CLINIC**



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5th**

**6 p.m.** | Doors and cash bar open

**7 p.m.** | Dinner and program begins

**HILTON ANATOLE • DALLAS**

*After Five Attire*

**Featuring Jonathan Evans**

*Team Chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys*

**For tickets and underwriting,  
visit [Vinekeepers.org/dinner](https://vinekeepers.org/dinner)**



## **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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