

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

A PUBLICATION OF THRIVE WOMEN'S CLINIC | SPRING 2025

THE VINE



in All God's
Timing
pg10

VINEKEEPERS
SUPPORTING THRIVE WOMEN'S CLINIC

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Vinekeepers Family,

Our Thrive mission is to extend Christ-like love in a compassionate manner that values the family and empowers women and their partners to choose life. We endeavor to meet people where they are to lead them to the truth of when life begins, helping them preserve life and move forward in their pregnancies. Rather than placing trust in themselves, our clients are encouraged to trust God, even for this unforeseen and often frightening discovery of pregnancy.

A line from a Robert Frost poem is an impactful one. He states, **“The best way out is always through.”** A simple, powerful truth that applies to all of us at various times in our lives, regardless of the obstacle we’re facing, and certainly it is true for our clients. Their lives are forever changed by their experience, regardless of their choice related to their pregnancy, and your support provides the way for them to find strength and hope at a time that may otherwise be very dark.

For each of us, our faith is strengthened as we trust in God to lead us step by step – and that may be day to day or literally moment by moment.

When a decision for life is made at Thrive, often the work is just beginning. Our advocates, mentors and Resource Specialist provide support through our educational curriculum and personal mentoring to further equip our clients for parenthood. This important work provides a support system and sense of community and family our clients are often lacking, building their life skills as well as their reliance on God for their families.

We encountered a client last year who illustrates this strengthened faith beautifully. **Rachel* was homeless**

when she came to us and learned she was pregnant. It was difficult for our staff to watch her leave the clinic at the conclusion of her first appointment knowing she would be sleeping outside that night - and many more nights - without divine intervention. They immediately got to work on searching for a housing solution for Rachel. Miraculously, despite her many hardships, she **chose life** for her baby, and, **miracle number two**, a bed was found for her at a nearby maternity home. We celebrated with her months later when she delivered a healthy baby girl. **Soon after her arrival, baby Kyla* provided another blessing** by creating an opportunity for reconciliation between her new mother and grandmother. Their reconciliation resulted in Rachel moving back to her home state and stability with family as she worked to complete training for a job to support herself and young daughter. Today, they are thriving!

In 2024, your help provided the way for Rachel and 170 others who told us they intended to abort but chose life because of the help and hope they received at Thrive. You helped protect another 598 babies whose moms were at high risk for termination due to difficult life circumstances, just like Rachel.

The best way out is always through, and we are deeply appreciative of your commitment to LIFE, creating the path for our clients to take for the best way through to choose life and build healthy families.



Lisa Freeman

Lisa Freeman
Executive Director
Thrive Women's Clinic

*Name changed to protect identity.



Calendar of Events

June 2: Golf Fore Life

September 18: North Texas Giving Day

October 19: Annual Celebration Dinner & Silent Auction

See more at
[Vinekeepers.org/events](https://vinekeepers.org/events)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Mark Turman, <i>Chair</i> | Peter Hajek |
| Elizabeth Viney | Andrew Graben |
| James Cole | Laura Thornton |

THRIVE LEADERSHIP

- | | |
|--|---|
| Dr. Steven Harris
<i>Medical Director</i> | Kontessa Kiel
<i>Director of Client Services</i> |
| Lisa Freeman
<i>Executive Director</i> | Arri Evans
<i>Men's Ministry Coordinator</i> |
| Mary Craft
<i>Director of Clinic Services</i> | |
| Cathy Lawson
<i>Director of Development</i> | |

Vinekeepers are the supporters of Thrive Women's Clinic, which has three locations and a mobile unit in Dallas County that provide services at no cost for women and their partners experiencing unplanned pregnancy. Our nonprofit ministry extends Christlike love in a compassionate manner that values the family and empowers women and their partners to choose life.

For clients:
ThriveWomensClinic.com

For supporters:
Vinekeepers.org

Facebook:
FB.com/vinekeepers
FB.com/thrivewomensclinic

Instagram:
[/vinekeepers](https://vinekeepers)
[/thrivewomensclinic](https://thrivewomensclinic)

Pop-Up Maternity Shop

Thank you Covenant Church for providing maternity clothes for our clients.



Jan-Mar 2025 Statistics

New client visits:
365

Babies saved:
39

New believers:
14

THRIVE 2024 Annual Report



170

BABIES SAVED
WHEN MOMS CHANGED THEIR MINDS & CHOSE LIFE

598

BABIES PROTECTED
WHEN "AT-RISK" PARENTS CHOSE LIFE

2,372

total abortion calls

1,369

parenting classes & mentoring sessions

5,946

client appointments to help navigate their unplanned pregnancy

2,393

clients seen

1,449

sonograms provided

63

new believers



2024 BY THE NUMBERS



HOW THRIVE IS FUNDED:

- Individual 71%
- Business 5%
- Church 9%
- Foundation 15%



HOW THRIVE USES YOUR GENEROSITY:

- Programs 83%
- Admin 7%
- Fundraising 10%

BUDGET:
\$2,608,300

INCOME:
\$2,707,461

EXPENSES:
\$2,358,611.31

*UN-AUDITED NUMBERS

THRIVE WOMEN'S CLINIC PROVIDES ALL SERVICES AT NO COST AND ACCEPTS NO GOVERNMENT MONEY. THIS IS POSSIBLE ONLY BY THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SUPPORTERS. WE STRIVE TO BE GOOD STEWARDS WITH TRANSPARENCY, INTEGRITY AND PROVIDING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY FOR LIFE.

Cookies with Santa

Our annual Cookies with Santa client party, hosted by Park Cities Presbyterian Church (PCPC) on November 23, 2024, was a resounding success! Over 100 clients and 250 children enjoyed an unforgettable holiday experience. Highlights included appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus, family photos, resources for parents, character meet-and-greets, a giant dinosaur, games, prizes, and of course, delicious Christmas cookies. 🍪



Better Together

Our annual Better Together Valentine event for client couples took place off-site this year on February 28 at **Tupinamba Café** where guests were offered lunch in a private area, a special gift, a photo together and a private lesson from Bernie Wright, a licensed Christian Counselor, on the 5 love languages and the importance of supporting your spouse. 🍷



With church partners help, baby bottle campaign was a great success!

This year, on January 19th, Thrive partnered with 12 churches and were blessed with the opportunity to share our life-saving mission and our Baby Bottle campaign. 735 bottles were given out and we have received \$31,981.66 so far (with bottles still coming in!) 💎



If you're interested in getting connected or learning more about LIFE in your church, visit vinekeepers.org/events/life-in-your-church or scan the code at left.



Thank you to our church partners this year:

- Centerpointe Church
- Household of Faith
- Park Cities Presbyterian
- Trinity Fellowship
- Cornerstone Christian
- Lake Highlands Baptist
- Plymouth Park Baptist
- White Rock Fellowship
- Flaming Fire Assemblies
- MacArthur Blvd Baptist
- Reunion Church
- St. Patrick's Anglican
- Grace Redeemer
- Park Cities Baptist

New, this year!

Our resource specialist, Julie, and Thrive nurse, Sarah, have organized monthly play dates for our clients. This offers a unique opportunity for parents to socialize in an intimate setting, grow their networks, and learn helpful parenting tools.



Festa della Donna

WOMEN'S BRUNCH



Guests gathered at the Dallas Arboretum on April 8th for brunch and celebration of Festa della Donna, supporting Thrive Women's Clinic.

Ladies came dressed in fashionable spring attire and enjoyed hearing from our guest speaker, Whitney Capps. Whitney was vibrant, engaging and reminded us that friendships are important, even when they're hard. We learned together that **"Everybody gets a hard story ... This might not be a story that you would have chosen, but God is better than you've hoped. He's kinder than you imagined, and He's more faithful than any friend."** She went on to say, "Stories are not what binds us together, it's Jesus that binds us together." 💎



Special thanks to our Planning Committee

- Priscilla Baitup
- Monica Fuller
- Erin Maxwell
- Kittye Bolin
- Mimi Gilliland
- Paige Mayhew
- Amy Borne
- Emily Gonzalez
- Tori Morgan
- Danette Corder
- Cathy Lawson
- Amy Shawver
- Michelle de Klerk
- Rubina Mammen
- Laura Thornton
- Mary Jayne Fogerty
- Alicia Marroquin
- Elizabeth Viney
- Lisa Freeman



Here I am Lord, general me

Our nurses at Thrive always go above and beyond the call of duty. Sometimes, they even go beyond the borders of our little clinics in Dallas to serve those in other countries. One of our beloved nurses, Meredith, did just that to kick off 2025. On January 18, Meredith left with a team through HELPS International, for 11 days to serve in Guatemala. She says, "Guatemala healthcare is expensive and not easily accessible, especially to those who don't live in the city or cannot afford it (which is most of the population). HELPS' purpose is to provide practical, social and spiritual value to people in the developing world through a system of partnership and mutual responsibility."

Dr. Steven Harris, with his wife, Alicia, (below) lead a team of 85 people from all over the US. With almost 24 states represented by the group, about half of them were Doctors, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, PA's, CRNA's, surgical techs, and pharmacists. These dedicated skills are invaluable to those dealing with anything from day-to-day health issues to those needing major surgery. The other half of the team was made of cooks and stove installation techs. These are the hands and feet that served meals to the team and went into the village to install safe and efficient stoves that provided heat, light, and



a healthy means of cooking within their homes.



Meredith (top left) shared this impactful story with us. "This year, I will never forget the power that prayer played in healing one of our patients. Every night, I would go into the recovery room with a translator and pray over everyone I had seen in the clinic that week who had surgery. One of these women was a tiny indigenous woman from the Kiche' tribe who was no more than 4'8 ft tall, weighing about 70 lbs. She had traveled 11 hours to see our doctors to get help. **Her life had been marked by pain and suffering for over 7 years.** On exam, she had uterine masses that took up her entire abdomen all the way up to her diaphragm. Surgery was extensive and her body didn't respond well. When I went to pray that evening, she had just come out of surgery and she wasn't doing well. Our team was busy doing what they could and Dr. Harris and the HELPS team doctor had agreed she needed to be transported to the nearest hospital. Needless to say,

I'd never seen anyone that drained of color with a BP that was dropping by the minute. Her tiny mother sat beside her in a chair, her feet not even touching the ground. I rallied our clinic staff and we spent time praying for the Lord's hand over the recovery team and for this sweet woman's healing. About 30 minutes later, I went back up to find Dr. Harris and Dr. Payne, at the foot of her bed, just standing there. I walked up between them, and this young woman was awake, smiling, and talking with her mother. Completely stable. Dr. Harris looked at me, tears flowing freely, and said, "**We've just witnessed a miracle**". Turns out, while our clinic staff were praying in a different building, the mom and all the other Kiche' people that were in the recovery room, had gathered around her bed and were singing and praying in their indigenous language, and her blood pressure started rising and within minutes, she woke up. She and her mother were up and walking around the hospital campus the next morning and left the following morning. It was truly a miracle."

In our world today, miracles are harder to spot, but no less amazing to witness and learn from. When we say yes to serving outside of the comforts of America, we can be exposed to new and exciting opportunities that the Lord has been waiting to share with us. "This is my second trip with this team...I return from these trips being more changed and refined than before I left. And I thank the Lord for the opportunity to be used but even more so to be ministered to myself." 🙏

How bad is it? Thrive Nurses answer the questions that stump us all!



To shrug off a cold around a newborn (or expectant mom) (PRETTY BAD)

Answer: Expectant moms tend to have a lowered immune system because their body is working to support a growing fetus. Newborns have a very fragile immune system and should not be exposed to unnecessary illnesses. If you think you have a cold (or something worse) it's not worth risking a visit.



To take medical advice from TikTok (REALLY BAD!)

Answer: You should always seek medical advice from a Doctor you can speak to in person. Videos and images through TikTok and other platforms are subject to altered information and don't always have a factual basis.



To assume you can't get pregnant while breastfeeding (NOT SO BAD OR REALLY BAD!)

Answer: While this is a common wives' tale, there is no proof to say that lactation and breastfeeding are a valid contraceptive. "women can definitely get pregnant while breastfeeding."

— Mary, Director of Clinical Services



To induce labor with spicy food (KINDA BAD)

Answer: Spicy food can stimulate the intestines, which may then release hormones or mediators that could stimulate contractions in the uterus. But it won't put you into labor. Spicy food can also cause reflux and diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration and that's never a good thing, especially when you're pregnant.



To wash your hands "quickly"? (REALLY BAD!)

Answer: You should always wash with soap and water. Count to 20 seconds and make sure hands are fully dry (moist hands pick up more bacteria). When washing your hands before holding a newborn, take your time, their health is worth the full 20 seconds.



DID YOU KNOW? Particles from your sneeze can travel up to 26 feet and last in the air for 10 minutes! Be mindful of your neighbor and always cover your sneeze.

All in God's Timing



Maria came to Thrive in June of 2024, to quickly confirm her pregnancy.

She and her husband, Winston, were newly married and new to the U.S. and had planned on waiting to have children. As the saying goes, if you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans. While this wasn't in their initial trajectory, they were excited to become parents and thrilled to have Thrive at their side.

Maria is from Cameroon, Africa and their baby will be the 27th grandchild. Even with this exciting news, they decided to wait on informing her parents so they and their village wouldn't feel worried. Our team of volunteers and client services were able to get her connected to our Earn While You Learn (EWYL) program to support her goal of obtaining, "knowledge on parenting, especially given the fact that it's [her] first experience." Her pregnancy was progressing smoothly, besides some back pain, undoubtedly from working at the Airport where she was on her feet for extended hours. At this time, they were still waiting for Winston's visa so that he could get a job as well. Maria shared that she was a believer in God and eagerly requested prayer for "wisdom to raise the baby, strength, and no complication." They decided they would share the news of their growing baby boy on January 1 so, "the family will have good news to start the New Year."

As their pregnancy progressed, Winston was able to connect to Arri, our Men's Ministry Coordinator to begin Men's EWYL and was excited to be acquainted. Winston was able to get a job at the Airport by fall with the same schedule as Maria. On the suggestion of their EWYL coach, Jan, the two of them joined Thrive's Faith and Finance class with another couple in October. With Arri's guidance, they expressed that, "they are learning to manage debt, to save, and to live a simpler life." **When asked what she is most excited about in this pregnancy, she said "the mystery of carrying a baby and to know what he looks like... so special... a new blessing from God".** When asked what her biggest fear is she replied, "having no family members here to help because back home (in Africa) they treat you like a queen when you have a baby!" By late November, they received news that her elderly

father was ill back home and was not doing well. Despite their previous reluctance, she and Winston finally told their families in Africa about the pregnancy via zoom call. **Everyone was thrilled with the news!**

Maria's OB appointments continued to show growth of a "tall" baby with a due date of February 14th, 2025. She and Winston kept up with every lesson and



absorbed every ounce of knowledge they could from their advocates. They were pleased to shop at the baby store in our Greenville location and obtain essential items as well as fun outfits. This was encouraging along with the baby shower provided by her friends at church. Now approaching the end of her 3rd Trimester, she requested prayer for "energy at this late stage, strength, a safe natural delivery, and wisdom to be the best parents."

Kaikros, meaning "a set or opportune time," was born on February 15 via C-section. While this wasn't her initial plan, they were grateful for the arrival of their healthy baby. Winston and Maria have been working as a team to care for their son and take care of each other in the process of learning how to be parents. Winston continues to work at the Airport and Maria is looking for a work-from-home position so that she can be close to Kaikros. We are so excited to see them grow together and encouraged by their visits to Thrive and sharing updates with us. 🍀

SUPPORTER HIGHLIGHT

Jimmie Dale is a proud third-generation business owner, entrepreneur, and community leader rooted in faith and family. As the CEO and President of



Baker Brothers Plumbing, Air & Electric, Jimmie has helped grow the company into the largest and most trusted home services provider in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, employing over 420 team members and serving thousands of homeowners with excellence and integrity.

A graduate of the University of North Texas with a degree in Entrepreneurship, Jimmie is a passionate advocate for small business and has passed that spirit on to his children, actively supporting them in launching their own ventures.

Jimmie is married to his wife Melinda, and together

they've raised two accomplished children—Madison, a graduate of Texas Tech University, and Tyner, a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines. In March 2025, Jimmie celebrated his greatest milestone yet: becoming a grandfather.

Beyond business, Jimmie is deeply involved in philanthropy and community service, serving on several board committees and contributing to a variety of mission-based organizations. He is also an active member of Lakepointe Church in Rockwall, where his commitment to faith continues to shape his leadership and service. We're grateful for the love and support they offer Thrive and their generous sponsorship to our Golf Fore Life tournament. 🍀

 To register for Golf Fore Life, scan the code. 
For more information, visit vinekeepers.org/events/golf

LOCATIONS:

Central Dallas Clinic*
6500 Greenville Avenue • Suite 600
Dallas, Texas 75206

This is our corporate and mailing address.



[FB.com/vinekeepers](https://www.facebook.com/vinekeepers)

West Dallas Clinic
3901 Holystone St.
Dallas, Texas 75212



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

Irving Clinic
2021 N MacArthur Blvd. • Suite 540
Irving, TX 75061



[Vimeo.com/vinekeepers](https://www.vimeo.com/vinekeepers)

SAVE THE DATE

Thrive Women's Clinic

10.19.2025

CELEBRATION

Dinner
& Silent Auction



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

RENAISSANCE DALLAS ADDISON HOTEL

Speaker: Jason Whitlock

Founded ESPN's The Undefeated website, created Fox Sports 1's TV show "Speak For Yourself," host of the Podcast *Fearless* and is a contributor at Blaze Media. Winner of Scripps Howard National Journalism Award