



# Zoe Care

FALL - WINTER  
2023

## Life News

SO THAT ALL HUMAN LIVES MAY flourish

### VULNERABLE: JESUS' HEART FOR THE STRUGGLING

The decision to choose an abortion is almost always a hard one. There are usually factors that are very challenging, even heart-wrenching, for a young woman and these factors increase her vulnerability.

Fear often has a firm grip on a single, pregnant woman. She may view abortion as the simplest solution to a problem. This is most often related to her relationship (or lack thereof) with the father of the baby. Of all of her influences, his speaks loudest to her. If his response is negative, he is absent, or is pressuring her towards abortion, she is much less likely to choose life. If he is telling her that he will support whatever decision she makes, she is often uncertain as to how committed he is to support her through the pregnancy.

Christian young women share these pressures at almost equal rates as non-Christians. In fact, a young woman may choose abortion due to the perceived judgement she fears from her family due to their strong religious or anti-abortion views. Sadly, she would sometimes rather get an abortion in secret than admit to the premarital sexual activity that led to the pregnancy.

In addition to her relationships, there are other factors which increase a young woman's vulnerability to abort her child. Being younger than 24, and especially younger than 18, increases vulnerability significantly. But the converse is also true; women in their late 30s and early 40s, facing the challenges of "starting over" again, are also more prone to choose abortion for their child. It is difficult to be a college student with a child. The conflict between achieving their career goal and becoming a parent is often daunting for a young woman. And with almost every pregnancy, financial strain plays a significant role. Here in Bozeman, we struggle with lack of affordable housing and childcare, specifically, which makes caring for a child financially tenuous.

Many of ZoeCare's patients also struggle with their mental health: depression, anxiety, and other ailments. The mental health and wellness of the young woman influences her ability to respond to the stress of an unexpected pregnancy and makes abortion appealing for her. Frequently, there is past trauma, including sexual, emotional, or physical abuse. The experiences of the past cause her to feel unprepared or even unworthy to be a parent now.

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# MEET THE ZOECARE MEDICAL STAFF



**GABOR BENDA, MD**  
Medical Director

**WENDY HANDLEY, MD**  
STI Clinic Director



**TAYLOR HANDLEY, MD**  
Radiologist

**LISA DOERKSEN, BSN**  
Nurse Manager



**SARAH RYAN**  
Nurse

## VULNERABLE CONTINUED

Any number of these stressors may be present, and added together the situation may seem insurmountable to the newly pregnant young woman or couple. Mitigating the stressors by meeting the needs of our patients play a huge role in their decision to choose life.

At ZoeCare, we extend the grace and love of Jesus to each woman and her partner. This is the same grace Christ offers to all of us. We strive to provide a safe, nonjudgmental space for them to share their stories and find the support they need. We aim to be a trustworthy and calming presence which allows them to feel comfortable to share their thoughts and feelings. We try to listen more than talk. We value them without judging, loving them as fellow images of God. It is only by doing that can we earn the right to speak into their lives.

It is very rare to have an abortion-vulnerable patient who is not struggling with a myriad of outside pressures. It is our duty, as the Body of Christ loving our neighbors, to help bring hope to them by listening, valuing, and providing for their needs. There are many ways you can do that by getting involved with ZoeCare: become a mentor for an expectant mom or her partner; donate diapers, new strollers or car seats; sign up at your church to make meals for one of our patients as she welcomes her newborn home. Jesus' heart is especially for the vulnerable. Those brave women who choose life need all of our support. To learn how you can provide that support visit, [www.friendsofzocare.org](http://www.friendsofzocare.org). ■

## ZOE MEANS LIFE

THE PURSUIT OF ABUNDANT,  
OVERFLOWING,  
FULLNESS OF LIFE

## 2024 FUNDRAISING BANQUET

*Save the date!*

**THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024**  
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH CHAPEL



# ZOECARE'S 2023 ONLINE AUCTION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 @ 8:00 AM – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 @ 8:00 PM  
To learn more and register to bid, visit [www.friendsofzoecare.org/auction](http://www.friendsofzoecare.org/auction).

Don't spend your money and time waiting in department store lines on Black Friday, or lining the pocketbooks of big box stores. *Come to ZoeCare's 2023 Online Auction!* Featuring a great assortment of items, this year's auction will include items big and small, something for everyone and any budget! And the best part is that 100% of the money raised will directly go to saving and empowering lives in 2024! Here are just a few of the types of items that will be auctioned off.



## LEAVE A LEGACY

- Put ZoeCare in your will or trust
- Designate ZoeCare as a beneficiary in a retirement fund or life insurance policy
- Give the gift of stock

You can help save lives for years to come! Please consider a charitable gift to ZoeCare:

Your impact on innocent lives can be felt for decades to come! Please call us at (406) 586-9444 to learn how you can *make a difference in the lives of future generations.*



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Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406) 586-9444

15 E. Main St.  
Belgrade, MT 59714  
(406) 924-2777

[www.friendsofzoecare.org](http://www.friendsofzoecare.org)

## ENGAGE WITH US! If you only receive postal mail from us, you're missing most of our news! Here are more ways you can engage with us and our mission:



### **[www.friendsofzoecare.org](http://www.friendsofzoecare.org)**

All about ZoeCare, our mission, and our programs. Have a question about the organization? This is a good place to start.



### **Zoe Life Monthly eNews**

Sign up for ZoeCare's eNews at [www.friendsofzoecare.org](http://www.friendsofzoecare.org). Catch up on the latest at the end of each month delivered to your email.



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### **[@zoecare](https://www.youtube.com/zoecare)**

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