



*Equipping families and individuals to live well and value life abundantly*

## Welcome to ZoeCare

*by the Lisa Doerksen, Nurse Manager; Sarah Ryan, Nurse; and Mike Wheeler, Fathers Initiative Director*

**E**very day at ZoeCare is different, the patients who come to us for help are as varied as the struggles they face. The one consistent piece of our day is our time of devotions first thing in the morning, when we seek God and pray. Sometimes, a local pastor joins us to lead devotions. Then the work day begins...

*The following scenarios are based on situations we have encountered but together do not represent one complete day. All the names below are not actual patient names. Our hope is that this glimpse into the situations we see each day will give you a greater perspective of the ministry of ZoeCare.*

First appointment of the day is with a young woman named Eva. The appointment was scheduled by Rick, her boyfriend of six years who she lives with along with her three-year-old child. She did not want to come to the appointment but felt something nudging her to go. Rick was adamant that she get an abortion and threatened to kick her out if she did not. Eva spoke with the nurse and the patient advocate about her past abuse and trauma. She shared about the relationship with Rick and their ups and downs.

After getting to know who she is, the medical staff were able to discuss her options and how she was feeling. She never wanted an abortion. As they talked, Eva's resolve strengthened until she decisively determines she cannot end her child's life, regardless of Rick's threats. She knew she may become homeless but was willing to take that chance.

Meanwhile, Rick spoke with Mike, the Fathers Initiative Director. Even though he had a job and worked hard, he was financially distressed and did not feel he could provide for another child. Unbeknown to Eva and the medical staff in the other room, as the two talked, Rick was re-evaluating his stance on abortion. Mike provided him with several community resources to ease his financial stress. When their short time together was done, Rick signed up to be mentored in the beingDAD program.

The nurse and patient advocate were able to encourage Eva to stand strong and give her some resources to help her after she left. They did an ultrasound to confirm the baby's heart rate and viability, to the delight of both Eva and Rick, who had their first glimpse of their new child. Eva has no other family support and knows there will be many bumps in the road ahead. The nurse and patient advocate prayed for Eva and Rick and they left ZoeCare feeling empowered to be parents of their new little one.

Next on the schedule was Patty, a very sweet teenage girl, and her boyfriend Kyle. They had been together for about 2 years. While Kyle talked with Mike, Patty opened up to the nurse and patient advocate.

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## PREGNANT IN A PANDEMIC CONTINUED

Patty was very mature for her young age. She had been a Christian for several years and was active in her church's youth group. She was so afraid of what the church was going to say about her being pregnant without being married that she felt abortion was her only choice.

Until she was faced with her unexpected pregnancy, Patty thought she was pro-life. She knows that abortion is wrong but felt it was the only way out of her shame and embarrassment. The staff shared the truth about abortion procedures and discussed adoption and parenting options. We encouraged her to overcome her fear by seeking counsel from her church leadership.

After the visit we reached out to Patty. She decided to keep her baby after considering her choices and expressed a plan to tell her parents. The friends she has shared with were supportive. Patty subsequently signed up for Sweet Cheeks, ZoeCare's free diaper program.

Kim arrived for testing for a sexual transmitted infection (STI). She avoided eye contact, was quiet and reserved. She shared that she had endured physical, emotional and sexual abuse as a child. As a young adult, she had also been in several abusive relationships. The latest one had just ended when her ex-boyfriend tested positive for an STI. The boyfriend had other sexual partners while dating Kim. She was heartbroken and needed time to share her feelings.

## Leave a Legacy

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

- **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**

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

We listened, gently affirmed her and addressed her emotional and physical needs. We were able to pray with her, share God's truth, and encourage her to seek Him. Before leaving, she expressed how grateful she was for the care she had received.

The folks walking through our doors are often scared, confused, hurting, and are feeling immense pressure. It is our privilege to love them with the love of Jesus and to walk with them during the decision-making process and beyond. We have a great responsibility to share the light and hope of Christ to all the women and men who come through our doors. By doing so, we help dispel some of the darkness that permeates their lives. ■



### BABY BOTTLE 2021

ZoeCare's Baby Bottle Campaign began on Mother's Day, May 9. If your church participated, remember to fill your bottle and return to your church. If your church did not participate this year, you can still contribute at: [www.friendsofzoe.org/babybottle/](http://www.friendsofzoe.org/babybottle/). It is an easy and fun way your change can change lives!



When you use AmazonSmile (<https://smile.amazon.com>), the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charity of your choice. You can support ZoeCare by choosing **Pregnancy Caring Center of Gallatin Valley Inc** when you shop!

# Patient Advocates: Sharing the *hope* of Christ in the midst of fear

**P**atient advocates are vital team members who assist in each pregnancy appointment, providing spiritual and emotional support, and to bring hope into focus. They help provide a safe environment for patients to discuss their fears and consider their options. They listen and walk alongside those in distress while seeking to communicate the love and truth of Christ. We have been blessed in the past few



**Wendi**

months to add three new patient advocates to our care team.

They join experienced advocate **Wendi Rowles** who has faithfully advocated for almost five years. Wendi has eight children, works full time, but also finds time to

serve as a Mom2Mom mentor, Embrace Grace facilitator, and abortion after-care coordinator. She speaks at women's groups and churches to encourage women of all ages.

Our newest advocate group includes **Holliday Bridge**, who homeschools her two children (and her family's new puppy) and also serves as a Mom2Mom mentor to several mentees. **Teri Hoyt** has volunteered for several

years as a lab assistant for the STI program at ZoeCare and recently has begun advocating with pregnancy patients. She has four grown children and loves hosting her six grandchildren in her home. **Lauren Hostetler**, a full time nurse and outdoor enthusiast, is our newest patient advocate. Finally, **Kathy Webster**, who trained patient advocates when she was on staff at ZoeCare years ago, is also rejoining the advocate ranks.

We are very fortunate to have these wonderful, Christ-following women. Collectively, they represent involvement in three different churches and, having experienced God's grace in their own lives, are now extending that amazing grace to the lives of others. ■



**Holliday and Teri**



**Lauren  
(and husband Kerby)**



**Kathy**

## Prayer Needs

Thank you for praying for this ministry. We experience answered prayer every day. Here are some specific needs we have:

1. **Open Job Position** - ZoeCare is still looking for the right person to fill our *Community Liaison* position, a full-time position that orchestrates our community outreach and education. This is a crucial position to ZoeCare's vision and requires the right person to fill it.
2. **Pursuing God's vision for ZoeCare** - The Lord is calling ZoeCare to be

transformative force in the community. Please pray for our Vision Team as they spearhead community strategies and our message as we engage our culture.

3. **Christ's transformation** - Our patients come see us with gut-wrenching stories of hardship, abuse, and trauma. Their greatest need is a transformative touch from the Lord. Please continue to daily lift them up in prayer.



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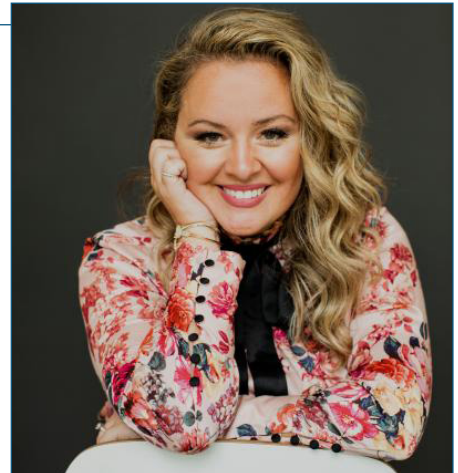
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## **SAVE THE DATE** *ZoeCare's Annual Banquet*

**OCTOBER 7, 2021**

with

**AMY FORD**  
**FOUNDER OF EMBRACE GRACE**



Going through an unplanned pregnancy in her teens was one of the hardest times in her life. She remembers well the loneliness and shame she felt with friends and at church. Those nine months of brokenness fueled the passion to change things for young women going through unplanned pregnancies. Amy and her friend Salina started a small group within their church that met with girls weekly in the same situation Amy had found herself in. In these new groups, Amy and Salina provided support, friendship, guidance, and love. Growing out of this small church group, **Embrace Grace** has become a nationwide nonprofit equipping churches across the country to have a pro-love focus and help women be brave, choose life, and live well. *Mark your calendars for this in-person event! Stay tuned for more information.*