

## Mentoring: From Fear to Strength

by Jeanine Allen, Mom 2 Mom Director

One way that ZoeCare engages with young pregnant women beyond their first appointment is through the Mom 2 Mom mentoring program. A mentor meets with her weekly and is there to support and encourage her. Mom 2 Mom mentors have a great privilege to hear stories of great strength and joy as young pregnant women begin this journey. Corinthia has been part of the mentoring program since she was six weeks pregnant. She says, "From day one, ZoeCare was there for me. Having more information as a first-time mom gave me a lot of confidence. ZoeCare was good for my physical health as well as my mental health."

Recently a mentor and several mentees met together over lunch. Tentative at first about sharing their story, the mentees slowly realized that they had a lot in common. They heard common threads of fear of being judged, fear of telling their parents, and being overwhelmed at the unknown. The tentative conversation turned into one of encouragement and strength. When young women see hope and a future, they have the strength to push forward and make good decisions for themselves and for their baby.

Our ultimate goal through ZoeCare's mentoring programs are to not only encourage and support both moms and dads, but to share that our ultimate hope is found in the Son of God who came to rescue the broken and lost. ■



**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended the 2016 Fundraising Banquet! It was our most successful banquet to date! A special thanks to our keynote Broose Johnson and all of our event sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who made this year's event a tremendous success!

2016 Services to Date		Days	Total Visits	Ultra-sounds	STI Tests	Fathers Initiative	Mentoring Dad/Mom
All services provided free of charge to our clients	JAN	12	67	26	30	12	3/0
	FEB	13	77	24	39	12	0/2
	MAR	11	57	15	35	6	0/0
	APR	12	67	13	42	8	1/3
	MAY	14	68	18	45	4	2/5
	JUN	14	64	33	26	15	2/1
	JUL	11	57	21	31	7	0/1
	AUG	14	70	16	38	10	1/2
	SEP	11	78	17	46	8	1/4
	OCT	13	76	20	43	11	1/3
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>11/21</b>

# Advocating for Abundant Life

by Deb Hall, Patient Advocate

In theory, advocating for ZoeCare patients was what I wanted to do. My daughter told me that young women connected well with me and I wanted some avenue that would cause my path to cross the paths of people who need Jesus' love and do not know Him. I'm not the type to knock on the door of a stranger to share the gospel. At ZoeCare, God brings them to our door. All of that sounded great – in theory. However, often there is a “but” when God is nudging us in a new direction.

BUT, I knew nothing about counseling women in a crisis pregnancy. I had no idea what to say, how to say it, or how to help. What shocking scenario would I face when I walked into that room to listen to the patient? BUT God kept reminding me that here was a great need and He wanted me to stop making excuses, stop walking in fear, and take a new step, no matter how scary it seemed. So I called ZoeCare, met with the volunteer coordinator, and filled out an application.

Sometime later, after learning the ropes of the ZoeCare office and joining other new volunteers for some training, I had to take the next big step and advocate for a patient. Thankfully,

a big part of advocating is listening. We can all do that, right? Listening with love and learning to ask questions that will help them see the possibilities of support that are around them. Advocates also share local resources that would be helpful to the patient. In all we say and do, we want to share the love of Jesus.

**I will never feel completely ready to walk into that room and I will never make a lasting impact for Christ if I and others are not praying.**

Recently, I met with a patient who was abortion vulnerable (someone who is undecided on whether they will abort the child). When I asked how we can help bring that stress level down, she began to share her story and their need. Knowing this patient was vulnerable I had asked three people to pray for her and for me. ZoeCare's board of directors were invited to pray and all of us at ZoeCare knew to pray. If I've learned anything over the past

two years of advocating, it's that I will NEVER have all



the answers, I will never FEEL completely ready to walk into that room and I will never make a lasting impact for Christ if I and others are not praying. Therefore, I should not have been surprised at what God did that day. The patient easily opened up to me and she was ready and willing to receive love. I was able to listen, share the love Jesus has for her and pray with her. After the ultrasound and before she left, she accepted the Bible we offered and let us hug her. It was a grand slam, so to speak! If I had walked in that room without the cover of prayer I highly doubt our meeting would have ended the same way. Yet, the story has not ended. She still needs to make a final decision regarding her baby and she needs our prayers to give her the courage she needs.

Not every patient at ZoeCare is abortion minded, but most of them feel they are in crisis. Every story is different. Every interaction in

that counseling room varies. Advocating has its highs and its lows. We will not do it perfectly and not every patient will choose life. But when we as believers in Jesus walk in that room, Jesus walks in that room, too. Praise God! He can and will exceed beyond all that we ask or think! Before the patient arrives, while she is at ZoeCare and after she leaves, God is at work. Someday in heaven we hope to hear the rest of the story of the many women who have walked through ZoeCare's doors. We believe, hope and pray that many will join us in heaven with the hand of their child in theirs. Will you consider being a patient advocate and partnering with God in this way to bring love and compassion to the patients who walk through ZoeCare's door? ■

provide documentation that we are practicing at this standard. Acquiring accreditation with AAAHC will reap benefits including:

- Validate level of excellence
- Promote esteem in the community especially among medical professionals
- Reduce legal liability due to increased proficiency, awareness and record keeping
- Reduce insurance costs
- Increase donor satisfaction and faith in the future sustainability of the ministry
- Reduces ability of opponents to find areas of weakness

Please pray for our progress. And stay tuned as we move closer to this goal. ■

## MOVING TOWARD MEDICAL ACCREDITATION

by Lisa Doerksen, RN, Nurse Manager

provide excellent medical care and to form encouraging, supportive relationships with people as they make crucial decisions. One opportunity we are very excited about pursuing is accreditation with the

The medical staff encourages men and women to make life affirming decisions through our STI testing, pregnancy testing and ultrasound services. We are humbled by the opportunity to



Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care or AAAHC. While we have always aspired to provide the highest standard of care, becoming accredited will

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## HOW TO SUPPORT ZOECARE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Dine out at Qdoba in Bozeman on **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Take the enclosed coupon with you and 10% of your order will go to ZoeCare's mother and father mentoring programs.

### **YEAR-END GIVING**

Please consider ZoeCare when you are planning your 2016 financial year-end giving. We greatly appreciate your generous support!



Amazon has become a one stop shop for millions of different products at great prices but now with added bonus of giving! 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 charitable organization of your choice. You can support ZoeCare by choosing **Pregnancy Caring Center of Gallatin Valley Inc** when you shop!

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*