

My House, Broken and Redeemed

by Wendi Rowles, Patient Advocate & Mom2Mom Mentor

Hello, my name is Wendi. I am your daughter, sister, friend, neighbor. You smile at me in the store. You think I am positive all the time. I sit next to you in church...and you don't know my story. To know my story, you must come to my house.



THE BASEMENT: *Brokenness.* This is where I've hidden all my secrets, all the bad things that have happened for me, the poor choices I made, the lies I've told myself and others, the things that no one likes to hear or talk about: rape, promiscuity, abortion, children out of wedlock, sexual abuse, divorce, physical and emotional abuse, death, being a single mother of three, suicide, blended families.

THE MAIN HOUSE: *Healing.* All the in-between, when life seems impossible but God helps me put one foot in front of the other...it's still messy and there is hope. It has been a life of making mistakes, acknowledging the reality of each situation and recognizing how with God's help, everything is possible. Feeling alone, turning to the wrong people for guidance, finding comfort in family, having my youngest take his first step and feeling pride, being broken physically and emotionally by someone I gave my heart to, knowing Jesus was there in the shadows protecting me from worse. Giving birth. Being accepted and loved. Pretending it would be okay for everyone, when some days it felt so impossible. Loving my boys and seeing their smiles. Putting one foot in front of the other. Filling voids with men; feeling powerful and in control. Walking through betrayal and loss and knowing God was my constant and feeling His unconditional acceptance. Watching my boys laugh, love and support each other and feeling my heart burst with joy. Knowing that God had a plan. Meeting my partner in life and accepting the baggage we both carried and putting it in the basement. Broken hearts, full hearts, sleepless nights of worry, yelling matches full of hurt and loss. Healing and growing. Stretching and longing. Love. Family of love, blended by God; making us a family. Blessed by God. Healed and sealed over time.

THE PORCH: *Redemption.* Because of Jesus this is where I spend most of my days. Where the sun rises each day, full of potential and opportunity. Forgiveness and love. Where the sky burns with the sunlight and although the winds of life may blow in the clouds and they often bring rain or snow and the temperature fluctuates, I find comfort in Jesus. God allows the change and is always with me. As the sun sets on all that was given to me, I know it will all begin again tomorrow and God is in it all. God brings the sun and paints a new picture. Embrace and celebrate. Jesus redeems all who accept Him.

God has called me to serve as a Patient Advocate and Mom2Mom mentor for ZoeCare. For two years I have been blessed by sharing my life with those who come in with crisis pregnancies, demonstrating to them that they are loved, accepted and valued. Regardless of what brokenness is buried in their basements, ZoeCare works to serve the women and men of southwest Montana to provide a place where Jesus can bring about his healing and redemption. ■

HOW TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF ZoeCare THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

YEAR-END GIVING

Please consider ZoeCare when you are planning your 2019 financial year-end giving. We greatly appreciate your generous support! You can give online at www.friendsofzocare.org.

BE SOCIAL

Like, follow and subscribe to ZoeCare's social media outlets:



Support ZoeCare this Christmas when you shop on Amazon.com! When you use AmazonSmile (<https://smile.amazon.com>), 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products will be donated to the charity of your choice. You can support ZoeCare by choosing **Pregnancy Caring Center of Gallatin Valley Inc** when you shop! Or buy needed items for ZoeCare from our new Amazon Wish List at www.friendsofzocare.org/wishlist.

"To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me."
Colossians 1:29



Welcome, Sarah

ZoeCare is excited to introduce Sarah Ryan, who was recently hired as our second nurse. Sarah has over 20 years of experience as an RN, having worked in ICU, physicians' offices and home healthcare. She especially enjoys one-on-one interactive care with patients. Sarah has been married almost 20 years and has recently become a grandmother. When not helping patients at ZoeCare, Sarah enjoys camping and exploring Big Sky Country. ■



Thank you

...to everyone who makes quilts, knitted baby hats and blankets and donates baby supplies! Also, a huge thank you to those who have signed up as a **Sweet Cheeks** sponsor to donate diapers for our ZoeCare babies. We are blessed to be able to help babies like Elise Bassett (pictured above) whose mom can come monthly for six months to pick up a box of diapers. If you would like more information about sponsoring a mother and baby by donating diapers, please call ZoeCare or visit www.friendsofzocare.org/sweetcheeks/. ■

A Night of Conviction and Inspiration

by Chris K. Grinnell, Executive Director

Gianna Jessen was escorted to the podium by two local pastors, but then dispelled any doubt that she was a force to be reckoned with.

Born in an abortion clinic after a failed saline abortion, Gianna has grown to command the attention of political leaders, ministry directors and lay audiences around the world.

The late Mother Teresa said of Gianna, *"God is using Gianna to remind the world that each human being is precious to Him. It is beautiful to see the strength of the love of Jesus, which he has poured into her heart. My prayer for Gianna, and for all who listen to her, is that this message of God's love will put an end to abortion with the power of love."*

Recounting her experiences from learning to walk again at age 10 and now working out in the gym two hours a day, to running a marathon, to her latest effort learning how to rock climb, Gianna challenged the attendees of ZoeCare's Annual Fundraising Banquet that by relying on the strength of Jesus, we can accomplish anything. She refers to her cerebral palsy, the result of lack of oxygen to her brain during the abortion procedure, as a gift. It is a gift because she has been forced to find her strength in Jesus. In that crowded room on October 10, 2019, she challenged the rest of us: What's stopping us from doing the same?

There are big issues facing us today including the right for the unborn to live. Are we making the most of what God has given us? Are we drawing from His strength, going beyond our own to accomplish the impossible? Or are we settling for less than what God has called us to, shrinking back from the life that He has for us?



With a packed house of 471 attendees, the 2019 Annual Fundraising Banquet was ZoeCare's largest. We were blessed by good music, good food served by over 20 volunteers, and an inspiring patient testimony. And Gianna's words to get us moving.

Christians are called to live victoriously regardless of circumstances, even in evil times. We in America live the most comfortably of perhaps any of God's people around the world. We need to realize that we are victors, and use the abundance that has been given to us to make a difference in the world. Gianna has a unique perspective in that she survived when those around her intended for her to die. All of us should treat every day like the gift it is and make every moment count. The Lord is with us to give us strength, purpose and victory.

For those of us working the front lines at ZoeCare, this is crucial to embrace. As we pursue what is next for this organization, we will make use of every opportunity, we will not shrink back because people may oppose us, and we will rely on the strength of God to move us forward to change the world.

Can we count on you to join us? ■



Stay Current

Do you want to hear what's happening at ZoeCare every month? **Sign up for ZoeCare's eNews**, a monthly email newsletter highlighting patient stories, victories and prayer needs.

Visit www.friendsofzocare.org and sign up today with your email address. (We promise we won't give or sell your email address to anybody outside the organization.)

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 meet for a cup of coffee and learn how you can make a difference in the lives of future generations.



ZoeCare's Mobile App

Download ZoeCare's mobile app, available on Google Play and the Apple App Store, to stay in the know with up-to-the-minute prayer needs, events and notifications, all within arm's reach on your cell phone. The ZoeCare app will alert you when we have a patient in crisis and will guide you in how to pray. Please download the app today!