

Our Services

- Earn While You Learn Education
- Next Step Boutique
- Men's Mentorship
- Free Pregnancy Tests
- Pregnancy Options Guidance
- Post-Abortion Healing Groups
- Memorial Garden
- First Step Relationship Education
- Reproductive & Early Infant Loss Support

We Are Open

Tues - Wed - Thurs

11:00 - 3:00 pm

Walk-ins Welcome!

Contact Us

Address:

902 D Avenue,

La Grande, OR 97850

Office Phone:

(541) 963-6918

24-Hour Hotline:

1(800) 712-4357

Email:

nextsteppic@outlook.com

Website:

nextstepPRC.org

NextSTEP

Pregnancy and Relationship Center

we'll walk with you



WINTER 2023



A Story of Courage and Hope

Looking back on the year

I'm told that everybody has a rock bottom. I'm told that rock bottom is different for everyone.

For my niece (let's call her Carla, because it means warrior), I think it was looking her own mortality in the eye. I believe it was in the discovery that she was helpless to beat her addiction alone. When Carla first came into our lives, it was by marriage. I was struck by her natural beauty and her brown eyes. She was like any other kid, playful, goofy, silly, and friendly.

As I sat in the courtroom just a few short years later, I watched her, just a shadow of the girl I knew, try to convince the judge that she would never use meth again. Her mom explained to him all the reasons that she knew she could not have her come home. She felt Carla would eventually die from her meth use. I wish I had enough space to go into what a brave hero I think this woman is but this is Carla's story. The week before, we had all waited in the hospital wondering if she was dead. We had all admitted to ourselves that if she lived, this was probably her last chance. And here we were in the courtroom, her mom trying to convince a judge who probably hadn't lived with this, that letting Carla come home was without any doubt a death sentence for her.

Thankfully, he listened. She was admitted to a recovery program and then a group home and then something we called "Baby Prison". It was a lock up for youth to give them a chance to learn how to get along with others and not use drugs and hopefully get them clean enough to appreciate it while locking out outside influences. When I visited her there, I had to go through a metal detector and to some degree was "frisked" to be sure I wasn't bringing her drugs. We were allowed a short visit. She came out of Baby Prison clean, sober and a little scared to start a new life.

Fast forward about 4 years; I was a new advocate in training at Next Step. Carla came to me, "Auntie, I'm pregnant and he wants me to have an abortion."
(continued on next page)

Next Step Team

- Client Advocates
- Men's Mentors
- Post Abortion Healing Team
- Baby Bottle Boomerang Team
- Donation Partners
- Donation Care Team
- Property Care Team
- Next Step Board
- Next Step Directors
- First Step
- Reproductive & Early Infant Loss Team

Next Step Board

Tim Gleeson

Chairman

Laura Pearson

Treasurer

Vicki Grove

Secretary

Vonda Billman

Executive Director

Anne Johnson

Member

Irwin Smutz

Member

Saty Cornelius

Director of Development

Tami Hurd

Member

Directors

Vonda Billman

Saty Cornelius

Merri Lee Williams

I had no idea how to handle that. Luckily, or by God's hand, our Director of Client Services was by her phone and I started texting her. I felt so unprepared. She fed me things to say to Carla and told me to speak from my heart. I think that having an abortion in my story helped to convince Carla that she wanted to keep her baby.

I credit Next Step and the Post Abortion Healing Bible Study (which I had to take to be able to work here) for being able to talk to Carla about the path she was about to take.

We have recently celebrated Baby's first birthday and Carla has been a client of Next Step for two years. She attends a local church regularly. I do credit that precious baby for so much of the good and the hope that has been in her life.

Carla is a wonderful mother and she has been clean and sober for six years.

Looking Forward

Growing and changing

As Next Step PRC grows, we are realizing just how big of a need we are filling in our community. We are also realizing that there is a much bigger load placed on a lot smaller number of volunteers. We'll let the numbers speak for themselves:

In 2022 we saw **122 clients**
We had **10 Client Advocates**
Our clients watched **923 lessons**

In 2023* we saw **141 clients**
We had **5 Client Advocates**
Our clients watched **2,313 lessons**

If you want to learn more about how you could help out in our process of growth, we encourage you to contact us. Next Step PRC feels like home to clients and volunteers alike, and we'd love to get to know you better as we move into 2024!

*2023 statistics reflect 1/1/2023 through 11/27/2023

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Next Step
Pregnancy and Relationship Center!*



Our Purpose:

Next Step Pregnancy and Relationship Center exists to equip men, women, and families to be successful. We walk with clients along their journey, wherever they may be in life.

We are a religious non-profit and as such all your contributions, financial or material, are tax-deductible. If you want to donate online and/or become a monthly supporter, go to nextstepPRC.org and click on Support Us.