#### **Our Services**

Earn While You Learn Education Program

Next Step Boutique

Men's Mentorship

First Step Relationship Education Program

Free Pregnancy Tests

Pregnancy Options Guidance

Post Abortion Healing Groups

Memorial Garden

#### 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

#### Directors

Vonda Billman

Kylee Torrico

Amber Jackson

Corey Cook

# NextSTEP

Pregnancy and Relationship Center

# we'll walk with you

### The End of a Season

Saying Goodbye after Five Years

I joined Next Step PRC as a client advocate in the spring of 2017 after a Next Step volunteer spoke at my church and I felt called to get involved. I had no idea the journey this newfound passion would take me on when I first walked through the door to pick up my volunteer application packet.

I grew exponentially as a client advocate. I walked with women during their pregnancies and held their newborns. I answered calls from and met with women looking for abortion information. I suffered through a miscarriage and leaned on my fellow advocates for support as I navigated the grief of losing our daughter. I helped other women going through the unimaginable pain of reproductive loss.

In 2018 our former director retired. She had a dream to see her position split into three directors - a cord of three strands not easily broken - to help the rapidly-growing Next Step flourish. She encouraged me to step into the roll of Director of Development and the board accepted my application.

I dove into my new role wholeheartedly, and I've greatly enjoyed serving Next Step as Director of Development for the past four years. I have met so many wonderful people in this community; businesses and individuals alike. I've had the privilege of representing Next Step at local events, churches, and other community groups. I've had so much fun writing correspondence (like these newsletters!) and keeping everyone updated. I've enjoyed all of the "behind the scenes" work I've done at the office. Really, this whole position has been a joy. I'm truly thankful.

Next Step has come so far since I joined five years ago. We've hired two other directors, changed our name, changed our colors, re-designed our website, developed new services, survived COVID, took our education program entirely online... all I can say is WOW. I'm so blessed to have been a part of it all.

Now, my season at Next Step PRC is coming to a close. I have the utmost confidence in the new DoD (and I'm honored to introduce her in this newsletter). She's going to do amazing things at Next Step, I have no doubt.

Thank you for walking with me all of these years. It has been an absolute joy and honor.

Kylee Torrico

Director of Development, 2018-2022



#### **Next Step Team**

Client Advocates Receptionists

Post Abortion Healing Team

Baby Bottle Boomerang Team

Donation Partners
Donation Care Team
Property Care Team
Next Step Board
Next Step Directors

#### **Next Step Board**

Tim Gleeson Chairman

Laura Pearson Treasurer

Vicki Grove Secretary

Vonda Billman Executive Director

Anne Johnson Member

Irwin Smutz Member

Saty Cornelius Member

#### **Our Purpose**

Next Step PRC exists to encourage and equip women and men to build successful families.

We are a religious nonprofit 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, click on *Support Us* and select *Financial Support*. We are also a registered non-profit on Amazon Smile.

# Welcome our new Director of Development!

## Introducing Corey Cook

I am pleased to introduce Next Step PRC's new Director of Development, Corey Cook! Corey has lived in Oregon her entire life and moved to eastern Oregon five years ago. She spent more than 30 years in the electric utility industry before retiring and is now the Camp Manager for Cove Christian



Camp. She has a heart for people who are hurting and is excited to be a part of the Next Step family.

Corey is completing her training over the next month and a half, and will completely take over the Director of Development position in August. I can't wait to see the great things she's going to do, and the entire Next Step PRC family is very excited to welcome her to the team!

# **Men Only Beyond This Point**

## Introducing our Men's Mentorship Program

Next Step is very excited to announce the launch of our Men's Mentorship Program! This is a men's only program for men and fathers - young or experienced - who want to develop skills, learn practical strategies, and grow to be a better partner and/or parent. The group will watch relevant lessons and group members will earn currency to shop in the in-house store. It's a great chance for individuals to meet and learn with other men in our community.

Leading this new program is our first ever male client advocate. We are pleased to introduce Javan Ireland, a husband and father of four. Javan has lived in Union County since 1991. He is a Navy veteran and enjoys the outdoors, hunting, fishing, hiking, and archery. He also enjoys training in martial arts and firearms. Javan is passionate about ministry and is excited to help men understand their potential while teaching fathers the value they have in their children's lives.



Our Men's Mentorship group will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm in the Next Step "Man Cave" - a repurposed and redesigned room at the Next Step PRC office. The first meeting will be July 7th; spread the news! For more information, call our office at (541) 963-6918.