



Angelorum Next Step

Pregnancy Services

www.angelorum.org



WINTER 2014 NEWSLETTER

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We are thankful to the following for their support and donations:

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St. Eliz Ann Seton Parish in Bothell
Lynnwood Free Methodist Church
Mars Hill - Shoreline Campus
The Children at St. Thomas More Parish in Lynnwood
St. Joseph Parish in Issaquah

WELCOME 2014!

Happy New Year ~ I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and that you continue to feel the blessings of the Baby throughout 2014.

It seems as though we just exited the stable and it is already time to reflect and prepare for the death and Resurrection of the Christmas Baby. Most of the years between the birth and the death of Jesus are a mystery to us. We know that, although he was God, Jesus was also as human as you and I, which makes it a little easier for us to understand what those quiet years would have been like. Like us, he learned to crawl, walk, fall down, and get back up. He learned to play, share, feed himself, laugh and the importance of "please" and "thank you". He learned, discovered, created, and designed. ***He grew ~ like every baby should.***

Our ministry also grew in 2013. We were visited 3,944 times by people in need of our services. Our nurses saw 565 patients requesting a pregnancy test and 291 of those came back for an ultrasound. Most of the women that came to our office for medical services found our clinic on the Internet.

We averaged 25 new clients per month coming in for material goods. In total, we gave away nearly 50,000 diapers and a countless number of other miscellaneous baby items. Most of our material good clients learn about our services from a friend or from driving by and seeing our sign.

We had an additional nurse trained and certified in performing ultrasound and we now have five nurses trained to assist our patients with pregnancy testing. Lots of growth, as we should.

Thank you Angie!
A special thank you to Angie Grimmer for her time and dedication in training our nurse, Mary Ann Smith in the skill of limited OB ultrasound ~ Angie is a real angel!

We were recently privileged to have Anna Burenvenida, M.Ed, FCPI come to our office and speak about The Creighton Model Fertility Care System. If you are not familiar with this method of Natural Family Planning, here is a brief explanation:

The Creighton Model Fertility Care System is an effective natural women's health program that teaches women and couples how to scientifically understand their fertility cycle. The Creighton Model is 99.6% effective in avoiding pregnancy, and up to 80% effective in helping infertile couples achieve pregnancy naturally with the help of NaPro Technology. This method is also effective in naturally treating chronic miscarriage, ovarian cysts, and other gynecologic problems. Creighton Model Fertility Care practitioners provide NFP instruction in a series of private, personalized sessions with long-term professional follow-up care available. These sessions can be reimbursed by insurance or funded by Flex Spending Accounts.

If you would like to schedule an appointment with Anna or learn more about The Creighton Method, please email annaBFCP@gmail.com or call 206-409-6495.



This is the lovely Anna and her adorable daughter!

Our 2014 Auction of the Angels is Saturday, June 14th ~

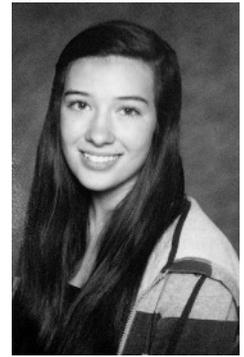
If you've been to our auction before, I'm pretty sure you will agree and if you haven't been, you really should come and find out for yourself! It's such a combination of a lot of things that make it so great ~ the games, the items, and the desserts, of course, but it's so much more ~ it's the Youth For Life volunteers, and it's the generosity of Rob and Mary Emanuel that sponsor the clergy to come so that we may be blessed by their presence, and it's the connection we have with Twelve Baskets Catering ~ three of them were adopted and they say our event is their favorite, and to be honest, there is such a gathering of fun-loving pro-life folks under one roof that it can get a little nuts! Even our new Auctioneer, Tim Leahy has a strong personal connection to our ministry and a strong desire for wanting to work with us.

As much as we like a good time, our auction is a fundraiser ~ and we count on raising enough to fund about half of our yearly needs. This year our goal is to net \$80,000. To make this a reality, we need your help with donations of silent and live items and monetary sponsorship. As far as procurement of great items, we are asking you to get creative and think about unique items or experiences that are of interest to you and that would spark curiosity and excitement with our guests. Some examples would include: an afternoon of sailing on your sailboat, a VIP lunch with a local celebrity or political figure you may know, lawn mowing weekly from June through September, dog sitting in your home, or use of your timeshare. Really, since we would love to get some airline miles donated, when it comes to great auction item, the sky's the limit!

We are also seeking business sponsorship as a means of underwriting the expenses of our auction. If you are a pro life business owner, work for a pro life business owner, or are friends with a pro life business owner, please consider supporting our event in this way. There are four levels of sponsorship opportunities with various incentives for the sponsoring business. Please contact our office if you would like a sponsorship brochure or if you have a business in mind so that we can connect with them.

Please email kathy@angelorum.org or call Kathy at 425-329-4569 to request a procurement form or if you have any questions. And please pray for the success of our 13th Annual Auction of the Angels!

The Washington State March for Life in Olympia was January 21, 2014, and one of our office volunteers, Sophia, a pro-life Catholic teenager from Shoreline, was kind enough to write about her experiences of the day. I think you will agree that at just 16 years old, Sophia embraces wisdom and grace far beyond her years!



As the chartered bus pulled into the parking lot outside the St. Martin's University Pavilion, I was already beginning to get a heightened feeling of unity. There were so many cars parked, so many buses pulling in, and so many people walking towards the pavilion for mass. Mass was said by Archbishop Peter Sartain, who gave an inspiring homily. He reminded us that we have our work cut out for us. He said we cannot afford to be silent or wait for someone else to be actively pro-life. We have to take action ourselves in our communities. We need to change people's hearts and stand up for life and let the government know that we are here and will not be silenced.

Empowered by this, the mass attendees proceeded to the Capitol and joined those already standing by in marching to the steps at noon. Pro-lifers quickly filled the steps of the Capitol building, with some choosing to stand on the steps of the Temple of Justice across the way. Noreen McEntee-Hobson, president of the March for Life, led the event, inviting pro-life politicians to speak to us. Several representatives and senators told us their stories, and assured us that they would stand up for life as best they could in their positions. Many speakers had been coming to the March for years, or even every year since it started thirty-six years ago.

As I stood on those steps, my toes slowly becoming numb with cold, I thought about how many times I'd been there and why I even came in the first place. This was my fifth year coming. In the past, I had gone with my family partly because I thought that it was just what you did if you were pro-life, and partly because I got to miss school. But now, home schooled and in high school, with my family too busy to come down, why was I coming? At first I couldn't think of an answer, but as the March wore on, and even a few days after its conclusion, I gradually found the reason.

I come to the March not only because I am pro-life and "that's just what we do", but because *the March needs me*. It needs me like it needed the other four-thousand-and-some people who were there. It also needs the pro-lifers who couldn't make it, or didn't think to come. The March for Life needs all of us – not just because it's an event that needs supporters to be successful, but because it's a symbol of an overshadowed, yet growing movement in Washington State. I'm sure we all have noticed the at times overwhelming majority of abortion supporters in Seattle and the surrounding area. That's why the pro-life movement in Washington needs the opportunity for representation that the March for Life gives.

But I don't just go because the March needs me – I go because I need the March. I need to see the crowds, I need to cheer for life, and I need to be empowered. As the year goes by, I tend to get so caught up in MY life that I start to forget to be actively pro-life. But the March for Life renews me. I remember again why I'm pro-life, and I become ardently so once more. I look around me at the thousands of people all holding pro-life signs, cheering, listening, smiling, and even praying together. They are all pro-life! I think to myself 'why aren't there more of these people in my life?' It's true that there are so few people I know who are actually pro-life. I know a few people who are pro-choice, but there are so many more that are either on the fence, lukewarm, or have never even thought of the issue before! I'm sure we ALL have those people in our lives, whether we know it or not. We need to be reaching out to those people.

I don't think many people understand the impact one changed heart can have on an entire community. It is huge. Part of what the March for Life does for me is that it reminds me to step outside myself and reach out to others. No matter who you are, your example, your joy, your hope, and the conversations you have with people are important. It is important that you stand for life. Even though it may seem that what you do doesn't mean much, consider these words a great woman, Mother Teresa, once said: "We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something."

We received a note in the mail this past December and I wanted to share it with you because it touched my heart so much. It is from a woman, now in her 60's, that was very close to being aborted.

I am not sure who will read this note but I hope it adds joy to your day.

I have donated here and there over the past few years, I know the money is important to your work, but I am sure it is nice to hear thank you also. I was struck this holiday season with a more conscious awareness of the goodness of your work.

My mother, unwed, at the tender age of 18, was under great pressure to abort me. My father was away as a merchant marine and his mother had made arrangements for the abortion. Within an hour of my being aborted, as they were leaving the house, my mother stood in the doorway and said "I can't do this."

I am fortunate that she was able to be strong. She was from Eastern Washington and in Seattle all by herself, with no one to help and support her. She could have really benefited from an organization like yours. You were not around then as this was in 1948, but you are now and I am thankful for the help you are able to give to women in difficult circumstances.

By the way, my mother is still alive and my best friend. Also, I was a huge joy to my grandmother and always her favorite.

What a woman this mother was ~ alone, young, in a strange land, and pregnant. I feel like I have met her many times. I met her when 18 year old Andrea saw the results of her positive pregnancy test. I met her when Sarah, a homeless woman, was seeking shelter as she waited for her son to be born. I met her when Binta, brand new to our country, didn't know she was pregnant until she went to the emergency room with pain in her abdomen. I meet her daily in our clinic.

The difference between then and now? Because of your support and prayers, our doors are open and these young, scared, pregnant women are able to walk through our doors where they quickly discover that they are not alone. They learn that we are here to help.



This is Ana Laura and her son, Carlos. Carlos, our youngest volunteer, has been helping his mommy put away and organize some of the many wonderful donations we received as a result of Christmas Giving Trees at St. Brendan's in Bothell,

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Bothell, St. Mark's in Shoreline, and St. Alphonsus Parish in Ballard. We were so blessed by the generosity and love of great people with a desire to help those in need!

We need YOU!

If you would like to learn more about our ministry or if you are interested in joining our Board of Directors, volunteering in our office, joining our auction committee, or hosting a baby bottle campaign at your church, please call us at 425 329-4569 or email aps@angelorum.org and request an application.

Comments from our Clients

"I was treated with respect and honesty and I would absolutely tell my friends about Next Step."

"I wish there was a place like this when I was pregnant with my first baby ~ I never would have had an abortion."

"Everyone here is so nice and I can tell they really care about me and my baby."

"I am so thankful for the help I get at Next Step, there are times that I don't know what I would do without them."

"Everyone was very sweet, supportive and honest with me. I feel very comfortable here."

"The formula for my baby was so important when I didn't have anymore."

WHY NOT?

We saw that there were between seven hundred thousand and one million people at the Victory Parade for the Seattle Seahawks. The pictures and media coverage of the crowds were astoundingly "insane" as my oldest son, Peter, who was among the masses texted me. Being the Executive Director of Next Step, my mind automatically multiplied this one million by 55 and thought about how impressive that crowd would look.

We just had a woman come in to our office for a pregnancy test. Considering she stopped to look at maternity clothes after leaving the nurse, it was a fair to guess that her test was positive. Smiling, I asked her if congratulations were in order? Her reply was "this will be my fifth baby." I smiled bigger and said "you must be a very good mother." She told me her other kids were ten, eight, six and four. She didn't seem too happy but she did schedule an ultrasound appointment. Before leaving our office, though, she said that she has never been to a clinic like ours—where everyone was so nice and friendly and helpful. Speaking with nurse Mary afterwards, I learned this will be her ninth pregnancy. She's had three abortions, one miscarriage and four live births. I am so happy she came to **our** office.

This is a special clinic—we have been so completely surrounded by angels and saturated by grace that we are different. We are blessed beyond understanding by a loving, all knowing God.

Seattle QB Russell Wilson stirred his team with three words in his pre-Super Bowl speech: **why, not and us**. I'm wondering if somehow our patient heard her baby also saying three words: **why, not and me**.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, God, for the people that support and pray for this ministry of yours making it possible for us to say our own three words: **because, we and care**.

Please pray for the needs of our clinic

Pray that women would think of Next Step Pregnancy Services first when they are facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Pray that our ultrasound patients would keep their appointment so that they would see that it is a baby and not just tissue.

Pray that fathers would step-up and be firm in their decision that they desire life for their child.

Pray that our nurses would be loving, bold, and truthful when they are face to face with an abortion minded mother.

Pray that our baby supply room would be continually stocked with diapers, maternity clothes and baby clothes.

Pray that we will be successful in obtaining grants and business sponsorship to expand our hours and services.

Pray that our 13th Annual Auction of the Angels will be a huge success financially and spiritually.