

Hope

SUMMER 2017

PREGNANCY MINISTRIES
SHOWING LOVE. BRINGING HOPE.
SAVING LIVES.



From the Executive Director

As you may have heard, Hope Pregnancy Ministries was recently recognized for our innovative work by WORLD Magazine, a leader in national and international news. WORLD Magazine is a bi-weekly Christian news publication featuring U.S. and international news, cultural analysis, editorials and commentary, as well as book, music and movie reviews. Earlier this year, Hope Pregnancy Ministries was nominated for WORLD Magazine's prestigious 2017 Hope Award for *Effective Compassion*, and in April was chosen as the Northwest Region Winner for this award!

Hope is unique among pregnancy care centers in the distinct ways our ministry has grown to include: partnering in education with Kalispell Regional Healthcare's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; providing STI Training for pregnancy medical clinics across the nation; serving as a clinical site for MSU Nursing Students; and achieving national accreditation for our medical clinic. *This nomination from WORLD has placed us among four other outstanding non-profit organizations nationally and internationally*, and we are more than honored to be counted among such accomplished groups.

A reporter from WORLD spent some time with us in April, delving into the ministry of Hope. In mid-June, our story appeared in the online edition of the magazine, and will be published in the July 1 print issue of WORLD! We at Hope are so humbled by this nomination, and are praying that the mission being carried out here in Kalispell will reflect positively on Pregnancy Medical Clinics all across the nation. There is a \$15,000 cash award to the winner, which would be such a blessing! But more importantly, we are privileged to be considered for an award that identifies *effective compassion*. To me, there is no greater honor.



As a supporter of Hope, you've helped this happen. Thank you! I'd love for you to check out WORLD Magazine, and give yourself an opportunity to vote! Visit them online at <https://world.wng.org/> to read the article and cast your vote for Hope! On their home page, you'll see a link (on the black banner) labeled, "**Hope Awards Voting**". Simply follow the link; scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link for a very simple online voting form. We would *so appreciate* your show of support as you vote for Hope Pregnancy Ministries.

We're so thrilled to share the ministry of Hope with the WORLD, and pray that our story will serve as an inspiration to other pregnancy medical clinics across the country. To God be ALL the glory.

Michelle Reimer

Hope Pregnancy Ministries Fall Fundraising Event



You're Invited!

Friday, September 15, 2017 at 6 pm

to get the
inside Scoop

On how your investment impacts
Hope Pregnancy Ministries!

RSVP now at 257-5700
or hopepregnancyministries.org

Fall Fundraising Event

Hope Pregnancy Ministries' Fall Fundraising Event has become quite a gala...one that is a "must attend" event for those committed to the cause of life. As we've transitioned from a traditional "banquet" to a more relaxed atmosphere featuring hors d'oeuvres and dessert, our supporters have given their resounding approval! This format allows guests to visit with longtime friends who are like-minded in their support of life, while at the same time meet new friends of Hope! Throw in a shrimp bar, and what's not to love?

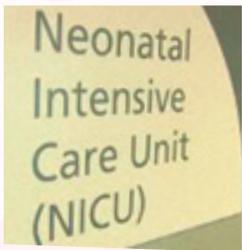
If our supporters have one criticism of this event, it has been a lack of ample time focusing on what's happening locally...how is your funding affecting change here in the Flathead Valley? We at Hope have heard you, and this year we're excited to bring you *The Inside Scoop* on the ministry. What's taking place behind the scenes? What programs have launched since you last had a "tour" of Hope? How is this ministry expanding its borders to reach more hurting people?

Join us Friday, September 15 to go deeper and take a peek inside our walls. Learn more about how private and public school abstinence education, a partnership with the Kalispell Regional Healthcare NICU, the launch of a nationwide clinical training program, and AAAHC accreditation are making this ministry one of a kind...and how your support is affecting the lives of more men, women and children than ever. Register now to attend. Space is limited, and you don't want to miss this. **Get the Inside Scoop.**



Hope

partners with
NICU



A year ago, we shared with you the exciting news of our partnership with Kalispell Regional Healthcare's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This program was born when KRH approached us requesting that we bring our existing Earn While You Learn (parenting) curriculum to parents whose babies are admitted to the NICU. As this program celebrates its first year of success, we want to share with you the impact of its reach, which is proving to be remarkable.

Among at-risk populations, the need for parenting education is staggering. Hope Pregnancy Ministries has partnered with KRH to fill this gap and provide the necessary tools to empower and equip the parents of their most vulnerable patients. Thirty percent of babies admitted to the NICU in Kalispell are due to extensive drug use of the mother. Medical professionals have communicated anxiety over discharging these infants, doubting the ability of such parents to provide rudimentary care. Kalispell Regional Healthcare recruited Hope Family Resource Center to be part of the solution by inviting us to lead parenting classes in the NICU! Through our developing program, parents receive instruction on basic infant care including touch, eye contact, SIDS education, breastfeeding, and identifying the basic cries of a newborn. Aside from these group classes led by our Resource Center Director and volunteers, parents have an opportunity to read literature and complete homework assignments to acquire additional parenting strategies. As lessons are completed, parents earn "baby bucks" to be redeemed at Hope Family Resource Center's Baby Boutique upon their discharge from the hospital. A labor and delivery nurse shared, "The program has been amazing. It has given moms and dads focus, purpose, and something to work on during what can be a tedious stay." Many drug addicted mothers feel apprehensive to interact with their fragile babies, and often cope by dismissing their role altogether. Our curriculum is helping to remove intimidation by equipping parents with confidence to engage with their infant, and the courage to take their baby home.

The Flathead Valley is home to an alarming number of physically drug dependent mothers. With the ever-increasing drug culture in our community, the medical professionals in the NICU note that they are seeing high numbers of drug addicted (NAS) infants. Nationally, the average stay for these babies is 24.8 days. Since the inception of our initiative, KRH has seen a dramatic reduction in length of stay and has achieved an average stay of just 13 days! Hospitals around the nation have noticed this anomaly and distinguished institutions are asking how they can mirror what is happening in Kalispell.



Baby Bottle Campaign



As we launch into summer, our office is bustling with activity! The 2,500 baby bottles which were distributed within 70 churches from Mother's Day to Father's Day are finding their way back to us. These bottles are filled with cash, coin and check donations from individuals who understand that their generosity makes a difference in the lives of those we serve. It is amazing how boxes full of bottles add up! Some contain a child's allowance, and others hold a check with an amount that astounds us. We know that each donation is given sacrificially, and that is humbling. Last year, over \$49,000 traveled via baby bottle from Hungry Horse and Coram, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Kalispell, Bigfork, Lakeside, Polson, Pablo, Ronan, and even Thompson Falls!

Thank you to the churches from these areas who have embraced their call to care for widows and orphans, as indeed Hope Pregnancy Ministries is doing on a daily basis. Together, we are bringing hope to many lives.

We will keep you posted as we tally a grand total for the 2017 campaign!

Still have a bottle? Simply drop it off at your church, or at Clear Choice Clinic at 1281 Burns Way.

As part of our plan for growing this program, professionals from both organizations are looking toward presenting workshops at their industry conferences to promote the program nationwide.

This positive statistical trend has also proven true in relation to foster care placements. Since HFRC has stepped into the NICU, the rate of foster placements for drug affected babies has decreased dramatically from 80% to 11%! Lisa Smith, MSW, lead social worker at the KRH NICU, can't speak highly enough about the benefits these educational sessions are providing on an emotional and medical level. Lisa attributes the dramatic decrease in length of patient stay and foster care placement to the compassionate and Christ-centered care being offered, noting that this is not a medication difference. This is a relational difference. "We are literally working with prostitutes, murderers and drug addicts. A loving and compassionate model of Christ makes all the difference and offers more potential for lasting change." In addition, she attests that through this program, Child Protective Services is able to see that these moms have people advocating for them and are better equipped to parent and have proven to be more willing to consider home safety plans for these babies rather than removal. Given the hope of keeping their baby, 80% mothers with NAS infants in the NICU have chosen to engage in the program during their hospital stay. This opportunity has truly allowed us to help those who cannot help themselves. Currently, 30% of the clients at Hope Family Resource Center were introduced from the NICU! We are striving to see this number increase as we engage with parents of these fragile newborns and increase material incentives for participation; material motivations linked to our curriculum attract many parents who have virtually nothing. In fact, the hospital deems the structure of our program so effective that they now see little value in referring to analogous programs run by the state. This conclusion was based on the high retention rate of patients continuing with us after their discharge from the hospital. The potential for influence in this arena is extraordinary.

One of our highest goals with this initiative is to not only assist families during their NICU stay, but to form a trusting relationship and see them enroll as ongoing clients at HFRC. Since the start of the program, nine parents who traveled to KRH from outlying towns have cashed in their baby bucks after their baby's dismissal, and before making their drive home. Fifteen local parents have enrolled as continuing clients, a nearly 100% retention rate! The connection of moms and dads with a mentor at the resource center from birth until their child is two years old has a profound impact on the family unit. Not only do parents learn practical parenting concepts, but also imperative life skills. Most importantly, clients are shown the love of Christ, and through forming a relationship with their mentor, are introduced to the truth of faith as they are ready. Growing our NICU education curriculum is providing a distinct opportunity to encounter the lives of our community's most at-risk. It is thrilling to consider the profound legacy this ministry could have in the lives of young families by connecting with them at this point of vulnerability. HFRC is working to redeem cycles of family breakdown.

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Hope Pregnancy Ministries has a vision to be the preferred resource for men and women in need of our services. The leadership of Hope views the NICU partnership as a program that will broaden our reach in order to achieve our mission and vision on a larger scale. By providing an avenue for NICU clients to receive education and become effective parents despite their present challenges, we are meeting individuals who may have otherwise been missed.

As you can see, the impact of our work with Kalispell Regional Healthcare's NICU has far-reaching implications. We're so excited to share with you the results of this remarkable partnership, and look forward to seeing how our reach into this place of need will impact lives for generations to come.



Staff Update

Hope Pregnancy Ministries is excited to introduce the newest member of the Hope family! **Emerson Grace Habel** was born to Nurse Manager Kristen Habel and her husband T.J. on June 6, 2017! Emerson weighed in at a whopping 8 pounds! She is welcomed by big brother Elias, and is cute as a button!

WELCOME TO THE WORLD, EMERSON!

Hope Staff

Michelle Reimer Executive Director
Jessica Robbins Executive Assistant
Debbie Otto Resource Center Director
Sandy Hanson Office Manager
Rhonda Fisher Clinic Assistant
Kristen Habel Nurse Manager
Kara Roberts Registered Sonographer
Tiffany Rietema Staff Nurse
John Lavin, MD Medical Director

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Kristen Heck Chairman
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Bailey Siemens Secretary
Cliff Bell
Connie Hogan
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Hope

PREGNANCY MINISTRIES

SHOWING LOVE. BRINGING HOPE.
SAVING LIVES.

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THE TOWNE PRINTER

HOPE PREGNANCY MINISTRIES provides compassionate medical and educational services to equip men and women to make informed decisions related to pregnancy and sexual health.

Your Vote
is Needed!

2017
**HOPE
AWARDS**
FOR EFFECTIVE COMPASSION

Can the love of Christ be shown to our community through diapers?

We say YES, and each year Hope Family Resource Center does just that by distributing over 30,000 diapers to families in need. Resource Center clients earn diapers by attending parenting education classes at HFRC, and have an important need met by this resource. Recently the Kalispell chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA) joined in the effort to meet our clients at their point of need by hosting the 15th Annual CMA Diaper Drive! The Christian Motorcyclists have been so faithful to the ministry of Hope, and once again collected diapers from generous shoppers at local businesses. This fifteenth effort collected enough diapers to supply Hope Family Resource Center for almost a year! Jesus loves the little children...and so does the Christian Motorcyclists Association!

Fifteen Years of Cycles and Diapers



A special "thank you" to the following businesses for supporting Hope Pregnancy Ministries by allowing the CMA to set up booths in front of your places of business. Your support was vital to our success, and we are so grateful!

Shopko • Smith's • Walmart

HOPE PREGNANCY MINISTRIES GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY:

Special Thanks

Adventure Church • Aletheia Church • Bee Broadcasting • Blaine Mountain Technologies • Bug Hunters • Canvas Church • Canyon Community Church
Central Bible Church • Columbia Nursery • Don and Jeanie Nelson • Evergreen Disposal • Flathead Electric/RoundUp for Safety • Fresh Life Church • Hagadone Digital
Hashley Boy's Lawn Mowing • Heart & Hands Midwifery & Women's Health • Hope Church • KALS/Your Network of Praise • KRMC Inpatient Rehab Therapies
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Mission Valley Security • North Valley Baptist Church • Robin Sorg • Ron Pilsch • SMB Technologies • Spirit Document Services • Stillwater Quilters • Thirsty Turf