

# the heartbeat of agape



Winter 2020



## A New Look for Our New Adventure

By: Sarah Bartlett, Office Manager

**A**gape is starting this year with a new look and a new name to encompass our expanding services and mission!

### “Agape Pregnancy Resource Center”

Our logo portrays a bright, beautiful, inviting, and fresh appearance that goes well with our history and heart.

#### **The green in the logo symbolizes life and peace.**

Many of the individuals who walk through our door are anxious and in need of help and support.

#### **The blue in the logo brings a sense of calmness and trust when building relationships**

Many of the clients who walk through our doors come because they are unsure of their future. In order to fulfill our mission of providing help and hope, it is paramount that our clients feel a sense of calm and security.



PREGNANCY  
RESOURCE CENTER

*A place to find help and hope, care and compassion*

#### **The heart in the center symbolizes love**

Love for our clients and the love of Christ is what we desire to portray. The cradled heart symbolizes our love for life. The love for life that we have here at Agape is evidenced in how the heart in our logo is cradled, not unlike how a mother cradles her growing baby inside the womb.

#### **The rays around the cradled heart symbolizes the light and love of Jesus.**

The rays also symbolize the love that we have for every individual that comes into our clinic. We want our clients to know that we see them and love them and that we will wrap our arms around them and support them through whatever uncertainties they face.

## Agape Announces April 2020 Expansion

By: Leanna Simpson, Executive Director

We are so excited to begin our 35th year at Agape Pregnancy Resource Center! As we begin, we are on the brink of expansion and further ministry. This year will be a celebration of God's faithfulness and how He is providing for us yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In April, we will be expanding ministry and adding another building for expanding resources and client support. We are working hard and fast to prepare for our

community open house for our new building at 2222 Bennett Street on April 18, 2020!

Inside of the walls of this expanded space, we will be focusing on the mission of “Equip, Empower, and Educate.” We anticipate serving over 2,000 individuals per year through our services and educational support.

*Continued on the back...*

# A Letter from Leanna



Dear friends,

2020 is here! Fresh beginnings, new horizons, and new ways that God is going to stretch and grow each one of us! Hold on tight, because if you let Him, God will take you where you have never imagined. It's not always easy and it's not always fun, but it is always, always good. Mind you, not in the earthly sense of the word, because life can be painful, hard, tortuous even, BUT it is always good because God is navigating the story to make us more like Him and draw us to His side.

In the Book of Job, we see a man who loved God, to the point that even Satan took notice. Job was wealthy, had a beautiful and large family, a wife, and a lot of friends. Over the course of the first part of Job's story, his home, possessions, and 10 children were stripped from him. He was left with nothing. He then was afflicted with boils, pain, and disfigurement. His wife wanted him to curse God. His friends also sought to further discourage him.

Eventually Job speaks. He is hurting, he is venting, he feels alone but then he states, "I know my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth, and after my skin has been destroyed, I will see God with my own eyes...how I long for that day!" I am in awe of his faith and his ability to see the eternal in the moments of pain.

Isn't that what we do here at Agape? Every day, we try to see the eternal in the moments of pain...in crisis. We try to hold on to what is true, we try to see past the ugliness of this world, we try to encourage the broken and hurting, and we try to be present in the moment of pain, remembering the eternal.

One day I was sharing with my young son a large decision and I was struggling. I didn't know what to do or what decision to make. I heard him say, "Mom, choose the hard road." I was like "What? What do you mean...why?" He looked straight into my eyes and said to me, "Choose the hard road mom...Jesus always chooses the hard road and so must you."

Agape-the ministry we are called to, the people we serve, the conversations we have, the hurts we see...it's a hard road, but Jesus always chose the hard road. Thank you, friends, for walking this road with us.

We are blessed to serve beside you,

Leanna Simpson,  
Executive Director

## A Life Changed

*A letter from Kathy, a former Agape client*

At 18 years old, I hid in the bathroom. The results finally appeared: I was pregnant. In my mind, pregnancy was not an option, so I called a clinic and made an appointment for an abortion. I wanted a confirmation of my pregnancy and remembered how a friend had received help from a place called Agape.

So off to Agape I went. I knew they would give me the confirmation I

needed to carry on with my plans of abortion. However, what I received that day was not at all what I intended and far beyond what I deserved.

*Visit our website to read the rest of Kathy's amazing story of heart and life change, and how - in her words - Agape saved her daughter's life.*



Kathy in 2000 with her young daughter.

agape   
PREGNANCY  
RESOURCE CENTER

*Serving Des Moines and the surrounding area for over 35 years, offering education and quality services to help our clients make informed decisions. We are fully-funded by the generosity of businesses and individuals in the community.*

**Donations can be mailed to:**

2550 Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy.  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
515.255.0243  
www.agapedsm.com



facebook.com/  
AgapeDSM/



agapedsm

**Hours:**

**Mondays & Thursdays**

10:30am – 6:00pm

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays**

10:30am – 4:00pm

**Closed on Fridays**

**2nd & 4th Saturday of each month**

9:00am – 12:30pm

**Services offered at no charge:**

- Pregnancy tests
- Ultrasounds
- STD testing
- Client advocacy
- Educational classes
- Infant care supplies

**Ways to get involved:**

- Donate
- Provide wish list items
- Contribute to our Endowment fund
- Volunteer
- Plan/host a service project

**Did You Know?**

A baby's heart starts beating 22-25 days after fertilization & their heart rate ranges twice that of an average adult.

## Volunteer Opportunities

By: Stacy Terrill,  
Director of Client Services



Are you a compassionate and caring woman, with a desire to serve Jesus with all your heart?

Are you a good listener, empathetic, and passionate about sharing truth and love with those around you?

Are the needs and concerns of woman and their families carrying a special place in your heart and you wish you could do more?

Do you strongly believe the events of life have been orchestrated to bring you to serve in pro-life ministry?

We would love to talk to you about volunteering at Agape! Call or email me today at 515-447-6343 or connect@agapedsm.com.

## Board of Directors Corner

Paul Jensen, President



Paul has been on the board for 3 years.

Paul had been involved with Agape for 10 years. Paul is

passionate about the

mission and ministry of showing the unconditional love of Christ to those who need to hear it most. Currently, he is not in a position where he gets a change to do this in his normal workday, so having the opportunity to enable the staff and volunteers to speak these truths brings him great joy. He is constantly amazed at the work that goes on at Agape and the daily impact that the ministry has on people's lives, in a very individual and personal way.



## Volunteer Spotlight - JoAnn

By: Sarah Bartlett,  
Office Manager

JoAnn has been a Registered Nurse since 1961. A year before she retired, she began to volunteer at Agape twice a month. After her retirement in 2001, she started volunteering on a weekly basis as first an Earn While You Learn instructor and then as a Patient Advocate. She has said, "I love meeting our clients, hearing their stories, and being able to share the gospel with them. I feel that God is guiding me when I visit with our clients. Our goal is to help people, and the rewards from volunteering



here are indescribable." We are incredibly thankful for JoAnn, her heart for Agape, and her selfless service in our ministry.

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## PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

2550 Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy.  
Des Moines, IA 50310

### *In This Issue*

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- 2020 Expansion Plans
- Kathy's Story: Her life changed; her baby's life saved.
- Volunteer Spotlight: JoAnn

## A Sneak-Peek at Our Staff Christmas Party



*Expansion article continued from the cover...*

### **This building will provide:**

- Case Management
- Individually tailored classes
- Group classes (ranging from parenting, childbirth, finance, health, employment readiness, and religion)
- Hygiene pantry
- Food Pantry
- Boutique
- Laundry Access
- Job coaching

The ministry and services at Agape are completely and totally funded by individual donations. God is faithful and what He has brought us to, He will surely see us through! God has given us a huge mission and task. But we serve a HUGE God who has equipped us and brought us to this moment and to this task. We will never be enough, but He will ALWAYS and forever be more than enough. Please continue to join us for the journey and pray for us to be prepared for the task.