

the heartbeat of agape

Summer 2020



Come Just As You Are

By: Leanna Simpson, Executive Director

I saw her eyes look upward, sheepishly catching mine.

I started to lean in. I knew what she wanted. I said, "Can I give you a hug?"

Light flickered in her eyes, she breathed a deep breath and said, "If you want to..."

I pulled her in close and hugged her tight.

I could feel the tension leaving her body. She whispered, "I'm sorry if I smell."

"You're okay," I reassured her. "You're okay."

I think of this moment in time, and I think of how we come to Christ. We come timid and broken, "smelling" of sin, and separated. Christ leans in and draws us close,

not put off by who we are or how we are covered in our brokenness, He holds us tight and whispers in our ears that we are okay now, we are finally okay.

At Agape, we open our doors and we invite everyone in. We open our arms and our hearts. We serve each other and bear each other's burdens: whether it be staff, board, partners, and clients. We all come broken and we all seek to be healed of our hurts. Some of us have chosen the Healer and some of us are yet to be healed.

But today and every day, we are inviting every one of you to "sit" at the table. Come and take a seat. Come as you are. We are so glad that you are here.

When you come as you are, you will not stay as you came.....if you allow the **Healer** to do what only He can do, **truly heal.**

35th Anniversary Virtual

Gala
to benefit

Agape Pregnancy Resource Center

A Journey of God's Faithfulness

09.22.20

Please register today to attend or become a table host at agapedsm.com!

A Life Changed

A Grandmother's story of transitioning from fear & frustration to hope & grace.



Have you heard that saying, "When you are at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on"? Well, my rope had a lot of knots. Our daughter was raised in a loving, Christ-centered home, was a good

student, involved in sports, music, and the youth group at church. It was not until her senior year of high school that my husband and I noticed changes in her behavior. She started making one bad choice after another and we spent a great deal of time worrying about how those choices would impact her future. She seemed to only care about partying, boys, and reckless living and I can remember feeling hopeless and out of answers.

Right around the time our daughter was 21, she suspected she was pregnant, so she called her sister for support and off they went to Planned Parenthood for a pregnancy test. When the test came back positive, she feared what to do next. In her heart and mind, neither Planned Parenthood or an abortion was the answer. She ended up walking into Agape and from the moment she arrived she was welcomed with love and compassion. She talked with a patient advocate and broke down letting them know all her fears: how we, as her parents, would react, how would she support a

baby and what should she do now that she is pregnant. The patient advocate gave her advice, resources, and options other than abortion. To this day, she still talks about how compassionate they were in her time of need.

Then came the day she met with us to tell us she was pregnant. It was obvious that she was afraid and ashamed to tell us. She genuinely believed that we were going to disown her, but she would say it was the talk at Agape that gave her the courage to take things one step at a time. I wish I could say this was a happy moment for my husband and I, but it was not. We were disappointed, frustrated, irritated and downright scared. However, over the next few months, God softened my heart and opened my eyes to the responsibility I had in this situation going forward, which was to be supportive, positive and trust that He was still in control. My questions changed from "Where did we go wrong" to "God, what is Your plan for our daughter and her child?" We turned it over to God and he did the rest.

Fast forward to today, 13 years later. Our grandson is the light of our life. Every year of his life has been a gift beyond measure. He brings us absolute joy. We are so glad our daughter made the important decision to choose life. Even though Satan tried to distract us, God had a different plan and Agape was part of that plan. Together they provided us with two of His greatest promises...**HOPE and GRACE.**



Fun Service Opportunity

We are inviting individuals, churches, and businesses to partner with us through hosting a baby shower! All items collected and donated through this program will go towards stocking our Tiny Hands Boutique and providing our clients with baby essentials!

To get started, you can use our all-inclusive event packets found at agapedsm.com/getinvolved.



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/involved
accounts@agapedsm.com

Follow us on social media



@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?

We now offer Telehealth services that are free and confidential.

Board of Directors Corner



Pam joined the Agape Board of Directors in 2013. Pam first learned about Agape when a board member invited her to sit at their table at a fundraising event. Since then, she has been inspired by the incredible staff, volunteers and board members who make this ministry possible. Pam has always been Pro-Life and found that serving on the board has been a tangible way to put her beliefs in action. She has witnessed God's blessing on Agape, and those who enter its doors in countless ways.

Welcome Taryn Vander Ploeg!

Taryn has served as the Project and Communications Manager since March 2020. She comes to us with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and Public Relations from Drake University. Taryn was first introduced to Agape through a family member and volunteer. Since this original introduction, she has found her own personal conviction in the mission of the organization. She hopes that more people will come to know Jesus through the work that Agape strives to do for women and families in Des Moines.



Volunteer Spotlight - Jan



Jan started volunteering weekly with Agape in 2012. Supporting and encouraging women in choosing life is her favorite part of serving. Her volunteerism has broadened her world view extensively through client and volunteer interactions. She said, "With the people and the atmosphere here, it just feels like this place is filled with the Holy Spirit. We are all from different church backgrounds, but we all have one desire- to give love to the people who come in". We are incredibly thankful for Jan, her heart for Agape, and her selfless service in our ministry.

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Life 107.1 Hygiene Pantry Drive

We are so grateful to Jen Green and radio station Life 107.1 for hosting a drive through Hygiene Pantry Event to help launch our Helping Hands Pantry. Thanks to the generous donations of hundreds of listeners, we have enough hygiene products to sustain our pantry for an entire year!

