

Inviting Fathers In

Written by Jo'ell Bruggeman, Hope Training Specialist

As we strive to give quality and compassionate care to our patients, we find that being aware of the needs of each person who enters our clinic must be at the forefront of our minds. Each pregnancy involves a mother, baby, and father. Last year brought some changes as we realized we could do better in the area of serving fathers.



The father of the baby plays an important role in the pregnant mother's life. For many, he is the number one influencer in her decision to give birth or have an abortion. A majority of women who choose abortion do so because they are having relationship problems with the father or they do not want to be a single mom. By welcoming him into the appointment, we can better find out what he's thinking and what his needs are as far as becoming a father. He may feel inadequate, intimidated and overwhelmed. We want to empower him with encouragement and resources so that he feels capable of making a life-affirming decision.

When both mother and father choose to parent, we encourage them to participate together in the Parenting Initiative program. Their involvement in the program will continue our ability to be of help with uncertainties and needs, and also give them tools in welcoming and parenting their baby.

Unusual Circumstances

At Hope, we serve a wide array of women with diverse backgrounds and needs. Some are pretty straight forward and others involve unusually complicated situations.

Dora* is in the latter group. She is living with her parents and already has one child. She says she is a Christian. Her pregnancy test reveals she is pregnant and she initially says she's undecided about what she wants to do. Parenting and abortion are both on the table.

Where Dora's story gets especially messy is with the father of the baby. He comes with Dora for that first visit to Hope, and he clearly wants her to have an abortion. He has two other children with another woman with whom he is currently living. The Hope advocate asks them both some open questions and helps them have a healthy, positive conversation about their difficult situation.

Dora calls back a few days later and asks if she can come in again, and asks if she can bring her sister. When they arrive, the father of the baby is with them. He says he plans to stay with his other family, but will help provide for this baby as well. Dora says she is looking forward to parenting her baby.

What occurs to us here at Hope is, "What happens to this baby if Hope wasn't here for this couple?"

** name changed for privacy.*

Join Our Volunteer Team

Hope served more women in 2023 than ever before. We are honored that women are choosing to come to Hope when they make their pregnancy decision, and choosing to stay with us for parenting classes. Our staff and volunteers show each woman love, truth, and compassion in every step along the way.

Our volunteer advocates in the clinic work with our medical staff in the moment of decision. They ask good questions and listen well. Volunteer mentors in the Parenting Initiative meet weekly with the mother, and more frequently, the father as well to go over the curriculum that will help these parents be successful and thrive.

We have an on-going need for more volunteers—both advocates and mentors—to fill the needs of our increasing patient load. Do you have a compassionate heart? An ability to listen well and speak truth with kindness? If you've considered volunteering at Hope, now would be a great time.

Our next volunteer training will begin mid to late March. **Volunteer applications are due March 4th** to allow time for interviews to happen before training starts. You can apply using the QR code or send an email to beth@hopeforsalem.org



Scan me

40 Days for Life

Faithful sidewalk volunteers stand vigil outside the Salem Planned Parenthood (PP) year-round. Their number grows during 40 Days For Life campaigns such as the current one starting on February 14. All of these men and women are marked by courage and compassion. They have a deep desire to help women and save babies' lives.



When on their shift at PP—and when they can capture a woman's attention long enough—they will tell her about Hope Pregnancy Clinic. It helps to be able to say, "Hope can provide an ultrasound scan right now for free."

This 40 Days for Life campaign coincides with the season of Lent, February 14 to March 28. Lent is a season of prayer, and it's fitting we pray for these volunteers and the women they seek to serve. Let's pray these next 40 days that God will use these efforts to save and change lives.

IN 2023 HOPE HAD...

Total Patient Visits	2,106
Ultrasound Patients	876
Parenting Initiative Participants	151
Spiritual Conversations	831
Staff and Volunteers*	116

*including event volunteers

SAVE *the* DATE 2024

Baby Bottle Campaign

Mother's Day (May 12)
through Father's Day (June 16)

The Hope Run

Saturday, August 10
@ Minto Brown Island Park

Fall Dessert

Saturday, October 19
@ Salem Convention Center



2630 Market St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Pray FOR HOPE

The 40 Days for Life Campaign

February 14th - March 24th



@hopeforsalem