



### 40 YEARS!

Thirty-nine and a half years ago, a vision became a reality. In just six short months, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Bella Pregnancy Resource Center. The official celebration will take place at Bella's annual Gala for Life benefit banquet, and we want to be sure you can join us—so please mark your calendars for Thursday, October 15, 2026, as we celebrate life together.

In the meantime, here is a brief look at Bella's beginnings. Forty-one years ago, a group of visionaries met over several months to discuss how to address the growing number of abortions taking place just 45 miles away in Rapid City. At that time, Dr. Ben Munson had an established abortion practice in Rapid City. He was the only physician in South Dakota performing abortions until 1981, when another doctor opened a clinic in Sioux Falls.

Dr. Munson's abortion practice began in 1967—six years before its legalization in 1973—and, coincidentally, he retired in 1986, the same year Bella was founded. Between his clinic and the Sioux Falls clinic, an estimated 16,000–17,000 abortions were reported between 1973 and 1986.

As this group of concerned citizens explored possible responses, they ultimately determined that the most effective way forward was to establish a crisis pregnancy center—one that could intervene directly in the lives of women considering abortion.

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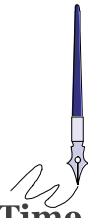
Beth Agee

#### ***Office Assistant:***

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## A THOUGHT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Roxie Johnson



### Loving Women with Truth in a Confusing Time



If we're honest, this is a really confusing time to be a woman facing an unexpected pregnancy.

There's a lot of information out there—but not all of it is true. And not all of it is caring.

Today, abortion is often presented as simple and easy. With just a quick search, women can find websites offering abortion pills with little to no medical oversight. No prescription. No in-person visit. No follow-up care. Some sites even suggest taking the pills before confirming a pregnancy—or buying extra pills “just in case.”

That should make us stop and think—because that doesn't sound like caring for women – it sounds dangerous.

Here in South Dakota, elective abortion has been illegal since 2022. But that hasn't stopped women from seeking abortions. Many still travel out of state, while others are accessing abortion pills online—sometimes shipped from other states or even overseas, often without proper medical guidance.

At the same time, there's so much noise in the media that it can be hard to sort out truth from confusion. Even basic facts get lost. For example, care for miscarriage or pregnancy loss is still legal and available everywhere, including South Dakota—but many people have been told otherwise, prompting legislation this year in South Dakota to clarify this for medical providers.

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**“...this isn't just about policies or pills—it's about people.”**

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Another area of confusion is abortion pill reversal (APR). The medication abortion (abortion pill) process typically involves two different drugs, with the first blocking progesterone—a hormone needed to sustain pregnancy. APR works by giving progesterone back to the body as quickly as possible after the first pill is taken, helping support the pregnancy if a woman has a change of heart before taking the second drug. Many are saying APR is fake or doesn't work. However, studies have shown it to be effective approximately 63% of the time, and there are real stories of women who have successfully continued their pregnancies after starting the process—including two right here at Bella.

And this matters—because women deserve to know all of their options, including the availability of abortion pill reversal.

Behind all of this are real women—women who are hurting, overwhelmed, and searching for clarity as they try to make a decision in the middle of so much confusion.

That's why this matters so much to us as a ministry.

We want to be the place she turns before Google.

Before an out-of-state clinic.

Before a risky online option.

A place where she finds truth, compassion, and hope.

Because this isn't just about policies or pills—it's about people. And every woman deserves to be supported, informed, and cared for every step of the way.

And we are so grateful for you -because your support makes it possible for us to walk alongside the women we serve, offering clarity in place of confusion. So, thank you for your partnership with Bella.

~Roxie

## 40 YEARS—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

With humble beginnings—a card table, a phone, a few folding chairs, and a post office box—the Northern Hills Crisis Pregnancy Center (NHPCC) opened its doors in October 1986.

Much has changed in the decades since that first client walked through the door. There have been new faces and heartfelt farewells, multiple relocations, several name changes, and expanded services. Yet through every season of change, one thing has remained constant: the mission. The commitment to share the hope of Christ, to defend life, and to support women facing unplanned pregnancies has never wavered.

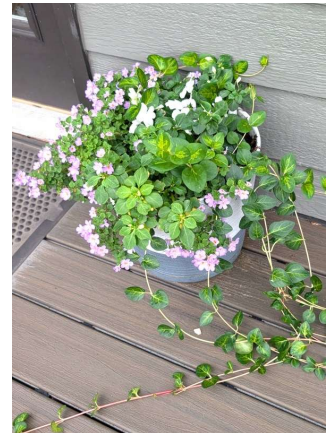
We are deeply grateful that you are part of this ongoing mission to serve women, men, and families facing unplanned pregnancy situations. Together, we have served well over 5,000 clients.

We would love to celebrate these shared accomplishments with you at the Gala for Life on October 15—so don't forget to save the date!



### We love our community service groups!

Our heartfelt thanks to St. Joseph's Catholic students and Black Hills Christian Academy students who have faithfully helped Bella with special projects the last couple of years. And the great part, both groups plan to come again this spring. When you see our pretty flowers or read the baby bottle inserts during our Baby Bottle Campaign, you'll know special hands put everything together!



## BELLA 2025 VITAL STATISTICS



|                                         |     |                                           |     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| New Clients                             | 112 | Clients who received childbirth education | 20  |
| Female                                  | 103 | Pregnancy Decision Conversations          | 19  |
| Male                                    | 9   | Clients who chose to carry to term        | 74  |
| Pregnancy Test Clients                  | 82  | Clients who chose abortion                | 3   |
| Positive Tests                          | 77  | Clients who chose adoption                | 0   |
| Negative Tests                          | 5   | Relationship/Abstinence Conversations     | 219 |
| % of At-Risk Pregnant Clients           | 13% | Spiritual/Gospel Conversations            | 179 |
| Ultrasounds                             | 85  | Post Abortion Healing                     | 1   |
| Parenting/Life Skills Education Clients | 51  | Total In-Office Client Visits             | 866 |
| Clients who received Material Support   | 65  | Total Virtual Client Visits               | 114 |

## CLIENT ADVOCATE CORNER



Over time, the Lord has been gently reshaping the way I see people and the world around me. He has been showing me that every person carries deep value, purpose, and potential, no matter their past, their struggles, or where they currently stand. I'm learning to look beyond outward circumstances and see others the way He does: with compassion, intention, and hope. Scripture reminds us of this truth in Psalm 139:14, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made," and in Jeremiah 29:11, where God declares that He has plans filled with hope and a future for each of us. These verses have become a foundation for understanding that worth is not earned, it is given by God.

Bella has become a powerful place where this truth comes to life. It is more than just a space, it is a place of change, opportunity, and restoration. Lives are being touched, hearts are being softened, and hope is being rekindled in those who walk through its doors. I've seen firsthand how people begin to recognize their own value again, and it's a beautiful reflection of God's work.

At the same time, Bella would not exist without the faithful individuals who serve day in and day out. Their consistency, humility, and willingness to give of themselves make transformation possible. Hebrews 6:10 reminds us, "God is

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**"Bella has become a powerful place where this truth comes to life."**

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not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people." This is a reminder that every act of service matters. We should always take time to recognize and give thanks for those hearts that are willing to serve so faithfully, because through them, God's love is made visible.

*Jess Avera*

Client Advocate



## SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for the 34 churches that joined Bella for this year's Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHLS) Baby Bottle Campaign in January and February. This campaign is a meaningful way Bella raises support to continue offering completely free services to the women, men, and families we serve all year long.

As the campaign has now come to a close, we're celebrating the incredible generosity shown throughout these past months. Together, you helped raise over \$42,000—an amazing testament to the compassion and support of our community. While the campaign has officially ended, there's still time to return any remaining bottles, which can be dropped off at Bella. And if you missed the campaign altogether, you can still participate by clicking on the QR code on the bottle to the right and donate through our [friendsofbella.com](https://friendsofbella.com) website.

To every individual, family, ministry, and church who took part—thank you. Your support truly makes a difference. We're also deeply grateful to the churches already committed to our upcoming Mother's Day/Father's Day Baby Bottle Campaign: Calvary Church (Spearfish), Hillsvie E-Free (Piedmont), Bethel Free Lutheran Church (Faith), and Nisland Independent Church (Nisland). Your partnership is a blessing to this ministry!

*The following churches took part in the SOHLS Baby Bottle Campaign:*

Black Hills Baptist Church, Whitewood

Black Hills Cowboy Church, Beulah

Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Sturgis

Chapel of Faith, Sundance

Christian Life Center, Belle Fourche

Connection Church, Spearfish

Countryside Church, Spearfish

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Belle Fourche

Faith Bible Church, Spearfish

First Baptist Church, Belle Fourche

Foothills Community Church, Sturgis

Global Methodist Church, Belle Fourche

Grace Fellowship Church, Spearfish

Grace Lutheran Church, Deadwood

Hillsvie Church of the Nazarene, Spearfish

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Whitewood

New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Spearfish

North Point Christian Church, Spearfish

Open Bible Church, Sturgis

Rimrock E-Free Church, Rapid City

Seventh Day Adventist, Spearfish

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Lead

Slim Buttes Lutheran Church, Reva

Sojourn, Spearfish

Solid Rock Church, Spearfish

St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Deadwood

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Sturgis

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Spearfish

St. Mary's of the Sea Catholic Church, Newell

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Lead

St. Paul's Catholic Church, Belle Fourche

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Spearfish

Summit Open Bible Church, Belle Fourche



## MENS MINISTRY



Hi, my name is Tristan Steeves, and I volunteer as a male client advocate here at Bella. I have been volunteering for just over a year. After attending the Bella Gala in 2024, I felt convicted about the need to sign up as a volunteer and go through the training to become a client advocate. Like many people, I initially thought pregnancy resource centers mainly served women and not men, so I wasn't sure what to expect as a guy signing up to volunteer. But during that Gala, I kept hearing the words "the babies" in my mind. I realized that if we truly want to help save the babies, we must support both the father and the mother and help strengthen their relationship.

Although I didn't know exactly what to expect, I took a step of faith and trusted God to guide the next steps—and He did. What I've come to appreciate most in this role is how powerful it is when a man realizes he is not alone and that his choices matter. Many men come in feeling overwhelmed or unsure what to do, but when someone takes the time to talk with them, challenge

them, and encourage them, you can begin to see a shift happen. Helping men see the value of stepping into fatherhood and supporting the mother can impact an entire family for generations. It's an

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**"You don't need to have all the answers (I sure didn't)."**

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incredible opportunity to bring the hope, truth, and love of God to these couples, and being able to pray with and for them is such a blessing.

One of the greatest needs at pregnancy centers today is men willing to come alongside other men—and likewise women who will walk with other women. If you've ever wondered how you could use your time to make a real difference in the lives of families in our community, I encourage you to consider becoming a volunteer client advocate. You don't need to have all the answers (I sure didn't). You simply need a willingness to listen, care, point others in the right direction, and reflect the love of God to them. Training is provided, and the impact you can have is far greater than you might imagine. I am excited as well to announce that a men's only group is in the works and will be starting soon, so that is another wonderful opportunity to help serve men that come through the doors of Bella.

*Tristan Steeves*

Male Client Advocate



**BABY CLOTHES NEEDED**  
Boys & Girls - new or gently used  
\* Sizes 6 month - 2T Outfits and Sleepers

## CLIENT SERVICES

Whew! The past 16 months have flown by as I learned my role here at Bella. As the Client Services Coordinator I wear many hats, more hats than I thought were possible. I love my job here working with the incredible staff, volunteers, and clients we see on a weekly basis. A new hat I have chosen to wear is to start rebuilding our men's ministry.

I am thrilled to announce that Bella will be offering a new fathers group option for our current Earn While You Learn (EWYL) male clients. This group will be an optional evening meeting in addition to their weekly EWYL appointment. The new group will meet monthly and give our young fathers an opportunity to make new friends and find support. It's a great opportunity for them to be bolstered during a time of uncertainty in an unplanned pregnancy through learning to lead their young family into the future with stability and strength. Please be praying for these young men and the male advocates who will be leading them.

We currently have only two male advocates. I personally have been praying that God would bring more men to help, especially since one of these men will be stepping back from weekly advocacy.



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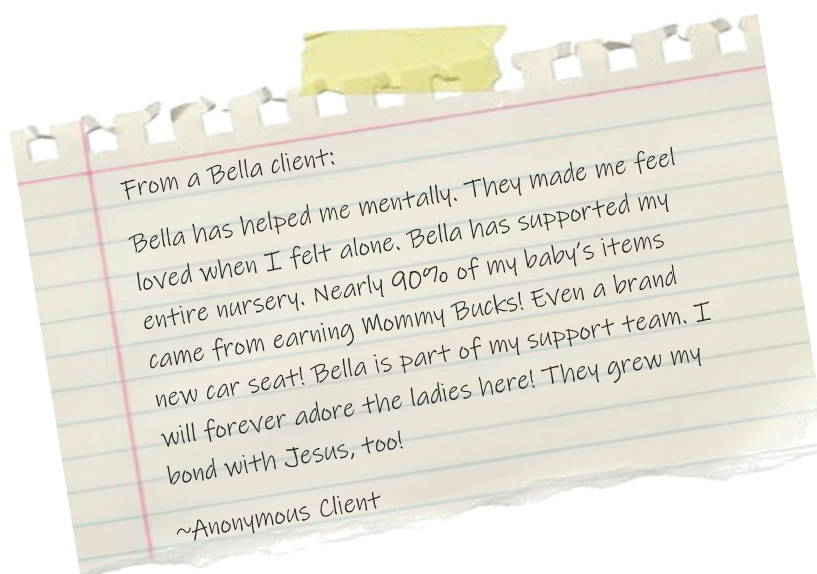
**“These young expectant fathers need another man to talk to.”**

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If you are a man who has an interest in volunteering, please consider Bella as an opportunity to reach out to young men in our communities with wisdom and support. These young expectant fathers need another man to talk to. It's important to get more men involved now to be prepared for the new fathers who will be coming in the future. We have a lengthy application, interview, and training process so we need applicants now to prepare for then. And with the addition of more male advocates the opportunities to offer young fathers more occasions for learning and connection will increase as well.

*Beth Agee*

Client Services Coordinator



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pregnancy resource center  
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*Check out Bella's websites:*



[Friendsofbella.org](https://www.Friendsofbella.org)



[Bellapregnancy.com](https://www.Bellapregnancy.com)



Please like our Friends of Bella page on Facebook.

