



connect

A Safe Place
FOR CONFIDENT DECISIONS

HOW CYCLE EDUCATION CHANGED A TITAN'S LIFE

Emily Hirschfeld is a junior at Trinity High School, active in Titans for Life and Dickinson Youth Commission, who suffers from extreme discomfort with her menstrual period.

"Sometimes I would wake up and just cry," says Hirschfeld. She started to miss school, experiencing nausea, vomiting, and decreased appetite when the pain reached its highest levels.

Her mom was concerned about the severity of her daughter's symptoms, so she reached out to Connect, even though she'd been told by others, "Just put Emily on birth control!"

Emily met with Morgan, RN, for a Cycle Education appointment.

"I was nervous at first," says Emily. **"There can be a stigma, my peers jumping to the conclusion someone is probably**



"I wasn't a case, or a symptom, or even a patient. I felt like a person, and the nurses just wanted to help me."

is help. Connect is not a place you will be judged; those nurses will see you as a whole person and help you in any way they can."

pregnant if they are being seen at Connect."

Her charts indicated a hormonal imbalance, so she followed up with Dr. Samantha Kiedrowski, who is trained in cycle health. In the end, a common and well-tolerated anti-nausea/vomiting medication for when Emily's chart indicated that her level of progesterone was rising was all she needed.

The standard of care is hormonal contraception for the intensity of her symptoms. That course of treatment was not only against Emily's moral beliefs, it was unnecessary.

"I want other girls my age with period problems to know there

Cycle Education is safe, free of cost, and empowers young women to make informed decisions about their health. Knowing how their body works in its natural state helps them to identify when things are not "normal" for them, to appreciate their body, and realize their dignity.

Teaching women to self-advocate lets them know that we believe that they are capable and worthy of making decisions that are aligned with their own deeply held beliefs and optimal for their health outcomes. If you would like more information about cycle education for yourself or your daughter, visit our website.



WHY DO WE GIVE MONTHLY TO CONNECT MEDICAL CLINIC?

This question was posed to Todd Schweitzer, Connect Medical's first and longest "Give for 12" Monthly Donor. To this question, Todd described how the organization aligns with his deeply held values and life philosophies.

"Because we love children," says Schweitzer, father, grandfather, and foster parent. "Everything Deb and I do, we do to care for those who cannot do for themselves."

In 2015, Todd's wife Deb Schweitzer, RN, was the organization's first director, on the ground floor of founding this mission and setting the course for where it is today. She understood the need for a monthly giving program because it's the predictable, reliable, and stable income that factors most into leadership decisions.

"As fellow human beings we depend on each other," he continues. "I'm able to do what I can do so you can do what you can do. I support Connect because I know you believe in the health and wellness of the whole person and the betterment of all the persons involved."

In January 2015, the very first donor records were entered in the database at Connect. Todd and Deb Schweitzer started

their monthly giving at that time. Quick math and that's 84 gifts over the past seven years.



"It's not painful," says Todd. "It's easy to set it up and forget about it!"

He challenges others to do the same: to set up a monthly donation that you can forget about.

"Help Connect to be a beacon of light in the fog," he says. "Everyone benefits in our community because Connect Medical Clinic exists: young women and men, moms and dads, girls and boys, the born and unborn!"

Deb Schweitzer is now serving her second term on the Connect Board of Directors. On

Monday, February 6, doors were opened in order to meet the increasing demand for appointments. The board was able to wisely approve this expansion in hours of operation because of the increase in monthly donations seen over the past two years.

To become a Give for 12 Donor, simply visit our website and push the "Make a Donation" button in the top right corner, being sure to check the box to make your gift a recurring donation.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Our story started with Gideon, the Mighty Warrior who replied to God, "Why me?"

But God leads him to battle with a sparse army so the victory would be God's alone!

10 years ago, God called us to **Stand Together**. Because of your financial and prayerful support, lives have been changed, hearts healed, and futures protected.

Please consider joining us on April 13 to see how we intend to **Stand Together** for many years to come!

We may be small, but we are growing, and an army He's raised up and positioned for victory, for His glory!

The Lord is with us indeed!

God Bless, Tara



In their own words...

I liked the personable and nonjudgmental staff. They were all so friendly and it is a comfortable environment. Everyone was kind, patient, and respectful toward me. Everything was great!

"THE LORD IS WITH YOU, MIGHTY WARRIOR"

Women facing pregnancy with limited resources and support is a need during the oil boom. Women at Evangelical Bible Church are studying Gideon and challenge themselves: "What is a pressing need in our community dear to the heart of God? vision for a pregnancy help clinic in Dickinson take shape.

Together with Badlands Right to Life, ad-hoc board and committee meetings begin to connect numerous ministry partners, saturated in prayer.

2013

2014-2015

A UNIFIED FORCE

A huge outpouring of massive action from Connect Medical Clinic. Schweitzer steps in as Articles of Incorporation and doors open for women were served

STAND together

APRIL 13, 2023

Stand Together Fundraising Event

WHO Our community of support who have sustained this mission from its very earliest days to today. (*see timeline)

WHAT Stand Together Annual Fundraising Banquet. The faith community that has interceded for this mission over the last decade will be represented and Stand Together for life as we advance the mission into the future!

WHERE Astoria Hotel and Event Center

WHEN Thursday, April 13. Doors open at 5:15, and the program runs 6:30-8:30 pm.

WHAT'S AWESOME Our speaker, Beth Chase, is considered an expert on the Pregnancy Medical Movement. When radical pro-abortion groups sued several pregnancy resource centers in Southern California for providing free pregnancy tests and not being medical clinics, she led the way by using their own argument against them.

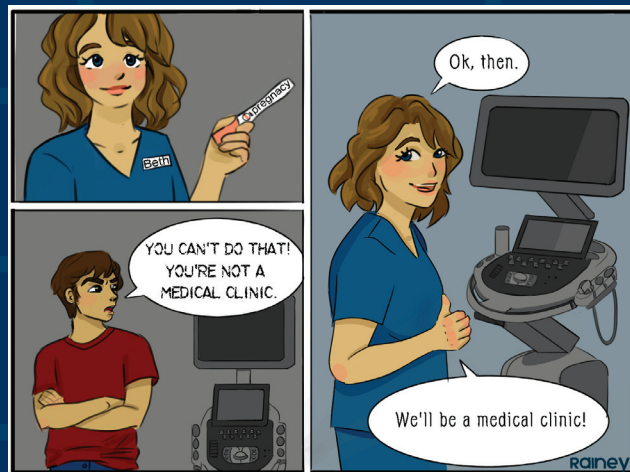
"Ok," she said. "We'll be medical clinics then."

Beth has helped innumerable navigate waves of intimidation and forge walls of protection around the mission to serve those most vulnerable for an unplanned pregnancy. She and her husband Craig were here in Dickinson in 2017 and helped our transition to a medical clinic and expand our medical services, like STI testing and fertility awareness education.

She comes to share with us a look back at the last 50 years in our movement, where we are today, and where it's going in the future.

For more information, or to register to attend the event, visit connectmedicalclinic.com/event.

The banquet is our largest fundraising effort of the year, with a goal of raising at least \$100,000 in one-time gifts and increasing our monthly gifts by \$10,000/year.



OR."

Katie Vidmar takes over the Executive Director role, leading the transition to expand sexual health services to serve more patients, including men. Craig and Beth Chase on-site to consult and assist. Staffing the clinic with paid nurses, the numbers continue to climb, serving over 100 women in those two years.

TRUSTED RESOURCE

Connect weathers the pandemic, pivoting educational service online and increasing social media engagement. Vidmar steps down at the end of 2020, and staff nurse Tara Zettel steps into the role. A Nurse Practitioner joins the team in December 2021. Demand for appointments rises exponentially and 482 unique individuals were helped in the clinic.

2016-2017

2018-2019

2020-2022

2023

TAKING SHAPE

With the desire to better serve Generation Z, two nurses are trained as Sexual Risk Avoidance Specialists and bring educational outreach into local schools. Fertility Awareness (re: Cycle Health Education) helps women, from puberty to menopause. Over 200 were served, 63 of whom were male.

THE IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE

It's 10 years since God called this clinic into being, using His people as His hands and feet to serve those He loves and wants to protect.

So, what's next?

- Accreditation with AAAHC
- More Nurse Practitioner Services

of community support and volunteers takes place. Deb is the clinic's first director. The station are signed on June 2014, patients in November 2015. 7 that year!



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**CONNECT IS
NOW OPEN ON MONDAYS
FROM 10 - 3 PM!**

—CONNECT MEDICAL CLINIC—

connectmedicalclinic.com



AT A GLANCE

» SO FAR IN 2023, WE'VE SERVED

51 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS: 39 WOMEN,
AND 12 MEN

» COMPLETED 51

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN VISITS IN JANUARY
ALONE (UP FROM JUST 32 IN 1/2022)

» SEEN AN INCREASE

IN YOUNGER PATIENTS. 25% OF THOSE
SEEN IN 2023 ARE 19 YEARS OR
YOUNGER (LESS THAN 15% OF OUR
PATIENTS HISTORICALLY)

» SEEN AN INCREASE

IN SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS REACHING
OUT FOR INFECTION TESTING

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Spotlight on Caleb Daniels



"What brought my wife and I to the mission was a desire to have an impact on people's lives," says Daniels. Erika and Caleb have been key volunteers in the organization in 2019.

Husband, father, friend, and Investment Banker, Caleb Daniels is the newest addition to the Connect Medical Clinic Board of Directors.

Caleb grew up on a farm in western Minnesota and at first set his heart on farming. When circumstances prevented him from realizing this dream, he initially studied psychology in college before finally finding himself in finance with his CPA certification.

Back in the small farming community in Minnesota is where he met his now wife Erika when they were just 15 years old. They dated on and off until they married 16 years ago and started their family of 3: Oliver, Keziah, and Everett.

Coincidentally, the teens belonged to a youth group in MN, and Connect's

Director Tara (nee Kelly) Zettel was their youth leader. Zettel moved away from the area when she married, Caleb and Erika forged their path, and the three unexpectedly reunited in Dickinson through their involvement with Connect under Director Katie Vidmar.

"I hope my background in financial strategy is a component I can use in my service to the mission," says Daniels. His professional journey has led him to oil and gas, to founding his own company and working for himself, and to his current position providing investment banking services with a firm out of Wisconsin.

"I'm passionate about the work Connect is doing and helping steward the mission so we can continue to provide services for patients far into the future."