



Reflections

MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 14 – SEPTEMBER 2020

Unmasking Jesus' Compassion

Wearing masks, both metaphorical and physical, can be a hinderance for building relationships. While masks have become a new fashion statement and a signal of caring for your neighbor, they've created social barriers in public for some. I can't tell if someone is smiling or wincing in pain as I pass by them. We have new appreciation for how our facial expressions play an important part in our interpersonal connections.

And now it's just one of the challenges that our Centers have needed to handle as we continue providing our essential services to masked and anxious women during this pandemic. One of our directors said, "With a mask on, you can't see their emotions very well; they can't see my emotions...I can't sit next to them. I had a gal get a positive pregnancy test result, and she began crying... I just felt like a jerk, because I couldn't comfort her. I felt so limited in how I can help and comfort and counsel."

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



top, left: mask-wearing
below: social distancing



Yet, Jesus' compassion has not been and cannot be veiled to these women and their babies, thanks to the compassionate generosity of our giving partners, and the courage and care of our staff.

Since the beginning of COVID-19, we've met with over 1,500 women and performed over 250 ultrasounds.

These encounters, masks and all, have increasingly unveiled the love of Christ for women who otherwise would not receive the kind of care and resources that give them every opportunity to pursue life-affirming decision and direction for themselves and their children.

God continues to extend His grace even as the virus has spread. God has granted wisdom and provision so we can keep unleashing his love to those threatened by abortion.

God has sustained First Image financially through this extraordinary season. Experts have been counseling non-profits to budget for a 20-40% drop in support due to the pandemic's impact on unemployment and the economy. Yet, through July, God's people continue to sacrificially give so mothers and their babies receive the help and hope they need.

We've also cut overhead costs by moving our HQ offices to the Hinson Church Annex ([see article on our website: first-image.org/moving](#)).

Our staff has learned how to stay connected and productive even when we can only meet remotely, virtually via online video meetings. We're learning how to better serve our diverse community as we listen, lament, and become more Christ-like in our response to people of color being impacted by our community's distress.

We're learning how to engage with you, our partners, through virtual events (Steps for Life and the upcoming Gala).

Looking ahead, women will have greater access to our services because we have launched telehealth, increased our online marketing, and our post-abortion recovery Heart groups are now meeting online for the time being.

We look forward to welcoming our volunteers back to serve in the centers as soon as we're able.

Be sure to watch for our new website which is coming soon to better engage and equip you and our ministry partners to impact more lives in our community.

Love finds a way through restrictions, opposition, and challenges. Together with you, we continue to shine the light of Jesus for our neighbors who need his grace and truth.

Our faces, then, are not covered. We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings ever greater glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
(II COR. 3:18, NCV).

Thank you so much for partnering with us in this lifesaving, heart-transforming work!

In His Image,



LARRY GADBAUGH, FIRST IMAGE CEO



The Impact You're Making

You've helped make an investment this year in helping her find us:

Clients seen in 2020 so far: 1,881

Abortion-minded* clients seen: 218 (+8% from 2019)

Clients who found us online: 677 (+36% from 2019)

**either planning on having an abortion or undecided*

Opportunities to Stay Involved during COVID-19



Our calendars are looking pretty different going into this fall season, right? If you're like me, the time that was once filled with church events and kid's sports is feeling pretty empty. Well maybe not empty, just replaced with trying to keep kids focused during a Zoom class meeting while you attempt to work from home.

Maybe you are not one of us adjusting to virtual schooling but rather you're actually missing the personal interaction you are used to having through family gatherings and volunteer commitments.

While our calendars and lives may feel very uncertain, can I challenge you to consider the many cancellations and disappointments as unique opportunities?

Maybe the Lord is calling us to use the different rhythm of our lives in this current moment to grow us and give us opportunity to love our neighbors more.

Shown at right are a few ideas that you can do right now to serve our neighbors and support the work of First Image; thank you so much for partnering with us!

– Ashley Mills
Events & Engagement Coordinator

1) You can make time once a week to **volunteer in practical ways**, maybe even bring along your family members. Our Centers could use help with washing baby clothes that we receive as donations, gardening and doing yard work outside the building, and deep cleanings inside will help to keep our Centers a welcoming and comfortable place for clients. Hey, and that counts as recess, right?

2) Use your cleaning-out and purging to bless moms. Our Pregnancy Resource Centers give out new baby baskets every week to our clients so **donations** of new or gently used baby clothes are always needed.

3) Most of us are taking more walks these days. Why not redeem that time and **pray for First Image**? Sign up for our prayer team and receive updates on current needs so you can walk and pray for clients, students, and Heart groups.

4) And finally, **share with others** your passion to serve our most vulnerable neighbors. Encourage those in your community to also see the opportunities in this season to use your time, resources, and gifts to love those made in the image of God.



Email me to get involved:
ashley@first-image.org

About Ashley

Before joining the Development Team at First Image two years ago, I loved volunteering as a peer counselor at the SE Pregnancy Resource Center. I grew up in West Texas, lived in France as well as the San Francisco Bay area, and I love that the Pacific Northwest is now my home.

While I definitely use the skills I learned from my BBA in Marketing, overseas missions, and HR work often in my role at First Image, I find that the experiences of being "Mom" have equipped me most for this work. I truly believe that supporting the ministry of First Image is a strategic opportunity to live out the Gospel and be obedient to the call to love our neighbors.

Ashley and her husband, Tim, have been married for 16 years and have two children, Hadassah and Jude. They are members of Hinson Baptist Church in SE Portland.

FIRST IMAGE
Gala
·2020·

Join us on October 17th, 2020 at 7pm
for our first ever

Do it Yourself Gala!



Gather your friends and family, pull up a chair to our virtual table, and enjoy a live webcast filled with stories of hope and healing, fellowship, and more!

What is a DIY Gala?

This year, many of us have had to get creative in how we stay in touch and celebrate important milestones, so why not add a gala experience to that list?

We will equip you with resources and ideas to host your perfect evening, whether it's hosted online with friends and family or together in your own home. You choose the ideal way to fill your table.

Register today at first-image.org/gala

Webcast Program

Presented by **Daniel Schreiner**, Associate Pastor at Hinson Church

Pray with us as **Ashley Bell**, Outreach Pastor at Cedar Mill Bible, opens this time of seeking the Lord together

Enjoy commentary on the current moment from our CEO, **Larry Gadbaugh**

Go behind-the-scenes in Reality Project with **McKenzie Ekman** and **Luke Cirillo** as they highlight the program

Watch a live ultrasound performed by our Nurse Manager, **Anka Radutiu**

Find out how God has worked in the life of **Lydia**, a Heart program graduate



2019 Gala



Our Gala 2020 Keynote Speaker

Dr. Drea Olmstead (OB/GYN)

As our Medical Director, Dr. Olmstead works to equip our PRC staff and volunteers to provide life-giving counsel and services to women and their babies. Hear her poignant personal story of living out her faith as a Christian OB/GYN.

Last day to register is October 3rd! first-image.org/gala