



a Safe Place for Tough Choices

Press Release



For 27 years, Hope Clinic's foundation has been: being a safe and confidential place and showing grace, mercy, unconditional love, and practical support. Cheryl Seefeldt, our Nurse Practitioner since 2008, exemplifies this foundation with every client she encounters regardless of age, race, religion and regardless of the choices the clients make before they come into our facility. Cheri is behind the scenes when it comes to much of the organization and administration but is the true face of Hope Clinic to those we serve. Her dedication to helping each client embrace their own

value and worth allows them the opportunity to change unhealthy behavior patterns and begin making healthy decisions.

Hope Clinic has seven full-time, five part-time paid staff and dozens of interns and volunteers onsite each week. As a small staff, it is essential we have a positive work environment to serve clients and her general disposition brings peace, clarity and focus. Cheri is the only paid staff person in the medical program and oversees medical volunteers/students. She also has regular Medical Team meetings with our volunteer Medical Director and nurses from the community. While Cheri is a talented and compassionate NP with her clients, she is also very strategic and has a great ability to see collaborative opportunities with other agencies and universities. This has helped us decrease operating expenses in her area by 10% while increasing her client load by 25%. But Cheri's planning always puts clients' needs first and she inspires the rest of the staff to do the same. Because she interacts with clients on a daily basis, she brings a unique perspective and is able to effectively communicate client needs to the administrative staff and board. Cheri interacts with her peers, colleagues, the CEO, and Board of Directors with grace, poise and humility

In 2009, Cheri provided 254 ultrasounds, 515 STD tests/treatments, 271 follow-up visits and 2,500 phone consultations. Cheri provided these services with a spirit of love and grace. Cheri arrived at Hope Clinic with a wealth of experience and fresh perspective on holistic care from life experiences as missionary child and providing healthcare in poverty stricken areas. She is passionate about providing healthcare that addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients. One of the greatest gifts Cheri offers is the gift of her time. She devotes one hour to each patient and has a genuine interests in teaching them about healthy life choices. She meets clients in a time of great uncertainty, fear and shame and considers it a privilege to be a front line provider for women who are in such a vulnerable state. She is often charged with the difficult task of telling women they are infected with an STD or facing an unplanned pregnancy. She listens to their questions, explores their fears and offers them hope. Cheri truly is a gift to her patients and to the staff with whom she works. Everyone who encounters Cheri agrees she is a person who embodies a message of grace, love and hope.

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Cheri exemplifies what it means to care about a person's mind, body and spirit. The majority of her patients are in a time of crisis and emotionally fragile – a time when they need a listening ear, compassion, as well as sound medical advice. For many patients, the ultrasound appointment is their first prenatal visit. Not only does Cheri educate them about prenatal health and nutrition, but she lets patients know she cares about them and their feelings through her words, tone, body language and quality of time. For STD patients, she explains prevention, STD testing procedures, and treatment protocol. Cheri follows up with every patient by phone, inviting them back to the clinic to address any concerns. Our patients say it best:

“I came in very upset... I didn't expect to talk about how I felt with Cheri. I thought she was just going to draw my blood, but we wound up having a really good talk, and it made me think. Since then, I have made some real big changes in my life. I have used my situation as an example when I talk to my friends – to help them think through whether they really want to have sex before they get married...”

“Thank you so much for following up with me – you have taken a great weight off my shoulders. This has been a very long, stressful and exhausting process with many setbacks. You have been such a help, not only by helping me interpret and deal with my physical symptoms, but providing perspective, encouragement, and patience I have not gotten from anyone else – your straight up kindness, really. Thank you for being a safe place. Above all, your encouragement makes me want better things than what I have chosen for myself thus far.”

Cheri also has a passion for teaching medical students and nurses. Cheri gives the autonomy they desire and the tools they need to treat patients. She interacts with them as their teacher and peer while commanding respect and hard work. She truly invests a part of her heart into each one. She is flexible when plans change or when she is pulled in more than one direction. The staff, board and volunteers consider her to be a team member who is resilient, trustworthy and encouraging.

Enriched with a family dedicated to the services of others, she saw an early example of a servant's heart. Beginning with her maternal great-grandparents who were the first in her family to be missionaries to India, setting up a bible school and assisting with rural development in the mountains near Nepal and Tibet. Then her maternal grandparents served in India as a nurse and a pastor working along side her paternal grandparents, who did third-world development work. Her parents continued the family tradition, working with local churches, assisting with a Hindi Bible translation and helping at an international school. Cheri was born in Delhi and early on she learned the importance of serving others and giving of herself to help an individual find hope and healing. As a student in high school, she volunteered to educate young children. This involved things like: teaching children on the side of the train tracks; as they sold water at the train stations, since they were unable to receive a formal education. At seventeen, Cheri came to the United States to attend Wheaton College. Even then she volunteered the next four years with World Relief helping refugees adjust to life in the US. Following college, she lived with her grandparents and over time became the primary care giver for her grandmother who suffered from congestive heart failure. This experience as a care giver inspired her to become a nurse, and work with others needing basic care. In addition to her work at Hope Clinic she finds time to volunteer working with refugees, teaching English and basic life skills, which will assist them in acclimating to their new environment.

In her work and her life Cheri focuses on the good, the beautiful and the eternal, always finding hope and sharing this with others.