

A NIGHT OF MIRACLES

32nd

ANNIVERSARY

GALA



Saint Petersburg Coliseum
November 1st 2025
Doors Open: 5:30pm
Dinner: 6:00pm

PASTOR JON'S CHAIRMAN'S GREETING, 32ND ANNIVERSARY GALA

On behalf of the Board of Directors, greetings and welcome to all of the friends of The Next Stepp Center and our co-laborers in God's vineyard!

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the amazing things God has done through this ministry with the help of people just like you. Since 1993, Next STEPP has stood with women and couples experiencing pregnancy or parenting to empower them to choose life for their babies through compassionate medical care, faith-based guidance, and meaningful support for those we serve.

And Next Stepp's mission goes beyond protecting babies. For 32 years, The Next Stepp Center has been a refuge of hope and beacon of light in the heart of St. Petersburg. Our team works tirelessly to save lives, restore families, and lead individuals into a relationship with Jesus Christ, the ultimate life-saver and Savior of the world. We appreciate the churches and ministries that disciple these new believers and give them a firm foundation in the Word of God.

So, on this beautiful November evening, we pause to reflect on our journey, thank those who've supported this work along the way, and invite others to come alongside this Christ-centered mission. The Next Stepp team is excited for you to hear great music from our special guest, singer/songwriter, author, and speaker Matt Hammitt. Matt will also share his compelling, deeply personal testimony about choosing life. We will likewise hear inspirational stories from others who are alive today or whose lives have been impacted by God's grace and the loving work of Next Stepp staff, volunteers, and supporters over the years. Their stories serve as a testament to the restorative plan and purpose of God, Who knew each of us before He formed us in our mothers' wombs.

Friends, we're in a cultural battle in our nation of life versus death. But we are confident that the god of this world will never outdo the Lord our God. As you dine, fellowship with others, and listen to testimonies, I ask you to listen to your hearts. Listen to whatever the Lord may be saying to you. Together, we can pray and work toward the day when a culture of life permeates our community and every heartbeat matters!

Thank you again for joining our celebration and may the Lord's richest blessings flood your life!

Pastor Jonathan M. Anderson
Board Chair, The Next Stepp Center



A MESSAGE FROM OUR “EVERY HEARTBEAT MATTERS EVENT PARTNER”

EDITOR'S NOTE:
THIS MESSAGE IS FROM OUR TOP 2025 GALA 32 TABLE HOST UNDERWRITER,
WHO WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS FROM PSALM 27

“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?”

Psalm 27 has been on my heart as I have prayed for The Next STEPP Center and the precious lives it touches. When I meditate on this psalm, my prayers move through its verses like light through stained glass—each one illuminating a different need, a different face, a different act of courage.

Sometimes I am drawn to pray for the children—those whose lives hang in the balance, unseen yet fully known by God. I think of how the Lord is their strength, their protector, their very salvation.

At other times, my heart turns to the women in desperate circumstances, surrounded by fear and confusion. For them, I pray that the Lord would hide them “in His shelter in the day of trouble” and lift their heads above the chaos—that they might find in Him not condemnation, but hope and peace.

And often, Psalm 27 leads me to pray for the staff and volunteers of The Next STEPP Center, who daily stand on the front lines of this spiritual battle. Like David, they seek to dwell in the house of the Lord—to gaze upon His beauty—even as they labor in a world that often misunderstands or opposes their mission.

This psalm has reminded me again that our trust must rest not in laws, politicians, or even in our own strength, but in the Lord Himself—the One who is our light and salvation. It is He who equips His people to stand firm, to love boldly, and to serve faithfully.

I am deeply grateful for The Next STEPP Center—for its unwavering commitment to reach the most vulnerable in our community with the love of Jesus Christ, meeting both physical and spiritual needs. In their ministry, I see Psalm 27 come to life: courage in the face of fear, faith in the midst of struggle, and the radiant beauty of a heart that seeks God above all else.

“I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” —Psalm 27:13-14

MATT HAMMITT & ANJI CORLEY

*This year's theme,
Every Heartbeat Matters,
reflects the heart of our mission: **Choosing Life. Choosing Love.***



Matt Hammitt is a Grammy-nominated, three-time Dove Award-winning recording artist, songwriter, author, and speaker. For over a decade, he served as the lead singer of the acclaimed band Sanctus Real, writing and performing numerous chart-topping songs recorded by the band and other artists.

An Ohio native now based in Nashville, Matt lives with his wife, Sarah, and their four children. His deep passion for family led him to step away from Sanctus Real in 2016 to dedicate more time at home. He shares this heartfelt journey in his book *Lead Me: Finding Courage to Fight for Your Marriage, Children, and Faith*—an honest and inspiring look at faith, family, and purpose.

An award-winning multimedia talent, Anji Corley is thrilled to return as this year's Mistress of Ceremonies. A familiar face and voice from HSN, 101.5 The Vibe, and national campaigns, Anji brings passion, purpose, and joy to every stage she graces. A devoted Believer, she's honored to serve God through her gifts and her ongoing partnership with Next STEPP as Gala Chairperson, volunteer, and creative visionary. Connect on IG & Facebook @anjicorley.



Next STEPP | *Who + How We Serve*

The **Next STEPP Center - Services to Those Experiencing Pregnancy or Parenting**, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry, with a Christ-centered mission to provide life-affirming solutions, medical services, physical, emotional, social and spiritual health to women, men and families facing pregnancy or parenting challenges.

It is our desire that the God-given worth of all human life is both affirmed and supported. Our culturally responsive, easily accessible, free services have allowed us to be a successful, trusted and vital resource in the Pinellas County community we have invested in and served for 31 years.

Our *legacy* includes:

32,000+

Total Participants

6,400+

Babies Born

17,300+

Education

3,000+

Profession of Faith

We offer peer counseling, STI testing, limited obstetric ultrasounds and women's wellness services including vaccines and lab work. We provide pregnancy/parenting/relationships education & support groups as well as practical resources such as diapers, wipes, baby clothes, car seats & baby furniture in our on-site boutique. All services are free and confidential. We value the sanctity of all human life, and our services are available to all regardless of age, race, religion, ethnicity, orientation, disability, economic, military or marital status.

We are also a pro-Abundant Life ministry where eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ is made available. Our resources are available throughout the pregnancy and parenting experience with the vision of building vibrant families and communities, whole and complete, lacking nothing through the love of Jesus Christ!

Next STEPP is committed to help build up a flourishing culture of life in our city. As we continue this 30 year legacy of love - empowering families, we look forward to impacting generations to come through new medical, housing and mental health services in a renovated, state of the art facility. We are committed to continuing to fully support those we serve in becoming whole & complete.

Thank you for your time in learning who we are and how you can partner with us! We are here because God moves the hearts of His people to pray, give and serve – all for His glory!



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Sundays: 10:30am
2361 7th Ave South
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Landen Spann

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Chaandi McGruder
Lori Murphy
Shirley Thornton
Deshay Collier
Jeanette Lewis
Barbara Burnett

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Cassandra Coney-Stewart

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Anji Corley
Mary Ogunrinde

Serve Day Churches

City On A Hill
Radiant Church
Pinellas Community Church
Bridgepoint
Covenant Hope Church
First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg

Sing for Life Host Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

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Bridget Navarez, RN
Rebecca Bray, RDMS
Dr. Sylvia Johnson, OB/GYN
Dr. Mariane Bishara
Dr. Barbara Bourland, Radiologist
Dr. Stephen Shields, Medical Director

Office Assistant

Blanche Ganey

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Mimi Paul
Michele Frank
Cheryl Gerke, PA-C

Participant Program Services

Kemi Akintewe
Sarah Krieger
Nancy Lewis

Reception

Diane Bowers
Kirsten Blough
Teresa Chiang
Denise Mishler

THE NEXT STEPP TEAM

YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
WITH THE NEXT STEPP CENTER!

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Medical Services

Medical Services Affiliates

Dr. Stephen Shields

Medical Director

Dr. Sylvia Johnson, MD

OB/GYN

Womens' Wellness Services

Vision Statement

Vibrant families and communities, whole and complete, lacking nothing through the love of Christ.

Mission Statement

We deliver life-affirming physical, emotional, social and spiritual support to women, men and families, meeting needs during unintended pregnancies, assisting parents, and fostering healthy development and future growth.

1210 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712 · (727) 896.9119

Website | ournextstepp.org Facebook | [@thenextstepp](https://www.facebook.com/thenextstepp) Instagram | [@nextsteppcenter](https://www.instagram.com/nextsteppcenter)

NEXT STEPP GALA 32 HOST COMMITTEE

Every Heartbeat Matters Event Partner

Anonymous

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Gulf Coast Community Church

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Radiant Church

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32nd Anniversary **Gala**
Next STEPP



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