

I've been thinking a lot about the last few years at NSFC while stepping into my new role and I keep reflecting on MSFC's 20 Year Anniversary when their founder, Jody Steinhauer, gave NSFC a wonderful shout out and challenged us to be the next movement. It sure does feel like we're taking on that challenge!

Thanks to the Argosy Foundation's research, they have validated (as our co-founders have always known) that our work and mission are not only important, but necessary, as we are the only organization of our kind. Other reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations have begun supporting and sharing our work as well—we are humbled and grateful and so inspired to know that our work is important and is having an impact.

Over the past few years we've created our own annual activist conference specifically focused on nursing students, we've begun supplementing curriculum (ACE Project), and we've become a respected organization within the reproductive health community—all the while, building and strengthening campus chapters across the country. Students remain our focus yet we now have over 1000 NSFC alumni who have begun nursing careers and activism in their own communities!

As you may know, I was hired as the program director—and first ever hired staff—for NSFC in 2012. The history and growth of our organization has been pretty well documented but what may not be as well-known are the talent, strength, and HARD WORK of our incredible board of directors. I could not have spent the majority of those two years, often working in a cubicle/office alone, getting all of these things done without the support of our BOD. I specifically want to send an enormous thank you to Erika Staub and Jacqui Quetal who kept it all afloat behind the scenes throughout these early, critical years of the organization. Even on my busiest days in the office, I was always inspired by their continued commitment to the success of NSFC. And really, who could complain about being too busy when you think about the fact that the two of them (and many others) worked to create a legitimate 501(c)3 non-profit organization WHILE getting their nursing degrees?! Just incredible! It makes me feel so proud to be part of, as well as being able to give them the opportunity to focus on their other passions knowing that NSFC is thriving because of all their ridiculously hard work. Our board of advisors has also been incredibly supportive, and although we don't seem to call on them too often, they are there with guidance and inspiration when we need it.

Stepping up into the executive director role is something I thought long and hard about, but in the end, it felt like the natural next step both for the organization and for me personally. I am so very humbled by the outpouring of support and kind words we've received throughout this last month and I hope that we can count on your continued support. As you know our reproductive rights keep getting chipped away and there is SO MUCH WORK TO DO to make sure every single person has access to the reproductive and sexual health care they need, which is why we do the work we do.

Frederick Buechner explained, "Vocation is where your own deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." And I do believe I have found mine.

In peace and much love,

KP