ZOUVES FERTILITY CENTER: FERTILITY SUCCESS STORIES

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Infertility affects 6.1 million Americans. At some point, one out of twelve people will have a problem with infertility. However, advances in assisted reproductive technology (ART) have made it possible for the vast majority of couples who have been diagnosed with infertility to fulfill their dreams of having a baby.
In December of 1999, Dr. Zouves realized a dream with the establishment of Zouves Fertility Center (ZFC). Believing that age, marital status, relationship arrangement or financial situation should not limit anyone from being treated, Dr. Zouves and his team strive to provide the latest treatments, with the most technologically advanced techniques, in his state-of-the-art facility. Offering a unique combination of hope, compassion, and cutting-edge technology, most patients of Dr. Zouves leave his care with their dreams fulfilled, expecting one child or more.
The goal of ZFC is personalized quality care. Treatment is monitored from beginning to end by Dr. Zouves, with support from a well-trained clinical and administrative staff. ZFC's attention to detail, coupled with innovation in the treatment of infertility allows patients access to a high quality program to help them achieve the dream of parenthood. ZFC offers the latest treatment protocols for all types of infertility diagnosis, and works with
patients from both the United States and abroad.

**ZFC staff is operational 365 days a year, with appointments available 7 days a week.**

Zouves Fertility Center provides the latest in vitro fertilization services available including conventional IVF, IVF with Delayed Transfer, IVF with Egg Donation, IVF with Surrogacy, and Fertility Preservation including Egg and Embryo Banking.

In this guide, you will read from a patient's point-of-view what sets Zouves Fertility Center apart from the rest. Aside from the latest research and most successful treatments, these Love Letters to Dr. Zouves illustrate how safe, cared for and comfortable their experience has been with ZFC.

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1241 E Hillsdale Blvd, Foster City, CA, United States
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Dear Dr. Zouves,

Almost one year ago, our biggest fear came true when we were told we could not conceive our own biological child.

We remember this day so vividly because it was the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics, and I was so upset after you called to let us know that three of the four embryos were not healthy and that the one remaining needed more time to develop before we could tell. Needless to say, we did not watch the opening ceremonies as we
had planned to. I cried so much that I didn’t know I had so many tears. Alfredo was very comforting and remained optimistic.

If you recall, I was still crying uncontrollably when we met the next morning for our consultation. Only then did you comfort me when you gave us the wonderful news that the embryo seemed to have developed beautifully and that we should do the transfer. You gave us hope and we relied on faith.

We had tried everything until we came to you. We felt this was the moment of truth, our last chance. The day we received the news that we were pregnant we were pleased but reserved as we were aware of the possible complications and that nothing was certain.

Here we are almost one year later. As you are aware, our daughter, Isabella, was born on October 18. She is healthy and beautiful and she brings us much love and joy. She is extra special.

We want to thank you and your entire staff from the bottom of our hearts for making this miracle happen and for giving us the gift of life. We have the utmost respect for you and your entire staff. You gave us hope and treated us with special care throughout this process. We admire and appreciate the high level of professionalism, compassion and friendliness shared by all at ZFC. This goes a long way in helping one get through this difficult journey and then succeeding.

We are forever grateful and will never forget you. Someday we will let Isabella know all about you and how she got here.

With infinite gratitude,
Alfredo and Gabrielle

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Dear Dr. Zouves,

This is a heartfelt thank you for your efforts to help us conceive our son. Nicolai is a happy and energetic 16 month old who would not be in our lives without you. After several years of treatments at other fertility centers, I appreciated your honesty about our chances to conceive with IVF and your willingness to work with us to try to figure out how we might find success with the right combination of immunology treatment and IVF.
You treated us with respect and were willing to go forward with us despite our previous setbacks. We appreciated the high level of attention to detail by you and your staff and even more the care and compassion that made the journey much more tolerable than it otherwise would be.

For our smiley little boy, we will forever be grateful.

All the best,
Kim, Dave & Nicolai

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Dear Dr. Zouves,

It’s been one year since our precious little miracle was born. Julia Rose was born on July 5 to much fanfare. Christian and I have been down a long, bumpy road to get to this glorious place, and now I can finally say it was all worth it.

You are in my thoughts often. I’m so thankful that we found you to be our doctor. Your encouragement, honesty, kindness, knowledge and caring kept us trying even longer than I would have thought we could or would try. We made it through eight artificial
inseminations, six IVF’s and two failed adoptions – a very difficult path but with the most amazing gift on the other side. We will be forever grateful to you for helping us have our sweet, sweet baby. Your job must be very difficult – we’ve received sad news from you in the past – and you have handled it with the perfect amount of empathy, facts, and encouragement when appropriate. However, the joy you bring to people’s lives is almost unfathomable. Thank you, Dr. Zouves, for getting us to the other side!

Julia Rose is the most beautiful and smart baby! (You hear that all the time, right?) She amazes us constantly! She is also a very happy baby, full of infectious smiles and a magnetic personality that draws in more admirers daily. Most importantly, she has brought an overwhelming amount of happiness to our family that only parents could appreciate. I can’t begin to tell you how much we love being a family of three. I hope that she can meet you someday, although I doubt she’ll ever understand how much you have helped us.

Please accept our deepest gratitude to you and your amazing team. Your Center’s Mission Statement – Hope. Success. Family. – describes perfectly the incredible journey that we have been through. We are so thankful for your caring approach and perseverance that helped to successfully turn eight long years of hope into a blessed family.

Sincerely,
Sylvia, Christian and Julia Rose

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Dear Dr. Zouves and Staff,

We know you’ve heard it a thousand times before, but thank you....

Like many couples we thought that having children was going to be simple... In fact, early in our marriage the apparent challenge was how not to have kids. It’s not that we didn’t want them; we just didn’t want them right away. So for six years of marriage we prayed that we could just have time to enjoy being a married couple.
I guess “grand plans” never really play out the way we anticipate. Ours certainly didn’t. Naively, we thought that once we “decided” to have kids it would happen. How wrong we were! Months and years of careful monitoring with basal thermometers, endometriosis, several failed IUI and what seemed like an endless array of tests left us empty and without the children we so deeply desired. We were worn-out. All seemed hopeless.

By the grace of God, a friend who had been to Zouves Fertility Center happened to visit us in Baltimore. She was traveling with her “miracle baby” and decided to catch up with us. Her “accidental” visit was no accident as we think God brought her into our lives during one of the deepest of valleys that we experienced. She spoke of the great care and concern of Zouves Fertility Center staff and the amazing talent that they possessed.

All of a sudden we had hope...

After the initial phone consult with Dr. Zouves, it was abundantly clear to us that we should pursue our parenthood dreams with the assistance of his center. How many physicians (yes, actual physicians) spend an hour on the phone with a potential patient talking them through their anxieties and ignorance? We quickly made preparations to pursue IVF through the center and were impressed with the conscientious work of Dr. Zouves and his staff.

Maybe it was psychological. Maybe it was the logic of holistic medicine. In any event, when we visited the Bay Area in the summer for our IVF cycle, we were really confident that it would work… It was a little bizarre but the staff was so well-organized and possessed such a tremendous bedside manner; it just felt like the result was going to be different this time.

Our unique regimen of medicines yielded 12 follicles out of which 9 good eggs were available. Of those nine eggs, six fertilized successfully. We chose to transfer the three best and save the three remaining. Over the next few weeks, Dr. Zouves and his superior staff were on call to answer questions, listen to concerns, and help me through the eternal two week wait!

Fast forward to the following spring, we are so blessed to have beautiful girl twins! The pregnancy, while not altogether uneventful, was stable and successful. The transition from the ZFC staff to our local OB was seamless, and our care on both sides was impeccable.
We FINALLY have kids...beautiful, sweet, precious kids. We are eternally grateful to each of you who helped us achieve our dream of having our own family.

Warmest regards,
Daniel and Jessica

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After trying for over two years to conceive our first child, my wife and I turned to ZFC. Dr. Zouves did what we considered to be pretty exhaustive testing and analysis of our situation. The planning phase was pretty remarkable because he devised a schedule to optimize our chances. Dr. Zouves is keenly aware that all the little things add up to make
the difference. In terms of execution, it is all about making it happen regardless of conventional schedules. Our son was conceived on the first try and our daughter was conceived after two attempts. Our family is complete thanks to ZFC. Dr. Zouves is a compassionate doctor, a keen-minded scientist, a savvy project manager, and knows how to assemble a great team!

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Dear Dr. Christo Zouves,

Lynn and I would like to thank you so much for your help in bringing George, our precious new son, to our world!

Like so many of those you help, we felt we had no more options in our dream to have a child of our own. Our previous doctor had no new options for us after two failed cycles, had no new ideas on how to proceed, and most importantly, offered us little hope of a possible solution.
Meeting you reinvigorated our passion to continue with IVF. Your experience, positive outlook and clear plan on how to proceed gave us an excited confidence to entrust you with such an important part of our lives.

Though this letter is in essence a “customer satisfaction” letter, clearly the IVF service you provide changes the lives of those you help in amazing ways they could never thank you enough for.

We want to thank you for how you helped us. George is the best thing that’s ever happened to us, and we can only marvel that he started out as an embryo that you and your staff helped us create. We are committed to creating the safest, most nurturing home for George as he continues to grow and develop, we cherish every moment we have with him and anxiously watch as he thrives.

We love him more and more each day.
With incredible thanks and gratitude.

Sincerely,
Jarod and Lynn

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I had a previous failed IVF and IUI, and laparoscopic surgery to remove severe endometriosis on both ovaries, all at Kaiser. I was referred to Dr. Zouves by a woman who had gone to him to have both her children several years ago. I had gone to UCSF and contacted Pacific Fertility Center as well when looking for a doctor outside of Kaiser.

Although I felt an immediate connection to the doctor at UCSF, one of my main concerns was that I see her and not some other doctor/resident/nurse at every appointment. Unfortunately, she could not guarantee that and after having already gone through the process before, I knew emotionally I wanted and needed a doctor that would be there
every step of the way. I got that with Dr. Zouves.

Not only was he very professional but he was also compassionate. I liked that he was always straightforward and wasn't patronizing. He told me the facts without sugar coating them to make me feel better but was still sensitive and empathetic in his demeanor. He was aggressive in his plan, but that's what my husband and I wanted when it came to this, having already gone through a failed attempt before. He was expensive but as far as I'm concerned it was worth every penny.

I saw him at every appointment except for those when I was just getting blood drawn or an IV drip. The nurses and other staff were absolutely wonderful. Walking down the hallway and seeing photos of all the couples he had helped to conceive gave me so much hope. Dr. Zouves focused more on how the endometriosis was affecting my immune system, which I thought made perfect sense. My previous doctor hadn't addressed that at all and though my nurse at Kaiser seemed skeptical of him, you can't beat the results. He was able to harvest twice as many eggs as I had gotten the first time around. As is often the case, most of them didn't make it, but one of the four embryos became our beautiful baby girl.

A couple weeks after we had been told the IVF was successful I bled, and I was so devastated thinking it was a miscarriage. I called the office of Dr. Zouves, Christmas and after hours. He called me back most immediately and reassured me that all my test results were positive, the levels were still on the rise and that it could be the other embryos. He reminded me he would see me soon (since we had an appointment scheduled in a couple days) and to just rest and take it easy. Just talking to him made me feel better, and a couple days later when we saw the baby's heartbeat, I knew we had made the right decision to go with Dr. Zouves. Honestly, we didn't have the money to try for a third time, and before we knew we had been successful, I had told my husband that if it didn't take this time I was ready to give up and pursue adoption because I felt in my heart that with Dr. Zouves we had given it our best shot, and if it didn't work with him then it just wasn't meant to be.

I know we are one of the lucky ones. Don't give up hope!

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Infertility in itself is a diagnosis that makes you feel like your God given right to bear children is unattainable. It leaves you feeling shortchanged and confused. Thank God we weren't in this predicament 30 years ago, where we would be considered barren; luckily there is something that can be done about it with today's modern miracles!

We sought the help of Dr. Zouves and staff and are so very happy we did. He is up-to-date on treatments, and though it was not the cheapest way to go, it had optimal results.
I required extensive pre-cycle work that some would not be happy about, but I saw it as giving myself the best odds possible. Since the staff works year round, I was implanted on Christmas Eve because that is what it took! The staff treated me with the utmost respect.

It comes down to this: Science is a controlled “guestimate,” and even though I had two high-quality embryos implanted in the same situation, only one thrived. That is just nature, but Zouves Fertility Center gives you the best chance possible.

During a cycle it's a super trying and stressful time. You are throwing your money, dreams, and whole self (not to mention your hormones!) into that chance that you might not end up pregnant. If you want your best chance for these dreams to become tangible, then go to Dr. Zouves and follow his course of action. I followed the protocol and ended up with my perfect (well somedays!) amazing daughter! If I ever want to possibly have another child (I would require IVF help), but I would not hesitate to go straight back to Dr. Zouves and staff as they are miracle workers.

Forever grateful,
Eleanor & Joshua

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We came to know of Dr. Zouves through a friend who had learned about our difficult journey to have children. After six IUI's and six IVF attempts over six years, we were at the end of the road when we met Dr. Zouves. Dr. Zouves evaluated our situation and gave us an option we had never thought of. This option was using a donor egg, and it was initially something that we found hard to get our heads around, as many people do. After a few words of wisdom from Dr. Zouves and another two rounds of IVF with him, we realized that we could achieve our dream of having children, and we did. Two beautiful children later, we couldn't be happier. Had it not been for Dr. Zouves, we know we would not be where we are today. Our two little treasures are the center of our lives, and we
are finally a complete and incredibly happy family. Not a day goes by that I don't think how lucky we are that we met Dr. Zouves.

I could say a million different things in appreciation as we really are so incredibly lucky to have met Dr. Zouves.

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I was already over 35, and had been trying to get pregnant for over a year, done every embarrassing and painful test imaginable, seen countless doctors, and tried infertility treatments. After 15 minutes on the phone with Dr. Zouves, for the first time I understood why I wasn't getting pregnant.

We met with him, and he had created a treatment plan for us; ten months later my first child was born. That is the short, stunning version of our story. The long version is that my situation was really complicated. At a young age, I had few eggs and other complicating factors that made getting pregnant difficult. What I really appreciated about
Dr. Zouves was that he gave me hope while at the same time being realistic. This was even more helpful to us when I went back to ZFC to get pregnant for the second time. After an unsuccessful IVF attempt, Dr. Zouves told us he would be willing to try one more time, but if it didn't work, I needed to look at other options such as egg donors. I found this to be difficult to hear but so helpful for us in making our decision as to whether to try one more time.

In the end, we decided to try another IVF cycle, and by some miracle, I produced one egg and another beautiful baby. One other piece that I want to mention is the invaluable staff at the clinic. Knowing people are going to be there for you and call you back when you need them during this time, is just incredible. Moreover, the nurses are truly amazing!

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Dear Dr. Zouves and team,

Thank you for making our dreams come true. There aren't enough words to describe how thankful we are. Prior to finding your clinic, we had been trying for two years to get pregnant. During those two years we had completed a total of four cycles with two other clinics, and they had all failed. You were our last hope. We can't tell you how grateful we are to have found you.

We decided to give it one more try. We had our "best" cycle with you and your team.
Everything we experienced from beginning to end was flawless. We couldn't have asked for a better team of doctors and nurses. Everyone was very professional yet personable. It was by far the best experience we had.

After being told by other clinics that we would not be able to have our own kids, we are now pregnant with twin boys. Our first cycle with you was a success. You made this happen and we are forever grateful to you. You are our hero and we will never forget you.

We feel very blessed and thank you every day for bringing us the best gift anyone could ever ask for, the gift of life.

With great respect,
Liz and Brian

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Zouves Fertility Center’s in-house, state-of-the-art laboratory under the direction of Frank Barnes, PhD, provides the most comprehensive services available including Vitrification, Comprehensive Chromosomal Screening (CCS), ICSI and TESE.
Since opening its doors in 1999, Zouves Fertility Center is proud to say that the IVF Laboratory has been awarded accreditation with zero deficiencies by the College of American Pathologists (CAP). This accreditation is based on results from on site inspections which happen every two years. In 2014, the ZFC lab is honored to be the only reproductive laboratory with CAP accreditation in molecular pathology.

Zouves Fertility Center has been awarded accreditation through the Institute of Medical Quality (IMQ), which represents a high standard of care for ambulatory care facilities, and is based on inspections which happen every three years.
The IVF laboratory is located just steps from the retrieval and transfer room, in close proximity to the office where consultations, monitoring and exams take place. The laboratory is equipped with the most up-to-date microscopes and micromanipulators to aid in the processing of patients’ gametes and embryos. Each workstation is equipped with a bench-top incubation system to maintain temperature, humidity and gas atmosphere of eggs and embryos during handling. Due to its own heating, ventilation and cooling system, room conditions are precisely regulated to help avoid day-to-day variation and contamination. Particle contaminants are kept from entering the laboratory through airways and doors by positive pressure air, which is controlled by a sophisticated filtering system called Hepa Filtration. The laboratory is also equipped with a volatile organic compound filtration unit, which removes harmful solvents and chemicals from the air, preventing them from going into the embryo culture system. The outcome of all these features in conjunction with good culture media ensures an optimal environment for the developing embryos.

Zouves Fertility Center is conveniently located in Foster City off Highway 101, just a short distance from the San Francisco International Airport. For patients traveling to ZFC from out of the state or country, corporate rates and transportation needs have been established with a variety of hotels and suites in the area.
To schedule a complimentary telephone consultation with Dr. Zouves or receive additional information about our services, please contact us!

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