



Contact Information

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www.birthrightharfordcounty.org

Office Hours

Monday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tuesday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Wednesday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Thursday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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Elyse Colao, *Admin. Assistant*

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Send Me A Sign

The alarm clock rang at 5:00 that morning, but it didn't need to. I was already up. I tossed and turned all night long and cried most of the night away. Today was a very scary day for me. I had an appointment at an abortion clinic. To me, abortion was the only option. My husband and I have three young children at home already. How could we afford another? How could I divide my love, attention, and patience, yet another

time? I was already spread so thin. It would not be fair to my other children to have this baby. That's what my mind was saying, but my heart was telling me something completely different.

On my way to the clinic I stopped for some tea to calm my nerves and upset stomach. As I sat there I prayed for God to give me a sign that I was making the right decision. Then my eyes focused on the mat underneath my tea cup. It was a placemat with an ad for Birthright. I called the 800 number and they connected me to the closest Birthright office, where I spoke with a volunteer. She and I talked for a long time. We discussed my decision and how I had other options and how Birthright could help me. Although the call had not convinced me to change my mind, by the end of our conversation, she had planted a seed.

I sat in the parking of the abortion clinic for a very long time and thought about all the things I was told. When I made the decision to give this baby a chance, I felt an enormous sigh of relief. I was so proud of my decision not to have an abortion.

The women from Birthright held true to their promise and were there for me throughout my pregnancy and beyond. I have felt their love and sensed their prayers. I have a beautiful son that I cherish. I'm so grateful to Birthright.

- As told by the client to her Birthright Volunteer



From A Client

I lost my kids and I was going to jail. Everyone turned their back on me-but not Birthright. You don't know how much it meant to me to receive your letters saying you were praying for me.





OUR NEEDS

*New or Glass Bottles
(the health department does not allow
us to give out used plastic bottles)*

New Pacifiers

Diaper Rash Ointment

Newborn Undershirts

Newborn Girls Socks

Newborn Girls Sleepers

Receiving Blankets

Hooded Bath Towels

Diapers

Baby Cereal or Food

Formula

We are unable to give out baby furniture from our office. St. Mark's church in Fallston will store baby furniture and pass them on to Birthright clients free of charge. If you have baby furniture to donate, please contact St. Mark's at 410-879-9110.



To Help A Woman In A Crisis Pregnancy With Resources & Support, To Have Her Baby

Recently I was asked what Birthright's mission statement was and when it was written. Our mission statement is to help a woman in a crisis pregnancy with resources and support, to have her baby. This was written in 1968 when Birthright International was founded.

I was then asked, "How can a mission statement written over 44 years ago still be relevant today? The world is different so don't you have to change your focus to continue to be effective? How does Birthright determine its effectiveness?" These questions took me by surprise but it was a good opportunity for me to evaluate where we are.

What I found was the world may have changed, but 44 years ago a woman had an abortion because her heart was broken. She was lost and saw no other way. I can say with confidence that the women of today, in one way or another, feel the same.

Birthright's success is measured in the hundreds of clients that we see every year. There is the woman on the phone desperate and crying. We are a calm listening ear who tries to answer her questions and show her we care. There is the woman that allows us to walk with her through her pregnancy and then burst through our door to show us her precious new baby. The woman that calls late in the evening ready to give birth any day and terrified that she is not ready. Then there is the woman who sits in wonder as she learns so much through our Prepare to Parent Program. I could tell you story after story.

Not all the women we meet are planning to have an abortion, but if Birthright wasn't there, they may have felt they had no other choice. This is what I hear most from post abortive women. If they had known there was a place like Birthright they would not have aborted. This is how I determine our success. After great thought, I realized that we are still fulfilling the mission statement written 44 years ago.

Helping a woman through a pregnancy decision, the pregnancy, the birth of her child, and the early days and weeks after her baby is born. Birthright continues to do this, quietly, everyday – and we are a success.

- Carol Maglov, Director

A Morsel Of Kindness

Suppose someone has enough to live and sees a brother or sister in need but does not help. Then God's love is not living in that person.

1 John 3:17

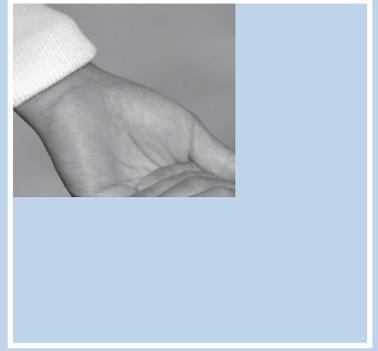
A nursing student spent the day volunteering for Birthright. We get these requests from time to time as they need the public service hours. We feel it is a great opportunity to educate about what Birthright does. When she is a nurse she may meet people that would benefit from Birthright's help. It is a win win situation.

If You Need Me I Am Here. I Will Not Let Go. I Promise.

Late in the day I stopped by Birthright, after the office was closed, and the phone rang. A woman was calling to tell me what she thought of us and the whole “anti-abortion” movement. I quietly listened as she yelled about people “not caring about why women have to have an abortion... why don’t we go after the men who make women pregnant... that it’s unfair to only care about the baby being born and not what happens after that”, and on and on. She was full of anger and there was nothing I could do but let her get it out. I think she must have been holding onto it for a while.

When she became quiet and waited for my rebuttal argument, I calmly said, “I’m glad you called me, and I’m glad you told me how you feel. I understand everything you just said, and I am sorry that you have been hurt”. That was all I said and the conversation went in a completely different direction. I learned that she was abandoned when she was pregnant by a man who said he loved her. He walked away and took no responsibility for his part in the pregnancy. Due to her lack of resources she felt she had no choice but to abort her child. Her pain since the abortion had turned to anger and when she saw our ad she had to lash out. She said she just couldn’t hold it in any longer. I let her do the majority of talking, as it seemed to be what she needed most. I briefly touched on what Birthright does but I did not try to defend any issue. I don’t think she would have listened to any defense I could have offered. I think it would have confirmed to her that we care more about the issue than we do about her. By simply allowing her to release her anger and tell her story, I validated her very real pain.

By the end of the conversation she was not angry anymore. I told her I was there if she ever needed to talk again. When she hung up the phone I thanked God that I came in at that time and that I didn’t allow the answering machine to pick up the call. I was glad to be there for this woman and I hope I eased some of her pain. It was important that someone was there for her. I believe that God placed our ad in front of her, at this time, so she would call us. Now that the anger has been released, maybe the healing can begin.



“The love we give
away is the only
love we keep.”

- Elbert Hubbard,
American Writer



If you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter by email, visit our website www.birthrightofbelair.org and sign up. Please call or drop us a note if you want to be removed from our paper mailing list. This is not done automatically when you sign up for the email.

Thanks



Birthright has ministered to the people of Harford and the surrounding communities for over 30 years. All Birthright services are free and confidential. Birthright is supported solely by individuals and a few local churches. We receive no State or Federal money. Birthright never has and never will sell, lend, or give your name or address to any other organization. You have our word!

Yes, I wish to help BIRTHRIGHT of Harford County to assist anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy. To realize and to choose an alternative to abortion that saves the baby's life and gives the mother a life worth living.

I would like to contribute: \$5 \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$1000 other

Yes, I am able to make available your literature at a location open to the public.

I wish to receive information about volunteering with Birthright.

Please add/do not add my name to your mailing list. (circle one)

Suggestions or Comments: _____

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

(Please supply your email address if you would like to receive the Birthright newsletter quarterly through email.)