

Address: _____

Name: _____

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Suggestions or Comments: _____

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

I wish to receive information about volunteering with Birthright.

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

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

an alternative to abortion that saves the baby's life and gives the mother a life worth living.

Yes, I wish to help BIRTHRIGHT of Harford County to assist anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy. To realize and to choose

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!

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BEL AIR, MD
PERMIT NO. 1029



Winter 2012

Our Mission: To assist women in a crisis pregnancy to carry their baby to term.

Contact Information

38 East Gordon Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-838-0443
1-800-550-4900
Fax: 410-838-0446
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

Directors

Carol Maglov, *Executive Director*
Elyse Colao, *Admin. Assistant*

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A Blessing Paid Forward

As Leah cried and told me her story I couldn't help but to be amazed. My first response to her was, "Do you see God working here?" She looked at me with wonder and said, "How?"

Leah came to Maryland for what she thought was a better life. She worked at a low paying job and struggled every day. She became pregnant but was still on her own as the boyfriend left her. She couldn't even afford to get an abortion. When her son was born she couldn't work. When he was six weeks old, and she was getting ready to go back to work, she got evicted for not paying her rent. She began to sleep in her car with her tiny infant. It was getting cold out and she felt hopeless, so she began to pray.

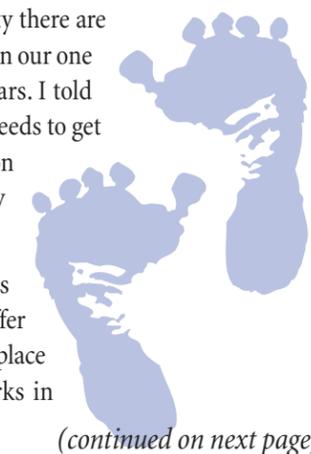
The next day she remembered that a church she once attended offers a hot meal one day a week. When she stopped by she found it was that very day. The room was full but she got some food and found a seat. The woman next to her was almost finished eating when she said hello and asked about Leah's story. When the story was told the woman excused herself. Leah assumed she would never see her again. About 15 minutes later the woman came back and sat down. She told Leah that she works at that church. That she just paid for a two night stay at a motel for her. She gave her a bag of groceries to take with her. Finally she gave her the name, address, and phone number of Birthright so she could get some clothes and diapers for her son. Leah was so stunned she could barely say more than thank you. The next morning she came to Birthright.

While I clearly understood that her situation was bad, I had to point out that it was no mere coincidence that brought her to me. I told her that if God has brought her this far, then He already had a plan for her. At that moment I was sure I saw a spark of hope in her eyes as we began to explore her options.

As we talked she mentioned that a few weeks prior she was online at the library, talking her to cousin in Georgia. She told her cousin about the baby and without giving details said only that she was struggling. The cousin told her that if she could get home to Georgia she could stay with their family while she got on her feet. Leah said it was a nice thought but she had no way of getting what she needed to travel more than 600 miles to get home. We talked some more about this option and Leah realized that she desperately wanted to go home. That all the dreams she had for a life in Maryland had never happened.

I asked her to consider the option of going home. In Harford County there are little to no low income housing options. There are no beds available in our one shelter and the waiting list for section eight housing is literally years. I told Leah that if she wanted to go home I might be able to get what she needs to get there. I asked her to call me or stop back at Birthright in the afternoon after she has thought about this awhile. I encouraged her to pray about it too.

Two hours later Leah was back to see me. If I could help her, she wants to go home. While I sat with her she called her cousin to see if the offer of a place to stay was still available. The cousin not only offered her a place to stay but felt sure that she could get Leah a job where she works in



(continued on next page)



OUR NEEDS



large diapers
size 4 & 5

baby wipes

baby shampoo

baby wash

baby formula

booties or socks

Undershirts
size 12 & 18 months

Prayers for our
volunteers and clients

A woman walked in the office with her son John. She told the volunteer that twenty one years ago in December Birthright volunteer Carol Murrow helped her in her crisis pregnancy. Carol was there in the delivery room when John was born and she decorated their home for Christmas to welcome them home from the hospital. John is now twenty one years old and his mother wanted to show him Birthright and to thank Carol for all she had done.

A Blessing Paid Forward

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Georgia. The cousin was thrilled to hear from Leah and was excited that she was coming home. I told Leah to go back to the hotel and stay the second night that was paid for. I asked her to come back to Birthright after she checks out in the morning and I will have what she needs to get home. After she left I prayed, and then made some calls of my own. The money was provided for gas and food to see Leah home. The next day she and her son were on their way to Georgia. I provided her with the name and phone number of another Birthright center in Georgia who will continue to offer help to Leah as needed. Her passage home was paid for by a woman who was helped by Birthright the year before. A while ago she offered to help a client if a special need came up. She wanted to pay her blessing forward.

What an Amazing Accomplishment!

Chris Robinson from Boy Scout Troop 26 contacted me last Fall asking if he could do his Eagle Scout project for Birthright. Chris wanted to provide materials for Birthright that he planned to collect from his church and neighborhood. Chris worked closely with me to learn exactly what kinds of things we would need and just after Thanksgiving he made his delivery. Chris brought FOUR large trucks to our office, each filled to the brim with donations. Case after case after case of formula, baby food, diapers, wipes, and clothes were brought in. We ran out of places to put it all – and what a wonderful problem to have. I have never seen anything like it. The results of what one young person was able to accomplish is amazing. I was very impressed with Chris Robinson and I congratulate him on making Eagle Scout.

He earned it!

~ Carol Maglov



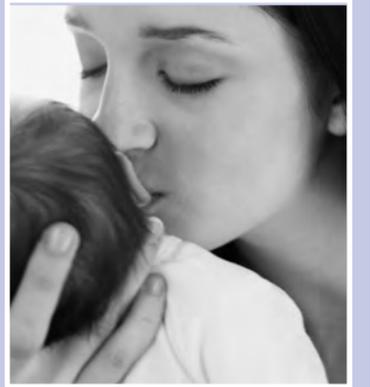
Chris Robinson center is pictured with Birthright volunteers Tony Rollo, Carol Maglov, Catherine Collins, and Capri Weiskopf

A baby will make love stronger,
days shorter, nights longer,
bankroll smaller, home happier, clothes shabbier,
the past forgotten, and the future worth living for.

~Author Unknown

Birthright Would Like to Welcome...

Bernadette Wendel to our Board of Directors. Bernadette was a volunteer a number of years ago but left to pursue her education in social work. Throughout that time she held Birthright in her heart and now feels God is calling her back to us. Bernadette will provide valuable experience and insight to our board and we are excited to have her.



They say the
economy is
getting better...

but we are not seeing it with our clients. It's hard to believe the amount of people we serve who are out of work. Others who are working are not getting paid for their maternity leave. What's more is they don't qualify for unemployment because being on maternity leave means they can't work. They can't get other public assistance because they are employed. So for the six to eight weeks after they have their baby they have no money coming in. You might think that they should have planned better and set money aside for this time but that is not always possible. Often their work barely pays the monthly bills and there is nothing left over for them to save. Child support cannot be filed until after the baby is born and takes at least eight weeks to be put in effect. We are seeing this type of client more than we ever have before.

What Birthright often does is be a liaison between the client and the community. First we try all the avenues of public agency assistance. They might be able to help some but with their budget cuts and more people asking for help there is less to go around. Second we are in touch with churches, civic groups, and some individuals willing to sponsor a client, in an emergency, on a one time basis.

Birthright 2011 Annual Report

Birthright Pregnancy Aid Center of Harford County, Inc. is located at 38 East Gordon Street, in Bel Air Maryland. We have resided at this location since 1992. Birthright of Harford County is a charter member of Birthright International. Each chapter is responsible for its own financial resources. Birthright is a nonprofit crisis pregnancy support center. Our services are offered to anyone involved in a crisis pregnancy or who is parenting. Our area of outreach is to people in Harford, Baltimore, Cecil County, and Southern Pennsylvania.

In the year 2011 the office was open six days and three evenings a week, with over 1800 office hours logged. We average approximately 40 volunteers offering services inside the ministry and out.

Birthright of Harford County received 598 calls and 1012 office visits. Our website had 8037 visits with 7348 being a first time visitor. This is an increase of about 250% of the 2010 number. At the end of the year we were working with 455 open client cases.

Twenty eight different resources referred clients to Birthright. These include, but are not limited to area school, church, social service agency, hospital, shelter, friend, family, phone book, and website. Each client is assessed of their situation and a plan is made to meet their personal need. One hundred percent of the clients receive encouragement and support for as long as they want it. Depending on their circumstances a client may need help only once, or be ongoing for up to three years. The age range of the clients received is between 13 and 40 years old, with the majority being between the ages of 21 and 25. While issues concerning a pregnancy are the main reason someone contacts Birthright, we also address issues of finance, homelessness, hunger, and abuse. Referrals are made to adoption agencies, professional counselors, physicians, and lawyers.

Fifty eight urine pregnancy tests were self administered with forty three percent being positive. Our number of pregnancy tests is not higher because you can buy a pregnancy test at the dollar store. Many of our clients have already had a pregnancy test. They contact Birthright for help in making a decision about the pregnancy and then support and resources throughout her pregnancy and after the baby is born. Maternity clothes were given to 75 clients. Eighty five infant layettes were given for a new baby boy or girl. Additional baby clothes up to size 24 months, diapers, formula, and baby food are requested and given while supplies last. The client has the opportunity to receive these items once a month if needed. All the materials are donated from individuals, churches, and organizations. In addition to material resources we offer a Prepare to Parent Program for first time parents. This is a one on one enrichment program offering information on pregnancy, childbirth, and aftercare. On the last Wednesday of each month we hold a Ladies Night Out. This is a monthly support group offered to all our clients.

Carol Maglov, is the director and Elyse Colao is her assistant. Our Board of Directors each have a one year term to serve which can be carried over from term to term with a majority vote. The Board of Directors is as follow:

Carol A. Maglov, *Executive Director*
James R. DeCapite, *President*
Jon J. Bellantoni, *Vice President*

Carol M. Murrow, *Treasurer*
Laura L. Henninger, *Secretary*
Bernadette M. Wendel, *Member*