

BIRTHRIGHT OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.



WINTER 2014

2006 Lafayette Blvd.
Suite 202
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
www.birtright.org

24-HOUR HOTLINE 800-550-4900 • LOCAL 540-898-8558

Friends of Birthright in the Spotlight

Any group, especially one that is staffed totally by volunteers, including its directors, will not exist for thirty-seven years without a ton of support from individuals, families, and organizations, both religious and civic. Birthright would like to salute some of these "Lifesavers," sharing some of the various ways these benefactors have kept us operating with vim and vigor and in the pink (and blue!).

From the Heart Stitchers (www.fromtheheartstitchers.org) is a group of talented needlecrafters that has been supplying us with gorgeous baby items like sweater outfits, blankets, and booties for our new arrivals as well as chic scarves and matching hats to keep our expectant mothers warm and fashionable. Founded in Richmond by Lois Moore, the local crafters support about 25 charities and are under the direction of Pam Greswolde. Meetings at Wegman's are the second and fourth Tuesdays from 11:30-2:30 PM and on the third Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 PM. Email pegreswolde@comcast.net for more information.

The Knights of Columbus are a Catholic fraternal organization with a strong pro-life mission and a long history of supporting Birthright. This year we approached the five area councils with a request to sponsor our Birthright ad in their respective church bulletins. Our thanks to

these K. of C councils for helping to get the pro-life message out:

St. Jude Church
Grand Knight Mark Williams

St. Mary Church
Grand Knight Joe Vogel

St. Patrick Church
Grand Knight Andy Taylor

St. Matthew Church
Grand Knight Mike Timm

St. William of York
Grand Knight Jim Everett

Despite our being in town for over 37 years, we always must strive to let people know of our existence and our willingness to help mothers and their babies. Let us know if you would like to sponsor an advertisement in an area publication like a school newspaper or an athletic program.

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) at St. Mary Church held a virtual shower the weekend of Jan. 18-19 for four organizations. Birthright was delighted to share in the wonderful haul of diapers, clothes, receiving blankets, booties, and other sweet surprises. Other benefactors of the CCW event chaired by Karen La Roche were Mary's Shelter, Paul Stefan Homes, and Catholic Charities.

Groups like the foregoing are so important to our success, but families or single individuals have also sustained us throughout



Pretty Denia Saravia is happy to model a matching hat and scarf from a large collection of handmade sets donated by From the Heart Stitchers. Not only does the group supply us with gorgeous baby items, but they also like to honor our mothers with warm accessories during this frigid time of year.

our history in Fredericksburg. We have steadfast monthly donors as well as occasional benefactors whose generosity often leaves us breathless.

One man, a father of four, decided that for Christmas this year he did not want any personal gifts and put the word out to his family, including his parents and sibling, that he would like items for Birthright. Diapers, onesies, lotions, blankets and just about anything else a baby might need came pouring in. When he made his huge delivery to the office, he explained to the volunteers on duty that he had been thinking about the idea for the past few years because he has been "a fan of what Birthright does" and has followed the chapter's activities through the biannual newsletter.

It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born.

Greetings from Barbara Carr and Betsy Flanigan, Co-Directors

Birthright's guiding principle is "It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every baby to be born." We assist women so that they can continue their pregnancies even when there are obstacles.

You can help! Have you ever noticed a troubled teen in your neighborhood, or talked with a friend whose daughter or granddaughter seems to be worried or upset? A simple "How are you doing?" or an invitation to have a cup of tea or a soda, can start a conversation. Letting someone know that you care and that you will listen is a big step. Assuring her that she is not alone can be comforting. Letting her know about Birthright if she thinks she is pregnant, or even if she knows she is, but doesn't know what to do next, can be reassuring.

What do we do when someone comes to us? We welcome her warmly, listen, and then help to make a plan, utilizing her own resources as well as that of the community so that she can carry on a safe pregnancy. That plan might include a place to stay, referral for medical care and for adoptive services. We offer maternity clothes if needed and clothes and diapers for the newborn.

All services are free and confidential. Sometimes a teen will need help telling her parents. Sometimes a married woman is pressured to have an abortion. Whatever the problem, we are here to listen and encourage.

Recently, we found several bags of children's clothing outside the door at Birthright. A note was

left with the items saying "Thank you for saving my grandson!" We don't know who the young woman was who came to us for help, but we know that she must have been considering abortion. Perhaps her mother sent her to us, or maybe a friend. In any event, because a young mother chose life, a baby survived and was welcomed into a caring family.

We are always looking for ways that we can serve these women at this critical time. If you know of places who will hire someone part-time or even full time while pregnant, or if you can recommend courses, on-line or through a local community college to help her become employable, we would like to know about these opportunities.

You can help us save these babies, and their moms.....one at a time!



CO-DIRECTORS

Barbara Carr • Betsy Flanigan

OFFICE MANAGER

Eileen Shea

TREASURER

Barbara Carr

SCHEDULING COORDINATOR

Mary Nolan

COMMUNITY LIAISON

Donna Hart

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Kathleen Mahoney

HOURS OF OPERATION

*Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM*

*Tuesday and Thursday Evenings
5:00 to 7:00 PM*

Birthright Regional Conference

A regional conference for Birthright volunteers was held in Lexington, VA, Nov. 8-9. L to R are Betsy Flanigan, Celeste Hufford of Woodbridge, Marilou Schindler of Natural Bridge, Kathy Madsen of Manassas, and Janet Ficca of Norfolk. Mrs. Schindler is the regional coordinator who oversees Birthright chapters in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. Also attending from Fredericksburg were Lily Alarcon and Kathy Mahoney.



A Look Back at 2013 ...

Birthright has always welcomed clients without regard for age, race, religion, marital status, national origin, or legal status. Volunteers who have been with us for many years can't help notice, however, the increasing diversity among the girls and women walking through our doors for help which is a reflection, of course, of the changing face of our formerly sleepy Southern town where the chapter started in 1968.

During a recent evening shift, the two volunteers on duty welcomed clients from four continents! In addition to the two sisters from Caroline County, they met women from Ghana, Pakistan, and Peru, all in the space of two hours! Our reputation for a welcoming, non-judgmental attitude continues to grow, and we are doing our best to accommodate this diversity. Language is often a challenge, but we usually can communicate well with the help of native speakers, fetal models, and other visual aids. We have a few Spanish speaking volunteers, and we are always looking for more.

The following statistics for 2013 will give the reader an idea of our population and some of the ways we have helped this diverse group:

Clients' Jurisdictions

Fredericksburg	28%
Spotsylvania.....	42%
Stafford	18%
King George.....	3%
Caroline	2%
Other	7%
Pregnancy Tests	724
Maternity Clothes	237
New Baby Layettes	115
Phone Calls.....	600
Office visits.....	1,038

Birthright Volunteer Christmas Fellowship

Birthright volunteers and their spouses gathered at the home of the Alarcons for their annual Christmas party on December 7, 2013. It looks as if the ladies hung out in one room while the gentlemen gathered in another!



To Remember and Honor Those We Love

You can remember those you love with a tax-deductible donation to Birthright of Fredericksburg, Inc. We will mail a special note to the person you designate. Simply use this form to make this special donation:

Special Birthright Donation

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Designate the person you would like a special note sent to here:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

We Need Your Support

Birthright is a non-profit, charitable organization supported by contributions. We are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, and all donations are tax deductible. We are independent, non-political, and non-sectarian. We're committed to help women in crisis, single or married, regardless of age, race or religion.

I would like to train as a Birthright client advocate. Call me!

I would prefer to work in some other capacity such as office work, clothes sorting, fund raising, etc.

I cannot volunteer at this time, but here's my donation for charitable works.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____



MEMORIALS

**Birthright
gratefully acknowledges
the following donations:**

Ellamae H. Clare
By Birthright Volunteers

Francis X. O'Brien
By Nancy Young

Leslie Storke
By Birthright Volunteers

Margie S. Bumbrey
By Birthright Volunteers

Mary Huseman
By Birthright Volunteers

Out of the mouths
of babes: "Some
people think
that my life
began at
birth, but
my life's
journey
began
long
before
I was
born!"



Photo courtesy of
Lori Elizabeth Photography,
www.lorielizabethphotography.com

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