

BIRTHRIGHT[®] OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.



SUMMER 2014

2006 Lafayette Blvd.
Suite 202
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.birthrightoffredericksburg.com

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

NEW CO-DIRECTORS WILL LEAD BIRTHRIGHT IN ITS 38th YEAR

*"Volunteers are not
paid because they are
worthless, but because
they are priceless!"*

Whoever gets the credit for that bit of pithy wisdom could have been talking about the leaders at Birthright of Fredericksburg, Inc., who have acted as co-directors for the last three years and who have now stepped down to turn the reins over to two worthy successors.

Betsy Flanigan and Barbara Carr have guided the local pro-life center with a true dedication to our mothers and their babies. With great attention to detail but also with their warm, welcoming personalities, they have been responsible for the smooth operation of our office on Lafayette Boulevard and a remarkable increase of the volunteer corps.

Barbara and her husband Bob Carr are the parents of seven children and the proud grandparents of 23. A native of Cincinnati, Barb met her future husband, who was in the Army at the time, on a blind date. She is a graduate of the University of Dayton and worked in the field of interior design for a Bethesda, Maryland firm. In addition to her Birthright volunteer duties, she works part time at the office of the National Charismatic Movement in the Catholic Church.

Co-director Betsy and Desmond Flanigan have four children and three grandchildren and have lived at Lake of the Woods for twelve years. A math major at Rosemont College in Philadelphia, Betsy entered the field of social welfare after graduation when she began work at the Catholic Charities office of the archdiocese of New York. Desmond's mother was her supervisor and wasted little time in introducing her son, the young Army officer, to Betsy. Besides her many contributions to the Birthright organization, Betsy has also worked as a volunteer tax preparer for the AARP.

Stepping up to fill these big shoes are two dynamic and equally dedicated women who will direct Birthright in the coming years. Dr. Rosemary O'Grady recently closed her busy podiatry office after 29 years of practicing in Fredericksburg. Looking to make some contributions to the community, Rosemary said the Birthright mission was "always dear to my heart and so assuming the leadership position was perfect." She grew up in Peterborough, Ontario, with seven siblings and is married to Dr. Mitchell Sojack; they are the proud parents of one son, Kealan.

New co-director Lily Alarcon is a native of Ecuador who has been in the United States for 30 years with travels to many international assignments in between residence here. She and Julio, now retired from the U.S. Marines, have been around the world to far flung locations like Japan for 6 years and the Dominican Republic where Lily worked as vice consul. Trained as an accountant, Lily has also worked as a Spanish teacher and puts her bilingual ability to great use in the Birthright office. The Alarcons came to the Fredericksburg area 10 years ago when Julio, a fellow Ecuadoran, received orders for the Defense Intelligence Agency. They are the proud parents of two children and one granddaughter.

Unlike most non-profit organizations with paid leaders, Birthright's directors serve strictly as volunteers who donate their time, talent, and treasure not because they are worthless. On the contrary, outgoing Barbara and Betsy, who will remain active as client advocates, and the new co-directors, Lily and Rosemary, all fall into the priceless category. Friends of Birthright and the volunteer corps are enormously grateful to these talented women for their leadership.



Rosemary O'Grady, Lily Alarcon, and Donna Hart represented the local office at the Birthright annual international convention which was held in Memphis on June 13-15. Rosemary and Lily have been named co-directors, succeeding Barbara Carr and Betsy Flanigan who have led the pregnancy center for the past three years. Donna is a past director and a current active volunteer.

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

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER TRAINING SET TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 29

While we realize it will be impossible to fill the shoes of recently retired Mary Rau, 86 years old, we nevertheless are advertising our upcoming fall training for new volunteers. But before those details, the Board of Directors and the office volunteers wish to salute Mary for being a stalwart treasure over so many, many years. The leadership always knew that Mary would be there in the office Monday mornings acting as a receptionist with a warm welcome for all our visitors. In addition to taking her regular office stint, Mary also held the position of corresponding secretary. She used her beautiful cursive handwriting for thank-you notes to our loyal benefactors that were much appreciated. While

Mary has retired from her Birthright volunteer job, she continues to work at another volunteer position two mornings a week for the Central Rappahannock Regional Library. We wish her well!

Those men and women interested in learning more about volunteering for Birthright are invited to attend a coffee and dessert social evening at the home of Kathy Mahoney on Monday, September 29, from 7:30 to 9 PM. A short film and a discussion of the Birthright Charter will give attendees a clear idea of the organization's mission and philosophy. For those who choose to continue



volunteer training, two sessions at the office will be scheduled in October at a convenient time for the group. Registration which is required and additional information can be obtained by emailing birthrightfred@gmail.com or leaving a message at our office on Lafayette Boulevard: 540-898-8558.

Recognizing our volunteers ...

BIRTHRIGHT OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.

CO-DIRECTORS

Lily Alarcon • Rosemary O'Grady

OFFICE MANAGER

Eileen Shea

TREASURER

Barbara Carr

SCHEDULING COORDINATOR

Mary Nolan

COMMUNITY LIAISON

Donna Hart

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Kathleen Mahoney

WEBMASTER

Lori Fowlkes

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 believes in recognizing volunteers at least twice a year. About 25 attendees, including this happy group, as well as spouses and special friends all celebrated at a covered dish picnic at the Stafford home of Julio and Lily Alarcon in July.

ESSAY: The Adoption Alternative

What surprising news! You get word out of the blue that you are going to receive a gorgeous new car, actually a Lamborghini. But soon the surprise turns to shock as you realize that you cannot accept the gift. You have no garage to house this legendary vehicle. Money is so tight you couldn't even buy gas to put in the tank. What about insurance? Impossible!

Rejection of the gift seems to be the only answer unless you are inspired to think of sharing the gift with someone else who IS in a position to accept it. This inspiration throughout the ages is what has led selfless birth mothers, faced with an unplanned, crisis pregnancy, to share the gift and place their baby for adoption.

I believe that these birth mothers are heroic women who use the gift of life to grant the most heartfelt wish of a childless couple. By her choosing to accept the pregnancy, the baby gets his or her inalienable right to life while the adoptive family sets off on an exciting new journey with all the concomitant joys and sorrows, laughter and tears, that are a part of all human experience.

The bravery and courage exhibited by these birth mothers is, I think, akin to the choice that some patriotic

men and women make every day when they decide to serve our country by enlisting in the military. Like the pregnant girls and women, these individuals are willing to put their lives on hold for the sake of others, forestalling their dreams and aspirations, for the greater good.

And that greater good down through the centuries is represented by countless individuals who were not summarily rejected by their mothers like that hypothetical gift of the Lamborghini. Put on the spot and asked to name an adopted child, many of us might blurt out the name of Superman, but there is actually a very, very long list of real people who were adopted like John Hancock, Mother Teresa, Leo Tolstoy, Faith Hill, Jesse Jackson, Nat King Cole, and Eleanor Roosevelt, to name just a few.

Can we even calculate what the world would have missed if the birth mothers of just these few individuals had not been so heroically magnanimous?

— The editor



David IV visits with his family!



Our client Crystal Jackson stopped by our office this summer to show off her baby boy, David IV, who was born on May 19. Proud big sister Dalila and her very delighted grandmother, Sandra Chalue from Meridian, CT, are part of the happy family who came to visit and to thank us for our support during Crystal's pregnancy.

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

Donations to Birthright of Fredericksburg were made in memory of the following deceased friends of life. May they rest in peace!

*Charles and Eloise Ross
by Suzanne Bevan,
their daughter*

*Mary G. Sutter
by David Sutter, her husband*

*Marilyn Lesnak
by Bernie & Kathy Mahoney,
friends*

*William "Nick" Kennedy
by Bernie & Kathy Mahoney,
friends*

Lifesavers: A Salute to Our 2014 Donors

*Dahlgren Catholic
Community*

*St. Mary Catholic Church,
Fredericksburg*

*Lisa Arthur's Confirmation
Class 19, St. Mary*

*St. Patrick School,
Spotsylvania*

*St. Patrick K. of C.
Battlefield Auxiliary*

*Ana Henriques'
Confirmation Class,
St. Patrick*

From the Heart Stitchers

Marie Savage

Mary and Ed Kenney

Stephen Dunham

Elizabeth Dyer

Pierre and Irene Payette

Thomas Mukunnemkeril

Tom and Joyce O'Toole

Nancy Young

Gladys and Jim Bowen

Frank Petranka

Patrick and Stefanie Fell

Martha Fickett

Paul Gohmann

Matthew Glancy

Jeff Hoke

Paula Geary

Paul Wenzel

Daniel Green

Stephen Davezac

Edwin Taliaferro

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