



Office Will Celebrate Birth of a Saved Baby This Fall!

There is plenty of credit to go around as our local Birthright chapter looks ahead with boundless joy to the birth of a baby due this autumn, a baby that was slated for termination. First and as always, all glory goes to Almighty God!

We praise the brave mother-to-be faced with a crisis pregnancy of immense proportions. Then there is the Birthright director who just happened to be in the office catching up on paper work. And we have the two volunteers taking their regular shift that winter day. And let's not forget the good friend who accompanied the client and reminded her of what's really important. Here's the amazing client story with some details changed to uphold confidentiality.

Fatima, a native of the Middle East, had come to this country as a teenager, graduating from high school and obtaining certification in a health field. She married at 20 a man that was also a native of her country and stressed that it was not an arranged marriage but for true love.

Married for about 13 years and with two children, the couple had been experiencing some difficulties. Fatima said that she was subjected to considerable emotional abuse from her husband, leaving her

feeling worthless and denigrated. She also suspected that he was being unfaithful during frequent absences from the home necessitated by his employment in sales.

This early winter, Fatima traveled to her home country for a month to visit family and old friends. Having little self-esteem and feeling totally vulnerable as the result of her spouse's false accusations of infidelity and his brow beating, she became easy prey for

a male acquaintance there who at first befriended her and offered to show her around the places she had left as a young teen. In sharing her story, she takes full responsibility for her part in what happened next.

Now back home in Fredericksburg and experiencing some symptoms of pregnancy, Fatima and her friend made a visit to our center on Lafayette Boulevard. Lily Alarcon, our director, was there reviewing documents in one room, and the two volunteers on duty were especially busy with clients. So, Lily offered



Duncan the Pumpkin, the youngest of four children of loyal Birthright supporters, gamely models a darling pumpkin outfit (in soaring summer temperatures!) that was donated to Birthright of Fredericksburg for one of our babies' first Halloween. We accept all donations of baby items, both new and gently used, from birth up to 9 months along with diapers, Size 1 and 2. Premie supplies are also appreciated. Our charter prevents us from accepting baby furniture, toys, baby formula and food. Monetary donations, including gift cards, are always welcome.

to meet with Fatima who had come in to request a pregnancy test. Lily remembered thinking "This client won't take long!"

But she was wrong. Fatima shared her whole story with Lily, filling her in on her situation, describing her troubled marriage and her recent travels and activities in the Middle East. She said upfront that, if the upcoming test proved positive, she would not continue the pregnancy.

After escorting the client to our adjoining room for testing,

continued on page 2

Mary Eileen Gallagos-Lewis 1949-2015

The local Birthright office lost a great friend and supporter when Eileen Gallegos-Lewis died as the result of a brain tumor on June 26, surrounded by her loving husband Ross and three children.

Despite her active career as a flight attendant for United Airlines that spanned 43 years, Eileen found time to volunteer for Birthright in its earliest years under the directorship of its local founder, Irene Hagerty. Juggling flight assignments around the world as well as her duties and strong love and devotion to her family, Eileen still found the time to be available to help Birthright. As a bilingual speaker, she was an important asset for our Spanish speaking clients.

Her obituary in the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star included her final wishes that all of us would be with her again in the next life: "It's not that hard. Do unto others as you have them do unto you. We're all brothers and sisters; we simply need to love one another as Jesus loves us." Rest in peace, Eileen!



Annual Volunteer Training Set to Begin Sept. 28

Those men and women interested in learning more about volunteering for Birthright of Fredericksburg are invited to attend a "Hey Look Us Over!" social from 7:30 to 9 PM at the home of Kathleen Mahoney on Monday, Sept. 28. 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 is required by Sept. 24: bmah761569@aol.com or 540-371-2073.

BIRTHRIGHT OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.

DIRECTOR
Lily Alarcon

OFFICE MANAGER
Eileen Shea

TREASURER
Barbara Carr

SCHEDULING COORDINATOR
Linda Hildebrand

COMMUNITY LIAISON
Donna Hart

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Kathleen Mahoney

WEBMASTER
Lori Fowlkes

HOURS OF OPERATION
*Monday through Friday
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Tuesday and Thursday Evenings
5:00 to 7:00 PM*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
*Donna Hart, President
Eileen Shea, Secretary
Barbara Carr, Treasurer
Lily Alarcon, Director
Lori Fowlkes
Kathleen Mahoney
Eve Muggeridge
Rosemary O'Grady*

OFFICE WILL CELEBRATE BIRTH OF SAVED BABY *continued from page 1*

the director quickly asked the two volunteers to pray hard for a good outcome. They all invoked Our Lady of Guadalupe, a particular favorite of theirs, for heavenly intercession.

Fatima was distraught upon hearing the results of the pregnancy test. The director attempted to calm her with a discussion of all her options and our unconditional support for her, the baby, and her family.

Her best friend Nadia who had accompanied her also had some supportive but strong words for her. Nadia reminded Fatima that she had suffered three miscarriages in past years and had asked God for another baby.

"You're playing God!" she admonished. "You told God you wanted a baby and now you're saying you don't want one!"

Meanwhile, the volunteers on duty in the outer office were still storming heaven with their prayers

when they suddenly heard a loud outburst of laughing. They surmised that there had been a breakthrough and that the client was going to choose life for her baby.

In a recent interview, Fatima related that our director played a huge part in her decision to give birth. "Lily is the reason that the baby is still here," she said. "She's like a guardian angel and has helped me the whole time."

While separated from her husband currently, the mother-to-be reports that he is becoming more accepting and supportive. He also acknowledges that his distrust and hurtful, false accusations over the years weakened Fatima's self-esteem, leaving her fragile and vulnerable.

We ask our prayer warriors to keep this young family high on their list as we ask God for a safe delivery this fall for Fatima and for a healthy baby who will bring about joy and healing in a reunited family.

BIRTHRIGHT JOINS SECOND ANNUAL “COMMUNITY GIVE”

For the first time Birthright participated in the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region as it celebrated its Day of Giving on behalf of area non-profits. On May 5 the Foundation promulgated twenty-four hours of giving where everyone is asked to “make a donation and show support for local nonprofit organizations that positively impact our lives every day.” Considering this was Birthright’s maiden effort, we were happy to receive twenty-six gifts totaling \$1,770. Overall, the Foundation reported a total of 8,103 gifts for a total of \$822,265.58. Next year’s event will occur on May 3, 2016. With increased recognition of this relatively new venture in Fredericksburg, we, like the other area participants, hope to attract more funds for the people we serve.

Birthright’s National Leader Retires

After forty-five years of helping women in crisis pregnancies, Terry Weaver of Atlanta stepped down at the end of 2014 as national director of Birthright USA. The dynamic octogenarian with boundless energy and a legendary sense of humor was the kindly face and inspiration of countless volunteers around the country who got to know her through the annual international conventions, visits to regional offices, training videos, and personal phone calls. Locally, we were blessed and honored to have her attend our 25th and 30th anniversary luncheons.

Named national director in 1991, the mother of seven children with husband Bill, Weaver never accepted a salary or a stipend during her entire association with the organization which began in 1969. Along with a small group of supporters, Weaver inaugurated the first American chapter in Atlanta after a chance meeting with Louise Summerhill of Toronto, Canada, who had founded the organization in 1968 to shift the focus of the abortion issue to meeting women’s needs.

Both our late founder Summerhill and our newly retired Weaver often used the mantra that every Birthright volunteer internalizes. It goes something like this: “Instead of saying ‘Don’t have an abortion,’” they counseled, “why not say ‘Let me help you have this baby.’”

The new national director of Birthright USA is Brittney Mellema of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where she has been the director of that center for thirteen years and has been the regional consultant for both North and South Dakota for eight years. The busy wife and mother of two boys knows she is filling some big shoes and is “humbled to have the opportunity to step into the role and build upon the tremendous foundation laid by Terry Weaver.”



Director Lily Alarcon Salutes Her Corps of Volunteers

Our Birthright office is maintained by the most wonderful, unselfish, and amazing women who dedicate their valuable time to help mothers-to-be, giving them love, respect, and the assistance they need to bring their babies to term. May God bless you for your unconditional service! Love, Lily

- Carolyn Berta
- Mary Buono
- Barbara Carr
- Ana Chichester
- Linda Clark
- Kathy Dandino
- Julia Desilets
- Renee Durham
- Donna Falls
- Betsy Flanigan
- Mary Jane Flynn
- Jean Francis
- Barbara Hardison
- Donna Hart
- Linda Hildebrand
- Cindy Horan
- Lori Kayajanian
- Jane Kuhls
- Linda Lee
- Laura Lyon
- Kathy Mahoney
- Judy McGillicuddy
- Joanne Nolan
- Mary Nolan
- Zoila Nulanz
- Rosemary O’Grady
- Paulette Pacheco
- Zulema Reyes
- Toni Roberts
- Eileen Shea
- Grace Sherry
- Jane Sherry
- Vicky Shoupe
- Judy Valencia
- Tracy Washington

MEMORIALS

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

Eileen Gallegos-Lewis
by
Volunteers of Birthright

Robert Sullivan
by
Perla Guacena

Evelyn Varney,
mother of
volunteer Donna Falls,
by
Volunteers of Birthright

Lifesavers: A Salute to Our Donors

Anita Nelson and Church of the Latter Day Saints, White Oak Road St. Jude Church Faith Formation Ladies Auxiliary of Battlefield Council Knights of Columbus, St. Patrick Church St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church Sovereign Grace Church of Fredericksburg From the Heart Stitchers Paul Gohmann and Echo Northrup Grumman	Martha V. Fickett Kristin Dineen Marie Savage Dorota Berta Thomas Mukunnemkeril Elizabeth Dyer Alice Clune Stephen Dunham Mary and Ed Kenney Heidi Stello Tom and Joyce O'Toole Suzi Bevan Jamila Alarcon Grace Kitchens Marlene Little Marquerite Dineen Adalinda Fernandez Susan Garoner Michael Ferren	Braden Shoupe Carrie Stibora Stephen Kemp Matthew Glancy Sandra and Paul Glancy Madeline O'Reilly Donna Hart Greg, Mary, and Stephen Thorsted Laura Lyon Jennifer and Ethan Shea Linda Hildebrand Paul Wenzel Hannah and Justin McClain Bernadette Schwartz Douglas Meyer, MD Nick Page Kelly O'Connor Joan Albertella
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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.
- I choose to donate on line using my credit card or PayPal www.birthrightoffredericksburg.com

NAME _____ PHONE _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
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