

BIRTHRIGHT[®] OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.



FALL/WINTER 2017

2006 Lafayette Blvd.
Suite 202
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.birthrightoffredericksburg.com

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

Birthright of Fredericksburg Hosts Regional Meeting

By Kathy Dandino

On Saturday, October 14, Birthright of Fredericksburg was honored to host the annual meeting for all Birthright chapters in our region. Marilou Schindler, our Regional Director led the agenda and directors from Fredericksburg, Manassas, Leesburg, Norfolk, and Woodbridge were in attendance, along with many of our own volunteers. Much time was devoted to a careful review of the Birthright Charter, with Marilou clarifying many salient issues.

For most, this was a reminder of who we are and the importance of our mission. For a few new volunteers it was a great opportunity to listen and learn! Janet Ficca, Norfolk Director, then attempted to bring us all into the hi-tech online world with an in-depth presentation of how to access the international website, as well as chapter websites. This technology is significant and necessary to streamline communications throughout the organization.

By far, the best part of the day was sharing our ideas and insights on various case scenarios. These were discussed in groups followed by suggestions and recommendations made to all. The scenarios could have been actual clients, which exemplified the serious and complicated issues addressed frequently by our volunteers. The shared discussion offered valuable suggestions for assistance and support to both moms and babies. It was a day of caring and sharing, greeting old friends and meeting new ones, and most of all, reaffirming our dedication and commitment to "love them both"!!!



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Lily Alarcon, Director

Here at Birthright, we continue to provide the best possible service to our clients. But all of this is only possible thanks to the continuous generosity of our faithful benefactors and the dedication of our most enthusiastic and committed volunteers.

Our volunteers have faced many challenges and dealt with very delicate cases. Thanks to God and the resourcefulness of our volunteers, these cases were resolved professionally and positively to benefit mothers and their babies.

The relationship between volunteers and their clients extends well beyond the initial meeting. It continues with numerous follow-up phone calls and conversations until the baby is born. The greatest reward for the volunteers' efforts is when the mothers bring their babies to the office. This newsletter contains beautiful pictures that testify to the fulfilling work of our volunteers and the happiness it brings to everyone.

Birthright is authentically pro-life. Our volunteers work with our clients seeking only their best interest for the benefit of their babies. The overall goal is to help mothers discover their own ability to choose life for their babies even if it means opting to give their child for adoption. Adoption can be a life-saving approach that unites the generosity and love of biological parents and responsible caregivers. As Valerie Harper says, "However motherhood comes to you, it's a Miracle."

In this season of thanksgiving as we prepare to welcome God's greatest gift in the form of a Baby, the Birthright family wishes you all many blessings upon you and your families.

Birthright thanks the
Interfaith Community
Council for their donation of
handmade baby blankets!



Pictured: Marcia Ransom with children Jason and Sarah Ransom.

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

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT	Jane Kuhls		Laura Lyons	
Years married:	46 years to Michael Kuhls		Joe & I have been married 54 treasured years	
Children:	2 daughters and 2 sons		3 children	
Grandchildren:	9 grandchildren (10 in December)		11 grands!	
Years a Volunteer:	About 24 years (13 of them at Manassas Birthright)		I started with Birthright in 1989 in Manassas, took a break in 1995 and returned in 2000.	
Church:	St. Jude		St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception	
Favorite Song:	Hawaiian Wedding Song		"Easy Listening" & "50's" music	
Favorite Bible Verse:	Jesus said, "I am the light of the world . . . Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." John 8:12		John 15:5 "I am the vine and you are the branches."	
Favorite Activities/Hobbies:	Traveling, spending time with the grandchildren, playing Mah Jongg and Scrabble		Spending time with my family & friends; traveling, and taking cruises	

Be sure to LIKE US on Facebook!



DIRECTOR
Lily Alarcon

OFFICE MANAGER
Eileen Shea

TREASURER
Barbara Carr

SCHEDULING COORDINATOR
Linda Hildebrand

COMMUNITY LIAISON
Donna Hart

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Julia Dezelski

WEBMASTER
Childress Agency

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
Rosemary O'Grady
Louise Desilets*

Helping in More Ways Than One

By Linda Lee

All of our clients are special, but one client really touched my heart. She was from another country and not accustomed to our healthcare system which can be very stressful. She came to Birthright and was very nervous about a pregnancy test. She had had a very difficult pregnancy eight years earlier. She spoke English but it made me realize how difficult it must be to live in a different country with all new customs, laws, and everything else.

She took the pregnancy test, and it was positive. She was shocked and continued to worry about all that could go wrong. However, she did NOT believe in having an abortion. She was also very stressed because she had had several surgeries and was working long hours as a bartender and on her feet constantly. Since she was fearful about the health of her unborn baby, she decided to quit her job to keep from losing the baby.

The client stayed a long time during her first visit to talk with both Lily and me. We tried to give her the love and encouragement she needed.

She had no friends in this country or other family support except her husband of ten months. He was extremely happy and VERY supportive as were her two sons, ages 12 and 8. They all hoped a baby girl was on the way. They immediately started buying baby clothes and other supplies.

There were many physical problems and other concerns during her pregnancy. They had to move three times. One son had to be hospitalized. They had one problem after another. Throughout all of these ordeals, she was very appreciative and stayed in touch with Birthright. She repeated how helpful Birthright was to her and expressed her gratitude profusely.

She gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl that weighed six pounds, a real princess. The mother continues to keep in touch and will be a forever friend.

I am thankful that Birthright is here for all women regardless of race, nationality, income, or religion. Its services are always free. I have been a volunteer for over twenty-five years. During this time, I have seen God work through Birthright by using the loving and caring volunteers who selflessly give of their time and talents. We continue to stand by our motto: "Each woman has the right to have her baby and each baby has the right to life."



CLIENT TESTIMONY

By Haley

Early in my pregnancy, during routine blood work, I was diagnosed with 'Factor 5' a blood clotting disorder. So for about half of my pregnancy, I had to get injections into my stomach daily until my son was born, and 2 weeks following his birth.

As the months went by, I found myself thinking that my belly just wasn't as big as it should be but my doctor reassured me that everything was okay.

On June 29th, I went to the hospital because I hadn't felt any fetal movement for a day or two, and my due date was still four weeks away. After multiple ultrasounds, it was determined that my fluid levels had dropped and so had my baby's heart rate so I was put on oxygen.

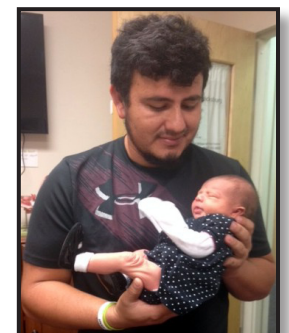
Later that day, I delivered my little boy by C-section, weighing four pounds and three ounces. He stayed in NICU for nine days due to low blood sugar which is common in premature babies.

Now Aiden is growing steadily and is as happy as can be! Thank you Birthright, for helping me through this time.

Volunteers at Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church's Parish Life Weekend in Fredericksburg.



BIRTHRIGHT BABIES



DONORS ... We are thankful for the generosity of our supporters!

(Please note: this list represents donors between 2/4/17 - 9/27/17)

Marjorie and Peter Adams
 Anonymus
 Colleen Beine
 Susi and Robert Bevan
 Susan and Ronald Bishop
 Victoria Brown
 Jean and Frenchie Burnett
 Robert Carr
 Cassandra Casul
 CFC National Capital Area Global Impact
 Katherine Chapman
 Ana Chichester
 Alice Clune
 Council of Catholic Women St. Mary of
 the Immaculate Conception Roman
 Catholic Church
 Joanne Cronrath
 Kierra Curry
 Wanda Cushing
 Debbie Daigneau
 Jessica Davies

Marguerite and Bill Dineen
 Elizabeth Dyer
 Employees Charity Organization of
 Northrop Grumman
 John and MaryJane Flynn
 Janet Folse
 From the Heart Stitchers
 Hank Frydel
 Paul Gohman
 Daniel Green
 Pamela and Brian Greswolde
 Robert Hein
 Hope Christian Fellowship
 Erika Huff
 Mary and Edward D Kenney
 Ashley Knutson
 Katie Little
 Claire and Walter Mathews
 Thomas Mukunemkeril
 Cheryl Oliver
 Chris Perkins

Loli Pierre
 Pro Life Marchers of
 St. Mary of the
 Immaculate Conception
 Carol and Christopher Rooney
 Christopher Rossetto
 Saint Patrick Catholic Ladies
 Battlefield Council Auxiliary
 Kathy Saladino
 Kristen Soares
 Spangler Erkert and Associates
 Students for Life at the
 University of Mary Washington
 Mary Thorstead
 Louise Tuomey
 Wednesday Biblical Walk with
 Blessed Mother Bible Study Class
 Mary and Paul Wendell
 Alice and Edward Whalen
 Nicole Wiederman
 Jean Wiegand
 Emily Wondree



Weecycled Wardrobe



We would like to send out a big thank you to the ladies of Weecycle Wardrobe for their tremendous help supplying maternity and baby clothes. God bless you!



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 helping 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 _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____