

BIRTHRIGHT[®] OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.



SPRING 2019

2006 Lafayette Blvd.
Suite 202
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.birthrightoffredericksburg.com

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

New Director

Birthright of Fredericksburg takes great pride in welcoming our new Director, Dr. Rosemary O'Grady! Rosemary is no stranger to the area, having moved here in 1985, and is well known for her solo



Podiatry practice for 29 years, retiring in 2014. Her medical background is an enormous asset to Birthright, providing valuable insight into some of the issues confronting our clients. In addition, her past 4 years of experience as a Birthright volunteer, working alongside all of us to provide compassion, understanding and love to women in need, make her uniquely qualified to lead this organization. Thank you, Rosemary, for your energy, dedication and enthusiasm in accepting the challenge of leadership in helping all of us to "love them both"! Our support and prayers are with you always.

Director's Corner

Rosemary O'Grady, Director

Being a part of Birthright has been such a blessing to me. This organization provides a safe place for a woman to meet a friend during a very personal and often emotional time in her life. We provide a haven to reassure the woman with an unplanned pregnancy that she is not alone. She will be able to find the help and community resources she needs through her advocate. All of the volunteers at Birthright selflessly give of their time to listen and guide the expectant mom, always with joy and tender hearts. Each mom has a unique and very real life story, and we are fortunate to be a part of their lives. The gladness in our hearts peaks when we see the newborn brought to our office with the smiling mom and family. I have learned so much during my time as a volunteer at Birthright, both from the other volunteers, and the women who come to seek our help. I am so honored to have been asked, and I humbly accept the position as director of Birthright of Fredericksburg.

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them." —Mother Teresa

Perfect in Every Way

Few things in life are more beautiful, and powerful, than a mother's love for her child! Never was this more evident than with Sonia, who came to BR to verify her first pregnancy and was elated when the test was positive. At 20 weeks, however, a routine sonogram reflected possible problems with the baby. Her obstetrician felt that one or more birth defects were probable and recommended termination of the pregnancy.



Sonia was upset and confused. In her own words, "I had to sit down and think what the purpose of my baby is in this world, and I should not stop this purpose. Human beings need the opportunity to fulfill their purpose!" Ultrasounds were performed every two weeks to monitor the baby's development, and this Mom kept the photos of these tests in an album to record every precious moment of her baby's journey. In addition, she started a daily journal, pouring out all her hopes and fears to her as yet unborn child and promising to protect and love her, no matter what! Our BR volunteer called periodically, offering encouragement, moral support and prayers. Worried and frightened, this tenacious mother relied on God and stood firm in her resolve.

Finally, prayers were answered when a baby girl was born on June 30, **healthy and perfect in every way!** Thankful for having been given the wisdom and strength to fight for the life of her child, she named the infant Grace, for she was truly a gift from God! When asked what she would say to other women facing a difficult pregnancy Sonia responded, "I want mothers to enjoy the life growing inside of her."

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



We Are Not Ready

By Linda Hildebrand

It was just a normal Monday morning when I walked into the counseling room, excited to share the news with the young couple that the pregnancy test was positive. They were not married, but had been together for almost two

years, and based on the questions I had asked already, they seemed to have a strong support system. Still, something did not seem right when I gave them the news, prompting me to ask a few more questions.

It became clear that the couple was not sure that they were going to carry the pregnancy to term. They were scared. They were not ready to be parents yet. They were not financially secure. All of the things that parents have been feeling for hundreds of years upon learning that a baby is on the way! But somehow, the world has tilted and made it easy to think that we can pick and choose the perfect time to begin a family. I was determined to help this couple see that what seems like the easy decision is really a life-altering one.

We spent over an hour talking through their fears and concerns, and I asked if I could keep in touch. We texted back and forth over the next few weeks, and with each conversation, I became more confident that the baby was safe in that mother's womb. When she finally told me of her decision to keep the baby, she sent this text:

Thank you so much for the conversation we had ❤️ It made me realize that I shouldn't be scared about a blessing that is coming my way ❤️ Thank you!



**At Birthright,
we love
them both...**



DIRECTOR
Rosemary O'Grady

OFFICE MANAGER
Eileen Shea

TREASURER
Barbara Carr

SCHEDULING COORDINATOR
Linda Hildebrand

COMMUNITY LIAISON
Donna Hart

WEBMASTER
Childress Agency

NEWSLETTER/E-MARKETING
Maura Harrison

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Donna Hart, President
Eileen Shea, Secretary
Barbara Carr, Treasurer
Louise Desilets
Linda Hildebrand
Ditas Kaag

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Friday
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

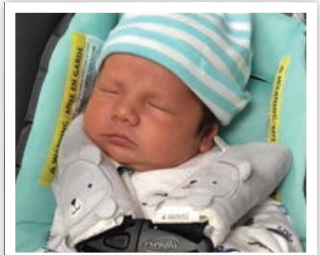
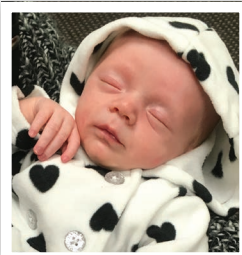
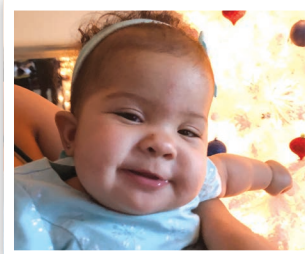
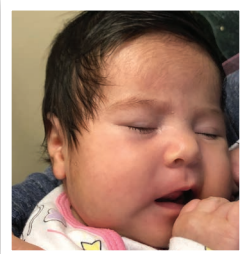
Tuesday and Thursday Evenings
5:00–7:00 p.m.



"I felt scared and alone when I discovered that I was pregnant. Thanks to the encouragement and support from Birthright, I am now a mom to a beautiful baby girl!"

birthrightoffredericksburg.com

Birthright of Fredericksburg



Our Donors and Supporters



Individuals

- Peter & Marjorie Adams
- Cheryl Aten
- Ronald and Susan Bishop
- Anthony Boczon
- Jean Burnett
- Robert & Barbara Carr
- Stephen & Debra Davezak
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- Paul & Mary Wenzel
- Ed and Alice Whalen
- Joseph Zimmerman

Organizations

- Amazon Smile
- Ancient Order Of Hibernians
- Baby Closet
- Battlefield Ladies Auxiliary
- Bowl America
- Chancellor Baptist Church
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Epiphany Catholic School
- From The Heart
- Holy Cross Academy
- Knights of Columbus
- Life Runners of Fredericksburg
- Spangler Erkert
- St. Jude Women's Guild
- St. Mary's Church
- St. William of York Church
- Weecycled Wardrobe

Quick Link

Scanning this QR code will take you directly to the Birthright of Fredericksburg web page where you can make a donation.



New Volunteers!

We try to keep our doors open five days a week, 52 weeks of the year (or almost!) at Birthright. We wouldn't be able to do it without our faithful volunteers who make weekly or bi-monthly commitments of their time. We warmly welcome the newest arrivals on our team of volunteers:

Patti Allen, Mary Blankenbaker, Caroline Coleman, Carrie Fulmer, Maria Martinez, Leslie Nichols, Whitney Riley, and Bernadine Starrs

Thank you for joining us in our efforts to save lives!

Wishlist

Birthright depends entirely on volunteer time, services, and gifts (monetary and in-kind). Please consider making a donation of the following:

- 6-12 month clothing (boys and girls)
- baby wipes
- receiving blankets
- towels and wash cloths
- diapers (sizes 1 and 2)
- maternity clothes



Special Donation

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

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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 speak Spanish and can help with translations.

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: birthrightoffredericksburg.com

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____