

BIRTHRIGHT[®] OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.



SUMMER 2016

2006 Lafayette Blvd.
Suite 202
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

www.birthrightoffredericksburg.com

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

PLAN TO CELEBRATE WITH US ON OCTOBER 22!

The theme for Birthright's festive gala and fundraiser, slated for October 22 at the Fredericksburg Country Club, is "Celebrating Forty Years of Loving Them Both." Dedicated volunteers and faithful benefactors, along with friends both old and new, are invited to renew acquaintances and reminisce about Fredericksburg's first pro-life service organization that was born in 1976.

Irene Hagerty, who was then president of the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Fredericksburg, along with some like-minded members, was inspired to inaugurate a local chapter of Birthright, an international, interdenominational group founded in Toronto in 1968 by the late Louise Summerhill to help women facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Irene became the first director and held that position for an unbelievable twenty-five years! Donna Hart succeeded Irene and remains active today as a client advocate and president of the board of directors. Maria Cackett and Mary Thorsted became co-directors and were later succeeded by Carolyn Brodeur and Amanda Pulley. Barbara Carr and Betsy Flanigan later took over the reins as co-directors and both remain active today performing a variety of duties.

Currently, Lily Alarcon leads the organization. Like all her predecessors in the director position, Lily does this work out of the goodness of her heart; she is a smart, dynamic, hardworking leader whose talents would be richly rewarded in the workplace.

Our all-volunteer office is located at 2006 Lafayette Boulevard in the Paul's Bakery complex where we have

The essence of Birthright is love.

Birthright is unique and committed to offering free, non-judgmental help to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Birthright offers love, hope and support to each woman, to help her make a realistic plan for her future and the future of her unborn child.

40 years

we love them both...

Celebrating 40 Years of Loving Them Both

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Birthright of Fredericksburg

welcomed an average of 1,000 women each year from all localities in Planning District 16. Our client advocates administer over 800 pregnancy tests yearly. Mother and child -loving them both - is always the focus as we fulfill the mission statement of our international organization: "It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born."

To help us celebrate that theme and to raise some much needed funds to continue our work, gala organizers have lined up some impressive speakers as well as some donations of outstanding original art from both local professional artists along with some student art which will be available for purchase.

Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life (FFL) in Alexandria, will be the main presenter. Her landmark speech,

"The Feminist Case Against Abortion," has been recognized as one of the "great speeches in history" in the anthology called Women's Rights. The leader of FFL since 1994, Foster has successfully advocated for women and children on countless university campuses, on Capitol Hill, and in major media outlets. She served on the National Taskforce Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence which worked to pass the Violence Against Women Act. Serrin's mom was an early Birthright volunteer. Attendees will learn how Serrin's mother influenced her work for FFL today.

Christopher Rooney of Fredericksburg will keep the festivities rolling along as master of ceremonies for the event.

During the 6:00 PM pre-dinner reception, Linda Long, Director of

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

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

This is our year of celebration: our 40th Anniversary of serving this amazing cause!!!! Birthright of Fredericksburg continues contributing to both, mothers and babies, with unselfish dedication and never-ending love from all of our wonderful volunteers. Your service is the foundation of our organization. My heart and gratitude is extended to all of you.

Affirming that the joys of life begins at conception, it remains our mission to help all mothers and their precious babies without judgement, but rather with compassion, understanding, and most of all, love.

Birthright of Fredericksburg is also eternally grateful to all our donors for your continuous and unwavering generosity. Our mission wouldn't be possible without your helping hands. Our profound appreciation is extended to all of you.

God bless you all! **Lily Alarcon, Director**

Birthright Babies



Social Media:

Like us on Facebook!



/Birthright of Fredericksburg



DIRECTOR
Lily Alarcon

OFFICE MANAGER
Eileen Shea

TREASURER
Barbara Carr

SCHEDULING COORDINATOR
Linda Hildebrand

COMMUNITY LIAISON
Donna Hart

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Julia Desilets

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
Rosemary O'Grady*

CELEBRATE continued from page 1

Music Ministries for St. Matthew Church, and two colleagues will perform harp music. Guests can view the donated artworks and still get in on the raffle that has been underway since the summer. The winning tickets will be drawn that night, but one does not need to be present to win. Local artists who donated pieces include Bill Richardson, Fr. Don Rooney, Vicky Shoupe, Peggy Wickham, Don Young, Bill O'Connor, and Patricia Murray.

In addition to the donated pieces from well-known local artists, student artists from St. John Paul the Great High School in Dumfries will be displaying works featuring a "Mother and Child" theme. Under the direction of art teacher Bill O'Connor, Department Chair of Fine Arts, these young people, all members of the National Art Honor Society, will get the opportunity to use their artistic talent in the service of others. Their works will be available for purchase via a silent auction.

There is no charge to attend the event, but reservations are necessary. The event is expected to reach capacity quickly. If you or someone you know would like to receive an invitation, please call the office at 540-898-8558 or email us at birthrightfred@gmail.com.

We are actively soliciting sponsors and table hosts to help underwrite the costs of the event. Donna Hart is chairing this most important endeavor which will keep our Birthright operating, with God's grace, for the foreseeable future.

Contact Donna directly at 540-847-4670 or birthrightfred@gmail.com.



We need your help!

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

diapers • baby wipes
receiving blankets • baby towels

And please, don't forget to keep our volunteers and clients in your prayers!

Volunteer Spotlight ...

Meet Vicky Shoupe

Vicky and her husband Alan moved with their family to Fredericksburg three years ago. They have moved with the military a number of times, settling in places like Honolulu and Germany. While in Honolulu, Vicky volunteered with the Mary Jane Home for Unwed Mothers by helping with baby showers and collecting baby items. It was there that she witnessed women in great need at the most vulnerable time of their lives. We are blessed by her care and concern for women and their children here at Birthright.



- # Years married:** 35 years this past August
- # Children:** 6
- # Years at Birthright of Fredericksburg:** 2 1/2 years
- Church:** St. Patrick's Catholic Church
- Favorite song:** "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Brother Iz
- Best pastime/hobby:** Gardening and painting
- Best loved Bible verse:** "I look to the mountains whence cometh my help" (Psalm 121:1)

Stories of Selfless Gifts

Every day at Birthright, we are blessed by the women who come through our door. Each one of them carries a personal story that is unique and God-given. Our volunteer, Betsy Flanigan shares these inspiring stories about such encounters with grace.



Jessica was already mother to a special needs 9-year-old son and two 'angel' babies who have been miscarried. Now being pregnant, she voiced her hope that this might be her 'rainbow' baby. She was 19 years old when she conceived her son. Doctors and friends had told her to have an abortion because he was diagnosed with severe handicaps. She refused to abort her child, whom she named Chance, aware of the 'chance' she was taking, since he would likely be severely handicapped. He now has a trach, a g-tube, and scoliosis, which requires surgery every six months to straighten his spine as he grows. Despite these limits, Jessica went on to describe him as the most loving, caring child anyone could ever meet. She has no regrets for choosing to give life to Chance and is excited to welcome another child. Motherhood isn't about 'taking chances' but about receiving the blessings of life. *(Names reprinted with permission.)*



A few years ago, just before Christmas, a man came to the office with his teenage son. They had filled their van with boxes and boxes of diapers, even having to make several trips. He told us that his family had a discussion about how much they had received and had decided that instead of buying gifts that year, they would use the money they saved to help others. Their teenage children knew a few young women who had been helped by Birthright, so they decided to make their donation to us. We are so grateful and touched by this family's selflessness.

HELPING HANDS



Meet Jean Francis

Jean moved to Fredericksburg after living her entire life in one of the most beautiful places in the world (Martha's Vineyard, MA) so she could be closer to her children and their families. She has brought with her a background in nursing and a heart for serving others. She always returns happier after a day at Birthright where she desires to do what is best for every woman who walks through the door.



- # Years married:** 52 Years
- # Children:** 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren
- # Years at Birthright of Fredericksburg:** 5 years
- Church:** St. Patrick's Catholic Church
- Favorite song:** *Last Date* by Floyd Cramer on piano
- Best pastime/hobby:** Reading anything, thanks to Salem Church Library
- Best loved Bible verse:** "So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13)

DONORS ...

The work of Birthright is made possible thanks to our generous supporters. God bless you!

**Marjorie & Peter Adams
Battlefield Council Ladies
Auxillary**

**Colleen Beirne
Bethany House**

**Suzy Bevan in memory of her
parents Eloise and Seab Ross**

**Gladys Bowen
Molly Bowes**

Shirley Bozecivic

Andre Burrell

Julie Buzzard

Erin Clapton

Virginia Crean

Marguerite & William Dineen

Steven Dunham

Elizabeth Dyer

Thomas Elstner Jr. DMD

Rosemary Evans

Patrick Fell

Marie Foster

**From the Heart Stitchers
Group - for the fine hand-
knitted blankets, hats, and
booties which delight our
clients.**

Henry Frydel

Mary Gilhooly

Betsy Giron

Matthew Glancy

Paul A. Gohmann

Claudia Gonzales

Dorothy Green

Paula Husselman

Mary and Edward Kenney

Sharon Korinek

Donna Landis

Wendy Martinez

Mary's Shelter

Kathleen and Philip Marzac

Walter Matthews

Hannah McClain

Beverly McNabb

**Gail Mittiga in honor of
MaryJane Flynn and Jane
Kuhls**

Douglas Myer, MD

**Naval Support Facility
Dahlgren**

**Marina, Biondina & Elvina
Nicolai**

Anita Nielson

Mary Nolan

Irene & Pierre Payette

Hannah Penouf

Fern Peterson

Julia Priest

Elizabeth Ptak

Mary Ptak

Re-Run Shop

**Marcia Ranson (Interfaith
Community Council)**

Alejandra Lara Resendiz

Marie Savage

Sarah Severino

John Shoupe

**St. Jude Catholic Church
Women's Guild, Fredericksburg**

**St. Mary of the Immaculate
Conception Catholic Church,
Fredericksburg**

**St. Elizabeth and St. Anthony
Catholic Church, Colonial Beach**

Eileen Tarulis

Mary Thorstead

Barbara and Richard Waring

Carleen and George Warner

Rachel Warnick

Cathy Watts

Robert Weaver

Weecycle Wardrobe

Lusi Wei

Paul Wenzel

Jean Wiegand

Richard Willing

Eliza Yatros



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 _____