

BIRTHRIGHT[®] OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.



WINTER/SPRING 2017

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Birthright of Fredericksburg: 40 Years of Loving Both Mother and Child

Birthright of Fredericksburg celebrated 40 years with a Gala dinner and auction on October 22, 2016, at the Fredericksburg Country Club. Pictured here are our Emcee, Chris Rooney, (photo at right) and several Directors of Birthright of Fredericksburg over the years (pictured below from left to right): Maria Cackett, Mary Thorsted, Betsy Flannigan, Barbara Carr and Lily Alarcon.

Gala attendees graciously opened their hearts and gave their financial support for Birthright of Fredericksburg. A list of these generous donors appears on page 3 of this newsletter.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Love, compassion, and kindness are what we volunteers, at Birthright of Fredericksburg, extend every day to the mothers and precious babies who come to our office.

Since we are dedicated to the mission of serving both mother and child, the first visit to our office for a pregnancy test is sometimes only the beginning of an incredible relationship.

Many of their stories touch our hearts: we listen to them without judgement, we cry with them, we rejoice with them, we provide resources, we offer a helping hand. Sometimes there is excitement in a young woman's face and sometimes there is desperation. Either way, Birthright of Fredericksburg offers love, compassion, and kindness because our mission is to show them we care. With love, anything is possible.

It is not only the love of our volunteers, but also the love of our **generous donors** that makes it all possible. Without your financial support, it would be very difficult to offer these services to mothers and children. Thanks to individuals and businesses, we can distribute donated clothes to newborns and maternity clothes to mothers. Thanks to monthly donors and groups at churches and schools that host baby showers, our closets are stocked and our doors stay open.

All of us, volunteers and donors make a difference for mothers and their precious children.
THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU.

— Lily Alarcon, Director



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

This edition is dedicated to the memory of John Kayajanian (†3-14-17), husband of volunteer Lori Kayajanian.

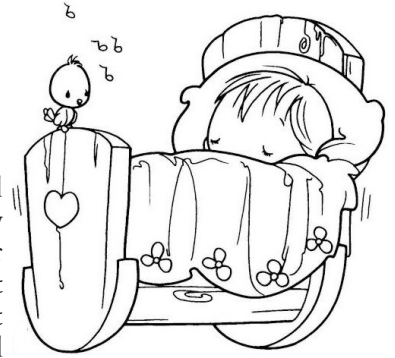
PRECIOUS MOMENTS — Submitted by Kathy Dandino

As a Birthright volunteer, you never know what challenges you might face on any given day ...

■ One day, a teenage client came in looking rather angry and explained that she was afraid to be pregnant by a man she barely knew. When asked how she felt about that possibility she said, “I don’t want any baby!!!” After performing the test, and praying constantly for the right words to say, I handed her the tiny 10 week fetal model we give to all expectant moms and said, “this is what your baby looks like right about now.” She just stared at that baby in disbelief and said, “Are you kidding me?” It took several weeks of phone calls and many prayers, but she decided to have the baby and when she brought her little girl into the office seven months later, we all had tears in our eyes. The look of anger had been replaced by pure joy as she explained how many wonderful things had been happening in her life since she had said “yes” to life!

■ Another client in her early twenties came in very excited about the possibility of pregnancy and wanting to know everything she needed to do to have a healthy baby. She was a long way from her home and had only the baby’s father for support.

This young woman touched my heart and came in frequently just to see a friendly face and have some “girl talk”! She had some complications at eight months and she was rushed to the emergency room for a C-section. The baby’s father texted me asking if I could come to the hospital, so I was there to celebrate with them the birth of their healthy baby boy! What a gift!



Social Media:

Be sure to 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 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

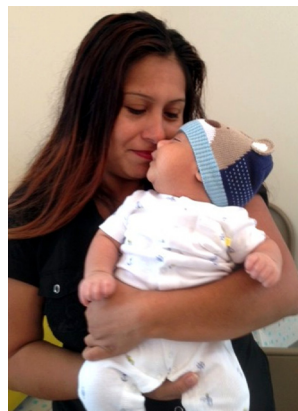
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donna Hart, President
Eileen Shea, Secretary
Barbara Carr, Treasurer
Lily Alarcon, Director
Rosemary O’Grady
Louise Desilets

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Wedding Bells!

Our newsletter editor, Julia Dezelski (Desilets) was married on December 30, 2016 in Washington, D.C.



A Baby is Born!

Our volunteer Judy Valencia gave birth to a baby of her own!

BIRTHRIGHT of Fredericksburg WISHLIST ...

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

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



Donors Generous Beyond Expectations at the Birthright Gala!

Our deepest appreciation goes out to all of the generous donors who attended the Birthright of Fredericksburg Gala and opened their hearts to the Birthright mission.

Charles & Annette Ahart	Ron Fortune	Brian & Judy Mahoney	Toni Roberts
Basilico New York Deli & Bakery	Serrin Foster	Beth Malloy	Chris & Carol Rooney
James & Carolyn Beard	Marjorie Foulon	Mary's Shelter	Father Don Rooney
Carolyn & Tom Berta	Jean Francis	Jennifer Masson	Dennis & Chery Ryan
Suzanne Bevan	Eileen & Richard Geary	Bill McAvinney	Dr & Mrs Henry Sacks
Robert & Carole Bishop	Bill & Ruth Grosskopf	Judy McGillicuddy	Mr & Mrs Anthony Sala
Mary & Mike Bostain	Julita Guija	John & Rosemarie McKeown	Dr & Mrs Paulino Sambat
Bruce & Betsy Branham	Maureen Guilfoyle	Tom & Andrea Mullen	Frederick & Marilou Schindler
Kevin & Kate Breen	James & Irene Hagerty	Patricia Leonardo Murray	Kristen Schlee
Sue & Marty Bridi	Maura Harrison	Serena Nguyen	Eileen Shea
Mary & Tom Buono	Donna & Donn Hart	Mary Nolan	Vicky Shoupe
Jean Burnett	Donnie & Brandy Hart	Martha Novotnak	William & Nancy Smithdeal
David & Maria Cackett	Greg & Linda Hildebrand	Zoila Nulanz	Sonia Spencer
Bob & Barb Carr	Ron & Anne Holmes	Corita & Hugh O'Brien	St Mary of the Immaculate Conception
RJ & Teri Carr	Jud & Christie Honaker	Bill O'Connor	Student artists from St Paul the Great High School
Joe & Anne Carroll	Dr. Teresa Hopkins	James & Billie O'Connor	Greg & Mary Thorstead
Sean & Karin Cassidy	Cindy & Don Horan	Rosemary O'Grady & Mitchell Sojack	Peggy Wickham
Craig & Linda Clark	Jaime & Delores Ibarra	Celeste & Dennis O'Leary	John & Christine Wills
Joseph & Nancy Conley	Randy & Evelyn James	Anne & Jim Oyler	Kathleen & David Wilson
Douglas & Nancy Craig	Chris & Patti Kaila	Vicky Peterson	Don Young
Stephen & Debra Davezac	Maggie & Fred Kane	John & Lonnie Reid	
Donna Davis	Lori Kayajanian	William Richardson	
Julia Desilets	Keddie Group, Davenport & Company, LLC		
Joan Doherty	Edward & Mary Kenney		
Elena Doyle	Thomas & Elizabeth Larus		
Jan & Al Erkert	Linda Long		
Donna Falls	Percy & Barbara Loving		
Sara Fartro	Joe & Laura Lyon		
Patrick & Stefanie Fell	Re MacArthur		
Martha Fickett	Raymond & Maria Mack		
Desmond & Betsy Flanigan	Bernie & Kathy Mahoney		

Numbers Are In! Statistics for 2016:

Visits.....	727
Phone Calls Received.....	1276
Pregnancy Tests.....	511
Items of Maternity Clothing (177 women).....	857
Boy Layettes.....	53
Girl Layettes.....	80
Pre-natal Vitamin Vouchers	146
Shifts Worked	343
Busiest BR Volunteer of the Year (worked the most shifts)	Linda Hildebrand

BIRTHRIGHT BABIES



Giving Trees benefit local charitable organizations ...



A Christmas tree decorated with blue and pink ornaments decked our office this year. Clients who picked up a layette in the month of December received an ornament that read, "Baby's First Christmas 2016".



Holy Cross Academy erected a Christmas Giving Tree to benefit local charitable organizations, such as Birthright of Fredericksburg. Students from all classes brought in various baby items and placed them under the tree. We are most grateful to all the students, teachers, and staff at Holy Cross Academy for their generosity.

The Best Birthday Gift of All!

Last March, a young lady who was celebrating her 12th birthday decided to ask for some unusual birthday presents: diapers, wipes, lotions, creams, and little toys for newborn babes were among the items she requested. Her birthday presents were rounded up and delivered by herself and her family to Birthright.

Her selfless act of love was motivated by a desire to help Birthright in its mission of helping moms and babies. What a beautiful way of celebrating the day of one's birth and the birth of others!





Betsy Flanigan

Years Married: 50!

Fun fact: Betsy was first introduced to crisis pregnancy centers by her future mother-in law who was in charge of the ‘unmarried mother’ unit at Catholic Charities in New York City. Of course she also introduced Betsy to her eligible son, Desmond, and the rest is history!



Betsy and husband Desmond celebrating their Golden Anniversary last December at Holy Trinity in Georgetown.

Children: 4 **Grandchildren:** 3

Years volunteering with Birthright: Since 2002 **Church:** St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

Favorite Bible verse: John 14:27
 “Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you, Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

Favorite activities/hobbies: Playing bridge and book clubs

Favorite Birthright moments:

An entire family came in for a pregnancy test. When they heard the results, the husband burst into tears of joy. The expectant mother beamed. This was their 4th child!

A young woman who had miscarried a previous child because of physical abuse, now determined to carry this child on her own.

Lori Kayajanian

Years Married: 34 years **Children:** 3 **Grandchildren:** 1

Years volunteering with Birthright: 3 ½ years

Church: St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

Favorite tunes: The Moody Blues

Favorite Bible verse: “For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” (John 3:16)



Lori with 4-month-old granddaughter.

Favorite activities/hobbies: Concerts, reading, painting, and playing the guitar

Favorite Birthright moment: Whenever I’m working with the wonderful and faith-filled volunteers and hear the happy voices of the women who choose life and are excited to welcome their child into the world.

Face Prayer

Heavenly Father, I embrace
 your grace this day,
 So that I might not:
 Think of another,
 Speak to another or
 Touch another,
 without first looking for
 Your Face in the other.
 I ask all this through
 Jesus Christ:
 God Incarnate,
 God with Skin,
 God made Poor,
 God with a Face. Amen!

by James Pinto, Jr, MEV
www.priestsforlife.org/missionary
 1.888.735.3448



Happy Birthday, Grace!

A surprise birthday party was held for our ‘layette lady’, Grace, who turned 85 years old! Many more years, Grace!



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

Anonymous	Kara Horne	Tameia Richards
Peggy Baughman	Judy Jurutka	Tracy Rogers
Suzanne & Robert Bevan	Mary & Edward Kenny, in honor of	Brenda Sampson
Scott Boyd	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Mahoney (married 12-31-16)	Marie Savage
Jean & Frenchie Burnett	Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church	Joseph Scelzo
Cassandra & Jesse Casul	Janine Kutzy	Amber Shamp
John Cavanaugh	March Min Films	Sandy Sidman
Ana Chichester	Maria Melane	St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church
Childress Agency	Pat Mothersaid	St. Patrick Ladies Battlefield Council Auxiliary
Lorena Dailey	Madeline & George O'Reilly	St. William of York Roman Catholic Church
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Davezac	Joyce & Tom O'Toole	Susan Sullivan
Rasheed Delbary &	Pierre & Irene Payette	Mary Thorstead
Wadia Samadi	Brandi Pendleton	Tabitha Tobias
Carleen Delio	Fern Peterson	Terri Vitkovitsky
Eleanor & Kevin Donahue	Frank Petranka	Barbara & Richard Wareing
Elizabeth Dyer	Mary Rau	Sarah Webster
ECHO (Employees Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman)	Marcia Ransom for Interfaith Community Council	Jean Wiegand
Jan Erkert	Re-Run Shop	Alice & Edward Whalen
Mariel Foster		
From the Heart		
Paul Gohman		
Caitlyn Heath		

Welcome to Our 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:

Jeanne Bartoszek
Sandy Keddie
Charissa McCall
Candy O'Donnell
Lisa Shall

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



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 _____