

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

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Celebrating our 25th Anniversary!

December 3rd will mark Birthright of Burlington's 25th anniversary! When we opened in 1990 it was with much hope and vision. Many enthusiastic volunteers signed on, each eagerly giving of their talents, from business, medical and legal professionals to professional moms -- all with one goal in mind, to help distressed pregnant women give birth to their unborn babies. They paved the way for the future, and today in the summer of 2014, new volunteers, although smaller in number, are carrying on what they started. We are blessed! — but more so are the countless Moms & babies who have been helped!

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Director of Volunteers

Plan to attend for our Annual Fall Dinner and join us for the celebration!

Saturday, October 18, 2014
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Junction, VT
Guest Speaker: Dr. Joseph Nasca, pediatric physician



"Everyday Miracles" — Birthright International Convention

As a fairly new Birthright volunteer, I was thrilled to attend Birthright's International Convention in Memphis, TN in June. As soon as I walked in the first morning, I knew I was meant to be there. Last year for Christmas a good friend gave me a bracelet engraved with *"Every day holds the possibility of a miracle,"* and the theme for this year's convention was *"Everyday Miracles."*

Meeting fellow Birthright volunteers from as near as New Hampshire to as far away as Ghana, and everywhere in between, was an inspiring experience and it struck me that the work we do in our Vermont office mirrors the work going on in Birthright offices around the world.

Birthright volunteers are universally warm and welcoming — the day I arrived, I walked into a restaurant to have dinner and happened to meet Connie from New Hampshire's Seacoast office. We had dinner together, and she took me under her wing right away. From that moment on, I was connected to the New Hampshire team, a wonderfully wise group of women who were always ready to answer questions and provide encouragement; Louise and another volunteer even walked down to the water's edge with me one afternoon

so I could dip my fingers in the Mississippi River for the first time.

The most powerful experience I had during the convention was listening to presenter Steve Signaigo talk about how he adopted his son, Matthew, through divine intervention. His passion and strong faith were obvious as he recounted the events leading up to his reluctant decision to add another child to his already-large family. God works in mysterious ways, and in Steve's talk (which is available to listen to on YouTube by searching "MMOS 9 Steve") he shared his own experience of how God can intervene in our daily lives to make miracles happen.

Those daily miracles are what Birthright is all about: the miracle of a woman accepting the invitation to come into the office after a phone conversation, the miracle of unconditional love that each Birthright volunteer offers to her clients, the miracle of helping just one woman to bring her baby to birth.

I am new to Birthright, and I look forward to working with the other volunteers in our Burlington office, learning and growing together, sharing our talents and resources, and preparing for the everyday miracles to come.

- - - Eve Dubois

Mother's Day Carnations — Alice Benson



On Mother's Day weekend the weather was lovely for our carnation fund-raiser and encouraged parishioners to linger after Mass. There were many smiles, with children picking out a special flower for their mothers, and husbands taking the opportunity to present their wives with a flower.

An event like this requires many helping hands, and we are grateful to the many parish representatives who gave of their time to help, as well as the pastors who allowed us to be at their parishes.

Many thanks to Robin Robitaille and her husband who provided (and cleaned) over 30 buckets, which were almost all returned for use next year. As the new coordinator, I appreciated the collaboration with the Director, Marge, and the Treasurer, Eve Dubois. Everyone involved made this a real team effort!

Please contact me at 999 - 9344, if you would like to assist with the fundraiser next year, or if you have any ideas to share on how to continue to develop this fund-raiser. We raised over \$2500 and are already talking about how to expand next year.

Advertising and Publicity

In our ongoing efforts to raise awareness of Birthright we have taken on several projects:

- A series of ads in *Seven Days* newspaper spread throughout the year from March 2014-2015.
- Staffing a table at UVM's *Student Activities Fair* on Sept. 3; the *Gifts of the Kingdom Conference* on Sept. 20 in Burlington; the *Rock-toberfest Christian Music Concert* in Essex Junction on Oct. 11, and the *Vermont Catholic Conference* on Nov. 1 in Barre. If you will be attending any of these activities, please visit us at our table.
- A mailing to pastors of all the local churches with follow-up visits.
- A new brochure for our office, which we hope to have printed very soon.



Sharing Their Love

A special thank you with appreciation to:

♥ *St. Pius X Women's Circle, St. Pius X Parish, Essex Center and Knights of Columbus, Fr. Donald Kelly Council #10830, St. Luke's Parish, Fairfax for holding flower fund-raisers for our benefit on Mother's Day. This is an activity they have been doing for several years and for which we are most grateful.*

♥ *Ruth Charlesworth for donating a wood desk with glass top and a more comfortable desk chair for our office.*

♥ *A number of thoughtful individuals who donated items for moms and babies over the past several months.*

♥♥ *All our wonderful volunteers!!*

Volunteers Visit Lund

On July 1 and 15 Birthright volunteers paid a visit to the Lund Family Center and met with one of their staff who gave us a thorough overview of their services for pregnant and parenting women. The sessions included a tour of the facilities on Glen Road and Joy Dr. and we were able to view one of the rooms in the residence quarters, which was nicely appointed and comfortable. Lund has expanded many of its services from years past and it was good to be brought up to date on what they provide to not only their residents but to the community at large. This information was most beneficial to our volunteers and will help us to better serve our clients.

*"Only when we give joyfully,
without hesitation,
or thought of ourselves,
can we truly know what love
means."*

Leo Buscaglia