



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

289 College St., Burlington, VT 05401, 865-0056
Helpline: 1-800-550-4900, www.birthrightvt.org

Birthright International Convention, 2018

June 8-10, 2018 was very special in the history of Birthright International. Volunteers, friends and supporters of Birthright gathered in Toronto to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding by Louise Summerhill in 1968. Fifty years of serving pregnant women and their babies. A celebration of the countless number of moms and babies saved from abortion. A celebration of the thousands of volunteers over the years, all over the world, who gave of themselves to protect life, give aid, provide a shoulder to cry on, and to give love, friendship and help to women who found themselves in troublesome situations or difficult circumstances. Fifty years of loving them and their babies into life. Birthright was there for them, and still is for all those to come to Birthright for help.

Thanks to three generous donors, four representatives from Burlington were able to attend the Convention, Board Chair, Roberta Baker, Director Marge Hennessey, and volunteers Jay and Barb Miller. The presentations were all geared toward volunteer training, including how to be more effective in helping clients, improving our communications, and working well with one another. Every speaker gave insightful talks that were encouraging, jammed packed with a lot of good information and with ideas for practical applications. On-going training is essential for volunteers and this weekend gave us plenty of food for thought and action.

Throughout the weekend, photos were viewed on screens highlighting the life of Louise Summerhill, her work and her family. It was wonderful to see, especially for some of us old-timers who were privileged to have known Louise. Birthright chapters contributed to a memory book that featured a page by each chapter with photos and date chartered. It was presented as a gift to the International office.

We all agreed this year's convention thoroughly lived up to our expectations. It was definitely worth the long drive to Toronto.

Marge Hennessey, Director

They Needed Help

It's often been said that there is no "typical" Birthright client, that each person comes with their own unique situation. That's true. Some clients need only one time help, others need help over many months. And it's not always the single mother. Couples are affected as well.

I was about to lock up the office one day recently and leave for the day when the telephone rang. The woman on the other end of the line explained that she and her partner had been referred to us by the pastor of a local church. I invited them to come in. She was pregnant and, despite his having a job, they were homeless. They had stayed at various places over the past few months, were expecting to move into an apartment soon, but needed a place to stay in the interim. Unfortunately some local shelters do not provide lodging for couples. They asked if there was any way we could help.

Birthright doesn't as a rule give financial assistance but will consider doing so depending on circumstances. I took a leap of faith, went with them to a local motel and paid for one night's lodging on Birthright's dime. The pastor of the church generously paid for the remainder of a week's stay. This couple was so very grateful and could not stop thanking all of us enough.

Helping this couple reminded me of another client several years ago. She had called and said she had enough money for her rent on her apartment but not enough to meet her full security deposit. Could we help? I called our treasurer for advice. Our bank account stood at \$600 but he said to go ahead and give her the amount she needed. She was so relieved and thankful. On that very afternoon a donation arrived in the mail made out in the exact amount that we had given her. *The Lord, indeed, always provides!*

Directors

Marjorie Hennessey
Director of Volunteers
Eve Dubois, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Roberta Baker, Chair
Judy Kanya
Dr. Joseph Nasca
Rev. Marcel Rainville, SSE
Acting Secretary

Our Mission Statement

Birthright is a pregnancy support service offering positive alternatives to abortion. It is a non-profit charity that provides caring, non-judgmental help and support to women who are distressed by an unplanned or untimely pregnancy. All Birthright services are free, confidential and available to any woman regardless of age, race, creed, economic or marital status.



Our Services Include:

- ~ Free pregnancy tests
- ~ Friendship & emotional support
- ~ Maternity/infant clothes
- ~ Information on:
 - Pregnancy
 - Fetal Development

Referrals for:

- Medical/Prenatal Care
- Professional counseling
- Financial assistance
- Parenting skills
- Legal advice
- Adoption
- Education/trade skills

News & Notes

We are pleased to announce that we have received for the year 2018 a \$1400 grant from the Bishop deGoesbriand Fund for Human Advancement. This grant will allow us to continue our advertising on the city busses and maintenance of our website. We are very grateful to the Fund committee for their confidence in us and sincerely thank them for this most generous award.

We Are Moving!!

Our prayers have been answered — we have found new office space just two doors up from our current location, at 301 College St., If all goes well we will move in on Sept. 1st. Our rent will be a \$150/mo. more but the space is slightly larger. Unlike presently, we will not have kitchen facilities. We have a small fridge but a small microwave would be helpful. If you have one and not using it we would be happy to take it off your hands. Just give us a call.

Mother's Day Flowers

A sincere **Thank You!** to the following parishes and their pastors for generously supporting our annual Mother's Day Flower Fundraiser.

A special thank you with appreciation to all those who volunteered to help at each parish. . . and last but not least, to Alice Benson and Barb Miller for coordinating the fund-raiser. Due to the generosity of all, \$3843.75 was raised to benefit the work of Birthright.

God bless all of you!

Blessed Sacrament, Stowe
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington
Catholic Center at UVM, Burlington
Christ the King/St. Anthony, Burlington
Holy Family/St. Lawrence, Essex Junction
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Charlotte
Our Lady of Grace, Colchester
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Richmond
St. Catherine of Siena, Shelburne
St. Francis Xavier, Winooski
St. John Vianney, South Burlington
St. Jude, Hinesburg
St. Mark, Burlington
St. Michael the Archangel, SMC, Colchester
St. Rose of Lima/St. Joseph, S. Hero/Grand Isle
St. Stephen, Winooski

St. Pius X parish in Essex and the Knights of Columbus at St. Luke's in Fairfax held their own flower fund-raisers on Mother's Day. Their donations combined totaled \$803.66. We are very thankful for their generosity to our Birthright chapter. Bless you!

October 20, 2018

Birthright of Burlington
Annual Fall Dinner Fund-raiser
Holy Family Parish Hall,
Essex Junction
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Kathleen King,
Birthright Regional Consultant for
Massachusetts, New Hampshire &
Vermont

Invitation enclosed.

For early reservations please email us
at birthrightbvt@gmail.com or call
865-0056 (you may leave a message).

Raffle at Birthright Convention

Our chapter held a raffle during the annual convention in June. A Cuddle Buddies Teddy Bear (donated by the Vermont Teddy Bear Co.) and a Vermont Gift Basket filled with Vermont goodies were the prizes. The winner of the bear (see below) was so excited as she is expecting a new grandbaby this fall. The winner of the gift basket was Jennifer Quish of Toronto who was equally as happy! The raffle earned us \$123.00.



Diana Wallace of Burlington, Iowa,
winner of the Vermont Teddy Bear



Board Chair Bert Baker at our Raffle
Table at the Convention in June

How You, as an Individual, Can Support Birthright

Birthright needs and appreciates your financial support. There are many ways you can support our mission, and more information is available at <http://birthrightvt.org/donate/>

- * Amazon Smile—designate Champlain Valley Birthright in **Burlington, Vermont** as you charity of choice.
- * Sponsor an ad in your church bulletin/newsletter—contact our office for more information about this new way to spread the word about Birthright in your church community.
- * Help us match our deGoesbriand grant—your matching contributions will help us extend and improve our efforts to reach out to potential clients and those who might refer them.
- * PayPal—set up one-time and/or regular monthly donations through our website.
- * Visit our table at local events and make a donation in person. Upcoming events include the Vermont Pregnancy & Baby Expo on October 27 at the Hampton Inn in Colchester, and the Vermont Christian Music Rocktoberfest at Barre Auditorium on Oct. 13
- * Sign up for email delivery of our newsletter; this will help us save printing and postage costs. You can also read past newsletters on-line at <http://birthrightvt.org/news>