



*"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.birthright.org

Spring Thoughts

On March 19th we celebrated the feast day of St. Joseph. Without reserve, and for various personal reasons, he is my favorite "go to" saint. He never fails. As a quiet man Joseph went about his daily life dedicated to the role in life for which God had chosen him, to be the husband of Mary and the earthly father of Jesus. What an awesome responsibility! But he magnificently fulfilled his role as head of the Holy Family, providing and caring for their every need with humility and love. I like to think of him as the unofficial patron saint of Birthright.

My father passed away when I was a teenager. My stepmother (who my father had married after my mother passed away) remarried a widower who had no children of his own. This was after my brother, sister and I had all married and had children of our own, so he immediately became a step-father and step-grandfather. He, too, had a quiet personality but relished his new role. He was a warm and thoughtful man and all the grandchildren enjoyed being in his company. One of their favorite pastimes was scouring the nearby golf course for stray golf balls. When he passed away on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19 in 1984, I couldn't help but think that it was God's way of saying, "I approve".

Marge Hennessey



St. Joseph, through Jesus and Mary, intercede for Birthright so we may love and care for all those who call upon us for help.

A Happy Mother's Day and Happy Father's Day to All Parents

Mother's Day Flowers



Spring has arrived almost overnight! Trees are budding, the grass is getting greener and flowers are pushing their way up out of the ground. Spring is here!

Spring ushers in for Birthright our annual Mother's Day Flower Fund-raiser. Volunteers Mary Niekrewicz and Alice Benson have been busy over the past few months organizing and preparing for this annual event, which is a major fund-raiser for the year. As in the past we will have a beautiful variety of carnations available at 20 churches in the area. Volunteers at all the churches are needed to help distribute the flowers and collect donations. If you are willing to help, please call Mary at 878-5538 or our Birthright office at 865-0056 (you may leave a message).

We look forward to seeing many of you on Mother's Day Weekend!

Birthright International Convention 2016

"Journey of Hope" was the theme of Birthright International's Convention held in Newark NJ in June 2016. It's always good to come together with other Birthright volunteers to share ideas, learn from each other, and increase our knowledge so that we can better serve the needs of our clients.

Birthright Co-President Louise Summerhill summarized the journey of both the volunteer and client: *"The ethics of the 20th century won't help us to survive the 21st century, unless we have hope. Hope in folks like those who worked in the boat lift after 9/11—hearing the pilot of one of the boats say, "I never want to live my life saying 'I should have'"*.

I don't think that there is a Birthright volunteer anywhere who will say 'I should have' helped more because the epitome of Birthright volunteers is a willingness to be there, to 'do something', by just 'being present' . . . to be empathic listeners. Journeys are about accepting things we don't always understand; embracing things that are different and may challenge us; understanding that diversity is to be embraced and miracles can and do happen.

It is hard to have hope; hard for us and hard for the women we work with but there is no doubt that when we work with the women who come to us, we are able to resolve moral dilemmas, we are able to support moral courage and ethical behavior.

That is the journey of hope and the journey to hope. Every day in your offices you embark on journeys of hope which are journeys to hope. Your willingness to live a life where you don't regret what you 'should' have done saves lives, of the women we serve, and their babies. So thank you for being willing to walk the journey, for having hope, for being a part of the journey of hope that Birthright is." And we in Burlington, in turn, thank Louise tremendously for her wonderful words of encouragement.

Directors

Marjorie Hennessey
Director of Volunteers
Eve Dubois, Treasurer

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Roberta Baker, Chair
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Dr. Joseph Nasca
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Our Mission Statement

Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering a positive alternative 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 clothing
- ~ Information on:
 - Pregnancy
 - Fetal Development

Referrals for:

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

Advertising and Publicity

As you may recall from our previous newsletter, we have undertaken various means of advertising to increase our presence in our community and surrounding areas. Our video, which we worked on extensively last fall, can now be viewed on YouTube and our website, www.birthrightvt.org. We invite you to view it and give us your feedback. It soon will be added to our landing page on Birthright International’s website and our Facebook page. During the winter we advertised in several issues of the Vermont Cynic, UVM’s student newspaper (*see at right, 4”x7.5” actual size*), and posters on ten city busses (*see below, 11”x17” actual size*). In addition, we purchased ads on Facebook to run for six months and plan to renew in June.

In March volunteers Jay and Barb Miller were interviewed for the Lifelines show on the Lake Champlain Access Television channel. They enjoyed discussing shared how and why they got involved with Birthright, their training and how Birthright supports women dealing with unexpected pregnancies. They gave an overview of Birthright from each of their individual perspectives. The Lifelines program finished with the showing of our video. They commented, *“All in all it was a pleasant, low stress experience that we would not hesitate to repeat.”* To view, go to LCATV, Lifelines (Search), Episode #78.

We are most grateful for our generous financial supporters, whether you contribute every month, once a year, or anywhere in between, by check or automatic withdrawal, or through the AmazonSmile program — every donation helps us continue our important work. Your financial support ensures that we can meet our basic ongoing expenses — from postage & mailings to renting our office space and our special welcoming space for meeting with clients and volunteer training, as well as maintaining our new website aimed at reaching out to clients in new ways and keeping our office phone available for incoming calls — to always be ready to serve when someone needs our help.

The word is getting out about Birthright thanks to your support. Watch for our ads coming soon in the Burlington Free Press; we are working hard to increase our presence in all aspects of our community so that no matter how an unplanned pregnancy might touch someone’s life, s/he will know that Birthright of Burlington is here to help.

We are so grateful for the Bishop deGoesbriand grant we received last year that enabled us to step up our outreach efforts, and we are pleased to announce that we have been blessed again! Since there are, to some extent, matching funds, we are appealing to you, our donors, to consider making a special contribution to support our continued outreach efforts. To support these efforts with a monetary donation, please be sure to write “Outreach” on the memo line of your check.

Other ways you can help are to share information about Birthright with your family and friends, and inviting us to speak at your church or organization, thereby helping us build our network and extend our reach. Trusted family members and friends are some of the first people that a woman will consult if she thinks she might be pregnant, so the more people who know about Birthright, the more likely it is that they will receive the love and help they need.

Pregnancy...

It's not always timely or planned.



Help • Hope • Support



24/7 Helpline 800-550-4900
birthright.org/burlingtonvt
289 College Street, Burlington
802-865-0056

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Birthright
Help Hope Support
865.0056 - 800.550.4900

birthright.org/burlingtonvt

Please pray for the repose of the souls of former volunteers
Mary Ellen Thornton and Teresa Swan

