



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

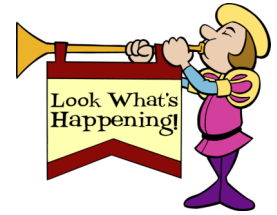
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Helpline: 1-800-550-4900, [www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org)

## News and Notes

We have wonderful news! In January we applied for a grant from the Bishop deGoesbriand Appeal for Human Advancement and subsequently was awarded \$3000 to assist us in our outreach program. This was so very welcomed as we have been wanting to increase our presence through various media. We are currently working to produce a video that can be placed on our chapter page at Birthright International's website and on YouTube. Samantha, a UVM junior and theatre major has generously volunteered to help us in the production. Other plans in the works are print and on-line advertising on social media sites. We feel this is so important to reach the pregnant women who could benefit from the services of Birthright, whether they are teenagers or in their 40's. We want them to know we are here for them. We are grateful and so thankful for this grant to help us to achieve our goals.

Thanks to the generosity of two of our volunteers, Barb & Jay Miller and Bert Baker and myself were able to attend Birthright's International Convention in Newark, NJ in June. We all benefited from the presentations and the comradery of other volunteers. After returning home, and with our grant for outreach in mind, I decided to write to all the chapters in the U.S. and Canada to ask if they would be willing to share their success stories (even failures) with advertising and outreach. Oh, my gosh, what a response we received!! From Long Island to California, from Georgia to Idaho, from Ontario to British Columbia! Everyone was so generous in sharing information and ideas, some in great detail and "how-to" tips. As one Director in Maryland told us (referring to their materials) *"You are welcome to use anything you see. I am a strong believer that we should not reinvent the wheel for each center. You and I certainly won't be competing for clients. You are our sister center and we are happy to share with you."* Birthright chapters and volunteers — you're the best!!

Marge Hennessey, Director



## Why I Volunteer at Birthright — By Jay Miller

Last October I attended the Annual Birthright Fall Dinner. All I knew about Birthright was that it was a pro-life pregnancy service where my wife, Barb, had recently begun volunteering. I accompanied my wife to the dinner and saw many people that I knew and many more that I did not know. I enjoyed a pleasant meal prepared and served by volunteers and listened to interesting speakers. All in all a pleasant evening but, one thing bothered me. As I told Barb on the way home, *"I spent an entire evening hearing about pregnant women and babies, and during the entire evening one word was not mentioned; that word was 'father'."*

I became a volunteer at Birthright not because of what I thought I may be able to offer but to fill what I perceived as an obvious gap in services. As the father of eleven children I know that in a pregnancy there has to be a father. So, what about the fathers of the children (babies) of the women coming to Birthright? Were they involved, did they care, did anyone care? The father simply was not mentioned.

I am a son, brother, uncle, husband, father and grandfather. I have a Masters Degree in Social Work. I am a career U.S. Marine. I have worked as a Client Services Specialist, supervisor, manager, instructor and administrator. I thought that by volunteering with these experiences, I could help provide the same services to the men involved as are provided to the women.

As I became involved in the training for volunteers I learned more about Birthright and men. Counseling training had scenarios dealing with men. At the International Convention in June I saw and exchanged ideas with the other men present. One of the presentations even pointed out what was called a surprising statistic; that approximately 48% of the women surveyed spoke first to the father of the baby. I was given a CD of the 2007 International Convention at which one segment was devoted to "Men in Birthright." I heard many good reasons to volunteer. Many rewarding experiences were recounted. How to treat clients non-judgmentally and with compassion was addressed well.

I have learned a lot in the intervening months. Yes, I have been a strong back to move stuff around. Barb and I are updating the Office Procedures and Referral Manual and I look forward to completing training and manning a shift in the office with her. I hope to bring a male perspective to the staff, the clients, and hopefully more male volunteers.

### Volunteer Opportunity

If you have social media skills and experience, familiar with Facebook, etc., you could be the perfect volunteer to help us reach clients through these valuable online media. It's so important to reach them where they are! Please contact Marge Hennessey by phone or email [birthrightbvt@gmail.com](mailto:birthrightbvt@gmail.com)

### Thoughts from a former

**Volunteer:** *"As someone who has faced the difficulties of an unplanned pregnancy, I know the emotional strife that it can cause. An unexpected pregnancy changes everything in a woman's life. Birthright is a place where women who are on the cusp of making a life changing decision can come to talk and to feel that they really do have a choice. There are so many ways that each of us can lend a hand so that no woman feels that her only option is to end her baby's life. Birthright needs your help to show mothers that they are loved and respected and valued people in our society; so valued, that we are willing to give them a bit of our precious time. Become a Birthright volunteer and start planting the seeds of change today." .... Becky*



To Barb and Jay Miller for donating a loveseat and two floor lamps for our new conference room. Things are coming together quite nicely!

For donations to our raffle at Birthright's International Convention: Barb Miller for the beautiful knitted baby blanket; for our Vermont Gift basket: Couture's Sugarhouse, maple syrup; A & N Stoneworks, Inc., the lovely marble coasters; our volunteers for the maple salad dressing, maple lollipops, cookbook, and Bennington Potters mug. The raffle was quite popular and earned us \$161.00. *You generosity helped make it a success! Bless you!*

# Save the Date -- October 22, 2016

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

Guest Speaker:  
Meg Downey, Executive Director  
New Generation Shelter, Greenland, NH  
Menu: Italian Pasta & Meatballs  
(gluten-free will be available)  
Homemade desserts

Invitation enclosed. To make your reservation early, call 865-0056 (you may leave a message) or email us at [birthrightbvt@gmail.com](mailto:birthrightbvt@gmail.com)



**Directors**  
Marjorie Hennessey  
Director of Volunteers  
Eve Dubois, Treasurer

**Board of Directors**  
Roberta Baker, Chair  
Mary McNamara, Secretary  
Alice Benson  
Dr. Joseph Nasca  
Rev. Marcel Rainville, SSE

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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

### 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 church. Thanks to the efforts of all, \$4379.87 was raised to benefit the work of Birthright. God bless all of you

- Blessed Sacrament, Stowe*
- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception & 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. Luke, Fairfax*
- St. Mark, Burlington*
- St. Michael the Archangel, SMC, Colchester*
- St. Peter, Vergennes*
- St. Rose of Lima/St. Joseph, S. Hero/Grand Isle*
- St. Stephen, Winooski*

### Our Wish List

**Painter** Our main office could use a good paint job. The room is approximately 11'X16' with three doors, one window & bookshelves. We already have



the paint, we just need a generous person willing to apply it to the walls. Could that be you? If so, become a volunteer for a day! It would be so much appreciated.

**File Cabinet** A locking two or three door lateral filing cabinet in beige. If you have one you're not using, we would be glad to take it off your hands. Please give us a call.

**Clothes Closet** Our supply of infant nightgowns and diapers in size 4 and 5 has been depleted. Donations of these items are welcomed anytime.

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