



*"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

Happy 50th Anniversary Birthright International!

2018 will mark a milestone in the history of Birthright International, the 50th anniversary of its founding! Birthright was the inspiration of Louise Summerhill who gathered together friends and opened the first office in Toronto, Canada in October of 1968. Louise knew what it was like to experience an unexpected pregnancy. Six years earlier, after her last child entered school, when she thought she was free to pursue all the things she had always wanted and dreamed about doing but had put off, she was surprised to discover she was again pregnant, at the age of 45! At age 46 she welcomed her twin daughters into the world.

In 1968 all signs were pointing in the direction that abortion might soon be legal in Canada. The idea of a service to help distraught pregnant women began to form in the heart and mind of Louise. She was a woman of strong religious faith and believed that God was calling her to do something to help alleviate the fears women often experience when faced with an unexpected pregnancy, even to the point of considering abortion.

Louise believed that no woman wants to have an abortion but will if she can find no other answers. It was this belief, and her conviction that what a woman truly needs to overcome her difficulties is for someone to take the time to listen to her, accept her with love and help her find positive answers through caring practical help. This help extends to expectant dads as well.

Louise dedicated the rest of her life to the mission of Birthright. She passed away in 1991. And her twin daughters? They are now the co-presidents of Birthright International.

Birthright of Burlington is one of over 240 chapters throughout the United States, Canada and Africa. We are proud to be a member of this auspicious organization. Congratulations Birthright International on your 50th Anniversary!

"The essence of the Birthright service is love. We should not underestimate the power of love. True compassion recognizes no boundaries nor lays down any conditions"

Louise Summerhill

Remembering Mary McNamara

Mary McNamara was called home to live in the presence of Our Lord on December 16, 2017.

Mary served Birthright faithfully as a member of our Board of Directors from 2009 through 2016, when she resigned due to ill health. Long before 2009 she always made herself available for consultation through her position as a social worker at Vermont Catholic Charities, retiring as their Executive Director in 2008.

Mary was a staunch supporter of Birthright and was always willing to give of her time, whether to be consulted about a client, provide training for our volunteers or adding sound advice at our Board meetings. And who can forget the times she emceed our dinners! She had a keen Irish wit that will long be remembered.

Mary, we love you and miss you. Rest in God's Peace.



We Invite you to attend our Open House

- Tour our space.
- Meet our volunteers.
- Learn about our mission and services for pregnant women.

Saturday, April 7, 2018
12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

289 College St., 2nd Floor
Burlington VT

Parking in rear.

Please use front entrance.

Bring a friend!

Refreshments will be served





God's Blessings for a Happy and Joyful Easter Season!

Annual Mother's Day Flower Fundraiser

Preparations are well underway for our annual Mother's Day Flower Fund-raiser to be held on May 13th. Coordinators Alice Benson and Barb Miller are busily at work organizing and contacting churches and parish representatives. We will be purchasing our flowers from a new supplier this year and are expecting better quality and variety.



We very much appreciate the generous support of the pastors and parishioners of each participating church who help make this a successful fund-raiser each year. Church representatives will need the help of fellow parishioners to help distribute the flowers. Please contact us if you can help by calling call us at 865-0056. You may leave a message. Or email us at birthrightbvt@gmail.com. Thanks!

A Very Happy Mother's Day to All!

Birthright Speakers

Did you know that Birthright has volunteers available to come speak to your group (congregation, association, etc.)?

You can help get our message out by inviting our speakers to your group function. They will give an overview of our program, location and services. There will be literature available and the speakers will answer any questions you may have. Our volunteers have presented at churches, on television & radio.

Please keep in mind that in line with our charter we "remain absolutely and completely separate from all lobbying groups, and from activities affecting abortion legislation." By not being involved in the abortion controversy we are able to concentrate on providing nonjudgmental love, hope and support to every pregnant woman or couple who requests it.

Let us present Birthright to you!

OFFICE SPACE NEEDED!

To all our Faithful and Loyal Supporters,

The building at 289 College Street where we are now renting our office space was recently sold for the second time in two years.

The new owner informed us in February that he will need the entire building for his business and, therefore, all tenants now renting will need to move. He gave us ample notice (which is good); we have until the end of December to find another place but hopefully we can move before the winter sets in.

We are very disappointed as you can imagine as we have rented this space for over twenty years and it is in a good location, close to downtown and both UVM and Champlain College. The building was originally a private home built in the mid-1800's. It has Victorian charm and our rooms, one with a beautiful marble fireplace, afford a welcoming and calm atmosphere for our clients.

We currently pay \$600/month for both rooms; one has a large closet that we use to store clothing. Amenities included in the rent are use of a kitchen, restrooms, and trash disposal for all tenants. A photocopier is available and copies are added to our bill when used. We would like to stay near the college campuses if possible and it's important to be on a bus line.

With all this in mind, we are hopeful that the Good Lord will answer our prayers. Who knows, this may be the beginning of something even better. If there is anything about Birthright, it is that we are hopeful.

So, we are asking for your help. If you know or hear of an available place, something with at least two rooms plus a third for our clothing and supplies, and a private rest room (if possible) we are asking that you please let us know. Thank you!

Please keep in your prayers a special client couple and their baby that all will work out for them. Thank you

Directors

Marjorie Hennessey
Director of Volunteers
Eve Dubois, Treasurer

Board of Directors

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

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