



Christmas in the year of our Lord 2019

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ... Luke 2:14

Reflecting on the Year 2019, we rejoice and give thanks for all the blessings we have received. During the Christmas season, especially, we are mindful of our work in Birthright. When a woman walks through our door or calls on the phone, we never know what challenges will be presented to us, but with faith and trust in God we will be here for them in their time of need.

This calls to mind a young married couple who came to us several months ago. She was pregnant, they were temporarily homeless and living in their car, and the weather was not favorable. Could we help them find a place to stay for just a few days until their apartment was ready? Because they wanted to stay together, staying at one of the local shelters was not an option. After making a few calls we were able to find suitable accommodations for them.

A few weeks later we received a lovely card from them in the mail. On the cover: *"Kindness is Rare and Beautiful"* and inside, *"Thank you for yours."* They added a handwritten note, *"We came to you for help at the very end of your day and you welcomed us with open determination to help us in a most great time of need. We are happy as clams in our new apartment. Thank you for your compassion and assistance, and as always, I'll be sure to pass it forward."* *"Sherry & Joe"* (names were changed to protect privacy)

We don't always hear from those we have helped, but when we do it really warms our hearts.

Our dedicated volunteers, Board members, loyal donors and supporters give unselfishly of their time, talents and resources to make Birthright available to those who come to us for help. A simple "thank you" just does not seem adequate, but it is wholeheartedly given. Your care and concern for distressed women and their babies is the motivation that keeps Birthright's spirit alive!

Reflections from Birthright International

"Louise Summerhill often said, 'If we only helped one woman, it would be all worthwhile.'"

Birthright has never been concerned with numbers. All that matters is the 'one' distressed pregnant woman or girl sitting before us, needing our help and our love. One by one Birthright helps each pregnant woman or girl choose life for her baby. If each Birthright centre only helped one girl to give life to her baby each year over the past 50 years, we are looking at 15,000 babies who owe their life to Birthright and 15,000 mothers who received the help needed to give them life. That is an extremely conservative figure; we know we have done far better than that. Together, we make a difference, One by One."

Seasonal Reflections from Birthright U.S.A.

"The essence of Birthright is love! That is the great gift that every one of us at Birthright, no matter what role we play, brings to the pregnant woman or girl coming to us for help. Every day the gift of love is given freely and abundantly to those who come to Birthright. That gift ensures the young woman or girl that she will not be alone; it assures her there is hope.

Love is the greatest gift we can be given and it is the real gift of Christmas. During this holiday season, as our hearts are filled with remembrance and gratitude, I hope you and your families experience Christmas' greatest gift and may you have many blessings in 2020."

Brittney Mellema
Birthright U.S.A. National Director



*Our very best wishes to you for a
Joyful Christmas Season and Happy New Year!*

Birthright of Burlington