

Birthright OF PITTSBURGH, Inc.

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Winter 2010

A message from the new board president

By *Teresa Silvestri*, Birthright of Pittsburgh Board President

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Dear friends,

We have a new location... due to an office flood on June 17, 2009, Birthright was forced to move. We lost office furniture and many supplies. With God's providence, we remain conveniently relocated and continue the work of His hands to bring babies into this world by providing alternatives to abortion with free services and truly dedicated volunteers.

You are welcome to visit us!



Teresa Silvestri

Happy New Year 2010! As we begin this year, I look at the many blessings that we have been given. Here at Birthright, we are blessed with a strong group of volunteers committed to their work and giving of their time; we have generous donors, so important to fulfilling the work that is done; we have a beautiful new office space, which is comfortable and welcoming; and a talented executive director that leads us as we strive to carry-out Louise Summerhill's dream for Birthright.

In our area, like many others, there are so many pregnant women that feel alone and desperate. We need to make it known to them that they are not alone, that Birthright is here for them and their babies; and to acknowledge that "It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born."

As the new Birthright board president, I recognize the many blessings that we have and ask all of you reading this newsletter to do the same. I also charge you all to make 2010 the year that you become more involved in Birthright! Even the simplest act of talking about Birthright will help to spread awareness and possibly direct someone to us in need of our help. You can also get involved by: holding a Red Rose Day at your church, hosting an event to benefit Birthright, volunteering your time, getting involved in the Walk-a-Thon, hosting a baby shower or a variety of ways to help Birthright help pregnant women. Let's make 2010 the year we focus on offering pregnant women practical and emotional alternatives to abortion!

Many more blessings in 2010!
Teresa Silvestri
Board President

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Birthright welcomes **Casey McDonald** and **Shawnee Livingston**! We are so pleased to have your support for the pro-life mission.

"How can we be surprised by the indifference shown towards situations of human degradation, when such indifference extends even to our attitude towards what is and is not human?"

- Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Truth in Love").

The Impact of Birthright: A Unique Story

By *Henny Adorante, Birthright Volunteer*



Henny Adorante

Since I have retired, the extent of my travel is by ship. I enjoy the comfort and amenities within, especially meeting lovely people from every walk of life. On my last cruise this past December, I had a unique encounter that touched the deepest depth of my soul.

When I travel, the first items that go in my carry-on are gym clothes and a bathing suit. Coincidentally, I packed

the t-shirt from Birthright. On the second morning at the gym, the seat of the machine I wanted to use was way down and I was unable to raise it. Directly across from me a gentleman was lifting heavy weights. I waited for a few minutes until he rested and timidly I asked for his help. He was more courteous than I expected. When I left, I thanked him again and wished him a good day. The following morning we met at the drinking fountain. After exchanging pleasantries he hesitantly asked me, "I noticed your shirt the other morning. What does Birthright stand for?" I told him all about what we do and that I was a volunteer for 14 years. The following is his

story.

"How nice of you to do that. I had a girlfriend once that from the beginning told me she never wanted children. We became quite close over the years. She became pregnant and told me she was having an abortion and that our relationship was over. I pleaded and begged her to carry the pregnancy and that I would be responsible for all the expenses and raise my child. She would not hear about it and gave me the good-bye. Since then I have not looked at another woman." I was so astounded to hear his painful story that I was lost for words. I just fumbled, "I am sorry."

My schedule at the spa changed, so I went to the gym later than usual. On the day before we landed I went to retrieve my bathing suit in the locker room and met the gentleman in the hallway. Before I greeted him he said, "I am so glad to see you. I have been carrying this in my pocket since that day." He handed me a sealed envelope. "This is for Birthright." I thanked him. When I came home I called Paula, our director, and related the above story to her. She suggested that I open the envelope. I did. Inside on the ship's stationery was a note, "In memory of my baby," signed, "William" and a wrinkled \$100 bill.

Birthright Informative Reception

Birthright hosted a lovely reception last November at Synod Hall, next to St. Paul Cathedral. Volunteers, board and the executive director socialized with those interested in learning about us and volunteering.



RED ROSE DAY PARISH COLLECTIONS-2009



All Saints Parish
Good Shepherd Parish
Holy Spirit Parish
North American Martyrs Parish
Our Lady of the Angels Parish
Sacred Heart Parish, Shadyside
St. Angela Merici Parish
St. Basil Parish

St. Bernard Parish
St. Catherine of Sweden Parish
St. Francis of Assisi Parish,
Finleyville
St. John Vianney Parish
St. Malachy Parish
St. Margaret of Scotland Parish
St. Michael Parish, Avella

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish
St. Scholastica Parish
Sts. Simon and Jude Parish
St. Susanna Parish
St. Thomas More Parish
The Oratory
Transfiguration Parish

If your parish is interested in holding a Red Rose Day to help Birthright- it's easy! Call the Birthright office at: 412-621-1988 and Helen McNally, Red Rose Day coordinator, will provide information to you. We sincerely thank and appreciate the efforts of pastors, coordinators, volunteers and parishioners for supporting us.

Gifts to Birthright in 2009

Henny Adorante
 Anonymous donation
 Anonymous donation
 Anonymous donation
 Appeal letter donors
 Aquinas Academy-Infant clothing, diapers, baby items, blankets & donation
 Malgorzata Bujak
 Gail Campbell-diapers & donation
 Bishop Canevin High School-Infant clothing, diapers & baby items
 Susan and Nelson Caro
 Anne Dailey
 Helen DeCesare-infant clothing
 Diane Dip
 William Dixon, Esquire
 Mary Ellen Dougall
 Virginia Elmendorf
 William Feczko
 Thomas Fowler
 Louis Gaffney
 Sandra Gentilcore
 Nancy Gimbel
 Brian Hegarty
 Paul Hoffmann
 Holy Angels Parish-flood donation;
 Christian Mothers-Preemie clothing, knit hats & blankets
 Holy Spirit Parish- infant clothing, baby items, blankets & donation
 Rose Klatt
 Knights of Columbus , Bellevue- Donation
 Suzanne Koble
 Randal and Lisa Koslosky
 Marilyn Long
 Stephen Lowery, Jr.
 Father Joseph Luisi
 James and Angela Maher
 Mary Anne Mansell-handmade baby quilts

Kathleen Martino
 John McCarthy, Jr.
 Joseph and Diane McNally
 Steven Moran
 Trisha Murphy-infant clothing
 Evelyn Murrin
 Gerard and Suzanne Muth
 Robert and Joan Newman
 North American Martyrs Parish- Stitching Angels- Handmade preemie & infant clothing, hats, blankets and baby items
 Our Lady of the Angels Parish-donation
 John and Betty Phillips
 Patricia Priselac
 Kathleen Radzevick
 Catherine Ryan
 Sacred Heart Parish, Shadyside- Epiphany party gifts of infant clothing
 St. Angela Merici Parish, Junior Ladies of Charity- handmade baby blankets
 St. Athanasius Parish-donation
 St. Columbkille Parish-donation
 St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish- Nativity scenes donation
 St. Joseph Parish, Cabot-St. Crispin Fund donation
 St. Scholastica-Infant clothing
 Ann Scanlon
 Mary Catherine Scanlon
 Colette Schreiber
 Andrea Seewald, Care Registry-donation
 Arleen Smigielski
 Roger and Linda Smith
 Paul Stamatakis
 Wendy Taylor and Daniel McNulty
 The Sienna Group- employees' donation
 Dolores Vojta
 Jeanne Worgul
 Lance Yoezle
 Christine Yost

2009 Contributions to Birthright "In Memory Of"

James B. Schmitt- "In memory of wife, Mary Theresa Schmitt."
Andrea Seewald- "In honor of Jim and Rita Cunningham's 62nd wedding anniversary"
Anonymous mother- Birthright of Anchorage , Alaska helped her 27 years ago.
Antoinette Jester- "In memory of Doris Zimmick"
William- In memory of his child lost to abortion.

Breastfeeding Presentation

Mary Ufnar R.N., provides presentation on breastfeeding at a volunteer meeting.



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Newly Elected Birthright Board Members

We are pleased to announce new members of the 2009-2010 Birthright Board of Directors:

Teresa Silvestri, president
Robert Kesicki, treasurer
Catherine Pavlik, secretary
Sr. Joan Murray, church relations
Henny Adorante, fundraiser
Nancy Sullivan, volunteer recruitment

Paula A. Smith, executive director

Openings: vice president and community relations. We welcome your interest in becoming a member.

Contact Teresa at: **304-670-3246.**

Check it out!

Birthright's newsletter is now available online on our web site at: www.birthrightpittsburgh.org. Please call: 412-621-1988 to have the newsletter e-mailed to you.



**UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTOR CHOICE
NUMBER: 224**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO DESIGNATE BIRTHRIGHT OF PITTSBURGH AT YOUR OFFICE OR WORK PLACE. WE GREATLY NEED AND APPRECIATE YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

Birthright OF PITTSBURGH, Inc.

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www.birthrightpittsburgh.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Birthright needs your prayers, assistance and financial support. We are interdenominational, nonprofit and nonpolitical. Dedicated volunteers help girls and women encountering unexpected pregnancies.

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

Louise Summerhill
-Founder of Birthright-

This newsletter is a free quarterly publication.
Call **412 621-1988** to be placed on the mailing list.
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