Birthright of Pittsburgh, Inc.

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“It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born.”
– Louise Summerhill, founder, Birthright International (1968)

Rock a bye baby on the tree top,
When the wind blows the cradle will rock.
If the bough breaks, the cradle will fall
And down will come baby – cradle and all.

The words first appeared in print in *Mother Goose's Melody* (London, c. 1765),
possibly published by John Newbery (1713–1767).

**The Birthright Tree of Life**

Most of us are familiar with the words of this lullaby that reminds us of the vulnerability of a baby dependent on how we care for them. A long time ago some mothers trusted the strength of tree boughs to hold the cradle, wind to gently rock it and soft breezes to caress the baby.

But today there are more imminent threats to babies and sometimes mothers need help to bring a pregnancy to term and ensure the branches of support for her and her baby are strong.

At Birthright, we are the compassionate hearts and hands surrounding girls and women with unexpected pregnancies to keep their baby protected inside their womb from situations that threaten their lives. We are there throughout the nine months of pregnancy and beyond, if needed. Birthright volunteers are the guiding “angels” that assure a frightened mother she can have her baby with dignity and without fear because we will be there with her.
Pro-life students prepare to help moms and babies!

Training day for (L-R): Chidera Mgbudem, Onyinyechi Ikwuegbu and Xingru Chen (Esther). All three signed up for Birthright at the University of Pittsburgh Volunteer Fair in September.

Paula Smith, executive director, provides training sessions.

Will you serve?

Someone once said “There’s no next time. It’s now or never.” Did you know, since 1973, there have been more than 55 million abortions in the United States?

Birthright is seeking prolife board members. Serving with others committed to life in an established organization is an authentic way to use your voice as an advocate to protect innocent unborn babies who cannot speak to protect themselves. No prior board experience needed.

Open positions are: treasurer, community relations, recruitment and fundraising. You must be 18 to serve. One-year terms are available. Please call: 412-621-1988 for more information.
BirthrightBoard - Vice President

A. James Hite

Birthright is honored to introduce A. James Hite as he begins to serve as vice president for the Birthright Board of Directors for the term of 2016-2017. James holds a bachelor’s degree in marine engineering systems from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. He is a former Lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve and is vice president of Combustion Service & Equipment Company in Pittsburgh.

He and his wife, Jennifer, are the parents of six children, all of whom attend Aquinas Academy in Gibsonia, where he serves on the board of directors.

James has participated many times in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., starting from childhood with his family. His children also participate in the March for Life. His home parish is St. Richard in Gibsonia.

Red Rose Day Parishes July to October 2016

St. Catherine of Sweden Church
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Finleyville
St. Malachy Church
St. Paul Cathedral
St. Thomas More Church

An unborn child at 20 weeks gestation “is fully capable of experiencing pain... Without question, [abortion] is a dreadfully painful experience for any infant subjected to such a surgical procedure.” – Robert J. White, MD., Ph.D. professor of neurosurgery, Case Western Reserve University (National Right to Life)
BLESSINGS FOR BIRTHRIGHT BABIES

Anonymous
Pat Bennett
Steven and Jenifer Bublak
Susan and Nelson Caro
Charity Mobile
William B. Dixon, Esq.
Mary Ellen Dougall
Theresa Gery
Gregory and Theresa Haas
M.J. Hartley
Paula Hiteshew
Margaret Homer
Richard and Wanda Hughes
Just Give
John Karg
Joseph Kirlin
Joseph and Olga Kocon
Richard and Lynda MacMurchy
Mary Anne Mansell
Robert and Joan Newman
Lynne Nigro
J.O. Pancoast
Pauline Parker
Tiffany Parks
Pam Peles
Betty and John Philips
Lillian Rausch
Alice Regan
Anna Marie Roche
Cecily Routman
St. John Vianney, Ladies of Charity
St. Sebastian-respect life committee
St. Regis Church
Patricia and Paul Starsnic
Barbara Swindell
Evelyn Troyan
Truist
Thomas J. Usher
Word of God Church, Ladies of Charity
Pamela Yoezle

Donation
Blankets, towels, baby clothes
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Quilt, socks, bib & sweatshirt
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Donation
Diapers, wipes, oils, hooded towel
Blankets, diapers, baby clothes
Donation
Donation
Pledge
Donation
Donation

Ask your employer to sign you up for Birthright Contributor Choice #224
Before college, I never attended many pro-life events. Although I knew where I stood on the issue, there never seemed to be an appropriate outlet to serve in the way that I wanted. When I first came to the University of Pittsburgh two years ago, I learned about Birthright through the pro-life club on campus, and very soon became interested in volunteering. I loved Birthright’s mission because it placed importance not only on the child but the mother as well. All too often I’ve found, when in discussion with pro-choice people, that general opinion says you need to choose: is it the mother or the baby? Birthright is one of the only organizations I’ve encountered where the motto “We love them both” could not be truer.

When looking for a pro-life organization to work with, I knew I wanted to have the ability to give to people who needed my help. Every girl or woman who calls Birthright needs help, whether it’s advice or a package of diapers, they seek us out. Being able to comfort someone I don’t know, or may never meet, is a different experience than any other I will ever know.

I won’t say that volunteering at Birthright is always easy, because it’s not. As a twenty-year-old college student who’s never been pregnant, it’s hard for me to try to understand the feelings of someone who finds herself in that situation. Additionally, a lot of the clients who come to Birthright are older than me, so it’s easy to become nervous or self-conscious when talking to them. Ultimately, I have to remind myself that the woman is calling because she needs me and I am answering because I want to help her.

As a Birthright volunteer, I know I’m always making a difference, whether it’s the little things like putting together a layette or the big things like comforting a woman who is distressed. At Birthright we don’t often see the fruits of our labor. While a pregnancy only lasts nine months, there is no telling the impact that Birthright can have on one woman and her child’s life. Whenever a new mother brings her baby to the office, I am reminded of what amazing work Birthright does as I look into her child’s smiling eyes. I am happy to have helped this woman and her baby and I am proud to be a Birthright volunteer.

Grace is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh studying writing and psychology. She is from Virginia.

“Enjoy the little things in life for one day you will look back and realize they were the big things.” - Anonymous
Birthright is doubly blessed by the many years of dedication, support and involvement of Nancy and Ed Sullivan. Nancy has cheerfully served Birthright since the early 1970s, as a young mother of four, holding positions from volunteer to director to board member. Ed gives long hours of his time and leadership as a coordinator for the parish Red Rose Day, our most important fundraiser. He makes arrangements with pastors, conducts advertising, organizes volunteer support, offers a basket at church doors, oversees collections at every service and provides overall management.