

# Birthright of Pittsburgh, Inc.

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*The city's first pregnancy support center since 1971*

“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)

## When dreams become reality

It was John Lennon who said, “A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.” At Birthright, reality is volunteers helping pregnant women to have their babies with compassion, dignity and support. Meet our newest volunteers. Three are bilingual and serve as interpreters for Spanish-speaking Birthright clients.



“My name is **Fabiana Arias**. I am a first year graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh. I am originally from Venezuela and I moved to Pittsburgh eight months ago. I grew up in a big family. My mom has six siblings and she is the youngest one. My grandma has no high school degree or my grandpa, and they are my perfect example of how it is possible to form such a lovely family with so little resources. Sure, they struggled at the beginning, but they gave us the most beautiful example: Life and Love are all that matters.”



**Megan Cala** is a Pittsburgh native and finishing up her first year of graduate school in chemical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. She has always been an advocate of the pro-life movement because of her belief that every life begins at the moment of conception. Growing up, she remembers hearing her grandmother talk about her positive experience volunteering at Birthright of Johnstown. When she learned about Birthright of Pittsburgh, she was anxious to get involved.



“My name is **Meaghan Maydick** and I am a “soon-to-be graduating nursing student” at the University of Pittsburgh. I became interested in volunteering with Birthright when I worked with a similar population for a clinical for nursing school. I love working with this population. I am pro-life because I believe every baby has the right to grow up to do something great.” Meaghan studied abroad this past summer and worked in a UPMC hospital in Palermo, Sicily. Her photo was taken in Cefalu, Sicily. “It was an amazing experience and I was so lucky to have been able to do it!” she said.



Numbers are up! We're working with more mothers.



**Gianfranco Rodriguez** was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Venezuela. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and attends graduate school there. "I grew up with a beautiful family which taught me to be amazed with the miracle of life that begins at conception. Volunteering with Birthright provides me with the opportunity of sharing with others the happiness and the certainty that life is the biggest gift that God gives us."



"My name is **Gabriela Vasquez**. I am from a beautiful country called Guatemala in Central America. I am married and have two children. I graduated from college in Guatemala with a business administration degree and earned a master's degree in business administration. When I became a mother, I decided to place my professional career on hold and embrace motherhood. I never imagined that I would reside one year in Costa Rica and then move to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I like to volunteer with Birthright because I believe in their amazing cause for life."

*In Loving Memory*



**Eileen Kelleher** from Mary Ann Kelleher.

**Patrick Murphy** from Ginny Channell, Virginia Channell, Starlett Gambrell, Michele and Edward Kavanagh, Barbara & Joseph Lowrie, and Kenneth Morgan.



“My name is **Stephanie Vereb** and I am currently a junior at Carnegie Mellon University. I am majoring in biology with a minor in religious studies and I aspire to attend medical school after graduation. I am volunteering at Birthright because I have developed a strong passion for the pro-life movement and wanted to find a way to join in! I love Birthright’s love and compassion for both women and babies. I am thrilled to join such an amazing effort in the local Pittsburgh area!”



”My name is **Patricia Wimer**. “I chose to volunteer at Birthright because it is a pro-life organization. Birthright’s main goal is to accept and support pregnant girls and women. It is a very rewarding experience for me to help others.” Pat has a master’s degree in special education and is a former remedial reading and substitute teacher. She coordinates all material donations to provide a layette, baby clothes, diapers, items and supplies to new mothers.

#### Donations

Danielle Cessna  
St. Columbkille Respect Life Group  
David & Bobbie Cunningham  
Harry & Barbara Cunningham  
Michael & Anne Louise Dailey  
William B. Dixon, Esq.  
William A. Feczko, M.D.  
Paul Gabos, M.D.  
Gregory & Theresa Haas  
Louise Hegarty  
Leaders Now International  
Richard & Lynda MacMurchy  
James & Angela Maher  
Mary Anne Mansell-baby clothes & blankets

Charles & Patricia Miller  
Evelyn Murrin-In Honor of Vivian Herman  
Network for Good  
John & Betty Philips  
Mary E. Rodgers  
Cecily Routman  
St. Basil Christian Mothers  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Respect Life  
St. John Vianney Ladies of Charity  
St. Richard Ladies Group  
Roger & Linda Smith  
Dolores Vojta  
John & Maxine Zokaites



Vivian Herman, Birthright board president, interacts with members of **St. Richard Ladies Group** at her presentation on April 20.

## HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, CHRISTIAN MOTHERS, MILLVALE



More than 40 members of Christian Mothers provided a generous assortment of beautiful, new infant clothing from preemie to 12 months sizes, crocheted blankets and baby hats, diapers, baby supplies and monetary gifts, at their lovely, annual baby shower for Birthright on April 20, 2015. Paula Smith, executive director of Birthright, provided a presentation to the group.

Special thanks to Father Daniel Whalen, pastor. Photos: upper left, Paula Smith admires a crocheted baby blanket with Lee Kinnee, Christian Mothers president; upper right, cafeteria tables stacked with Birthright donations; lower left, Cathy Sikora displays a baby blanket she crocheted; and lower right, members socializing at tables prior to the meeting.



## ***Red Rose Days***

(November 2014 – April 2015)

Thank you for supporting Birthright's most important fundraiser!

Sacred Heart Church, Shadyside  
St. Anne Church, Castle Shannon  
St. Catherine of Sweden Church  
St. Margaret of Scotland Church  
St. Michael Church, Avella  
St. Pio of Pietrelcina Church  
St. Raphael Church  
St. Richard Church  
The Oratory

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