

# *Birthright of Pittsburgh, Inc.*

160 N. Craig St., Suite 209, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

The Omega Building

Vol. 55 No 3, 2024

412-621-1988 • hope@birthrightpittsburgh.org

*“It is the right of every pregnant mother to give birth and the right of every child to be born.”*

*-Louise Summerhill, founder of Birthright International*



***WOW! These past few months have been a whirlwind! As many of you may know, at the beginning of February, our Executive Director, Regina Ranelli, resigned. I had been the Director of Church Relations on the Birthright Board for a little over a year when she asked me to take over.***

***After I thoughtfully deliberated with my husband, I chose to accept. I wasn't looking for another job, having decided to stay home from my physical therapy position after the birth of our second son in September of 2022. However, I was looking for a way to serve the community, and especially moms and babies. That's what led me to Birthright in the first place.***

***Regina expressing her confidence in me was the other reason why I was able to say YES. If you know Regina, you know what I mean. For the past five years, she has gone above and beyond as Executive Director and has helped to facilitate strong relationships with other pro-life organizations in Pittsburgh. She has set such a wonderful example, and I am honored that she and the Board members have trusted me with this position. This is the answer to my daily, “What do You want me to do?” prayer.***

***So, as the new Executive Director, I wanted to thank you for your ongoing support! As with any new position, there is a learning curve and I have been doing my best to keep up, with the help of all the Birthright volunteers. Let us continue together to extend our hands to moms and babies and show in all ways possible that the essence of Birthright is love.***



***Tomko Family***

***Matthew, Julian, Theodore, Nina***

***Respectfully, Nina Tomko, Executive Director***

## Homeless Couple



Prelude to t his story:

March 20, 2024 – Early afternoon on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood: Two Sidewalk Advocates met a young couple arriving for an appointment. One advocate made very brief eye contact with the woman after she simply stated, *“We have help available for you. We want to help. Please talk to us.”*

When “Momma A” came to us (Birthright) on a Saturday afternoon, she and her fiancé had nowhere to go. A few days earlier, they had been met by sidewalk advocates outside of Planned Parenthood; an abortion had seemed to be their only option. How could they have a child and be homeless? They didn’t know where to begin.

These same sidewalk advocates then referred the pair to Birthright.

The couple had been in a hotel for a few nights with the assistance of a few pro-life advocates in the community, but their time had run out. Homeless and hungry, it seemed they were out of luck.

With the help of some last minute special donations for the Momma A Fund, Birthright was able to assist with a few nights in a hotel. During this time they both developed the flu and Birthright was able to get them shelter for an extra week to recover as well as assistance with transportation, food and other necessities.

We remember  
another homeless  
couple...



Thank you all for supporting Birthright and for helping this Momma, her fiancé and their unborn baby! They have been referred to local housing resources and have multiple options at this time! Keep them in your prayers.



## Spotlight on our Volunteers!

My name is Kayla, and I am excited to be a volunteer at Birthright Pittsburgh! I grew up in Barton, Vermont and graduated from the University of Vermont in 2018. My favorite part of college was being a Totus Tuus missionary during the summers. Since college, I have worked as a teacher and helped at several Catholic parishes in religious education and music ministry. I moved to Pennsylvania in 2022 and now teach at a preschool in the Pittsburgh area. Outside of work, I enjoy singing and hiking.



Hello! My name is Margie Prusia, a Monongahela resident sharing my life with my husband of 8 years and our two beloved dogs. My husband and I own a small ice cream shop in the South Side of Pittsburgh. I am also a registered nurse who was fortunate enough to get experience in labor and delivery.



Growing up, my parents imparted upon me a profound belief in the sanctity of human life. They taught me that each individual carries intrinsic value as we're all made in the image of God, lovingly crafted in the womb by our Creator. This upbringing ignited a passion within me—a calling to stand up for the Pro-life movement.

I am devoted to guiding expectant mothers, offering them support and encouragement as they embark on the journey of motherhood. For me, empowering moms to choose life for their little ones is not just a cause; it's a deeply meaningful endeavor, one that I believe offers the greatest gift imaginable.

In both my professional and personal pursuits, I strive to embody the values instilled in me by my upbringing—compassion, empathy, and a steadfast commitment to making a difference. I am looking forward to serving alongside the other volunteers at Birthright!





Walking with  
*Moms* in Need



In our last Newsletter we had announced a Spring Walking with Moms in Need fair. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, we must delay it at this time. We are hoping to start a committee to tackle this large endeavor. The idea is to set up a community “baby shower” for our local families with giveaways of equipment, clothes, supplies, etc. for families who are expecting or already with children. If you have any experience or interest in helping to organize this or if your group would like to have a table to give away items, please contact Nina.



## NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

We are excited to share with you our new Facebook page! It's slow moving so please bear with us while we get it off the ground. We are hoping to provide updates on clinic and client needs as well as events.

Please follow and like us so that we can reach more local pregnant mothers in need - we would love to have your support!

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to be taken to our page or search on Facebook – Birthright of Pittsburgh (page)



**Current Needs at Birthright Pittsburgh:**

**Gift cards for:**

- ◆ Giant Eagle
- ◆ Walmart
- ◆ Lyft or Uber
- ◆ Shop N Save
- ◆ Target
- ◆ Amazon
- ◆ Port Authority Bus Passes



**Also:**

- ◆ Baby Formula
- ◆ Baby Bottles



**Birthright of Pittsburgh**  
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**Pittsburgh, PA15213**  
**412-621-1988**

We have received a request from Birthright Ghana. If you would like to participate, send the following items to

Africa via the address below:

- 0-2T clothes boys and girls
- diapers
- Wipes
- Receiving blankets
- Infant accessories such as pacifiers, rattles, small toys.

***Birthright Ghana***  
***78 Freedom Trail***  
***Newcastle, DE 19720***



*Thank you*

A very special  
 THANK YOU to all  
 of our supporters  
 throughout the year.  
 We could not do all  
 that we do to help moms in need with all of the  
 expenses a family incurs with a new baby.

In Memory of:

- ◆ Nancy Sullivan
- ◆ Edward & Leanne Fink



# March Ice Cream Social



This couple is having a little boy!

# SPRING



Volunteers and parents  
enjoyed the treats  
provided by  
Page's Dairy Mart.



One of our regular young  
volunteers, Kaitlyn, carrying  
diapers up to the storage room.



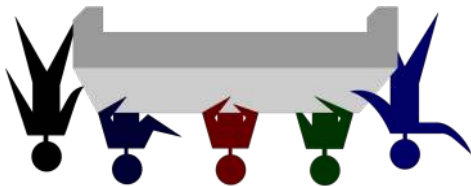
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24 hour / 7 day help line: 1-800-550-4900

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Birthright needs your prayers, involvement & financial support. We are an interdenominational & nonpolitical nonprofit. Our compassionate & dedicated volunteers provide confidential & free alternatives to abortion.

Nina Tomko, Executive Director  
 Newsletter Editor



*For more details please contact Nina at 412-621-1988.*

- ◆ *Secretary*
- ◆ *Director of Fundraising*
- ◆ *Director of Recruitment*

*We are currently looking for more volunteers for direct client interaction as well as for the following Board Member positions:*

*2024 Board of Directors*  
 Executive Director: Nina Tomko  
 President: Mark Likoudis  
 Vice President: James Hite  
 Treasurer: Corey Chuba  
 Church Relations: Meghan Hoerster  
 Community Relations: Erin Kirk

