



# *Birtheright of Pittsburgh, Inc.*

160 N. Craig St., Suite 116, Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
The Omega Building  
Vol. 56 No. 1, December 2024  
412-621-1988 hope@birtherightpittsburgh.org

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

*-Louise Summerhill, founder of Birtheright International*

## **WE MOVED!**

### **A note from the Director:**

As of December 1, 2024, Birtheright has officially moved to a **1ST FLOOR** office space! Our suite number has changed from **209 to 116** so please make note.

We couldn't have done this without your **ongoing and most generous support** and we are **THRILLED** at this opportunity!

As many of you know, Birtheright has been on the 2nd floor of the Omega Building which has **no** elevator. Negotiating 2 flights of steps has been especially difficult for our volunteers bringing up boxes of diapers & wipes and for clients as well. **Thank you for helping us make access to Birtheright more convenient for all!**



**Pictured above right:** Our Director Nina and volunteer Linda, had the opportunity to attend the yearly Birtheright Convention held in Phoenix, AZ at the end of September. Nina and Linda learned about the new Birtheright Online & Live Chat functions (available on [www.birtheright.org](http://www.birtheright.org)) that have replaced the Helpline. The chat acts as the Helpline did, in that it connects potential clients in need or in crisis to a local chapter. It is quick and efficient, and can also give anyone information about Birtheright's services.

**Pictured next page:** Nina and Linda had the privilege of meeting **Doris Asante**, the Director of Birtheright of Ghana, where she shared information about her chapter.



# *Birthright of Ghana*

[www.ourbirthrightghana.org](http://www.ourbirthrightghana.org)

In Ghana, there is no pro-life movement, Medicaid, social services, government housing or food banks. Many families live in poverty without running water or electricity and babies sleep on the ground. Women walk on dirt or even muddy paths to get to the office and often wait in line for hours to get help. If they don't have it in the office, clients often have to wait months until something comes in from the States.

Doris was told Birthright of Ghana wouldn't last six months, but 21 years later they are lowering abortion rates, improving health of

mothers and babies, providing parenting, prenatal, nursing and nutrition education and creating independence and safer family living.



### **If you feel called to help the Birthright mission in Ghana, some needed items are:**

- Baby clothes (summer only, no winter)
- Boy and girl gowns, sleepers, onesies in sizes 0-2T
  - Diapers, various sizes
  - Wipes
  - Diaper cream
  - Crib sheets
  - Receiving blankets
  - Maternity clothes, size small



Donations can be sent to **78 Freedom Trail, New Castle, DE 19720**. This is where all the items are packaged in large drums (pictured right) to await shipping which often takes 3-6 months.



## *Memorial Fund*

Mommy S is a former Birthright client who bravely walked away from Planned Parenthood, with her partner Daddy J, while pregnant with their first baby approximately 3 years ago. They had many pressures in their life to abort not only their first son but their second as well. With the assistance of Regina (former Director) and the volunteers, Mommy S and Daddy J were able to endure those most difficult times, however Daddy J wasn't able to be fully involved in the children's lives due to his mental health.

In early November, while playing with the children in the front of Mommy S's home, Daddy J was shot and killed by her neighbor. Mommy S and both children were physically unharmed, however they now suffer from nightmares and difficulty sleeping.

Please pray for the healing of Mommy S and her children as well as for the soul of Daddy J.

To help assist this young mom and her two small boys, Birthright will be setting up a memorial fund for Daddy J. Your contributions will help with moving costs and other related expenses for supporting this mom and her boys through this traumatic experience. Please indicate "Memorial Fund" with your donation.





**Pictured left: volunteers Kayla and Mary with 2 babies born this year with Birthright!**

On Saturday Sept, 21, Birthright hosted a client luncheon where some of our moms were able to learn how to budget their finances. Our very own volunteer Mary, provided a budgeting sheet, created by her husband, and explained to our moms how to prioritize necessities while also being able to save for the future. In addition, each mom received a comprehensive list of community resources and a goody bag!



## *Fall Kickoff Client Luncheon*



## *We had a Baby Shower!*

With the help of PCUC and Sidewalk Advocates for Life, Birthright was able to host a baby shower for one of our moms back on June 8! Our mom, her partner and their unborn baby boy were surrounded by friends, family and some wonderful donors and volunteers. They were abundantly blessed with donated baby items from the local pro-life communities and individuals. On June 27, this wonderful couple welcomed their baby boy into the world!



# Prayers Answered!



In early September, a woman called us explaining she was pregnant and searching for maternity clothes. We gladly offered her our assistance but unfortunately didn't hear back from her...until a few weeks later.

This mom then reached out to us through our Birthright Helpline. Sadly, she began having a difficult pregnancy and felt that being pregnant wasn't part of the plan, and **abortion became her only option**. For days and days our volunteers reached out to her and asked her to come to the office, but she continuously declined. She finally called us one Tuesday afternoon and told us, **"I made a choice and it might be the wrong one but I guess I'll have to live with it the rest of my life. I have an [abortion] appointment scheduled for this Saturday."** You can imagine how dis-

couraged and heartbroken we all became for this mom...

Our volunteer was able to again connect with her over the phone and with the mom's permission, the volunteer educated her on the abortion procedure and the side effects. After learning the truth, she still declined to come in and talk with us and **ultimately went to her Saturday appointment**.

Later that afternoon, our volunteer received a phone call from her. She **confirmed that she went to her abortion appointment**, but when she was waiting to go back another woman came out crying and said, **"they tore my baby out!"** This mom then sat with this woman and comforted her in her despair. When it was her turn to go back, and they tried a few times to get her to go back, but she refused and **told them no and bravely left that clinic**.

The following Monday this mom set up an appointment for an ultrasound and found out she was pregnant with...**TWINS!**

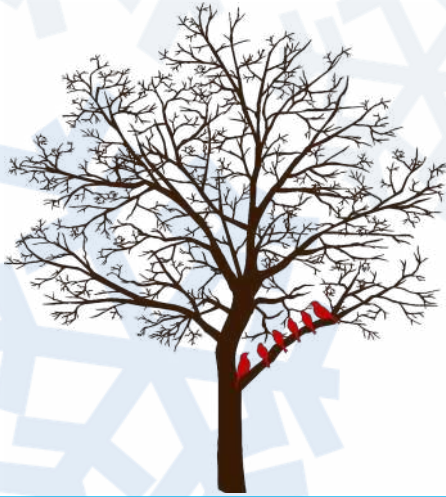
And now, because of **YOUR prayers**, this mom, her babies and her family were **spared the tragedy of abortion!** And because of **YOUR donations**, Birthright has been able to **help support this mom and her two unborn children!**

## National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Sept. 14, 2024 marked the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. The **Choose Life group at Pitt** hosted a vigil at St. Paul's Cathedral in Oakland, in front of the Memorial to the Unborn. Our director, as well as other local pro-life leaders, were able to share information about their respective organizations, their testimonies and client stories, as well as inspiring and encouraging words in memory of those tragically lost to abortion.



# Volunteer Spotlight!



## *Inspiration: By anonymous*

I've volunteered for several years at Birthright and am continually inspired by our director and by the volunteers that work with our clients. They tirelessly chip in when there's a need to help a client.

It's also encouraging to see our organization work with other pro-life organizations, realizing that we can achieve more by working together. We've had several pro-life organizations give talks providing information about their services and how they can help with the needs of Birthright's clients.

I'm also inspired by those supporting Birthright. I look forward to seeing how our organization will continue to grow and what great things we can accomplish with your help. It's because of your support that we can help these mothers and their babies. Thanks for all that you do!

## *Cassandra Jodon—Director of Fundraising*

Cassie holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Waynesburg University. She has an extensive career in quality and continual improvement within the manufacturing industry, and also engages in public speaking, training, and consulting.

She is passionate about knowledge sharing, relationship building, and networking to support others both personally and professionally.

Her goal is to strive to help others through education, support, compassion, and exemplifying love and faith through works.

Cassie lives in Scott Township with her husband and three children. They are active members of the St. Michael the Archangel Parish (Our Lady Grace & St. Bernard) and enjoy service opportunities through both the parish and throughout the local community.



Kaitlyn holds a Birthright mom's baby at a shower.



## *The Goltz Family* has been "behind the scenes"

of many "things to be done" since I came to Birthright a few years ago. My hubby, Gary, brings me to Birthright and helps clean up, or carry things, or move furniture (office). My daughter, Jenny, has been "voluntold" to do the same and my granddaughter, Kaitlyn, has helped move items up and down the 26 steps and loves to be there when children are present. She attended a baby shower for one of our moms awhile ago. She loves going to Birthright.

I started out in 2020 doing red rose letters, thank you notes, newsletter prep, office organization, and baby item sorting. I love being here to do what I can to support our executive director and volunteers. —**Bonnie Goltz**



## Current Client Needs

- ◆ M, L& XL **reusable bags** for packing client supplies
- ◆ **Clothing**
  - ⇒ Preemie (boy & girl) outfits
  - ⇒ 0-3 month boy pants
  - ⇒ 6-9 month boy outfits
  - ⇒ Coats (boy & girl) all sizes up to 2T
  - ⇒ Maternity, all sizes, styles & colors
- ◆ **Diapers**
  - ⇒ Preemie
  - ⇒ Size 4-6
  - ⇒ All size pull ups
- ◆ **Fragrance free wipes**
- ◆ **New baby bottles**, any brand, size & flow
- ◆ **Small stuffed animals**



For a more detailed list with examples, please visit our registry website:

<https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/birthrightpittsburgh>

\*Many of the items listed are just suggestions and DO NOT have to be that specific item or brand. Click the item to view NOTES to find out\*

## Current Office Needs

- ◆ We are in need of a conference table & chairs that will be used for meetings as well as client luncheons. We anticipate more office needs arising as we get settled.
- ◆ Your donations will assist us to furnish our new office to make it a safe and comfortable space for expectant moms seeking our help



## Gifts Received In Memory of...

- **Nancy Sullivan** (Edward Sullivan)
- **Daughters & Granddaughters** (Martha Westerland)
- **Blessed Trinity Christian Mothers** (Michael & Janis Woshner)



## Social Media

Please follow and like us on Facebook & Instagram to help spread the word! We post our hours, update them if there are changes as well as post current community events.

Scan the QR code with your smart phone, or through your web browser, type in "Birthright of Pittsburgh" with the social media account you are trying to find.



WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER INSTEAD OF PAPER?  
PLEASE EMAIL US AT [HOPE@BIRTHRIGHTPITTSBURGH.ORG](mailto:HOPE@BIRTHRIGHTPITTSBURGH.ORG) WITH YOUR FULL NAME & EMAIL AS WE BEGIN THIS PROCESS.



# Thankful For Our Donors!



## Red Rose Day 2024 Collections

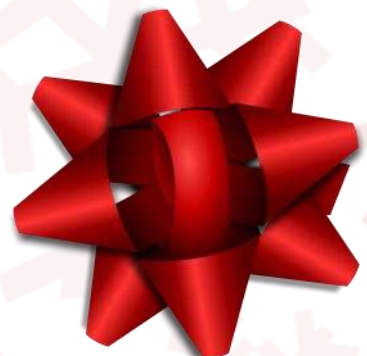
The money raised will help our pregnant clients navigate a new chapter in their lives. While the most popular times of year to host a Red Rose Day are May and October, we are happy to help your organization host this fundraiser at any time during the year. Please email us at [hope@birthrightpittsburgh.org](mailto:hope@birthrightpittsburgh.org) approximately one month before your ideal Red Rose Day weekend to mail the roses and instructions for hosting!

Thank you to all the organizations and individuals that have participated in Red Rose Day this year:

\* ST. THERESA KOLKATA PARISH \* OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH \* TRIUMPH OF THE HOLY CROSS \* ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS PARISH \* SAINTS MARY AND MARTHA PARISH \* RESURRECTION PARISH \* ST. JAMES PARISH \* OUR LADY OF THE LAKES \*

## Because of YOU, this is what WE have been able to do!

- \* **Welcomed 28 new babies!**
- \* **Received at least 37 new clients**
- \* **Fulfilled more than 84 material assistance requests (diapers, wipes, baby & maternity clothing, gift cards for baby equipment, groceries and other essentials, bus passes for prenatal medical appointments and more!)**
- \* **Guided mothers in 40 instances related to housing insecurity**
- \* **Extended & expanded our bus shelter advertising campaign**
  - ◆ In an effort to reach more moms, the previous locations of the bus shelters have been carefully reviewed and renewed or changed, based on visibility and distance from important areas that need our assistance most!
- \* **Obtained a FIRST FLOOR office & storage space!**
  - ◆ Please be on the look out for office updates regarding an open house event next year after we are settled!





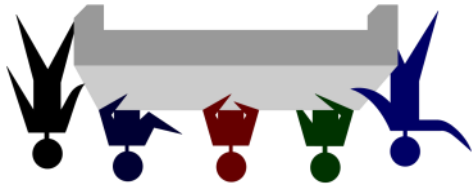
**Birthright of Pittsburgh**  
 160 N. Craig St. Ste 116  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
 412-621-1988

Birthright Online Chat: [www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org)

**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 Lead Writer & Co-designer  
 Bonnie Goltz, Newsletter Co-designer  
 Rosemary Mastrangelo, Newsletter Editor



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

*Do you want to get involved in the pro-life movement? We would love to have more volunteers!*

**Join us!**

**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  
 Fundraising: Cassandra Jodon

