



Thanks to you, Birthright is making a difference.

Birthright Needs Your Support!

Birthright has ministered to Harford and the surrounding community since 1973. All Birthright services are free and confidential. Birthright is supported by individuals like you and a few local churches. We receive no State or Federal funding. **Please consider a donation today!** We will never sell, lend, or give your contact information to any other organization.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

You can donate online at:
ChooseHopeToday.org
or by mail to:

Birthright of Harford County
38 East Gordon Street,
Bel Air Maryland 21014.

Please include this form with your donation.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

I would like to contribute:

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$1000

Other (please specify) _____



CLIENT STORY by Laura Johenning

Whom We Serve

I was a single mom of a baby boy years ago. I was young, and at first I did not think of how this would affect me: how much diapers cost, formula, clothes, etc. However, I knew my son was now my everything, and I needed help. That was hard to ask for as such an independent person. I was recommended to come into Birthright. Once I was there, the volunteer listened to me and provided me with diapers, formula, and baby clothes. I did not for a second feel judged.

Two years later I was pregnant again. Just when I did not think things could be any worse, they were. My dad was dying from cancer, I lost my job, and I was in an emotionally abusive relationship. I did not want to go on. I was super embarrassed, and it was all too much. I had to get my mind right, my situation, my heart, my faith, and focus on the kids first. I went back to Birthright, and again there was no judgment, just love and support. My volunteer, Capri, always remembered our conversations.

I am 34 years old now; my boys are 8 and almost 11. I know my kids are way above age to get help at Birthright, but I still receive letters and Mother's Day cards from the volunteers. I have made it my responsibility to give back

to them for all the years of their dedication to me. I have done the mommy bags, a diaper drive, baby bottle money donations, and I plan to be a volunteer one day!

It took years for me to be at a point where I can help others and talk about it. Today I have a job I enjoy, my kids are healthy and getting big, and recently I was approved for a house through Habitat for Humanity. I have a great support system through my friends and church. I am involved with my kids. I am happy, and I have a much better outlook on life.

If I can make it through these tough times, I feel like anyone with a little hope and help can too. To any moms or dads who are going through a difficult time, talking to someone is one of the best ways to bring yourself back up. We cannot keep our emotions, anger, stress, sadness, and regrets bottled up inside. I promise you will feel like a new person! Birthright's volunteers will celebrate your victories with you. They want you to succeed; they want you and your kids to thrive and live your best life. The support, love, and joy was unconditional every time. Coming in those doors was one of the best decisions I have ever made and I will be forever grateful. ♥

CONTACT US

38 East Gordon Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Office 410.838.0443
Fax 410.838.0446
Hotline 1.800.550.4900

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday
10:00am-2:00pm

For the safety of our moms and dads, volunteers and staff during the Covid-19 pandemic, we have temporarily reduced our office hours.

STAFF

Stephanie Atha
Executive Director

Elyse Colao
Center Coordinator

Melissa Eyler
Office Administrative Assistant



Jeanne Murphy : Birthright Volunteer

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Who We Are

For thirty-six years, longer than any other volunteer in the Bel Air office, Jeanne Murphy has been helping women choose hope at Birthright.

Jeanne first knew that she had a heart for the pro-life movement when she was a teenager growing up in New Jersey. Then, in 1973, the Roe v. Wade decision made her very sad and angry. She channeled those feelings into joining her county's Right to Life chapter.

When she moved to Harford County in the early 1980s, Jeanne learned about Birthright. She recognized the opportunity to help women in a more personal way by volunteering as a counselor. Initially, she took on the Saturday shift because it enabled her to volunteer while her husband was home with their three young children. She continued volunteering on that shift for over three decades!

Jeanne believes that God led her to Birthright so that she can help women and babies. She says that abortion breaks her heart, and she wants to help pregnant women make positive decisions. Over the years, Jeanne has counseled women

considering abortion and those who have already decided to parent their babies but need help. She treasures the memory of a friend who adopted the child of a Birthright client and named the child Matthew, meaning "gift of God." No matter the situation, Jeanne treats each client with kindness and compassion.

Along the way, Jeanne has been especially happy to be a part of the team of Birthright volunteers, women and men who share common values. "They're probably the nicest people on the face of the earth," she says. "They're a joy to work with." ♥

Our volunteers are making a difference. Please keep them in your thoughts and in your prayers!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

How You Can Help

A little girl with a big heart has inspired many to donate to Birthright.

Sitting in her Kindergarten class, five-year-old Parker Howell took a religious lesson to heart. Later that day, she told her mother, Christine, that she wanted to "do the Bible." Parker explained that this meant she wanted to help babies who didn't have anything. Christine asked her how, and Parker responded that they could make a video and send it to every single person her mother knew. Seeing her daughter's sincere desire to help, Christine agreed.

The Howells recorded a video in which Parker says, "I learned about Bible in school. Would you please help me? I really want to help the babies that don't have anything." Christine and her husband, Jason, shared it on Facebook along with a

post asking for donations for Birthright. In response, people in their network of Facebook friends donated money and gently used baby and maternity clothes, blankets, and books. Parker also spoke to human resources at Target in Aberdeen, and they gave her a \$100 gift card to spend on baby items.

The cash donations amounted to \$685, which Parker spent on baby items. She bought 645 diapers, 36 bottles of shampoo and body wash, 13 cans of formula, 18 tubes of diaper rash cream, 61 sippy cups, and much, much more. Parker personally delivered the items to Birthright, where they could be distributed to families in need.

Christine is awed that her daughter made such a huge impact at so young an age. "I can't wait to see what this kind soul does next," she says, "because this is just the beginning." ♥



STATISTICS

The Ugly Truth

While abortions in the United States as a whole are declining, **Maryland has seen a 7% increase in abortions** over the last 4 years.* With DC having the highest abortion rate in the country, Maryland is only narrowly beaten out by New York and New Jersey, giving us the 4th highest abortion rate in the nation. **In Maryland, 49% of all teen pregnancies end in abortion.** Because abortions can be performed up until birth in Maryland with little to no restrictions, women are coming from out of state to get late-term abortions with well-known doctors in Montgomery County. In short, Maryland is one of the most abortion friendly states in the US.

*<https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-maryland>

At Birthright we help our clients find the love, guidance and support they need to Choose HOPE when it matters most in their lives.



OUR WISH LIST
What We Need

Now more than ever, we need your help.

Research shows that pregnancies increase after a regional event, such as a natural disaster, that creates a period of extended time at home.

In the midst of Covid-19, we are working hard to increase our Internet advertising so that when that unexpectedly pregnant woman is searching for help and direction, Birthright's information will appear on her Google search.

We have aligned with a firm to help move us to the top of Google's search results. But it's not cheap!

Please consider making a donation to Birthright to help pregnant young girls find us online and to choose hope and life in the midst of what seems like a hopeless situation.

And as always, please pray for Birthright. Pray for our staff and volunteers. Pray that we can find that young pregnant girl who needs our help, love and support in their time of need.

Blessings,

Stephanie Atha

Stephanie Atha
Executive Director