

# BIRTHRIGHT NEWS

Vol. 37, Issue 1

February 2012

**As we move into our 40th Anniversary year,  
this article found in our archives from the 1980's still rings true.**

## **King Solomon's Advocate**

In the Old Testament is the familiar story of the two prostitutes who lived together with their recently born infants. One night as they were sleeping, one of the mothers rolled over her child and smothered it to death. When she discovered what had happened she traded it for the living child of the other mother. In the morning, the true mother discovered what had happened and protested. The two women argued long and vehemently but to no avail. They went to King Solomon for a solution. He heard their arguments and saw that no proof was possible. He held up his hand and cried out, "Stop these arguments, give me the child." he held the infant in one hand and said, "Give me my sword. We will divide the child and each may have half." One mother remained silent but the other mother cried out, "No! No! Save the child. Let her have it." With this King Solomon knew who the true mother was and he awarded her the child.

Each day frightened young women make similarly heart-rending decisions. These young women are with child but without husband. We don't use that beautiful biblical term "with child" much anymore. In an age of harsh and veiled language we use terms like "unwanted pregnancies" and "fetuses to be aborted." That way it's easy to dismiss the beauty of the new life these young women carry within. In the fashion of the women before Solomon, they make decisions and one decision is like that of the false mother. "If I can't have the child, then let it die." That is the decision for abortion. Another decision is like that of the true mother. "I know I am incapable of keeping

the child but my love will not let it die." that is the decision to carry the child to birth and let it become the chosen child of adoptive parents.

These young women can't go to King Solomon. They have difficult decisions to make. Help and counsel is available at Birthright. Birthright is a volunteer-staffed pro-life agency.

At Birthright these young women may be directed to volunteer professionals such as doctors and lawyers. They may receive maternity clothing or baby clothing. They can have pregnancy testing to allay or confirm their fears. In addition to these services, the Birthright volunteer becomes a friend and labor coach if needed. In short, they are not alone; they have a friend, a shoulder to lean on.

We have a belief in the sanctity of life but there are many paths in promoting belief in the sanctity of life. Some seek legislative change. Some picket the destroyers of life and some quietly help and counsel those caught with the frightening choices of a distressed pregnancy.

It is Birthright's conviction that they can change hearts and save lives in following the quiet, supportive path. If that path is mixed, people most in need may be frightened away from the support they so desperately need.



**Meet our Board President, Vicki Haugen, an adoption specialist for Lutheran Social Services, on page 2.**



### Board of Directors

Vicki Haugen, President  
Helen Hawk, Vice-President  
Cathy Schwinden, Secretary  
Duane J. Koble, Treasurer  
Marian Greenwood  
LaVerne Seefeld  
Fr. Peter Hughes

*Birthright News* is published 4 times yearly by Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead, Inc.

National Website:  
[www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org)  
Local Website:  
[www.birthrightfm.org](http://www.birthrightfm.org)

Birthright provides free and confidential help to anyone regardless of age, race, creed, marital status. Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead is a 501 C (3) organization; all contributions are tax deductible.

715 11 St. North  
Suite 103 C  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
218-291-5799  
1-800-550-4900

E-mail us at:  
[birthrightfm@702com.net](mailto:birthrightfm@702com.net)

### Baby Needs



We're running short of gently used sleepers, newborn to 12 months. Can you help?

### Meet Birthright Board President Vicki Haugen

*"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen."*



This wonderful quote by Elizabeth Kubler Ross holds special significance to me in my work as a Board member and President of Birthright of FM. Through my work as a Pregnancy and Adoption Social Worker at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, I see firsthand the shock, fear, grief, and often shame felt by women and couples who find themselves facing an unintended pregnancy. I believe the genuine care and service Birthright volunteers share with parents and their young children offer hope during very difficult times.

I was drawn several years ago to Birthright's commitment to provide a listening ear and unconditional care and acceptance to those who call or come for support and guidance. During my time as a Birthright board member, I have been ever impressed with the dedication and care of Birthright volunteers. The service volunteers provide to parents during pregnancy and beyond certainly touches lives in a positive way. While we may never know the long-term impact of that compassionate care, I am confident that it results in a wonderful "ripple effect" in addition to the immediate relief provided to those in need.

As the work of Birthright of FM goes on, I express my deep gratitude for the volunteers and donors who make it all possible. I invite others to consider becoming involved as volunteers or board members. After all, "beautiful people do not just happen."

### How Have We Helped in 2011?

Because every mother and baby is a precious, unique individual, we're careful about how we refer to them in statistics, but here are some of the numbers of clients that we have helped this past year that help tell our Birthright story:

Pregnancy tests and guidance	48
Maternity clothes	27
Diapers, formula and other baby supplies	401
Baby clothing, blankets and quilts	216
Layettes at the office and local hospitals	95

In addition to the numbers of people we have helped as listed above, we have also made referrals to physicians, food pantries, social services, thrift stores, area shelters, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and First Choice Clinic. Needless to say, we also receive referrals from these groups.

## Revenue and Expenses 2011

### Revenue

	2011	2010
Private Donations from Supporters	16,545.27	13,599.75
Estates and Major Gifts	2,180.00	3,682.69
Religious Organizations	4,233.65	4,247.94
Fund Raising Events	14,260.75	5,856.34
Other Income Sources	6,783.78	2,780.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>44,003.45</b>	<b>30,166.72</b>

### Expenses

Fund Raising Expenses	8,962.62	1,267.62
Office Expenses	3,597.70	2,781.59
Office Rent Expense	11,303.52	11,303.52
Wages, Payroll Taxes and Benefits Expenses	-	15,594.40
Other Expenses	5,685.00	1,755.60
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>29,548.84</b>	<b>32,702.73</b>
<b>Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>14,454.61</b>	<b>(2,536.01)</b>



## PRAYER FOR YOUTH

God of Energy,  
 Enliven the youth of our  
 day with the promise of  
 faithful companionship.  
 Call them to partnership  
 with you in the creation of a  
 new world.  
 Keep their hearts filled with  
 excitement and adventure.  
 Help them be open to  
 change and all that is new.  
 Challenge them creatively  
 and give success to the  
 work of their hands.  
 They are our trust.  
 They are our hope.  
 They are our future.  
 Give them a profound  
 reverence for all that is  
 right and good.  
 Be their guard and guide.

Charlotte Zalot, OSB

## Christmas 2011 Holiday Break

Thanks go out to those who gathered in December in support of Birthright—those who baked, decorated and served, and those who came as guests.

We especially thank Margaret Bitz for bringing the “Work of Human Hands” items from around the world to our event. We became more aware of fair trade crafts, and the creators of those items received a just return from their efforts.

We again enjoyed a delicious luncheon and beautiful table decorations prepared by Dorothy Thiessen at Nativity.

Even during challenging economic times, we continue to be blessed by the generosity of our donors.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service, founded in February, 1968, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada by Mrs. Louis Summerhill. Mrs. Summerhill's personal response to the despair of the pregnant women led to the establishment of Birthright. *“It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born*

## Budget Stretching

The Chamber of Commerce Super Saver Coupon Books are now available in our office.. For each book sold, \$10 comes directly to Birthright and has been very helpful to us in stretching our budget Since the books contain many totally free items, they offer a great bargain for the purchasers, too.

Thanks to  
 Jeff Kopenhaver, Sandy Hawk,  
 Helen Hawk, Donna Knoll,  
 Marian Greenwood and Shirley  
 Kondelis who have made an  
 extra effort to sell many books.  
 They can also be purchased  
 online at [http://  
 www.biggestfundraising.com/](http://www.biggestfundraising.com/)

### Would you prefer not to receive our newsletter?

Please call the office, at 218-291-5799 or email us at [birthrightfm@702com.net](mailto:birthrightfm@702com.net) to remove your name from our mailing list.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP CURRENT ON BIRTHRIGHT NEWS?

Don't wait for our quarterly newsletter to arrive by mail—send us your email address and we will share what's new and keep you informed on the ups and downs of our life-affirming work. You may request to receive our traditional newsletter online, too. Not only does email keep us up to date, but also saves mailing costs.

**B**IRTHRIGHT OF FARGO-MOORHEAD, INC.

715 11 St. No. Suite 103C  
MOORHEAD, MN 56560

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit #1130

FARGO, ND

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

*Help Birthright and your own budget,  
and maybe have  
a gift or two to give...*



*See page 3 for details*

**Join us for our Annual Meeting, Thursday, March 8th, 11:30am—1:00pm  
at the Clay County Social Services Building, 715 11th St. N., Moorhead.**