

BIRTHRIGHT NEWS

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August 2017

Our Own Dynamic Duo—Connie and Gert

The origin of a very special relationship can be connected to the basement of the Moorhead Center Mall. Gertrude Smith had been making receiving blankets for Birthright and then delivered them to our office there. Because the bags were heavy and the stairs were difficult for her to manage, she used to throw the bags down the stairs. Someone in the basement would cry out “Here comes Gert!”

Gert had embraced the mission and message of Birthright, so in 2009 when our office was moved to our current and very accessible location, she was ready to meet clients as a volunteer. And as an enthusiastic supporter, she shared the Birthright story with an acquaintance, Connie Nestos, and invited her to volunteer, too. Their “office partnership” continued for almost eight years, serving clients weekly until this spring.

Reflecting on her time at Birthright, Connie shared how much she loved getting to know all the different kinds of people who came to our office. Gert describes her as “always fun, always happy, and full of energy.”

When asked about her memories, Gert responded, “I loved every moment I spent there. I loved the children.” Connie commented that Gert has been an energetic and outgoing partner, with lots of “get-up-and-go.”

Both expressed sadness about not being regular office volunteers anymore, but Connie’s husband is in need of more care, and at age 89, Gert feels it’s time to slow down a bit.

Gert did share a little story that both reveals her outlook and also the perspective we take at Birthright. She had been walking with her granddaughter when they came to a hill. The child asked, “Grandma, can you walk up this hill? Gert answered, “I can walk up this hill, not by myself, but I can walk with you.” In so many ways, we at Birthright hope to walk with our clients and help them get up the “hills” they are facing.

These two women have been a blessing to those they have served with such kindness and dedication. Connie and Gert have been blessed with a deep and lasting friendship, and we have been blessed by their presence. We will miss them!



Gert and Connie



Annette, Shirley and Anna

Thanks to Our June Hornbachers Brats Volunteers

Marian and George
Greenwood
Karen Thom
Helaine Arnold
Mary Jane Langseth
LaVerne Seefeld
Marge Cagley
Bobbie McGarvey

Jerry Jernberg
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Birthright provides free and
confidential help to anyone
regardless of age, race, creed,
marital status.

Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead
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Celebrating the Greenwoods

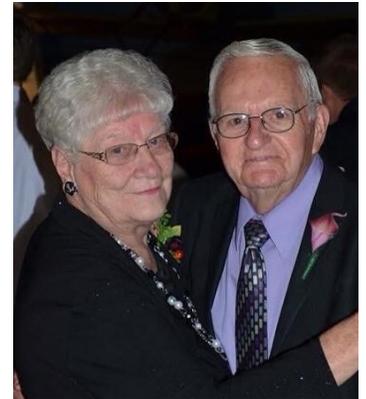
This issue of our newsletter has a focus on grandparents, and with 23 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren, we didn't have to look too far to find a couple who knows a lot about grandparenting - Marian and George Greenwood.

Marian and George first came to know Birthright when their daughter was experiencing a crisis pregnancy. For over 30 years after that positive experience, they have been actively involved in Birthright.

Marian's commitment to serve others has been a great blessing to us, especially as a Board Member since 1999 and as the chair of our 40th Anniversary Dinner. George is a bit more "behind the scenes," helping us with tasks at the office and helping with Hornbachers brat grilling. The number of brats he has grilled for us is certainly in the hundreds.

Our Birthright "B" logo (you need to be of a certain age to recognize it as a phone!) is a great fit for Marian, as she continues to promote, share ideas, and support the Birthright mission, even as she struggles with health issues. Her family tells us she never misses a birthday or anniversary; checks in on those who may need a kind word; and strives to be a voice for those who may not have one.

This kind of personal encounter is at the heart of Birthright. It is what Pope Francis has asked Christians to do—to bring ourselves to others, person to person. We at Birthright are truly grateful for their presence.



Marian and George's
65th Anniversary.

What Are the Numbers Telling Us?

In the first half of 2017, we have responded to requests for help 582 times in our office. The majority of our clients are 27 years or older, and 340 of our clients were married. The number of teens is very small. This tells us our clientele has changed over the years and are at different stages of their lives than those who sought our help were when Birthright was founded.

The greatest needs have been for diapers, baby supplies such as wipes and bottles, baby clothes and formula. This tells us that many of our clients are experiencing poverty and may be struggling to meet basic needs.

Our greatest number of referrals, 283, came to us from WIC (Women's, Infants and Children's nutrition and food program), and over 100 from Social Services and other agencies. This tells us that government support does not always meet the needs of those struggling. We are often called upon to help make up the difference.

Office Needs



Please prayerfully
consider helping, as little
as once a month would
make a difference.

Special Thanks To...

St. Andrew's Catholic Church of Hawley for their annual gift of blankets and baby clothes

St. John's Christian Women of Georgetown for their annual gift of a variety of baby items

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Ct. St. Mary #509 of Moorhead for their annual gift of baby clothes, diapers, toys and other baby items

Lois Bachynski of LaMoure, ND for 39 beautiful baby quilts

Katie Quade, Moorhead Daycare Association for baby clothes, diapers, and other baby items

Mark and Karla Spitzer of Fargo for their gift of two dozen bags of baby and maternity clothing

Joan Hruby for her time on the Birthright Board. Although her time on the Board was brief, we appreciate the enthusiasm and positive outlook she shared with us.

The F-M Redhawks for making an enjoyable fundraising evening available to us.



Our Guiding Principle

Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service, founded in 1968 in Toronto, Canada, by Mrs. Louis Summerhill, whose personal response to the despair of a pregnant woman 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."

Grandparents are a family's greatest treasure, the founders of a loving legacy, the greatest storytellers, the keepers of tradition that linger on in cherished memory. Grandparents are the family's strong foundation. Their very special love sets them apart. Through happiness and sorrow, through their special love and caring, grandparents keep a family close at heart.

Mailing Preference

If you would like to receive our newsletter by email, or prefer to be removed from our mailing list, please contact our office.

Prayer of Gratitude

Lord,
For every opportunity to walk in Your light and to change a life—
I thank you.

For all the different ways You renew my faith, never giving up on me—
I thank you.

For every reminder that I am unique, here for a reason—
I thank you.

For uplifting me through the joy of gratitude and connection,
I thank You, Lord, now and forever.
Amen.

The Christophers.

*I would like to give a Grandparents Day gift of \$ _____
to Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead
to honor beloved grandparents and elders.*



In Memory of _____

As a tribute to _____

Address _____

Your name _____

Your address _____

Birthright will send a Grandparents Day card to those you have listed informing them of your gift.

Grandparents Day is September 10th.

Please make sure we receive your check by September 5th.

All gifts will be recognized in the Birthright Newsletter.

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MOORHEAD, MN 56560
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“It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth. . . and the right of every child to be born.”

Grandparents Day is September 10th

*Take the opportunity to bless the lives of mothers and children
by honoring beloved grandparents and elders
who have touched your life.*



See inside for details