

# BIRTHRIGHT NEWS

Vol. 44 Issue 1

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## *We Love Our Volunteers*

Birthright FM is blessed and fortunate to have an awesome group of volunteers who have served many clients over their years with the office in Moorhead: Bobbie McGarvey (6 years); Carol Grindberg (6 years); Mary Jane Langseth (5 years); Becky Anderson (2 years); Lyn Haring (1 year); and Vi Schwind (1 year).

This team is strong and has great relationships within the group. It starts with communication and that builds trust. In the busy-ness and stress most days, this team takes time to communicate. Individually each lady cares about the other and this flows into the outer office when a client comes through the door.

Each client enjoys the helpful attitude and smiling greeting she/he receives at each visit – most being called by name. The little babies, infants, toddlers receive special “love” and attention. The excitement and laughs just have to help ease the parent’s stress – if even for the while she/he is in the office while being served.

Besides the clients, there are the numerous donors who come by to drop off their beautiful donations. We receive boxes and bags of beautiful infant and toddler clothes, diapers, wipes, shampoo or lotion, blankets, and bibs. Each person is greeted with joy and anticipation of what will be inside. Always there are oohs and aahs as the items are unpacked, ready to be packed into a new layette or put on the shelf for the next client’s needs. Each of the volunteers proudly shows each other the hand-stitched quilt or another special 2 piece outfit for the little boy, or the beautiful little girl’s dress. These activities are all within a day’s busy schedule for the volunteers at Birthright.

Bobbie and Carol both keep us fed with home-baked cookies or bars; or sandwiches, cheese & crackers, (in case we get hungry). Mary Jane brings jars of pickles, jelly/jam, or other goodies she makes when her garden is in full harvest. Becky finds treasures of baby bottles, bibs/burp cloths, more clothes, etc. to stack the shelves. Lyn and Vi do much the same in finding treasures of baby clothes, blankets, toys, books, etc. It is always a “new day” at Birthright.

As the Volunteer Executive Director, it is my pleasure working with these great women. There is always need for more help and volunteers. Give us a try. Call and say you would like to just come in for a day to see what we do and the satisfaction received in helping someone else. I’ve been a volunteer for 13 years – the last 9 years having been the director. The challenge and the reward are the gifts I receive.

By LaVerne Seefeld



Laverne assisting a young donor.



We raised \$16,500!  
Thank you



## Board of Directors

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[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  
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## A Mother's Day Reflection

Blueberry Pie Day? Talk Like Shakespeare Day? Help a Horse Day? It seems like we enjoy celebrating special days whenever possible, but Mother's Day is in a class of its own.

Ann Jarvis, who is often credited with beginning Mother's Day in our nation, encouraged her followers to care for the wounded from the Civil War - on both sides. She supported a day when mothers would work to heal the divisions between North and South.

In the 1870's, Julia Ward Howe saw Mother's Day as an opportunity to advocate peace: "Why do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters (wars) to prevent the waste of that human life of which they alone bear and know the cost?"

As a child, Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann, listened to her mother teaching Sunday School and remembered her hope that someone would found a "memorial Mother's Day". She began a campaign that ultimately resulted in a special day to honor mothers that was celebrated across the country.

Peacemakers Day could certainly be a sub-title for Mother's Day. We know that mothers strive to bring peace to their homes, to solve problems without violence, to encourage peace among their children. They try to raise children to be kind, caring, and respectful of others. Those who take on the challenge of "mothering" the children of others do the same.

At our office we see women who have been truly blessed to bring a human life into the world. Some of these women, however, are struggling. Celebrating Mother's Day presents an opportunity to affirm the value of their efforts and strengthen them to persevere.

We at Birthright have a place in our hearts for the second Sunday in May.

## What the Numbers Tell Us: January—March

271—the number of requests we received in our office

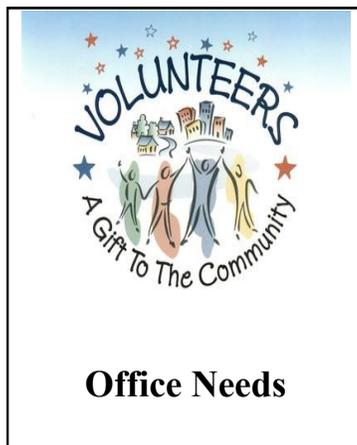
257\_\_ the number of people receiving diapers

149—the number of married women seeking help

147\_\_ the number of referrals we received from WIC. We also received 64 referrals from other agencies

125\_\_ number of children receiving clothing

97—number receiving formula. We encourage breastfeeding, but most women who come to us have already made their decision.



## Special Thanks To...

Krista Zeren  
for her photography on our  
Giving Hearts Day postcards

Court St. Ann #261  
of the Catholic Daughters of the  
Americas for their generous gift  
of baby items

The Impact Foundation Staff  
for their support and assistance in  
every facet of Giving Day

Chris Steffan and Frank LaLonde  
for faithfully helping with the  
newsletter



## Mary, Holy Mother of God,

We pray for your  
intercession on behalf of  
children around the world  
who live each day  
desperate for food,  
shelter and peace.

Help us reach mothers  
struggling to care  
for their children.

Grant us the compassion  
to embrace families  
in their darkest hours.

Through your love, may  
we help light their way.

Amen

. Catholic Relief Services

*I would like to give a Mother's Day gift of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead  
to honor women in my life and to assist  
new mothers in need.*

*In Memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

*As a tribute to* \_\_\_\_\_

*Her address* \_\_\_\_\_

*Your name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Your address* \_\_\_\_\_



*Birthright will send a Mother's Day card  
to those you have listed  
informing them of your gift.*

*Mother's Day is May 12th  
Please make sure we receive your check by May 7th.*

## Our Guiding Principle

Birthright is an  
emergency pregnancy  
service, founded in 1968  
in Toronto, Canada, by  
Mrs. Louise 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."*

## Mailing Preference

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

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MOORHEAD, MN 56560  
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FARGO, ND

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

## *Mother's Day is May 12th*

*Take the opportunity to bless  
the lives of mothers and children  
by honoring a beloved woman  
who has touched your life.  
(See inside for details.)*

