

Birthright Broadcast

MANASSAS VIRGINIA



Winter 2018/19

Our motto: “It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born”

Hours of Operation:

M-F 9:30-12:30
M & Th 12:30-3:30

Birthright’s free and confidential services:

Friendship
Pregnancy test
Emergency Financial Assistance
Maternity clothes
Layette/Newborn gift box
Infant clothing
Referrals to other agencies
Support and Encouragement

In This Edition:

- *Unexpected delivery*
- *A Volunteer’s Story*
- *Wish List*
- *Directors Letter*



Usually during each Birthright shift we are able to help a few new or expectant mothers with various needs, such as diapers, infant and/ or maternity clothes. Although it is rewarding, it is not the only reason I volunteer. Every time I head to the Birthright office I pray that I will be able to help save the life of a child. On a quiet night in September God gave me a chance to try.

Cindy’s test was positive, as she had feared it would be. We calculated that she may be about three months pregnant. She made it clear that she was not ready to be a mother as she was only a junior in high school and intended to go on to college

and possibly graduate school – a baby was not part of the plan for this honor roll student. She insisted that her mother would never understand. To complicate matters, Cindy had health problems that she feared would be compounded by pregnancy. We talked for a long time and discussed her options. I suggested that she consider adoption given her educational goals, but suggested that she at least talk to her mother and give her a chance.

Cindy never showed up to the appointment with a doctor that we made, much to our disappointment. When called to find out why, Cindy was reserved and said only that she was going to see her own doctor. The reason seemed clear – Cindy was planning to (or may have already had) an abortion. Honoring her wishes, we did not contact her again.

On a chilly day the following March, I received a message from the

volunteer at the office. She had received a frantic call from Cindy when she arrived at the office that morning. Cindy was in labor! I was overjoyed when I heard that she had kept her baby and tears started rolling down my face. Cindy called from her bathroom floor in a panic and wanted to speak to me. Cindy's mother was still unaware that she was expecting! The volunteer wisely called the fire department who got her to the hospital and then called me. Cindy said again that she did not want the baby and wanted to start the adoption process. Not sure what to expect, I gathered some layette items and headed to the hospital with my fellow volunteer.

By the time we arrived, Cindy had called her mother who had joined her at the hospital. We met her in the delivery room and were happy to see that her mom was thrilled with her new granddaughter! Cindy was exhausted but clearly relieved, and the first words out of her mouth were, "We're keeping her!" Mom, baby and grandmother are currently living in our area, and have visited the office to make donations of their own to Birthright.

For every shift we have volunteered and no one has come to our door and no one has called, this one child's life makes it all worthwhile. So many people contributed to saving this child's life – most of all Cindy, who endured an entire pregnancy with little or no support, and her mother who was shocked but accepting. To carry this task out on her own, especially given her age makes her nothing short of legendary in my mind. So many of our volunteers were involved as well, from those who helped arrange the appointment at the Tepeyac Center to those who made a layette for the new baby, and all of our contributors, who allow us to be here.. This story is one that our entire Birthright Chapter can be proud of, and I am especially grateful to have been given this opportunity.

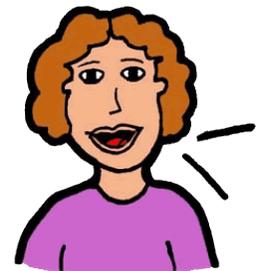
Though several years old, one of my favorite cases!



Will you help?

.....
Come join us!
*To Volunteer call our office. We will train you. Give just 3 hours a week. Bilingual **Spanish speakers** especially needed as well.*

*Also
Tech savvy people to supervise social media and advertising –
You could help from home!
703-361-9769
manassas@birthright.org*



**Learn More
About Us**

If you would like a speaker from Birthright for your group please call our office to set up a time and place.
703-361-9769



A Volunteer's Story

As I've prepared for the holidays, I've spent a lot of time buying gifts for family and friends. Along with giving these Christmas gifts, I've had the privilege of providing the gift of time. Since resigning from my full-time job in June, I've been blessed with more time to spend with my family and to volunteer for benevolent groups such as Birthright.

When I read the request for Birthright volunteers on VolunteerMatch.org in August, I was drawn to the many services provided by Birthright volunteers to women struggling with pregnancy and postpartum care. As I am personally familiar with the the difficulties that can be experienced in trying to maintain pregnancies and deliver healthy children, the birth of a baby is a miracle to be cherished. This is only possible in many cases in this community through the time and commitment of Birthright volunteers. Let's take time during this hectic time of year to reflect on the gifts our organization provides to mothers in crisis.

For questions or to receive
electronic copy, please send
your email address to:
manassas@birthright.org



**Please like our
Facebook Page:
Birthright of Manassas
And share it with
friends: This makes us
more visible to the
public!**

*"Don't judge each day by the
harvest you reap but by the
seeds that you plant."*

Robert Louis Stevenson



Wish List

- Prayers for clients and volunteers
- Layette items: (newborn baby things) comb, brush, thermometer etc
- Sample/small size baby shampoo, powder, cream, ointment for layettes
- New & Used Maternity Clothing
- Gently used infant clothes (up to 12month size)
- \$20/25 Gift Certificates - WalMart/Target
- Educational prenatal books- Such as: "What to Expect When You're Expecting"

Dear Friends

Birthright International is winding down its' year long celebration of **50 years** helping women and babies. Our Manassas office continues to be a haven where women who are or may be pregnant can come to discuss their situation and ways that we can help them to continue their pregnancies. We will do everything in our power to achieve that goal.

Our volunteers are the heart of our organization. We staff the office and are ready to be the caring friend to each person with whom we come in contact. We have had several volunteers who have come to us through volunteermatch.org, a blessing indeed. We are currently hoping to organize a weekend shift for those unable to give time on weekdays. Some volunteers work behind the scenes: putting together gift boxes for babies born, making quilts for newborn babies, and shopping for supplies for our office.

Our Board of Directors meets quarterly and supports the operation of the chapter.

Our faithful donors provide the necessary funds to keep the office running and provide material support to clients in need. Recently we had a donation of diapers and wipes, which a young girl collected at her birthday party, instead of presents. What a testament to her caring nature and her parents' guidance. Thanks to all who make our mission possible!

manassas@birthright.org

Kathy Madsen Director

**Birthright of Manassas
10752B Ambassador Dr
Manassas, VA 20109
703-361-9769
CFC #77985**

**Office Hours
M/Th 9:30-3:30
Tu/W/F 9:30-12:30
Help 24Hour
1-800-550-4900
[www.birthright.org/
manassas](http://www.birthright.org/manassas)**

