

## **BIRTHRIGHT COUNSELING, ST. LOUIS 2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **MISSION**

Birthright is a non-profit organization providing free and confidential counseling as well as practical assistance to mothers facing an untimely pregnancy. Birthright offers positive alternatives to abortion. We believe in the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born.

### **PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENT**

Since 1971, Birthright Counseling, St. Louis has served over 200,000 women facing an unintended pregnancy.

Birthright operates four full-time offices; located in Brentwood, North County, Midtown and South County. Birthright provides free professional counseling to any pregnant woman during any stage of her pregnancy. Birthright Counseling, St. Louis' counselors are experts in crisis intervention and use a strength-based approach in assessing the individual needs of each woman. A woman who is able to confidentially tell her story to a non-judgmental listener will likely carry her baby. A professional counselor can also assist her with significant problems such as domestic violence, lack of support system, drugs and alcohol use, mental health or medical concerns, safe housing, securing prenatal care or continuing education, 94% of women who come to Birthright feeling pressure to have an abortion choose to carry their babies.

Birthright has a small staff of 19 with only 5 full-time employees. Birthright has over 200 volunteers who answer phones, act as receptionists, follow up with clients, visit clients in their homes or hospital, plan and work at fundraising events and assist with social media and community outreach.

All services at Birthright are free and confidential.

Other services Birthright provides are pregnancy testing, supportive education groups, ongoing counseling, financial assistance (as it relates to pregnancy), scholarship, maternities clothes, baby starter packs for all clients, transportation, food, medical assistance, home visits, pregnancy and postpartum support groups and post-abortion counseling.

### **WHO WE ARE NOT**

We understand there may be misconceptions about what we do. We do not judge women or their situations. We do not use religious beliefs to sway a woman's decision. We do not show graphic pictures or video. We do not engage in protesting or politics. We are not and do not pretend to be a medical clinic. We do not accept funds from the State or Federal government.

**SAGE (Strength, Ability, Growth, Empowerment)**

SAGE is a supportive education group program. The groups meet for 7 consecutive weeks for 2-hour sessions. The groups are led by a Birthright counselor and MSW intern. Average group size is 8 women. Discussions cover practical topics of healthy relationships, vulnerability and shame, value systems, being a mom and healthy decision making.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

A Birthright client, whose education is interrupted by an unintended pregnancy or who needs to reach a higher level of education to secure a job, is eligible for Birthright's Tuition Assistance. Birthright assists with GED and CAN classes, tuition for trade and career programs and 2 and 4-year colleges, Birthright can help with book fees and uniforms. We also have volunteers to provide tutoring.

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

Birthright Counseling, St. Louis participates in Generate Health to address perinatal and postpartum depression. We partner with SSM Cardinal Glennon Safe Kids program to ensure all of our babies have a safe place to sleep and a car seat.

We work closely with Queen of Peace Center and SSM St. Mary's WISH Center to best care for pregnant women struggling with substance abuse.

## **MELISSA'S SMILE**

Melissa's Smile is a counseling and assistance program for mothers and fathers whose baby is diagnosed with a disability, either prenatally or at birth.

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Birthright Counseling, St. Louis strongly believes no woman should ever have to choose between her baby and a circumstance in her life. Birthright's financial assistance program is for women whose housing, safety; well-being or education is jeopardized by an unintended pregnancy.

## **INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING**

The Birthright Model has been effective for 47 years in women choosing life for their babies. Birthright counselors are skilled in supporting the abortion minded woman and assessing those who are at high risk to be pressured to abort.

In 2017 Birthright served 1047 women and welcomed 659 new babies.

2016 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INCOME

Contributions	599,478.00
Special Events	360,000.00
Interest and Dividends	15,765.00
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains on Investments	21,072.00

TOTAL 996,815.00

EXPENSES

Programs and Services	731,605.00
Administrative	84,995.00
Fundraising	134,532.00

TOTAL 951,132.00

ASSETS

January, 2016	2,057,689.00
December, 2016	2,141,107.00
Increase in assets	83,418.00

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Brentwood

Midtown

North County

South County