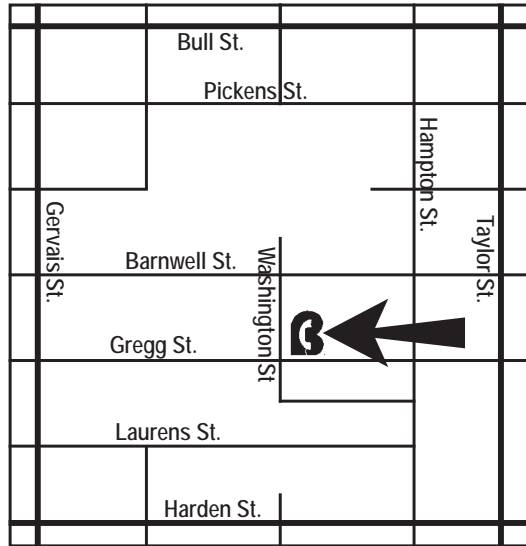


BIRTHRIGHT of Columbia

1405 Gregg Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803.765.0165
www.BirthrightOfColumbia.org

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 362
Columbia



Loving, compassionate, completely confidential help.

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

YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

- \$10 helps pay for a pregnancy test.
- \$25 helps with parenting classes, medical care and/or school.
- \$50 helps with advertising such as the billboards and other media.
- \$100 helps with rent, utility bills and other day-to-day expenses.

Enclosed is my gift of _____ to help Birthright continue providing positive and loving alternatives to abortion.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

In honor of Please notify: _____
 In memory of Name: _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Donations to Birthright are *tax deductible*.
Please make checks payable to Birthright of Columbia.

I would like more information on volunteering at Birthright of Columbia.
E-mail _____ Phone _____

BIRTHRIGHT of Columbia

Fall 2015

www.BirthrightOfColumbia.org
(803) 765-0165

1405 Gregg Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Billboards

A picture says a thousand words while a billboard conveys a message of hope to thousands. Within three weeks of the initial placement of the Birthright billboards this past May 2015, a call was received from a woman who asked, "What do the billboard words, '**Pregnant? Worried?**' represent?" The woman is a mother of two children calling to obtain an abortion. The conversation lasted about ten minutes with the woman willing to visit the Birthright Columbia office. The woman never arrived to the office for her appointment.



Five standard and three digital billboards have been secured through Lamar Media. The eight billboards will be displayed until May 2016 rotating locations throughout the Greater Columbia Area.

Funding for some of the billboards has been made possible through the efforts of varying resources. The Knights of Columbus Council at St. Peter's Catholic Church funded one billboard for a cost of \$ 1,700. The Knights of Columbus Council at St. Joseph Catholic Church and an anonymous donation provided funding for another billboard. Transfiguration Catholic Church funded a portion toward another billboard which leaves funding still needed for other billboards. Lamar Media has provided generous support in this process.

The billboards enable girls and women to become aware of Birthright of Columbia, an organization that recently celebrated 35 years of service in 2015. Additionally, the billboards alert the community of Birthright and opportunities to provide aid and assistance to individuals faced with an unplanned or problem pregnancy.

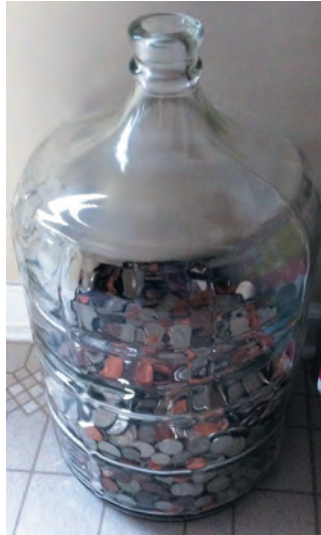
Funding is still needed for the Birthright billboards. Aside from sharing one's treasure, volunteering one's time is a valuable and constant need that allows Birthright to continue to thrive. Volunteer opportunities exist, such as, hosting a baby shower, offering prayer and knitting baby booties. Becoming an Office Volunteer requires a weekly commitment of three hours and provides training in how to respond to individuals like the woman who called asking about the words, "**Pregnant? Worried?**"



Office Volunteer Training

The Office Volunteer is the *Life-Line* of Birthright. After training, the Office Volunteer comes into the office three hours a week and is paired with another Office Volunteer. Office Volunteers provide one-on-one assistance to girls and women who are faced with an unplanned or problem pregnancy. The four part training session will begin on **Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** and will run three successive weeks. For more information, contact Hank Chardos at (803) 543-8144 or hankbirthright@gmail.com.

Baby Bottle Campaign



Coins, currency and checks: the Birthright Baby Bottle Campaign was a BIG success! More than \$22,000 was collected from fourteen Churches in the Greater Columbia area.

The annual campaign begins on Mother's Day and concludes on Father's Day. The funds will be used to assist pregnant girls and women who contact Birthright for help. The Baby Bottle Campaign also prompted individuals to contact Birthright and inquire about ways they could volunteer. The funds and volunteer efforts convey a message of hope.

The photo of the jar represents a special response to the Baby Bottle Campaign. Here is a story from a donor, "At the time our children were growing and things were expensive including the cost of colleges, we put coins in this jar to save for our vacation. As time went by, we were blessed with strength and health and did not have to touch the coins. Now that our children are grown, we see the need to put the change to a special need. If the coins can change a life or make it different then, why not."

Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee [comprised of Board members, Jennifer Morris and Terry Williams; three Office Volunteers, Kelli Brown, Robert Deuel and Linda Oliver; and Executive Director, Hank Chardos] meets monthly in order to generate ideas and suggestions for Birthright.

An example of an outcome is illustrated through Birthright's new method for keeping in touch with clients while maintaining confidentiality. Thanks to the efforts of Office Volunteers, Christine Blake and Robert Deuel, current Birthright Office Volunteer's now have the capability to place and receive client phone calls without disclosing the client's phone number through Google.

The Strategic Planning Committee also proposed the placement of personal testimonies of clients and Office Volunteers to appear on the website. Check out this new offering on Birthright's website at www.birthrightofcolumbia.org.

Wish List

- ✓ Hand-made baby booties
- ✓ Onesies, gowns and sleepers (0-3 months)
- ✓ Crib sheets and baby blankets
- ✓ Maternity tops especially large sizes
- ✓ Baby wash, baby lotion, and diaper ointment
- ✓ Disposable diapers and diaper-wipes
- ✓ Host a Baby Shower
- ✓ Invite a Birthright Volunteer to make a presentation at your church, civic group or organization

Birthright does not accept cribs, high chairs, playpens or any other type of furniture.

Donations are tax-deductible.



Facebook

This free social media platform creates awareness for girls and women looking for help, highlights donors, shares volunteer opportunities, and promotes collaboration with like-minded service organizations.

Like our page at <http://www.facebook.com/BirthrightofColumbia> and share the page with others so more FB users learn about Birthright's services!

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Sprout

By Kelli Brown, Office Volunteer



The late Louise Summerhill founded Birthright in 1968 and, when I began volunteering with Birthright in February of 2014, I was pleasantly surprised to see that Birthright of Columbia still upholds her philosophy. Too often in today's society, organizations change with the times and morph into barely-recognizable versions of themselves, and I loved that Birthright was the exception to this rule.

One Birthright approach is that no medical procedures are provided in the office, eliminating the option of purchasing an ultrasound or a Doppler machine to monitor the baby's heartbeat. Because of this, I've found that it is difficult to find a way for our client to feel a true connection with her baby. Thankfully, some of our clients already feel this connection, but it is tantamount for every woman to realize that she is carrying a precious life with a heart that begins beating after just 19 days. This feeling has grown exponentially for me since I

became pregnant with my first child. I felt that there had to be something else that we could do to convey this sentiment.

At Birthright's monthly Strategic Planning Committee meeting back in March of 2015, five committee members and myself discussed ways to enhance our ability to serve clients; I began to formulate an idea. I was five months pregnant at the time, and I'd been using several different apps on my phone to keep track of my baby's progress as he/she developed. Hesitantly, I brought an idea to the table. "There's a pregnancy app called Sprout," I said, "and I think it could really help our clients feel connected to their babies." Slowly, I turned my phone around to show the app to the other committee members revealing a 3D picture that was indicative of my baby's current size. I explained that we would need to purchase a tablet of some sort to keep in the office so that we could use this app with clients. Some truly valid questions were raised. "Aren't iPads expensive?" "I'm not good with technology. How will I ever learn how to use this thing?" "Won't the added technology make the experience for our client impersonal?" I then accessed one of my favorite parts of the app and walked the committee through it step-by-step.

Sprout allows you to enter one of two things into its system: 1. Your due date, or 2. The first day of your last period. Your information is calculated into the software, and you are then presented with images and information that are tailored to your pregnancy. Once you are able to see your baby at his/her current stage, you are able to swipe through the images to see just how quickly your baby is growing each week, and you can track his/her developmental stages through short bullet points of information, such as the baby's organ development or movement changes. The app also has a feature that simulates a baby's heartbeat and presents the child in a 3D image. As we explored the app, the questions began to dissipate, and we all became excited about this idea and the doors that this new idea could open for the client. Two iPads were purchased within the following week.

Sprout has been an invaluable resource for us as Birthright volunteers. We now use this app with every client *before* she receives a pregnancy test, and the responses from both our clients and our volunteers have been overwhelmingly positive. Without using any medical procedures, we have found a way to replicate an ultrasound experience that is specifically personalized for each client. Louise Summerhill certainly did not swipe through the Sprout app with the countless women she helped, but we are proud to have found an additional way to serve our clients while upholding Birthright's core values and reflecting the changes in today's society.

Prayer Chain

"...Please pray for all of God's children, especially for mothers facing an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy."