



BIRTHRIGHT

ISSUE 2 OF 2022

16 Weeks



Birthright Celebrates 50 Year of Helping Others

In 1973 several important things happened, Birthright of Hutchinson opened its doors, and the Supreme Court issued a ruling on Roe v. Wade. We know that this was no coincidence and that God simply intervened at a time when we needed Him most! Birthright of Hutchinson will celebrate 50 years of service to the community in June of 2023. Inspired by the efforts of Mary Jane Boyd and Judy Stevens after learning of the opening of the Wichita Birthright and with the help of a handful of volunteers they created a place for pregnant women in need. Fueled by the Birthright mission, "It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every baby to be born," we became the non-profit charitable organization that we are today, dedicated to providing love, support, resource and information to woman facing unplanned pregnancies with no judgment.

Over the last 50 years Birthright's four directors, many board members, and countless volunteers have helped numerous women through their pregnancies. If you've been involved in our agency in any capacity, received our services, or know of someone that has benefited from Birthright we invite you to share with us on our website or Facebook, by email, snail mail or please stop by our office at 214 East 3 rd and visit with us. As we gear up for our celebration on June1, 2023, we'd like to include as many personal connections as possible from past years. Please share your beautiful stories!

**IT IS THE RIGHT FOR EVERY PREGNANT WOMAN TO GIVE BIRTH
AND THE RIGHT FOR EVERY BABY TO BE BORN**

Birthright Celebrates 50 Year of Helping Others

“A great philosopher once said; ‘We are what we contemplate’ and in these modern times when mankind is constantly confronted with images of conflict and world disasters, it seems very important to contemplate the Beautiful.

It has become my personal crusade as an artist, to create images which uplift and nurture the human heart; to create that which serves as a reminder of what is Sacred and Beautiful within the drama of life.”^{Ginger Gilmour}

Birthrights efforts to preserve what is sacred and beautiful in life through the support of women who feel that they are without support much of the time should forever be applauded. As my term draws to an end, I for one am honored to be a part of an organization that is committed to serving God by preserving life!

“Giving birth and being born brings us into the essence of creation, where the human spirit is courageous and bold and the body, a miracle of wisdom.” ^{Harriette Hartigan} A miracle of God!

This year, just about 50 years later, Roe v. Wade was overturned. Our agency will continue to help woman who face unexpected pregnancies return to a healthy and productive life. Trained volunteers help individuals and families by addressing needs or connecting them with community partners, and other social service resources. So, regardless of the Supreme Court’s decision regarding Roe v. Wade, Christians need to remember that God is still in control and working. Whether the abortion issue remains at the state or federal level, we should seek to love and help women and their babies. Our behavior as Christians shouldn’t be determined by the unstable political winds of this world, but by our steadfast, heavenly Father who is always faithful and unchanging. In the years to come, may all that we do be done in love, may all that we do be done for His glory!

Toyla Frondorf

President of the Board

Did You Know

There are tax benefits to giving to Birthright! Although it’s getting harder to deduct your charitable giving, there are still ways to get a break while doing good. Try bunching your charitable donations, donating appreciated assets, or giving a portion of your IRA withdrawals. The IRS also allows individuals over age 70 and a half to donate up to \$100,000 per year from a retirement account directly to a charity, with no negative tax impact.

Link: <https://creativeplanning.com/insights/the-benefits-of-qualified-charitable-distributions-qcds/>

KEY POINTS

- **The qualified charitable distribution (QCD) rule allows traditional individual retirement account (IRA) owners to deduct their required minimum distributions (RMDs) on their tax returns if they give the money to a charity.**
- **The rule can effectively reduce your income taxes by lowering your adjusted gross income (AGI).**
- **These distributions are capped at \$100,000 annually per person.**
- **They must be made directly to an approved charity.**

Patches of Conversations Blanket of Blessings

I had an idea of what I was going to write for an article here but wasn't sure how to lay it out. Then I was awakened at 2am the next morning flooded by conversations I had throughout the year. I jumped out of bed and started to type these conversations in fear I might forget later on that day. God's timing rarely follows our ideal timing, but He does know what is best for all of us.

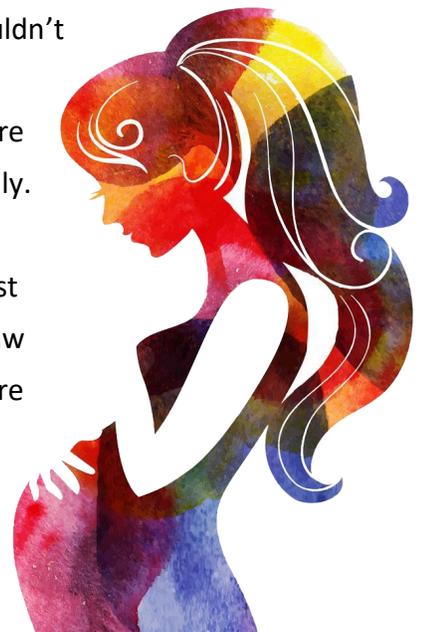
These memories made me more aware of the blessings of the little ones, the reality and fears that come while being pregnant, and the hardships. We all have similar conversations with others or have personally experienced these events in our own lives. These short bit conversations are why I am proud to say I've been a volunteer for Birthright for twenty some years.

First, Birthright is where young women come needing help or scared that they are pregnant and not sure if they want a child, yet alone raise one. I always ask if they believe there is a God and remind them that God doesn't make mistakes. Maybe God wants them to have this child to love and raise or maybe they are to give that child up for adoption to a family that can't have children. There are many who would love to adopt a little one. We did!

The first of the year I had a mother come in for maternity clothes excited to be pregnant. With all the excitement I assumed it was her first pregnancy. She corrected me and shared that it was her 5th; she has a 7 year old daughter and 3 miscarriages before being blessed with this little one. She was so grateful that Birthright was there to help with maternity clothes. Her husband's job had him relocate here in Hutchinson and funds were tight right then.

I had a mother that came in for diapers and maternity clothes a couple months later; she is hoping for a girl. She hasn't come into the office for a year and while visiting with her I asked her if this was baby number three. She replied a little embarrassed that this will be number four; she has three boys at home. Her husband was injured in a car wreck and funds are tight right now and knew Birthright could help them. I reassured her that we are always here to help and that I thought it was wonderful that she was expecting her fourth child. She smiled and said thanks, many frown at you after your expecting your third child. I shared with her that I had five children and that I thought it was great she and her husband was opened to having a large family. I'm grateful my parents were open to a large family, otherwise I wouldn't be here. I'm proud to say I'm the youngest of 11 children.

I have been working as a Birthright volunteer approximately 20 years; always aware how precious the life of each baby God blessed a woman with along with her family. It was impressed on me more this last June when my son and daughter-in-law announced they were expecting and we were going to be grandparents for the first time. As the pregnancy progressed, I became more aware that my daughter-in-law was worried that the baby would come early (my son and her were both premature babies and she came into this world weighing around 2 pounds). In the years I've had nieces struggle with miscarriages. I found myself praying daily, thanking Him for the little one, asking that he comes into this world healthy, and that my nieces are blessed with children. My daughter-in-law is due this coming



February, baby and mother are doing well. Unfortunately, my nieces are still waiting to be blessed. So, what does this have to do with Birthright? It reminded me again how precious life is and how many fail to see it as a gift but rather a burden or inconvenience. In September I was visiting with a good friend who is a doctor, he shared about a mother whose baby wouldn't live long after birth due to health issues. I recalled; Perinatal Hospice located in Wichita that helps family celebrate the life of a child in the womb. They are there to help you navigate the difficult choices you have to make when the baby is born and even help you plan a funeral service if you wish. This free service is a wonderful gift to give to a family in crisis. I realized, this is yet another service like Birthright that very few know about.

I spoke to a mother who was grateful to the couple that adopted her three children. She shared that she was not in a good place to raise them and happy to see that her children are doing well and are loved. Adoption is a wonderful option.

Just this month I spoke to a young lady who was a Birthright child 40 years ago. She shared how her grandmother brought her 16 year old daughter (her mother) to Birthright for help. She shared how Birthright was there for her mom, grandmother and helped her come into this world with love and support.

Through family, friends and Birthright I am reminded the joy, struggles and sorrows of life that come with expecting moms and those who are trying to start a family. I am grateful and blessed to volunteer at Birthright and be involved in so many people's lives.

May your house be filled with family and love this Thanksgiving.

Shelli Ridder
Managing Director

There is always room for one more Volunteer at Birthright!

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact us at 620.663.5872

Visit us at 214 East 3rd or online at birthright.org/hutchinsonks

Volunteer Staff:

Vicki Quick

Maxine Julian

Barbara Hoskinson

Anna Kiser

Carolyn Stucky

Donnise Shipley

Amy Godina

Rachel Ryan

Betty Hendrickson

Shelli Ridder

Stay connected, we're on Facebook!

[Facebook.com/Birthrighthutch](https://www.facebook.com/Birthrighthutch)

Unborn Picky Eaters

Most moms believe their babies were incredibly responsive to certain foods and drinks due to the kicking or twirling within minutes of particular foods and drinks being consumed. This suggests that the baby in the womb can respond to specific flavors.

Researchers are still unclear how this is happening but they do know that the baby's taste buds are developed around 14 weeks in the womb. There is evidence showing certain flavor molecules from foods can cross over into amniotic fluid. There are also studies based on post-birth outcomes that babies can taste and smell in the womb. These facts led some researchers to hypothesized taste preferences in young children could be influenced by exposure to certain foods during the pregnancy.

Around 100 mothers were recruited, all in their final trimester of pregnancy by researchers to test a theory. Using 4D ultrasound technology to view the baby's movement with great detail. The women were given flavor capsules of kale and carrots to view the babies reaction in the womb by the ultrasound. No surprise to me but most of the babies had a laughter expression on their face with the carrot flavor capsule, more of a cry face expression with the kale capsule and more of a neutral face when flavor wasn't introduced to the babies.

Jackie Blissett, co-author on the new study, said kale and carrot were chosen due to their different flavor profiles. Kale features strongly bitter characteristics, while carrot is often found to be a sweet vegetable. Interestingly, Blissett does note it is unclear exactly what flavor molecules are affecting the babies, particularly since sugar, for example, wouldn't be contributing to the sweet positive response from the carrot.

Which leads you down the rabbit hole of many questions and future research projects. For example does the baby reaction lessens after being introduced repeatedly of the same flavor?

The top 4D ultrasound is a baby happily responding to the sweet taste of carrot and on the bottom is a baby grimacing at the bitter taste of kale. I believe my 17 year old son makes the similar expression on the bottom with many vegetables served at the dinner table



Perinatal Hospice & Palliative Care

Continuing Your Pregnancy When Your Baby's Life Is Expected to Be Brief

If you are here because of a prenatal diagnosis that indicates your baby may die before or after birth, we are so sorry. Perhaps you are considering continuing your pregnancy and embracing whatever time you may be able to have with your baby, even if that time is only before birth, while your baby is cradled safely inside of you. Please know that support is available (see the links on this site for [perinatal hospice & palliative care programs](#) and other resources) and that you are not alone. Parents who have traveled this path before you have found that it can be a beautiful, profoundly meaningful, and healing journey.

The Sad Truth

I visited with Kansas For Life this week and here are the facts on abortion clinics in Kansas. I was informed the abortions laws in Kansas are very blurry. You can legally have an abortion up to 22 weeks; but if the doctor feels the mother is at risk, if there is health issues with the baby or become pregnant by rape you can have an abortion at any stage through the pregnancy. These clinics are not required to have health inspections like hospitals or restaurants. There are currently 5 clinics in the state of Kansas and some are now opening on Sunday because of the high demands. States like Oklahoma, Texas, and Missouri are no abortion states along with Arkansas who have strict limited abortion laws citizens come to Kansas for their abortions. I was told the number of abortions will most likely triple next year for Kansas. The only way to put a stop to the abortion clinics here in Kansas are through prayers, know who you are voting for, and being able to talk rationally to individuals that are pro-choice.

- ⇒ *“According to a recent report, abortions increased by nine percent in the state of Kansas in 2020, ending a 20-year downward trend.*
- ⇒ *52% (3,901) were out-of-state patients attributing to the increase I*
- ⇒ *In all, abortions rose to 7,542, an increase of 626.*
- ⇒ *3,641 from Missouri 556 from nearby Texas and Oklahoma*

“April, 2022 marks the three-year anniversary of the Kansas Supreme Court extreme ruling in Hodes & Nausser v. Schmidt, which radically changed the state constitution to enable a nearly unlimited abortion industry. Last year’s historic increase in the annual abortion rate, the largest in over 25 years, it served as a warning sign. Now, with the release of new 2021 state abortion statistics, it is clear Kansas is a regional destination state for abortion — and the health and safety of women are being put at risk. From the KDHE) “[Abortions in Kansas, 2021](#)” report, here are the facts about the immediate impact of the Hodes decision:

- ⇒ ***Since the 2019 ruling, state statistics have shown the following impacts (2019-2021):***
 - *13% increase in the overall annual number of abortions*
 - *17% increase in live dismemberment abortions performed*
 - *16% increase in abortions performed on out-of-state residents*
- ⇒ ***Due to the ruling, two state laws related to abortion have already been overturned:***
 - *Live dismemberment abortion ban, struck down April 2021*
 - *Clinic safety, sanitation, and inspection law, struck down December 2021*

“The data clearly shows Kansas is heading toward unlimited abortion up to the moment of birth,” said Danielle Underwood, Kansans for Life Director of Communications, “The Value Them Both Amendment is the one remedy for Kansans to avoid becoming a permanent destination state for painful, late-term abortions, paid for with our state tax dollars.”


Happy Thanksgiving
From Birthright