

Birtheright Hutchinson

Dec. 2024

Reviewing the Year

Birtheright has had a busy year! Our clientele has increased, and we have new volunteers working at the office. Still, there is a lot more going on than handing out clothes, formula, and diapers. This year, several women came to Birtheright asking for *page 2*

Conversations at the Fair

This past September, I volunteered to work the Birtheright booth at the Kansas States Fair. Attendance at the Fair has been down over the past few years, so I brought a book to look at during the down times. My first surprise was the crowd we had. *page 4*

Calling Planned Parenthood

“How easy is it to get an abortion in Kansas?” After being asked this question several times, it was time to find out. Are there really a lot of hoops to jump through? Taking it as a challenge, I called Planned Parenthood for more information. At the same time, another friend *page 3*



Victoria Summerhill Fox, the granddaughter of Birtheright founder Louise Summerhill with her granddaughter, and Hutchinson Director, Shelli Ridder.

Embracing The Future and Honoring Our Past

This year's International Birtheright Convention looked at the changing dynamics women face in crisis pregnancies. When founded, we were encouraged to put our offices in discrete homes so women felt safe and anonymous when they visited. We also reached most women by offering free pregnancy tests, as they were not easily accessible or affordable. While our mission has stayed the same, our approach continues to change to meet the needs of the current culture.

Most women who come to Birtheright are looking for a way to keep their babies. That is why free diapers and resources have become vital to Birtherights worldwide. A path of hope can be found when one has answers to major roadblocks like affording a car seat, baby bed, and other supplies. In addition to needed supplies, women also form relationships with our volunteers, who continue to help them make a path of hope when life gets overwhelming.

Birtheright

214 East 3rd, Hutchinson
620.663.5872

birtherighthutch@gmail.com

24 Hour helpline
1.800.550.4900

Office Hours

Tuesday 1-4 pm
Wednesday noon-4 pm
Thursday noon-4 pm
1st Saturday of the month
11 am - 2 pm



Birtheright of
Hutchison Kansas



@birtherighthutch

Reviewing the Year, with our Director

help and guidance when they discovered that they were expecting. The first one was thinking about giving her second child up for adoption, fearing she wouldn't be able to afford another baby. After finding out how Birthright will be there for her by providing a crib, mattress, car seat, and a layette two weeks before the baby is born. Then, continue that support by offering monthly support through baby clothes, diapers, formula, blankets, and other things a mother will need to help her child in the first two years of their life. She then decided to keep her baby instead of seeking an adopted family. I'm glad her firstborn will have a sibling to play with.

A lawyer from McPherson is helping two women with their adoptions. These women are grateful that Birthright was there to listen, be supportive, and help them find the right path for them with their unexpected pregnancy. Unfortunately, we were not able to help another woman who has chosen to abort her child. But we continue to pray for her and keep an open line of communication to offer emotional support.

Two of our volunteers have gone above and beyond helping a young woman who is pregnant, homeless, and has no family, friends, or support in the community. Many friends of Birthright, including some of my own coworkers, have stepped up to help her out. Watching so many individuals give to help her, and our clients in desperate situations always renew my faith in humanity.

Birthright is a place where people can get material goods, but they also get a friend who is there for them during the good times and the bad times. We help them find the resources they need if we can't provide them. We also listen and provide emotional support throughout the pregnancy and beyond.

Volunteering at Birthright is very rewarding. Please prayerfully consider if the Lord is calling you to be a Birthright volunteer. We can always use more help!

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:40

Supporting Each Other Around the World



Birthright International has two Birthrights in Africa, including one in Ghana. While at the Birthright International Convention, Shelli met the director of the Birthright in Ghana, which has been operating for 21 years. To support each other worldwide, Birthrights across the United States have sent extra summer clothes to Delaware, to then be shipped to Africa, where they will never go out of season. The Hutchinson Birthright was happy to share our many blessings by sending three boxes of summer clothes for our new friend in Ghana!

Support Birthright & get a Tax Write Off

Are you a generous person over 70 ½ years of age and have an IRA?

Heard of Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs—donors may make QCDs directly from an IRA to charity starting at age 70 ½. This is a direct transfer by an individual over age 70 ½ from an IRA to a qualified charity – as in from the company managing your IRA straight to the charity, not through the individual. A distribution also counts toward the taxpayer's annual required minimum distribution (RMD) if one is due. However, the distribution does not qualify for a charitable deduction (because the qualified transfer was never subject to taxation.) Keep in mind that there is a \$105,000 annual aggregate maximum in 2024. Always consult with your tax advisor.



SLEEPERS NEEDED

Help us keep all our Birthright babies warm this winter! Boy and girl sleepers are needed, especially size 18 months to 24 months. With your help we can all have a snuggly warm winter!

We are also in need of newborn winter clothes for boy and girls.

Thank you for your support!





A baby at 22 weeks, most babies can survive if born at this point in the pregnancy.

Calling Planned Parenthood for Help

of Birthright visited Planned Parenthood on East Central in Wichita seeking help.

Calling Planned Parenthood, I asked for help with funds for an abortion. Telling the woman on the phone, I needed help with travel expenses and the cost of the abortion as I lived in Missouri. The woman was quick to reply that there is funding to assist women from other states with the cost of the abortion. After sharing concerns that I might be 24 weeks along (In the state of Kansas, abortion is legal up to 22 weeks and 6 days.), she kindly told me that it was okay and that they would check to see how far along I was once I came in for the procedure.

Hesitantly, I revealed that it might be closer to 28 weeks. But travel from Missouri would be difficult. What would happen if I made the trip and was denied the abortion? The woman then recommended two clinics in Colorado that could help me at any point. Yes, Colorado's law protects the right to have an abortion and does not make distinctions or regulations around a time or stage during pregnancy. Along with the clinics' information, I was given the phone number of an organization that would pay the rest of the bill if I needed more assistance or funds. I thanked the woman and hung up in disbelief.

They were so generous in helping me find a way to cover the cost of travel and the abortion. Sorry... I mean the procedure. The woman told me that Colorado, Illinois, and New Mexico will do late-term abortions. Calling Planned Parenthood in Kansas City, KS, resulted in pretty much the same conversation.

Would it be different in person? A young friend of Birthright went into the Wichita Planned Parenthood. Walking into the office, she asked what kind of help she could get if she was expecting as a single mom. They offered her a pregnancy test. She asked if it was a free pregnancy test and if they would help with doctor bills and supplies needed to raise a newborn. They replied let's take it one step at a time. First, let's take the test. After the test came back positive, the Planned Parenthood worker began sharing about how a baby was a burden. Abortion was an option. The expectant mother told her that her baby wasn't a burden; she just needed help and support through her pregnancy. The worker continued to push, saying that she was too young to be burdened with a child. Abortion would be the best path forward. The brave mother then told the worker, if you are not going to help me as your name says, Planned Parenthood, then I have no reason to stay and should leave. And she left.

The encounter left her upset and disappointed. How could they not support her in her choice to keep the baby? They were not there for her, the woman, or the baby.



The Rumors are True!

Rumors are going around that Birthright is looking to move. Well, it's true we are starting a building fund to help Birthright move to a bigger, more visible, and busier location. Birthright has been reaching out to the Knights of Columbus for the past 3 months and has received some funds from the Knights. We want to take this opportunity to thank all the Knights of Columbus for their support.

As we continue to build our moving fund, we will need the support of our faithful donors. Would you be willing to help us move so we can be more visible and beneficial to the community we serve? Your support is needed financially and prayerfully. Please pray for us in this endeavor to find the right location and continue to reach out to the community.

There are several ways you can help with funding! You can ask your work to help with a baby shower with newborn items for the layettes or build a diaper mountain at your work or school, maybe have a jean day at work, or a baby bottle fundraiser (we would provide the bottles). You could also help us make connections. You may know someone who knows of a good building they would be willing to mark down for Birthright. There are many ways to support Birthright, and it all helps!

Birthright Board Members

- Ben Suter, President**
- Scott Tajchman, Vice President**
- Terri Lee, Treasurer**
- Paige Wilkens, Secretary**
- Ruth Ann Newsum**
- Holly Thomas**



Left: Birthright booth at the Kansas State Fair, displaying the growth of the unborn baby.



Right: Mrs. Jost, winner of the one of the Birthright raffles. The second raffle was a new infant car seat, donated by Allen Samuels Hutchinson.

Conversation while Volunteering at the Kansas State Fair Birthright Booth

Ruth Newsum Maybe it had something to do with the beautiful weather, but the crowds were great, with almost no down time! I sat through my shift with my most inviting smile. Most smiled back, a few looked at me with disdain (I kept smiling), but the ones who actually stopped to talk made a big impact on ME!

I spoke to a man, concerned about his brother whose girlfriend was experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. He was wondering what he could do to help them have the courage to continue with the pregnancy. Another woman was concerned about a friend who had lost her job. She wanted her baby, but now had new unexpected financial concerns. A young Hispanic girl also stopped by, so happy to discover there were recourses in her hometown. Many people stopped to offer their thanks. In particular I remember a woman who told me that almost 40 years ago, when she was 17 years old with an unplanned pregnancy, Birthright helped facilitate the adoption of her beautiful baby girl. A 37 year old woman told me that as a "very premature preemie" she spent many months in the NICU. With a lot of emotion, she expressed thankfulness that there are people willing to fight for babies who are indeed human' before birth. I was also touched by a group of 5 (male and female) young teenagers who stopped to talk. One of the girls left a donation. Another young man stopped just to tell me his sister was currently struggling with an unplanned pregnancy, and how he 'is going to do everything he can to help her.' So many people touched my heart. Probably the one that touched me the most was a father who summand his young children in front of our "in-utero" display. I could hear him say... "I don't care what you remember about being at the fair, as long as you remember this... how can you look at this and ever for a moment think they aren't babies, that this isn't life! They already matter!"

Yes, there were a few dirty looks. But those are long forgotten. I volunteered at the booth to try and be a blessing to others. I truly think I was equally blessed. I hope you consider being a Birthright Volunteer.

Christy Hutchinson I started volunteering for Birthright in my late twenty's early thirties. My mother, I believe had started volunteering a few years before I did and we were very close so we just started doing it together. We started by taking pamphlets around to different colleges. The opportunity opened up to volunteer at the fair and we have done it for the last 20-30 years.

My mother passed away 6 years ago and I have always continued to volunteer at the fair, partly because of her and partly because I enjoy working at the fair. I believe Birthright does a lot of good and it allows me to give back to the community. I believe the best part about volunteering at the fair is seeing the children come up and look at the display (models of actual life size babies in the womb) and realizing what it is. I've always enjoyed telling them that they used to be that small at one time and their eyes get huge.

When I am not volunteering at the fair, I donate money and I tell people about birthright and put their name out in the community wherever I'm at.