



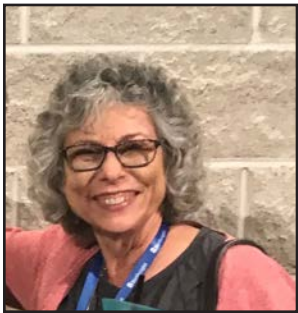
Birthright of Grand Junction

April – June, 2025

2nd Quarter Newsletter

"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every baby to be born." ~Louise Summerhill

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



As the warmth of summer gently unfolds, nature awakens from its long winter slumber in a vibrant celebration of new life. Everywhere we look, blossoms emerge, and the earth renews itself — a powerful reminder of the countless mothers we've had the privilege to support through their pregnancy journeys and beyond.

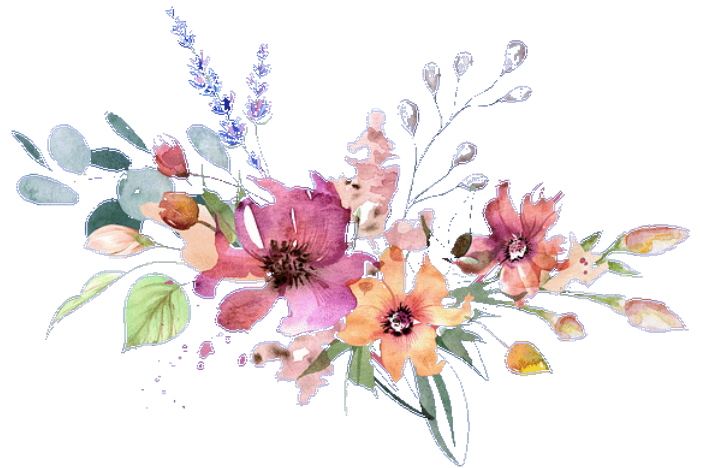
The name Birthright was born from a deeply held belief: *"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and it is the right of every child to be born."* This simple yet profound truth is the heart of who we are. At Birthright, our essence is love. We offer hope, a listening ear, and unwavering emotional support — all without judgment.

International Birthright measures its impact not in numbers, but in the love, dignity, and compassion we extend to everyone. In the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta, "If you can't feed a hundred, feed one. Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and start with the person nearest you." That is the spirit in which we serve.

On our office wall hangs a framed poem — a quiet but powerful testament to the heart of our mission. The words speak not just to what we do, but why we do it. *This poem is found on the next page.*

Blessings,

Pat Bowman



Phone: 970-644-5788

www.birthrightgj.org

Image by Phuong Thai Thi Quynh
from Pixabay

253 White Ave, Grand Junction, CO 81502 † DONATIONS: P.O. Box 1984

THE STARFISH STORY

A man walked along the beach. Ahead, he saw a boy dashing back and forth in the sand. He smiled, thinking the boy was enjoying a game on a fine morning, so he hurried to catch up.

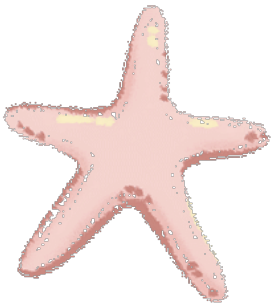
As he got closer, he saw the boy picking something up out of the sand and gently tossing it in the sea. As he got closer to the boy, the man called out. "Hello, what are you doing?"

The boy paused in throwing, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The sun is up, and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back in, they will die."

"But don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it? You can't possibly make a difference."

After listening politely, the boy reached down, picked up another starfish, gently tossed it into the sea and said, "It made a difference to that one."

(Adapted from the story, "The Star Thrower" by Loren Elseley)



Images by Abigail Tan
from Pixabay

The story of the boy and the starfish mirrors the very soul of Birthright's mission. Just as the boy sees the urgency in saving each individual starfish, we see the profound value in helping each woman, each child, one at a time.

When others might see the overwhelming scale of need — so many women, so many challenges — we, like the boy, choose to act. We don't focus on statistics or how many lives we've touched; we focus on the one before us. With compassion and courage, we reach out — because for that woman, that child, our support can mean everything.

"The Starfish Story" is a quiet echo of St. Teresa of Calcutta's wisdom: "Help one person at a time and start with the person nearest you." It reminds us that every act of love, every gesture of support, every starfish gently returned to the sea — matters.

In the end, our work isn't measured by numbers. It's measured by hearts touched, hope restored, and lives changed — one precious soul at a time.

BIRTHRIGHT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Birthright International has a Hotline for the US and Canada Chapters. They redirect the calls to the appropriate Chapters. Birthright of Grand Junction is the only Chapter in Colorado; therefore, we receive all the incoming calls from all over the state. Birthright International has transitioned from the Helpline to an Online Chat function on the Birthright international website. "The objective in this major transition is to continue to reach our clients where they are — and that is online. We have already seen incredible success with the Online Chat function since its launch. As we continue to utilize and advertise the Online Chat, we anticipate higher volume and more Chapters will see the direct impact on their numbers. It is important to understand that there are two functions of the Online Chat — an automated function (find a Chapter, general info, etc.), as well the option to connect to a live person... the average number of Live Chats per month is 345."

Website News: Birthright's website, www.birthrightgj.org has been a valuable means of communication with our clients. They make appointments, ask for assistance, thank us for our assistance and students request an interview for their school research papers, etc. Our online donation site is up and running now.

MOM'S CORNER

Comments from Our Moms:

"Thank you so much for any help you have provided. I cannot express how much of a blessing you and Birthright are to our family. Everything has been so tough as you know... Thank you for all you do."

"I am calling to let you know I had my baby. We are being discharged from the hospital. I will be visiting Birthright in a week or two to show off my baby boy. His dad and I are very excited."

Please pray for one of our Moms, who miscarried her baby. The gestational age of the baby was three months.

A pregnant woman is provided with a layette during her third trimester of pregnancy. She is thankful for the items received. In addition, the Mom is pampered with a very nice gift bag.



Cathy and Connie placed mother's gift bags on the top shelf



Safety Basket

WHAT ARE LAYETTES?

Purpose of a Layette:

- Help parents feel prepared and supported.
- Eases financial burden of baby's first needs.
- Can be a baby shower present or donation.
- Frequently used by nonprofits as part of outreach programs for vulnerable families.

Layette Basket Items

To the right is a suggested list of Layette Basket Items.

Clothing: • onesies (short and long sleeve) • sleepers or footed pajamas • swaddle or receiving blankets • pairs of socks • knit hats or beanies • sweaters or jackets (seasonal) • pairs of baby mittens (prevent scratching)	Bath & Hygiene: • Hooded towel • Washcloths • Baby shampoo & body wash • Baby lotion • Diaper rash cream • Baby brush/comb Feeding: • bottles (if bottle feeding) • Burp cloths • Bibs • Sippy cup (for later use)	Diapering: • Diapers (newborn size to size 3) • Baby wipes • Diaper cream • Changing pad Other Useful Items: • Pacifiers • Rattles or soft toys • Diaper bag or tote • Baby book or milestone card set
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OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many of our beloved volunteers are taking time to travel, enjoy family moments, and explore new places — well-deserved time to recharge and create memories with their loved ones. At Birthright, we are more than a team — we are a family. And as with any family, we believe in caring for one another. That means encouraging our volunteers to take the time they need when they need it most. Their well-being is just as important as the care they give to others. We ask you to please join us in prayer for one of our dear volunteers, whose father is currently undergoing surgeries and treatment for cancer. Your prayers and kind thoughts mean more than words can express. Together, we continue to walk in love, lifting each other up — in service, in rest, and in faith. Birthright is blessed with a great team, which includes Roxanne Schick for building our quarterly newsletter and Victoria Evans as editor.



VICTORIA, OUR NEW VOLUNTEER

Victoria Evans is pictured with her son, Walker, and is married to Dylan. They make a beautiful family and so very loving and caring to everyone they meet.

We are glad to announce, Victoria, as the new editor of our Quarterly Newsletter. She is very talented as a photographer and have had experience in editing newspapers for small organizations. If you go to our website birthrightgj.org and click on “Get Involved”, she is the model posing as a pregnant Mom (she was pregnant at the time).



DONORS

We are deeply grateful to all those who have given so generously to support the mission of Birthright. Your kindness continues to breathe life into our work, allowing us to walk alongside women and families in their most tender moments with compassion, dignity and love.

A special thank you to the incredible students of **Holy Family School**, who raised a generous sum through their Lenten Project. By allowing them to wear something outside of uniforms they raise funds at school and decided to donate to us, these young hearts embraced the true spirit of giving — and in doing so, made a powerful difference in the lives of others.

To the women of **St. Bridget Circle**, we are so thankful for your thoughtful gifts of financial support and much-needed diapers. Your care helps meet both immediate needs and brings lasting comfort to the mothers we serve.

To our **private donors**, thank you for your heartfelt contributions — from monetary gifts to baby essentials — and to one especially kind donor who ensured that an entire family of **four received Easter gifts**, your generosity brought joy, dignity and a reminder that they are not alone.

We are also grateful to **Mike from Emerse Design Co.**, whose time and expertise made it possible to set up a streamlined donation feature on our website, www.birthrightgj.org. Your behind-the-scenes work helps others say "yes" to generosity with ease.



Each donation, whether large or small, is like a starfish tossed gently back into the sea — a life touched, a heart lifted, a difference made. Thank you for being part of this work and for believing, as we do, in the beauty and worth of every life.