



# Birthline Bulletin

Everything Life Affirming

Spring 2023

Serving families in need from conception to kindergarten.



Joy is  
Blooming  
Thanks  
to YOU!



# A TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

## Resilience & Growth



Spring is in the air! This is the season for new beginnings, fresh starts, hope and joy... **This is the season of Birthline!**

We provide hope to those caring for new life. Hope is needed to survive the cold winters and ride out the storms. Hope gives us strength and resilience.

Being at Birthline gives me tremendous hope since I am continually reminded of the bountiful goodness that exists within our community. It is such a blessing to witness kindness in action on a daily basis: in the genuine gratitude from our clients, in the generosity of our donors, and in the dedication and compassion from our staff and volunteers. What better way to start the season?

I am filled with excitement for the promise of what lies ahead, both for Birthline and for the many families we impact every day.

Michelle Twardowski  
Board Chair &  
Interim Executive Director

## Nurtured by Birthline, Now Thriving

Danielle was a client at Birthline 18 years ago. She recently got in touch by phone to thank us for helping her in a time of need and to share with us her success. This is Danielle's story in her own words...

"I first heard about Birthline through a friend. I really appreciated your staff and what you were able to offer me and my daughter when we had nothing. I relied a lot on your clothes and food at the time. My ex was a bad man who was very abusive. He made me lose four babies to abuse. We became homeless. I tried to do the best I could until he beat me while I was 3 months pregnant with my now oldest son. I ran away from California to save my kids.

The help I received at Birthline was amazing. Birthline helped me overcome so much: from abuse and homelessness, to running away from the abuser. I have now been happily married for 15 years and am a mother to four children. I love to give back to my community and make a difference because I know what it's like to have nothing and that God always provides.

The verse James 2:15 "Faith, without works, is dead" called to me one day. I knew I had to do something, so I started *My Best Friend's Closet* 10 years ago. It is a resale shop where struggling families can get clothing for almost free. It's my way of giving back, being a good Christian, living through His word, and setting a good example for my children."

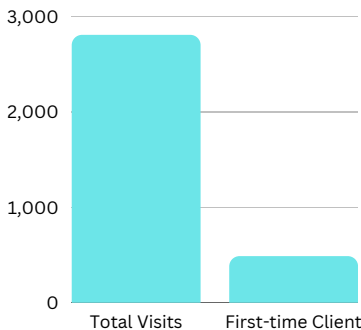
Danielle, thank you for sharing your success with us. You have accomplished so much, and your future is shining brightly!

## Year In Review: 2022

**9,646** Clients & Dependents Served  
**279,000+** Diapers Dispensed

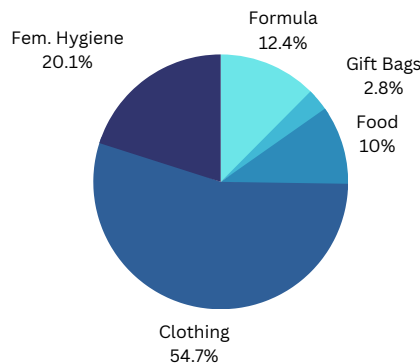
**75+** Volunteer Helpers  
**3,253+** Volunteer Hours Worked

### Client Visits\*

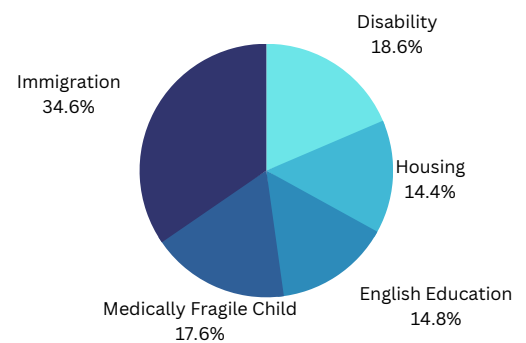


\*Shows 83% of clients return for repeat services.

### Free Items Dispensed



### Resource Referrals



# SPRING INTO GRATITUDE

## Be A Part of **LOVE Another Mother** !

Last year, Birthline held our first annual **Love Another Mother** event to honor the many young moms (and other caregivers) who, in spite of life's challenges, are doing their best to provide for their families and get ahead in life. Most have no one to recognize and celebrate their efforts. **Love Another Mother** fills this void and helps them feel appreciated. This year, we'd like to honor 100 mothers at our event, which will be held on **Thursday, May 4th**. Here are some ways you can get involved:

### Sponsorship Opportunities Such As:

- \$2,000 • Chair Massage Station
- \$700 • Photo Booth
- \$5,000 • Walmart Gift Cards (\$50 each)
- \$500 • Breakfast Sponsor

Partial sponsorships are welcome!

### Other Items Needed:

- 500 Small succulent cuttings
- 100 Ceramic flowerpots 4" to 6"
- 100 Photo frames 4" x 6" (lightweight wooden or acrylic)
- 3 Pop-up canopies (to borrow)
- 12 Folding chairs (to borrow)

Come join our planning committee or volunteer to help the day of our event. To learn more, please contact Mary at [Mary.Bones@birthlineofsd.org](mailto:Mary.Bones@birthlineofsd.org)



*"Birthline has given my little family more than hope. I feel beyond blessed to have Birthline around."  
-- Marisela*

## Bill Spicuzza: Almost 20 Years of Service and Counting!



Bill Spicuzza and "Millie" out for a walk on the trails near home.

During the harsh winter of 1978, a young university grad left his home in Wisconsin in search of opportunity and warmer climate. After a long road trip his car broke down in San Diego, and he has been here ever since! Bill found work in computer programming and eventually met his lovely wife Shirley, to whom he has been married for over 35 years.

One day, in the early 2000's, a monthly Christian newspaper published a list of pregnancy support centers that needed volunteers. He realized that this was an opportunity to put his life-affirming beliefs into action. Birthline happened to be close to his home, so he paid a visit. Mary Ann Fentress and Tricia Corrao, who were running the program, welcomed his help with bookkeeping and occasional grant writing. Eventually he joined the Board of Directors as Treasurer and served in that role from 2005 to 2017. Now retired, Bill loves spending time in his garden and walking local trails with his dog. We are so grateful that he still volunteers several hours per week, helping with everything from data entry to donor acknowledgments. Perhaps you have received a thank you note from him? For your many years of dedication, now it's our turn to thank YOU, Bill!

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Office & Storage Spaces Receive a Facelift Thanks to Many Volunteers

Birthline staff and volunteers spent much of February working to rearrange our office. The goal was to give each client manager their own dedicated office space in which to meet privately with clients. The result is much more professional and welcoming. Many thanks to Jeanne Hansen (our Program Manager) and Erica Egnell for donating a desk and bookcase for each office!

Our donation storage room also received a facelift thanks to a few different groups. Knights of Columbus from St. Catherine Laboure and Sacred Heart Church installed new light fixtures and assembled shelving. Finally, Helena Proctor, a 13-year-old Life Scout with Troop 5 Girls in Chula Vista, dedicated her Eagle Scout Project to Birthline. Along with her troop members and some of their dads, Helena led the project of designing a floor plan, assembling new tables, building custom racks, and providing assorted bins to maximize our use of the storage room. We couldn't be more thankful for such a mature and capable young lady!



At left, some of the newly rearranged offices at Birthline.



At right, Helena Proctor and Life Scout Troop 5 girls and dads.

## Parish Partners

Thank you to the many parishes across San Diego which have so graciously opened their doors and hearts to Birthline in Q1 of this year:

- In February, both **St. Mary Magdalene** and **St. Mark's Church** in Clairemont hosted a presentation & baby shower.
- Feb. 18 & 19 - **St. Anne's** in San Diego hosted a donation drive.
- In March both **St. Vincent de Paul** in Mission Bay and **Church of St. Luke** in El Cajon hosted a presentation & donation drive.

If your church is interested in hosting a presentation or fundraising event for Birthline, please email: [Maureen.Sterk@birthlineofsd.org](mailto:Maureen.Sterk@birthlineofsd.org)

Advance notice is appreciated so we can provide informational materials and update you on our current needs. Thank you!

## Current Wish List

- ✓ BOY clothes (Size 6 months to 5T)
- ✓ Regular diapers (Size 3 and size 6)
- ✓ Pull-up diapers (Size 4/5T)
- ✓ Baby lotion, body wash, thermometers
- ✓ Children's books in Spanish
- ✓ Folding wagon for office

## Grants Update

We are thrilled to announce that Birthline was awarded a coveted grant from The Parker Foundation! The \$25,000 gift will partially fund the salary for a new Executive Director. Although \$15,000 was an outright gift, the remaining \$10,000 was a challenge grant to be matched by our supporters. Fortunately, our donors came through and we surpassed the goal! Special thanks to our Board of Directors for contributing \$2,200. Best of all, we have made an offer to a new ED candidate, and she has accepted. Stay tuned!

## Birthline needs YOU!

If you have a few spare hours, please consider helping us in the office.

- ✓ Volunteer Coordinator (4 hrs/wk)
- ✓ In-Kind Donations Manager (3 hrs/wk)
- ✓ Interpreters: Arabic, Farsi, Haitian, Creole (Variable hours)
- ✓ Active Members for Board of Directors  
Areas of expertise desired: Business, Finance, Human Resources, and Digital Marketing.

Volunteers  
Wanted!