



Birthline Bulletin

Everything Life Affirming

Summer 2023

Serving families in need from conception to kindergarten.



Evolution & Change



As summertime embraces us with its warmth, we reflect on the incredible journey we've shared in providing life-affirming support to mothers in need. Every day we witness firsthand the transformative impact that compassion, empathy, and our support can have on these women. Through our programs, we strive to create a nurturing environment where mothers feel valued, supported, and empowered to build a brighter future for themselves and their children.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support we receive from individuals like you. Your unwavering commitment to our cause, whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading awareness, has a direct impact on the lives of the mothers and families we serve. Your compassion is a beacon of hope in their lives, reminding them that they are not alone.

As Birthline continues to flourish we find ourselves facing some challenges and embracing change. Most notably, we are in need of a larger office space. We continue to put our trust in God's perfect timing and believe that the right location will be provided to us so we can continue providing hope to those that need it most.

Thank you for your faith and continued partnership. We are eternally grateful for your support. Together, we can create a world where every mother in need receives the life-affirming support she deserves.

May you enjoy a summer filled with blessings, joy, and the knowledge that your compassion is changing lives.

Michelle Twardowski

Board Chair & Interim Executive Director

A Graduation Success Story

Andrena came to Birthline immediately after giving birth to her first baby, in September of 2021. She had arrived in the U.S. a few months earlier from Haiti. The father of her baby abandoned her as soon as they crossed the border and moved away to Florida. Pregnant, alone, and not knowing any English, she felt betrayed and depressed. Fortunately, she found a place to sleep in an acquaintance's apartment. The acquaintance knew about Birthline and brought her in.



"When I arrived, I had no one. Itan received me as though I was visiting a friend at home. She cheered me up and encouraged me," says Andrena of her case manager.

She continued to live in her friend's living room along with her baby until, with Itan's help, she was able to find independent housing. Following her case manager's advice, Andrena enrolled in English classes. She studied diligently, and as soon as she was proficient enough, she obtained a SSN and landed a job at Public Consulting Group's human services division assisting other Haitians in need. Birthline provided her with clothing appropriate for her new office job.

Over the course of a year, Andrena worked during the day and studied English in the afternoons, all while caring for her baby girl. As of this month, Andrena has graduated to Level 6 (out of 8) in her English program. Now knowing four languages – English, French, Spanish, and Creole – Andrena is newly employed at Catholic Charities as a migrant consultant. To "give back" she is now hosting other less fortunate families in her small two-bedroom apartment. "I am so grateful to the United States and Birthline for allowing me to get ahead in life," she says proudly.

We Need YOUR Help to Find A New Home

The time has come for Birthline to move to a new location. We have outgrown our current office, which has been our home for over 16 years. Despite our efforts to rearrange furniture and try to optimize the space, the reality is that we are bursting at the seams. Ideally, a new office will fulfill the needs listed below.

Location Requirements

- Size = 3000-4000 sq. feet
- Walking proximity to a bus line
- Ground floor access
- Close to current location (South of SR 52, North of I-8, and West of I-805)
- Monthly rent less than \$6000
- On-site storage space for in-kind donations

If you or someone you know can help with our search, please call the office or email Mary.Bones@birthlineofsd.org

DOUBLE THE IMPACT, DOUBLE THE FUN

L♥VE Another Mother -- A Grander Affair!

Love Another Mother was an amazing success! Though only in its second year, the celebration doubled in both size and impact from last year. One hundred Birthline clients were invited to partake in the festivities; most of them being first-time mothers, or mothers who worked hard to accomplish goals set for them by their case managers.

Love Another Mother aims to recognize and honor Birthline's client moms for the effort they make to care for their families, despite facing all sorts of challenges such as poverty, lack of education, medical issues, and other difficulties. Most of these women would not have had a Mother's Day celebration of any kind. Each mother received a Walmart gift card, a "spa-at-home" goody bag, a buffet meal, a chance at numerous raffle prizes, and a potted succulent arrangement to take home! Smiles of gratitude abounded.

The South Clairemont Recreation Center, just across from Birthline, was the perfect location for our event. Staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to plan, decorate, and prepare everything for the big day.



Special thanks to the following community partners for their generous support: **Newbreak Café** in Pacific Beach for coffee and food; **Colin Sway Photography**; **TJ Maxx** in Clairemont for raffle items; **Katie Larosa** and **Colleen Cooke** for goody bags; and to the parishioners of **St. James & St. Leo** (led by **Julie Bishop**) for raffle baskets. One very generous donor, who chose to remain anonymous, sponsored all 100 Walmart gift cards. We are incredibly humbled and grateful. Thank you to everyone who made this special day possible!



See What Our Volunteers Had to Say...

At Birthline, it's so gratifying to see the fruit of our volunteer labor in events like Love Another Mother. To be able to connect with the clients and see the big smiles on their faces & the children's faces filled my heart with so much joy!

-- Elizabeth

I chose to volunteer at Birthline because I believe that they are truly fulfilling their mission in helping those who are in need, especially the pregnant mothers and their children. The fact that Birthline has a case management department tells me that they are sincere in the progress of those they are helping. Birthline truly cares!

--Gina

I heard about Birthline at St Vincent de Paul Church in Mission Hills. A friend talked about it, and I signed up to volunteer at the Mother's Day program. It was so touching. I was happy to be a part of it.

--Sharon

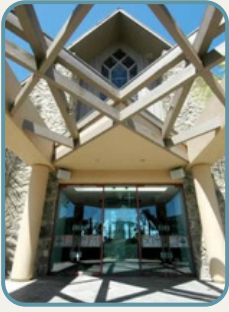


Birthline staff and volunteers at Love Another Mother.

The Love Another Mother event was beautifully organized...You could tell all the moms in attendance felt honored and loved. Thanks for the opportunity to volunteer!

--Diane

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Month-Long Support from All Hallows Catholic Church

Thank you to All Hallows Catholic Church parishioners, to Father Joe Masar, Birthline Ambassador Camille Dose, and to Stewardship Coordinator Cindy Bosh who supported Birthline the entire month of May! The generous souls of All Hallows Parish raised over \$10,000 to help our mission of compassionate care of vulnerable women and families. Funds raised will help with needed items such as car seats, strollers, formula and other baby essentials for mothers in need. We are so blessed to have All Hallows parishioners and staff as devoted friends of Birthline!

News from our Community Partners

Thank you to the many organizations across San Diego which have so graciously opened their doors and hearts to Birthline in recent months:

- Mission San Diego and St. Catherine Laboure had baby showers for Birthline in early May. This brought in many baby items and donations.
- SR Loving Care, Kavod Charter School, and the Whispering Winds Ladies Auxiliary all contributed generously to our supply of diapers, clothes and other baby supplies.

If your group is interested in hosting a presentation or fundraising event for Birthline, please email: Maureen.Sterk@birthlineofsd.org

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

Grants Update

"The purpose of FOCUS shall be for the comfort and betterment of battered, abused, homeless, disabled, disadvantaged and foster children of San Diego County"



Birthline is humbled and grateful to be in our second year of receiving monthly support from our friends at FOCUS. This wonderful organization has partnered with Birthline to provide critical items needed by our clients for their babies. They have the personal touch of connecting a volunteer shopper with our Program Director to coordinate the purchase of the most urgently needed items each month. This includes strollers, car seats, and Pack-N-Play beds. We are so thankful for the support and resources provided by the Friends of Children United Society!

**SAN DIEGO
GIVES**

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday
Sept. 7, 2023

Current Wish List

- ✓ Gently used infant & children's clothes (Size 6 mo. to 5T) Please no stains or tears.
- ✓ Shoes for boys & girls up to (Size 5T - 3)
- ✓ Small packs of baby wipes (56 wipes)
- ✓ Baby lotion - 8oz. size
- ✓ Baby shampoo/ bodywash - 8 oz. size
- ✓ Diaper rash creme or ointment

Birthline Needs YOUR TALENT!

If you have a few spare hours, please consider helping us in our office on a weekly basis.

- ✓ **Volunteer Coordinator** (4 hrs/wk) - Manage calendar and communicate opportunities. Greet & orient new volunteers as needed.
- ✓ **In-Kind Donations Manager** (4 hrs/wk) - Come in twice a week to help sort in-kind donations and manage our inventory.
- ✓ **Photographer / Videographer** (2 hrs/wk) - Come in once per week to capture some of the activity going on at Birthline!
- ✓ **Active Members for Board of Directors** (4 hrs/wk) - Areas of expertise desired: Business, Finance, and Public Relations.