



Birthline Bulletin

Everything Life Affirming

Autumn 2024

Serving families in need from conception to kindergarten.

THE START OF A NEW ERA



Changing Seasons



As the leaves change and the air grows crisp, we reflect on the whirlwind of activity that has defined the last several months at Birthline. It's been a busy, but incredibly rewarding time!

Our Grateful Hearts

Anniversary event is just around the corner, and we can already feel the excitement building. This 45th-anniversary celebration will be a time for us to honor the families we've served, the community that supports us, and the legacy that continues to grow.

In addition to Grateful Hearts, we were thrilled to participate in the Poway Rotary Parade this year. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community, share our mission, and celebrate the spirit of togetherness that makes Birthline so special. Seeing the joy on the faces of those who came out to support us was the biggest highlight of the day.

With each passing week we feel more settled in our new location. Staff, clients, and community members alike have been delighted by the change. Our clients especially appreciate the proximity to the freeway and the upgraded atmosphere of our new office space.

As we move forward, we remain thankful for your support. It's your generosity that allows us to provide hope and tangible help to those who need it most. Together, we are making a lasting difference, one family at a time.

With joyful gratitude,
Andrea Estrada Yumol
Executive Director

Going from Heartbreak to Help

Several years ago, Valentino and his wife arrived from Mexico, driven by the hope of building a better life. Last summer, their dreams seemed to be coming true when they received the joyous news that they were expecting their first child. Starting a family had always been their dream, and it seemed to be coming true.



As the pregnancy progressed, Valentino's wife began feeling unusually weak. Concerned, they sought medical advice. Their world turned upside down when they received both wonderful and heartbreaking news. They were expecting twins, but doctors also discovered that she was battling an aggressive cancer. Despite the devastating diagnosis, they held onto hope, focusing on the joy of their babies' arrival. They believed that after the birth, treatment could save her.

But fate had other plans. Five months into the pregnancy, her condition worsened. The doctors recommended an early C-section to save the babies and begin her treatment. On December 1, 2023, Dylan and Damian were born. Though premature, they were healthy, and the parents visited them daily in the NICU.

After three months, the babies were finally strong enough to go home. But their joy was short-lived. Just weeks later, Valentino's wife became so weak that she had to be hospitalized for radiation therapy. When she returned home, she was utterly exhausted. One week later, she was readmitted to the hospital and never came back. In her final moments, she made Valentino promise to take good care of their babies, and then she passed away peacefully.

As a widower with four-month-old twins, Valentino was overwhelmed. In his despair, he turned to Birthline for help. Birthline client managers surrounded Valentino with compassion, providing him with diapers, clothes, and much-needed support. He moved in with his sister, who helped care for the boys while Valentino worked an evening job.

Valentino continues to visit Birthline regularly, knowing that as his sons grow, Birthline will be there, offering a lifeline of support to help him provide for his precious boys.

Did You Know?

86,000 Children in the San Diego region live in poverty -- enough to fill Petco Park twice!

Birthline makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of these kids. See our impact over the past year:

1691 - Children given resources
422 - Babies given emergency formula
172 - County or partner referrals given

162,731 = Diapers distributed
\$55,800 = Value of newborn items given out

A BRAND NEW DAY FOR BIRTHLINE

A New Home and Chapter in our History



We are delighted to announce that on July 1, Birthline officially opened its doors at our new location on Businesspark Avenue. After nearly 20 years at our aging Clairemont office, the new space feels spacious, bright, and welcoming. Clients, staff, and the community have embraced the change, and we couldn't be more excited for what the future holds.

To celebrate this milestone, we hosted two successful Open House events this summer. Both events provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the new facility and engage with our supporters. However, visits are welcome anytime! If you'd like to schedule a tour or learn more about our services, please contact Andrea Yumol at andrea.yumol@birthlineofsd.org.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to the successful opening of our new office. Special recognition is due to Ray, BJ, Peter, Gary, and Tim for their efforts in shelving and organizing, ensuring the space was ready for immediate use.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to the many individual volunteers and families who generously gave their time and effort to assist with the move. Their dedication made the transition smoother than we could have imagined. A special thank you to the Mormon Battalion of Old Town, UCSD's Newman Center, and the Knights of Columbus for their unwavering support throughout our moving process. This move marks a significant step forward in our mission, allowing us to provide even better support to families in need.



Volunteer Superstar ★ Genevieve Leisz ★

Birthline could not be more grateful for Genevieve, one of our “Baby Gift Bag” specialists! Though she's been with us for only two years, she has quickly become an essential part of our volunteer team. With a deep love for children and a passion for helping mothers and babies, Genevieve felt an immediate pull to support Birthline after learning about us through her church. After touring our facility, Genevieve shared, “I was so impressed by the organization, but when I saw the baby gift bag room, my heart just knew that's where I wanted to help!”

Since then, Genevieve has faithfully volunteered each week, sorting and filling gift bags for new and expecting moms. She also keeps the space meticulously organized and manages our inventory with care. Outside of Birthline, this dynamic lady is also a crisis interventionist with the San Diego Police Department, supporting victims and families at crime scenes and accidents. Previously, she volunteered as a child advocate through Voices for Children, where she became responsible for a foster baby from infancy until he was adopted at age three—continuing to stay in touch even today.

A California native, Genevieve moved to San Diego in 1971, relocating often due to her husband's job before settling back in 1989. She worked in finance at the Naval Base in Point Loma for 33 years while raising her three children. Now retired, Genevieve enjoys being a grandmother to four wonderful grandchildren and dedicates her time to causes she cares about deeply. Thank you, Genevieve, for your remarkable talent and dedication—Birthline is lucky to have you!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



Grateful Hearts Anniversary Event

This has been a banner year for Birthline. Aside from the relocation to our beautiful new facility, new partnerships, and growth, the climax of Birthline's 45th anniversary celebration will be an awards ceremony and fundraising dinner on Saturday, September 28th. The event, to be held at Our Mother of Confidence Church, promises to be intimate and fun! Highlights will include an outdoor cocktail reception with gourmet appetizers, an open bar, and live music. This will be followed by a sit-down dinner indoors prepared by The French Gourmet, a heartfelt awards presentation to honor several dedicated longtime volunteers and contributors, and an exciting live auction with several amazing opportunities!

The main goal, of course, is to ensure that Birthline has the funds necessary to continue our mission of supporting vulnerable mothers and their babies for years to come. We invite our entire community to join in celebrating our incredible 45 years of service. For questions or more information, please contact Andrea Yumol at andrea.yumol@birthlineofsd.org. Tickets are available online via our website.



THE FRENCH GOURMET
Catering • Restaurant • Bakery • Wine Boutique

Thanks to our early-bird event sponsors!



Knights of Columbus

Anonymous

Pierre Charmasson

Deacon Dominic & Suzanne Guzzardo



JIMBO'S



New Partnership with the San Diego Regional Center

We are thrilled to announce a new partnership with the San Diego Regional Center whose mission it is to serve and empower persons with developmental disabilities. Through this collaboration, they will offer free monthly check-ups at Birthline for our clients' babies, aged 0-36 months. These screenings aim to ensure that babies are reaching their crucial developmental milestones. For clients whose children do not meet these milestones, immediate enrollment in County services will be provided, to ensure they receive the necessary medical and physical support to get their children set for success.



SDRC San Diego Regional Center
Serving San Diego and Imperial Counties

Current Wish List

- ✓ New or gently used infant **BOY** clothes (Size 6 mo. to 5T) Please no stains or tears.
- ✓ Small packs of baby wipes (56 wipes)
- ✓ Diapers size 6 or larger
- ✓ Similac Formula - Blue, Purple, and Orange cans

TRUNK - OR - TREAT

Decorate your trunk and bring on the treats! Next month we will host our first Halloween event! To learn more or sign up, please contact Andrea Ibarra at donations@birthlineofsd.org

