



# Tiny Voices

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F B I R T H R I G H T O F H U M B L E  
 F R O M P R O C H O I C E T O P R O L I F E

Kathy Ireland, the former Sports Illustrated swimsuit cover model, successful entrepreneur, and actress, long considered herself a 'Pro-Choice Christian'. Her stance on abortion was challenged, so she decided to dig into the subject and figure out the truth for herself. She dove into the medical books of her husband, an emergency room doctor, and what she found in those science texts forever challenged both her and her husband's view on abortion and when human life begins.

The 50-year-old mother of three has admitted in those early days of scientific discovery she did not want to be pro-life at all. In fact, she called the very people who convinced her to be pro-choice in the first place, Planned Parenthood, and asked them to give her their best argument. Ireland hoped that their explanation could allow her to again take the pro-choice stance. Ireland conveyed their answer was simply, "It's just a clump of cells and if you get it early enough it doesn't even look like a baby."

"What? That's it? That's your best? We're all clumps of cells!" Ireland replied back. "The unborn doesn't look like a baby, just like a baby doesn't look like a teenager, and a teenager doesn't look like a senior citizen. But that unborn human being looks exactly the way human beings are supposed to look at that stage of development!"

Emboldened and outspoken with her new found pro-life stance, in 1998 she did something many told her not to do - go on Bill Maher's HBO show "Politically Incorrect" and present the pro-life view. "I was told it was a lose-lose situation. But I thought if I did this maybe one woman watching wouldn't kill her baby," Ireland shared. Thankfully Kathy had a business partner who encouraged her to do it, saying, "if one woman watching cancelled her abortion appointment; it would be so worth it."

On the show she laid out the science of each individual having its genetic blueprint at the moment of conception, the DNA. "According to the law of biogenesis, all life comes from pre-existing life. Each species reproduces after its own kind. Therefore human beings can only reproduce and give birth to other human beings. We don't start out as one species and suddenly become human," Ireland explained.

"I've always been the type of person who fights against every type of oppression towards women. This isn't a woman's rights issue; it's a human rights issue," states Ireland, "Don't let anyone ever silence you on this issue!"

" My hope is so much bigger than overturning  
 Roe v. Wade, it's changing hearts."



## Divine Appointments

Written by Autumn - Birthright Volunteer

For their semester project in December, students at Atascocita High School had to identify a group of individuals they felt were marginalized and whom they might be able to better understand through research. One group of students, led by a young lady named Victoria, chose teen pregnancy as their topic and reached out to local crisis pregnancy centers, one being Humble Birthright.

After speaking with our Director, Nadine, they issued an invitation for us to bring materials and speak to a small group of students, all girls. Nadine and I were more than happy to oblige! Nadine presented from the facility side, explaining what we do and how we serve our community. I, however, was able to present my personal story of teen pregnancy and the many difficulties I faced in making the commitment of becoming a mother so young.

In hearing my story, Victoria felt so impacted that she requested I come back to speak to her entire class—with the teacher's permission of course. Although this was a mixed setting, I was able to talk to the students about not only my story, but relate how my story could become theirs if they were sexually active. I spoke pointedly about how socially and emotionally I shut myself away from all my friends and family; about how the only time anyone was allowed to touch me was during sex; about how I struggled in becoming a mother so young and having many opportunities removed as sacrifices to be the best mom I could be. I also covered things about the reality of being a mom so young: I could no longer fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor due to the impossible hours it would take away from my child in order to go to medical school; how I pushed myself to complete my remaining year and a half of high school in four short months; and how I isolated myself due to an all-encompassing depression founded in personal disappointment. It was eye opening to the students that a girl that was a straight 'A' student, President of the Science Club, on the Varsity Softball and Sports Medicine Teams could become pregnant. I explained to them the importance of abstinence—of how one unprotected sexual encounter can lead to a pregnancy, but how a protected sexual encounter later in my life also led to an unplanned pregnancy.

Fortunately, I was also able to share with the students that in the end, I feel like I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. I shared a photo of my four children and explained that every sacrifice was worth it. I talked some about how proud I am of my oldest daughter and the young woman she is becoming.

"My students and I were so blessed to have Autumn come share her story. It's one thing to hear statistics or watch 16 and Pregnant on MTV, but Autumn really brought a whole different understanding to this issue."

—High School Teacher

I was blessed in this encounter with these students and through follow-up, I'm excited to report some of the results from them:

"I thought she was really inspirational because she was very honest with us about her story and many adults aren't. Teenagers will never know about protected or unprotected sex unless adults talk about it with us. Many adults don't though because they think that will promote sex, but it really doesn't. It just makes us more curious, so we will have sex. Her speech was really touching and very helpful to the teens that didn't know."

— Female High School Student

"Hearing about her experiences really gave me insight on what teen pregnancy really is and the real consequences and life changes that accompany it. It was very insightful and inspiring to listen to how she had to endure but continued going on. I appreciated it very much and it encouraged me to be more understanding when dealing with other people and extending compassion on a greater scale."

— Male High School Student

# Birthright International Convention 2015

Written by Erin - Birthright Volunteer

Love Always. This was the theme for this year's annual Birthright International Convention. With this sweet and encouraging message, the attendees not only felt welcomed and inspired, but it also served as a continual reminder throughout the weekend of the heart of service of every Birthright volunteer.

I had the privilege of attending this year's conference in Toronto, Canada. While I had seen pictures and heard stories of past year's conferences, I wasn't completely sure what to expect. When we arrived the first morning at the conference hall, I was so encouraged to find a sea of volunteers, from every imaginable location, not only from across the US, but literally from across the world.

I quickly realized that we all were there for one reason; all sharing one passion, in loving the unborn and the mother. The theme for the conference, Love Always quickly became less about us, the volunteers, and more about those we serve and our heart toward them. While each volunteer truly is a treasure and shouldn't ever be taken for granted, each person who walks through the door is someone who may be hurting, or scared, or simply in need of a loving smile.

I've realized that working at the office can make it sometimes hard to grasp the bigger picture. Thankfully the convention helped me to see that the work we do in our office is just a small but important portion of all the chapters doing their part to love every woman with an unplanned pregnancy.

Being able to meet these caring and supportive volunteers on the International Board and seeing firsthand how passionate they are about Birthright as a whole, I was able to gain a better understanding and appreciation for each of these devoted board members.

I returned home with an energized passion for the work that needs to be done at Birthright and with even more gratitude for the wonderful volunteers that devote their time, energy and talents to help keep the doors open. Each time we visit with a client, help make layettes, or run copies at the office, I know that the effort we put forth is helping to change lives, not only here in Humble, but across this nation and across the world.

I am so pleased and excited to be a part of such a wonderful, thriving organization that truly has a heart for each woman that comes to us in need of a listening ear.

## The Tale of Two Peggys



Peggy Harnden loves to sew things for people in need. Perfecting her craft since she was 5 years old, she sews not only for Birthright, but also for Veterans, hospitals, children in Appalachian, and many other organizations. In addition to gifts of blankets, she has given Birthright gifts of burp cloths, diaper bags, and onesies. It is so wonderfully generous of Peggy to allow Birthright to give the new mothers handmade gifts for their newborns.

*We truly appreciate all the love that goes into these blankets made by two very special Peggys.*

Peggy Wiebe is a wonderful and talented knitter, hand making blankets for our newborns. Peggy found her talent many years ago by attending an eight week class for one hour a week. She picked up the patterns quickly and found she could make just about anything, from blankets to sweaters and caps. We are so thankful that Peggy has chosen Birthright Humble to share her talents with, and are able to bless the new mothers with her handmade items.



### BIRTHRIGHT OF HUMBLE STATISTICS JANUARY - JUNE 2015

Phone calls	416
Pregnancy tests	537
Positive tests	344
1st visits	372
Revisits	166
Other visits	173
Reported births	106
Reported abortions	6
Reported miscarries	12
Layettes given	57
EWYL classes	300

**Sources:**

Friends/relative	258
Been in before	158
Internet	54
Sign/mall sign	18
Yellow Pages	2
Church	0
School	5
Health Dept.	30
HAAM	2
Other	46

**Ages:**

12-14	6
15	6
16	11
17	16
18-20	88
21-25	181
26-30	101
31+	77
No Age Given	32



***Pregnant? Need Help?***

***281-540-1123***

**Birthright of Humble**

1502 First Street, Suite F  
Humble, TX 77338

*Hotline: 1-800-550-4900*

*Birthright-humble.com*

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