



Birthline Bulletin

Everything Life Affirming

Summer 2022

Serving families in need from conception to kindergarten.



Lots of Love for Birthline Moms



A Very Busy Spring



June marks my sixth month acting as interim ED at Birthline and still I am amazed at the constant level of activity in our office. Birthline is always buzzing! Our new, more informative website is live and includes a page in Spanish to help address many of our clients' questions. If you haven't already done so, please visit and drop us a line!

During the last few months, we have also taken time to fine-tune many of our internal procedures to improve efficiency while ensuring the best quality of care for our clients. This process can be painstaking at times but is well worth the effort in the long run. After all, success is steady progress in the right direction.

The number of families seeking our support is on the rise, yet our office staff and volunteers continue to serve with resilience and compassion. Like magic, our broad network of in-kind donors reliably delivers many of the essentials we need for our clients. The month of May especially, our Parish Partners really stepped up and prioritized Mothers and Motherhood. We so appreciate the many baby showers held for Birthline and the amount of support we received! As the saying goes, "It takes a village," and we are eternally grateful for the partnership and support from our community.

In May we also held our first-ever Love Another Mother campaign. Big thanks to those of you who supported it! Our success is thanks to you.

As always, I am humbled and delighted every day I spend at Birthline.

Michelle Twardowski
Board Chair &
Interim Executive Director

Tackling the Role of Both Mom & Dad

Franz and his wife arrived in the U.S. from Haiti two years ago. They felt forced to leave home in search of a better life for themselves and their children. Unfortunately, several months after their arrival, the relationship started to suffer. Once his wife left, Franz became solely responsible for his four children ranging in age from 9 months to 14 years old. They found a place to live in a converted garage and Franz continued to work full time. Life was certainly not easy. Thankfully, a friend told him about us.



Franz came to Birthline in March of this year as a single dad. Always neatly dressed and smiling, it was apparent that he would not let his circumstances bring him down. Birthline connected Franz with resources for food, childcare, and immigration services. His hope is to become a U.S. citizen one day. To recognize his hard work and commitment to his family, Franz was invited to our Love Another Mother event. It was heartwarming to see his smile of gratitude!

Local Parishes Love Our Mothers Too

Various local parishes found the month of May the perfect time to honor the mothers we serve at Birthline. The parishioners of Our Mother of Confidence, St. James Catholic Church, Mission San Diego de Alcalá, and St. Catherine Laboure blessed us with beautiful and practical items for the baby gift bags that each of our new moms receive shortly before her child is due. For some moms, these may be the only new outfits their babies will get. Besides these items, other parishioners generously showered Birthline with monetary donations to help us carry out our mission. Also, the Knights of Columbus of Mary Star of the Sea hosted a delicious Mother's Day breakfast (complete with mimosas!) and an information table for parishioners to learn more about our work. All proceeds from the breakfast were donated to Birthline. We are so grateful to these parishes who partner with us to bring hope and love to our mothers and their families!



Birthline Board Member Maureen Sterk and volunteer Mary Sexton at Our Mother of Confidence.

♥ Another Mother

A Gift That Keeps Giving

On May 5, Birthline was transformed into a springtime wonderland for our first-ever **Love Another Mother** event. Clients who worked hard to reach certain milestones on their journey toward self-sufficiency were invited for a celebratory treat. These women, who otherwise would not have had a Mother's Day celebration, were "pampered" and recognized for their efforts by our staff and volunteers. They were treated to a light breakfast and given a variety of gifts including a Walmart gift card, an attractive potted succulent arrangement, and their choice of spa-at-home gift bag. Big thanks to the Girl Scouts of Troop 4870; Tammi Viar of LiveLifeConcierge.com and Romina Notarini and their teams; as well as Point Loma Nazarene students for their donations and time. For many clients, the emotion and gratitude were overwhelming. Tears of joy and hugs abounded. It was truly a beautiful day which we hope will become an annual tradition!

Impact At A Glance	180+ Individuals impacted
	\$9,800 Value of gifts distributed
	Countless Hugs exchanged



Donor / Volunteer Spotlight: Alex Chua of Minuteman Press

We are infinitely grateful for Alex Chua, without whom this *Birthline Bulletin* would not be possible. Aside from printing all our materials at a special non-profit rate four times per year, Alex gathers his family around their breakfast table volunteering for several hours to hand-stuff and sort thousands of *Birthline Bulletins*, so that we can send them via bulk mail to all of you.

Alex moved to San Diego from the Philippines over 30 years ago. A Chemical Engineer by trade, he spent much of his professional life in Environmental Consulting. About 5 years ago, he bought the Minuteman Press franchise in Chula Vista and soon after learned about us from one of our volunteers. Thank you, Alex, for all you do!



Meet Our Newest Board Member: Martin Bacich

As parents of five children, Martin and his wife Kristine have been long-time in-kind donors to Birthline since their arrival to San Diego 19 years ago. An active participant of St. Mary Magdalene parish and passionate family advocate, Martin chose to deepen his involvement with Birthline during the summer of 2020 to assist struggling young families.



He has a master's degree in architecture from UCLA and is currently overseeing the design and construction of Sharp HealthCare's Coronado campus. Martin is a big believer in the dignity of human work and the importance of striving for quality in all we do. We are so happy to have his valuable perspective on our Board.

Community Support: Pure Indoor Cycling & Women United

Generosity abounds in our San Diego community and was very apparent when Pure Indoor Cycling approached us to sponsor a cycling day with proceeds going to Birthline. Thank you to Studio Manager Camille Williams and the wonderful members of Pure Indoor Cycling for their creativity, passion and support of our mission. www.purestudio.com

We were also thrilled to be a finalist for Women United and be awarded grant funds for our Step Forward Program. Birthline's leadership team made a formal presentation to members of Women United on April 7th at The Lot in Liberty Station. It was a fun night learning more about the great work Women United does and also sharing with their membership the many ways Birthline provides critical resources and referrals for vulnerable women, families and children here in San Diego. We look forward to continued partnership with our generous community members!



Girl Scouts Remember Birthline Moms for Mother's Day!

Under the supervision of Girl Scout Troop Leader Jennifer Gage, Troop #4870 made a surprise visit to Birthline on May 3rd to drop off brightly colored gift bags for Mother's Day! Girl Scouts Sydney, Juliette, Ivy and Landry were excited to present these gifts to be given to the special mothers we serve for Mother's Day. The girls also enjoyed touring Birthline's offices to better understand our mission. Their compassion and interest at such a young age left us all speechless. We are blessed!

Donate Through AmazonSmile

Generate donations for us each time you shop.

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>
2. Create or login to your account
3. Choose **Birthline of San Diego** as your charity
4. Shop the same products and prices as on Amazon

0.5% of purchase price is donated back to us!

Birthline Wish List

We rely heavily on in-kind donations to fulfill our clients' needs. Here are our most urgent needs:

- ✓ Baby clothes up to 6 months
- ✓ Infant sleepsacks
- ✓ New infant car seats



WE'RE HIRING!

Executive Director

We are seeking an experienced non-profit professional with strong leadership skills and a passion for Birthline's life-affirming mission.

For details please contact Michelle Twardowski at Michelle.Twardo@birthlineofsd.org

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!**