



# Birthline Bulletin

Everything Life Affirming

Summer 2024

Serving families in need from conception to kindergarten.



*Congratulations  
Graduates!*





## Happy Summer!



As the days grow warmer and brighter, our hearts at Birthline are filled with joy and gratitude for milestones we've reached together. This season is truly special and brimming with positive news.

We are thrilled to share the success of our 3rd annual Love Another Mother! This heartwarming event brought our community together to honor deserving moms and especially those graduating from our program. Huge thanks to our amazing volunteers—your dedication and energy are the lifeblood of Birthline.

To our wonderful supporters, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your generosity made this event profoundly impactful. Thanks to you, we provide lift and encourage countless mothers and families in our community every day. You make a difference!

Finally, our big news—we're moving to a new home! Birthline is graduating to a beautiful new space that will allow us to better serve our community and expand our reach. This move is a testament to the collective effort and support from each and every one of you. If you're looking for ways to support our move, see the 'wish list' in the back page of this bulletin for more details.

As we embrace this busy season of celebration and service, we kindly ask for your continued prayers and support. Your ongoing involvement is essential as we step into this new chapter, continuing to provide life-affirming support to those who need it most. Thank you for celebrating with us and being a cherished part of the Birthline family. Together, we are creating brighter futures for so many.

With joyful gratitude,  
**Andrea Estrada Yumol**  
Executive Director

## Johana's Journey - A Graduation Story

One of the graduates we celebrated at Love Another Mother was a client at Birthline on and off for years. Her story is as heart-wrenching as any we've experienced, yet a true testament to the power of compassion and determination.

To talk with her, one would never guess that this confident mother of six, currently working on a Bachelor's degree at San Diego City College was once living on the streets and battling depression with alcohol. Johana's first visit to Birthline was in 2017, but her struggles began much earlier. Growing up in a single-parent household, Johana started working early to help her mom. She cycled through various jobs including stints at a Dollar Tree, a candy shop, and others. She took classes to become an office assistant.

By her 21st birthday, Johana had a 3-year-old daughter AND was caring for her 12-year-old brother since her mother had moved away in search of better opportunities. Johana was trying to support her family on hourly jobs but, not surprisingly, the circumstances became too much to handle. They soon found themselves homeless. She began drinking to cope with her situation. The future looked grim but, thankfully, she found Birthline.

When she first arrived, Johana had massive hurdles to overcome including her alcohol addiction, lack of employment, custody struggles for her daughter, and an overwhelming sense of depression. Jeanne Hansen, her client manager at the time, provided needed emotional and material support, as well as helping to connect Johana with childcare, housing, and transportation. The process was slow and grueling. Johana admits that Birthline helped her learn how to become a parent to her children – she had had a couple more by this point. Perhaps the greatest challenge of all was learning how to keep herself "up and going" during tough times.

Thanks to the encouragement and, at times, tough love she received from Birthline client managers, she now knows that she can endure and prevail. She and her family live with her kids' grandmother. She is sober and balancing classwork and parenting duties, knowing that soon she will have a degree which will lead to stable employment. Her dream is to have a home of her own and, someday, hopes to start her own non-profit similar to Birthline to help more people succeed. Despite the darkness in her past, Johana is glad to share her story in the hope that it will inspire others to keep working toward their goals. Johana, you have come so far – keep following your dreams!



## Evolution of Birthline's Offices

- 1979 - Birthline is founded in Catherine Ewers' home.
- 1986 - First office opens in a garage behind St. Jude's Shrine
- 1989 - A second office opens in Chula Vista (it closed in 2020)
- 1990's - Birthline rents a home on Wightman St. in City Heights
- 2005 - Birthline opens office on Clairemont Dr.



# LOVE ANOTHER MOTHER

## Third Annual Mother's Day Event: A Heartwarming Success



Birthline's 3rd Love Another Mother was another success! Our annual Mother's Day event continues to improve, creating unforgettable memories and touching hearts. This year's event highlighted the achievements of moms graduating from our services. These mothers, many of whom have overcome challenges such as poverty, homelessness, medical issues, and other difficulties, moved us with their resilience and dedication to caring for their families. Their stories served as an inspiration to all in attendance.

Over seventy Birthline clients were selected by their client managers to join the festivities. Many women were first-time mothers, so this was their first-ever Mother's Day celebration. Others were chosen for having achieved specific goals on their path to self-sufficiency.



The women enjoyed a delicious Italian lunch buffet with a choice of pasta and salad, plus desserts galore. Following the meal and recognition of graduates, clients participated in a series of fun games including Bingo, a seated scavenger hunt, and a "fight for the Mother's Day crown", to name a few. Raucous laughter ensued!

Our dedicated volunteers did an amazing job arranging and serving the lunch, decorating the parish hall at Our Mother of Confidence, and entertaining babies and toddlers so moms could enjoy themselves without worry. Aside from the lunch and games, each client took home a generous Walmart gift card, a goody bag filled with cosmetics, chocolates, and a Starbucks gift card, and a beautiful potted succulent arrangement. By the afternoon's end, new friendships were formed. Joy and gratitude were evident on everyone's faces.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the amazing community partners whose generous support made this day possible. Special gratitude goes to **Las Damas de Fairbanks** for the generous goody bags, **Destination Baby Co.** for providing a fun and safe toddler play area, **Las Kwatro Hermanas** for the floral photo backdrop, **Newbreak Café** in Pacific Beach for contributing desserts, not to mention the many Board members and volunteers who contributed food, time, and energy to make the event extra memorable. We are particularly grateful for the donor who generously sponsored the Walmart gift cards - your gift deeply humbled us. Thank you to everyone who helped make this special day possible!



A new mom and her baby by the floral photo wall.



Fr. Larion gave a blessing during lunch.



Moms who took part in a variety of fun games had plenty of giggles plus a chance to earn generous prizes.



Happy raffle basket winner.



One of our young guests strikes a charming pose.



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Thank You to All Hallows Catholic Church

Big thanks to Fr. Joe Masar, Cindy Bosh, and all of the Staff and Parishioners at All Hallows for again hosting and supporting Birthline during the month of May. We are also incredibly grateful for volunteer Camille Dose who created a beautiful display in the church and spoke at various masses. Over \$2200 was collected over the course of the month. Your generosity helps us provide essential resources and support from prenatal care to counseling services to young families in need, making a real and lasting impact. Thank you for being our champions!



# WE ARE

After almost 20 years in Clairemont, we are thrilled to announce Birthline's upcoming move to a new location! The new office will offer a more modern, spacious, and comfortable environment, conveniently located just off the I-15 freeway, providing easy access to our clients, many of whom come from East County. We look forward to welcoming you to our new space and showing you around!

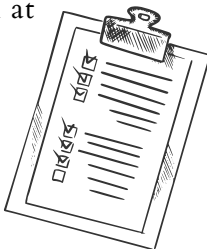


**NEW ADDRESS AS OF JULY 1, 2024:**

**9915 BUSINESSPARK AVE. SUITE C; SAN DIEGO, CA 92131**

## MOVING WISH LIST

We need various items to furnish our new space and ensure a smooth transition. If you are able to help or have questions regarding our move, please contact Andrea Yumol at [andrea.yumol@birthlineofsd.org](mailto:andrea.yumol@birthlineofsd.org)



### **Moving Supplies:**

Moving Boxes (Various Sizes) - \$200  
Packing Tape (Bulk Pack) - \$50  
Bubble Wrap and Packing Paper - \$100  
Labels and Markers - \$20  
Furniture Pads and Moving Blankets - \$150  
Stretch Wrap - \$50  
Hand Trucks/Dollies (2) - \$150

### **Moving Services:**

Rental Trucks (2 trucks for 1 day each) - \$500  
Professional Movers (6 movers x 8 hrs)- \$2,400

### **Furniture and Equipment for New Office:**

#### Baby Gift Bag Preparation Area:

Sturdy Worktables (6) - \$600  
Shelving Units (4) - \$400  
Rolling Carts (4) - \$400  
Storage Bins (20) - \$200  
Comfortable Chairs (8) - \$400



#### Donation Sorting Room:

Large Sorting Tables (4) - \$400  
Industrial Shelving Units (5) - \$500  
Storage Bins and Containers (30) - \$300  
Rolling Garment Racks (3) - \$300

#### Boutique:

Display Racks for Clothing (6) - \$600  
Shelving Units (5) - \$500  
Display Tables (3) - \$300  
Mirrors (2) - \$100  
Small Colorful Bins (20) - \$200

#### Boardroom/Classroom:

Conference Table (1) & Chairs (10) - \$1,200  
Whiteboards (2) - \$200  
Projector and Screen (1 set) - \$500  
Shelving Units for Educational Materials (2) - \$200  
Storage Cabinets (2) - \$400

#### Executive Director's Office:

Executive Desk (1) - \$300  
Ergonomic Office Chair (1) - \$150  
Filing Cabinets (2) - \$200  
Bookshelves (2) - \$200  
Small Meeting Table (1) & Chairs (4) - \$300  
Comfortable Guest Chairs (2) - \$200

#### Greeter Area:

Reception Desk (1) - \$500  
Coffee Table (1) - \$100  
Shelving or Storage Units (2) - \$200  
Welcome Mats (2) - \$50  
Decorative Plants or Artwork - \$100