



# Aid for Women

*Empowering Women to Choose Life Since 1978*

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E-mail: info@aidforwomen.org • Website: www.aidforwomen.org  
Summer 2000

## Wish List

### **#3 Baby Outfits**

You would be surprised at the huge difference a simple set of baby clothes can make to a mother considering the future of her baby.

Seeing a blanket, onesies or a little sleeper can suddenly make her baby very real to a woman.

**Aid for Women** needs a constant supply of **new gender-neutral** newborn and infant clothes and blankets to give to our expectant clients.

The woman feels very special to be given a beautiful gift for her baby. It touches a spark within her of the wonder of motherhood. Many of our clients are in financial need, so the baby clothes are also a great practical help to them.

Thank you so much for thinking of our pregnant clients and their soon to be born children!

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## ***The Right Words Made All the Difference***

By Janet LaRue Romig, Donor

When I was 19 I had an abortion. I never even considered other options. I never felt guilty or distressed. Just a year later I was pregnant again, but this time the father and I were engaged, and we decided to keep the baby. After having a baby, I felt I could not personally have an abortion again, but I still supported pro-abortion legislation.

It was not until my third baby in 1989 that I had my first ultrasound. I was 10 weeks pregnant. I will never forget seeing that screen as the shadows bumped in and out of view while the doctor moved the ultrasound over my womb. Then, there she was — tiny and hardly formed, but I could see her heart beating.

I felt the horror wash over me as I realized that I had been 10 weeks pregnant when I'd had my abortion in 1976. I had murdered that baby. A tiny little life, heart beating and solely dependent on me, had been unceremoniously killed and tossed away with the trash. I am no longer silent about, or embarrassed by, my anti-abortion stance.

My second child got pregnant at 19 and had plans to keep the baby with her boyfriend. Then he dumped her when she was about five months pregnant. I was in Chicago and she was in Alaska, but I called her several times a week. She was distraught and not thinking clearly, so young and now alone.

She had gotten her pregnancy test at Planned Parenthood, and she returned to them for advice now. They told her she should have a partial-birth abortion, but she needed to do it quickly, before the Alaska Legislature eliminated public funding for abortions. They did not give her any other choices.

When she told me she was having an abortion, I got hysterical. I cried and begged and offered to take the baby or help her release her baby for adoption. She refused and was dead set on the procedure with the blessing of Planned Parenthood. I felt so helpless.

*"I think of  
all the women . . .  
who aren't  
given  
choices."*

*(The Right Words . . . continued on page 2)*

## *A Walk in Grace*

If you had asked me in 1990, “Where will you be in 10 years?” I would not have said, “In Chicago, Illinois, leading a pregnancy resource center, sharing my story.” Yet this is where God has led me, and my journey has been a walk in his grace.

When I arrived at college in 1968, it took three years for the culture to erode the knowledge of right and wrong that I had learned from my family and church. I swallowed the lies of “free sex” and the lifestyle that came with them.

Two years into a “steady relationship” I found myself pregnant. “My parents will take care [pay to get rid] of it,” he said. I was overwhelmed with fear. With no **Aid for Women** to counter my terror with truths, I saw only one choice. I aborted my child, nearly bled to death, and gave myself a prison sentence that was to last 20 years.

When you murder your own child, God’s grace seems unattainable. I went to work in Great Britain after graduation. I exhibited most of the symptoms of a post-abortive woman, though I didn’t realize it at the time. I married, but my husband never knew my secret. Our son was stillborn on his due date, and I remember thinking, “I can’t be trusted with children because I killed my first one.” Our marriage ended in divorce. God’s grace seemed even further away.

### *“How closely has abortion touched your life?”*

When I returned to the United States in 1985, I was driven to prove I was worthy everywhere: at work, at church, with family and friends, and in my volunteer work. My life was a scrapbook of organized dysfunction, hypocrisy and unending pain. The dark secret of my abortion was eating my soul. Which women in your life may be dying inside while in abject fear of being found out?

But God is faithful. By 1992 he brought me to a point of honestly answering a simple question, “How closely has abortion touched your life?” I’m so glad that someone cared enough to ask me that. For the first time, the secret was out. The healing could begin.

God’s grace began to flow through dear friends and painful but essential counseling. I started to let God show me how much he loved me. I began sincerely confessing my sins. Finally, growing strong in faith and understanding of God’s truth, I let Jesus have my life. My worth as a human being became based, and remains, on who I am in Jesus Christ, not on any external factor. I heard him whisper, “Your prison sentence is over. Go.” The relentless pain had stopped. I am eternally thankful to God for the gift of renewed life, and for the assurance that I will be with my daughter, Caroline May, and my son, Jonathan George, in heaven.

God called me into full-time service in the cause for life in 1994, first at Americans United for Life and now at **Aid for Women**.

I tell my story so that you will know that abortion won’t solve your financial troubles, it won’t fix your love life, it won’t bring you equality in the workplace, it won’t stop you from being a father and it won’t end your motherhood. All abortion can do is kill your child.

I tell my story so that you will know that it is never too late for a prodigal daughter or son to come home.



I’ve already seen the life-giving rewards that come as a woman is empowered to choose life for her child. Our faithful counselors who serve here week after week are an inspiration to me. The generous people who send their donations to sustain our outreach humble me. Our board of directors’ vision gives me hope for the future.

Come with us as we see where this daily walk in God’s grace takes **Aid for Women**.

Elaine M. Kindler, Executive Director

*(The Right Words... continued from page 1)*

I called Illinois Right to Life just so I could talk to someone, anyone, who was against abortion. I don’t remember the name of the woman who took my phone call, but I will never forget her strength. She let me cry, and then she told me in all its gory detail exactly what a partial-birth abortion is, something I was completely unaware of. She said, “Don’t you cut your daughter any slack. You call her up and tell her exactly what this procedure is.”

I told my daughter how the baby was partially delivered and its skull crushed. I minced no words. I did not tiptoe around it or nag or cry. I just told her unemotionally and clinically everything that woman had shared with me.



My daughter listened quietly and then said, “I couldn’t do that to a baby.”

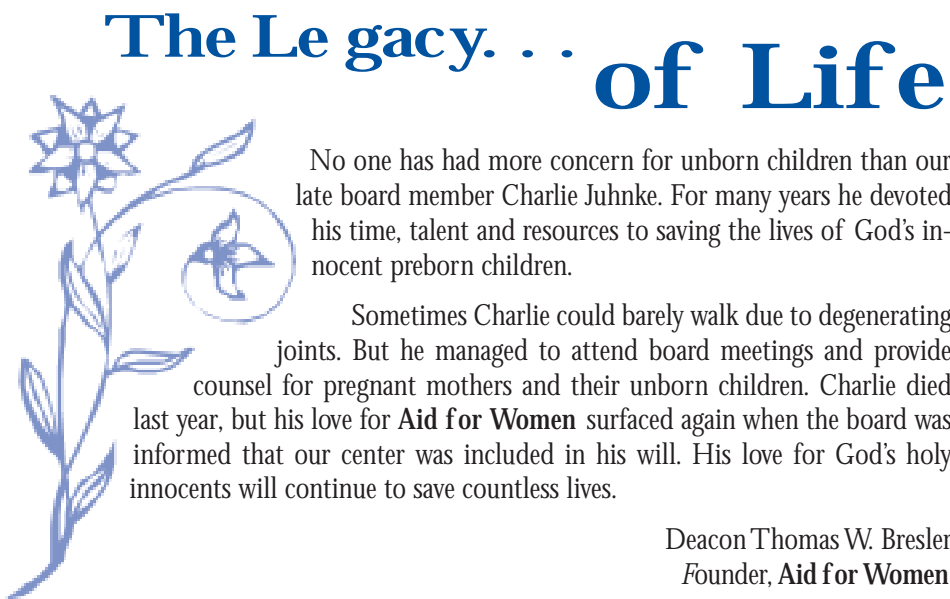
My sweet little granddaughter, Bella, is now two and a half years old. Happy, funny, silly and a joy to her mom and

everyone else blessed to be around her. Saved by an anonymous woman who was prepared to tell the truth.

Now when I say that I think abortion is murder and people say, “Well, that’s your opinion,” I reply, “No. That’s a fact. My opinion is that it is morally reprehensible.”

I was drawn to **Aid for Women** because of the staff’s involvement with women making hard decisions. I am grateful that I was there to say the right words to my daughter, but I think of all the women who don’t have someone to say just the right words in just the right way — women who aren’t given choices. I know that **Aid for Women** fulfills that need.

*Editor’s note: In our next newsletter you will see Janet’s special gift to Aid for Women.*



## The Legacy . . . of Life

No one has had more concern for unborn children than our late board member Charlie Juhnke. For many years he devoted his time, talent and resources to saving the lives of God's innocent preborn children.

Sometimes Charlie could barely walk due to degenerating joints. But he managed to attend board meetings and provide counsel for pregnant mothers and their unborn children. Charlie died last year, but his love for **Aid for Women** surfaced again when the board was informed that our center was included in his will. His love for God's holy innocents will continue to save countless lives.

Deacon Thomas W. Bresler  
Founder, **Aid for Women**

*Editor's note: If you would like to leave a legacy that encourages life, please consider a bequest or another planned gift to **Aid for Women**.*

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## Client Stories

Here are excerpts from some of the many client stories we have been privileged to share since our last newsletter. No names have been used to protect privacy.

### *“When he saw the heartbeat. . .”*

Pregnant for the first time, this young girl took to heart the risks that abortion presented for her. Her boyfriend stared in disbelief as the reality of his fatherhood sunk in. They left to have an ultrasound exam. She was fearful of how to tell her parents, he was still leaning towards abortion.

What joy the next day when she called to say, “When he saw the heartbeat, he said, ‘We’re having this baby!’” They still have many hurdles to get over, but she is doing what is best for herself and the baby, and he is already growing as a father.

\* \* \*

### *“This could be my little girl.”*

She already has a six-month-old son. She came for a pregnancy test and ultrasound exam. She left resigned to parenting her second child. A few weeks later she called to see what help was available, sounding more concerned about how she was going to cope. We offered baby clothes and financial options, but she never came in.

The father of her two children was abdicating his responsibilities as a father. She called again to say she couldn't cope with a second child and was going to have an abortion. The counselor convinced her to come in again.

She came, bringing her beautiful son and best friend with her. We reviewed the financial, medical and community help that is available to her. She looked at the hand-sewn blanket and clothes we had selected for her baby. As she was selecting one more outfit, looking at clothes for a little girl, she said, “That's what stops me — this could be my little girl. I really want a little girl.”

\* \* \*

An ultrasound and a baby's outfit . . . such relatively small things to secure life for preborn children. With your help, **Aid for Women** will be here to provide these, along with knowledgeable, compassionate counseling.

## OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

### ✓ **Prayer**

**Aid for Women** cannot be effective without prayer support. Check the “I will pray” box on the reply envelope and please pray right now for more clients, more volunteers, more resources and new staff.

### ✓ **Volunteer**

**Aid for Women** has no outreach without the volunteers who counsel our clients. Come and visit us to explore volunteer opportunities and see how you can make a difference.

### ✓ **Fundraising**

There are numerous ways to financially support **Aid for Women**. See the reply envelope for a few ideas on direct and indirect giving.

### ✓ **Education**

Experienced **Aid for Women** speakers are available to address congregations and study groups at churches or synagogues, professional and civic group meetings, and high school, college and post-graduate students. Let us know if you would like to schedule a speaker.

### ✓ **Stewardship**

We always seek to be good stewards of our donors' dollars. We want to keep you informed, but if you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please let us know.

*Thank you  
for your support!*





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- **FREE PREGNANCY TESTS  
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- **REFERRAL FOR FREE ULTRASOUND**
- **INFORMATION ON A WOMAN'S CHOICE**

**LOOP LOCATION  
8 S. MICHIGAN AVE.**

## Truth in Advertising

The above **Aid for Women** banner advertisement was placed on four Chicago CTA "L" lines from mid-April to mid-May. The CTA ads brought 70 clients to **Aid for Women**, while our Yellow Pages ad continued to bring us high numbers of clients (86 during the same period, only 14 clients fewer than the previous 30 days). The CTA ads even brought us a new counselor, who chose

**Aid for Women** over Planned Parenthood for a college project.

When clients call, **Aid for Women** always tells them the truth with genuine care for each woman.

Reaching these women is expensive. Four hundred forty-five CTA banner ads cost us \$6,000 for one month. The half-page Yellow Pages advertise-

ment costs us \$5,000 each month. Please visit our website to see our print ad at [aidforwomen.org](http://aidforwomen.org).

It's a price we're willing to pay, because we would not reach our clients without these advertisements. Somehow, we have to raise the funds to run a CTA campaign again as soon as possible. The lives of many women and children depend on it.