



# Aid for Women

*Empowering Women to Choose Life Since 1978*

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## Things You Can Do to Promote Hope and Life

- Volunteer at a pregnancy resource center (Aid for Women would be an excellent choice).
- Educate yourself—and others—on life issues ([www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org) is a great web site).
- Pray daily—for conversion of hearts and minds, for medical and scientific truth to be seen, and for all who revere the sacredness of human life to stay strong in their belief.

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## Tangible Hope

Erika Gleeson, Volunteer Counselor

As a volunteer counselor at Aid for Women, I have the wonderful opportunity of meeting unique women with extraordinary fortitude in face of very difficult situations.

With most, I never have the opportunity to know how their lives changed and what decisions they made. But, every once in a while, God grants me the privilege of being able to see an abortion-vulnerable woman doing well as a new mother. This knowledge is uplifting and gives me hope to carry on His work with renewed zeal. I hope that you'll feel the same way after reading Beth's (not her real name) story.

Beth and her sister came to Aid for Women on a cold November day last year for a pregnancy test and ultrasound exam referral. She and her sister were lovely, polite, young ladies in their mid-twenties. I spoke to Beth by herself, but her sister soon joined us as they were very close and each other's main support.

Beth's life story began to unfold when she told me that she had just come back from the Middle East where she had been living for a few years. Her boyfriend still lived there. Although not employed at the time, she had hopes of getting a job and settling in Chicago with her mother, sister, and other family members, and eventually going back to school. A pregnancy at this time would sharply interfere with these plans.

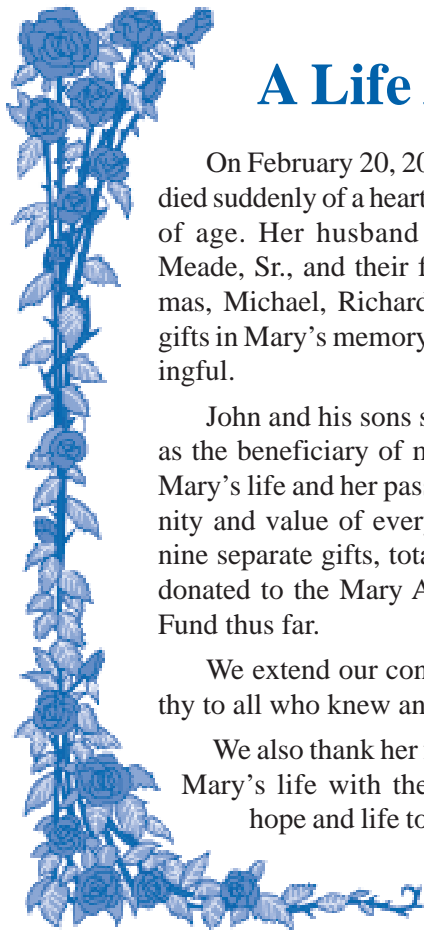
She was sure that she was pregnant and wrestling with what to do. Beth just had an elective abortion a few years ago. The three of us talked about positive solutions and watched a video, which prompted further discussion.

*"Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much."  
Helen Keller*

After the test results showed Beth to be pregnant, we estimated her to be at about 13 weeks gestation. I gave her brochures on post-abortion counseling, adoption, fetal development, a referral for a free ultrasound exam, and a referral for free prenatal care. She was still unsure what to do. But, I had renewed hope that she would choose life for her child when she and her sister excitedly picked out a beautiful layette for the baby.

Prayers were generously answered when she called to let me know how her ultrasound exam went. She said that she was much further along than we had estimated. She was keeping her baby.

*"Tangible Hope" page two*



## A Life Affirmed

On February 20, 2001, Mary Agnes Meade died suddenly of a heart ailment at only 56 years of age. Her husband of 31 years, John M. Meade, Sr., and their five sons — John, Thomas, Michael, Richard and James — wanted gifts in Mary's memory to be lasting and meaningful.

John and his sons selected Aid for Women as the beneficiary of memorial gifts honoring Mary's life and her passionate belief in the dignity and value of every human being. Thirty-nine separate gifts, totaling \$2,724, have been donated to the Mary Agnes Meade Memorial Fund thus far.

We extend our continued heartfelt sympathy to all who knew and loved Mary Meade.

We also thank her family for remembering Mary's life with the extraordinary gifts of hope and life to children yet to be born.

## Tangible Hope continued

I was in touch a few more times and in early February, Beth delivered a premature baby girl. Under God's merciful protection, mother and baby were fine, with a few extra challenges that a preemie requires.

I saw this beautiful miracle for myself when Beth and her family warmly welcomed me to a baby shower soon after her daughter's birth. It was truly a gift from God to see His work at Aid for Women come together in this loving family.

During the visit Beth announced her engagement to her baby's father and their plans to move back to the Middle East. Beth's fiancé is a kind gentleman, and no doubt a great father.

I came away from this visit with joy in my heart and the hope that there are many other such success stories in our clients' lives that we are not privileged to directly experience or even know about.

God has a special plan for each one of His people and He loves each and every one of us to a degree that surpasses our understanding. That is why all of the volunteer counselors work so hard to lift each woman up who comes to Aid for Women by speaking to them with love and compassion about God's life-giving truth.

Please join me in saying "Thank you, Jesus, for Beth and her new family. We humbly pray that You watch over and protect them, and all who come to Aid for Women."



## The Babies Say, "Thank You!"

We have generously received many beautiful baby items that are lovingly assembled into layettes by our volunteers. Each layette offers a tangible sign of her unborn baby's humanity to each of our expectant clients.

Our sincere appreciation goes to:

Joan Anderson – Susan Couri and Friends  
Penny Crowley – Kathy Egan – Sue Hubbard  
Ginny Reuter – Erin Rice

Blanket Ladies:

Kim Campbell and Mary Liehti (from Missouri),  
Peg Hanlon, Barb Schuetz, Denise Sexton,  
Teri Smyth, Julie Szfranski, and Heidi Wagner  
Illinois Club for Catholic Women Debutantes

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Eagle Scouts  
St. Athanasius Pro-Life Committee  
St. Catherine Laboure Knights and Ladies of Columbus  
St. Gerard Circle, St. Mary's, Lake Forest  
St. Martha's Guild, St. Mary's Women's Club  
SS. Faith Hope and Charity Sharing Committee

All of the Friends of Aid for Women

## It's Your Call

Lifeline is a full-service, Christian-owned telecommunications company that supports organizations that preserve the sanctity of life.

With our innovative "Give Back" program, we contribute 10% of your monthly long distance to support Pro-Life organizations. In 10 years, Lifeline has given over \$54 million to Christian organizations worldwide.

In addition to long distance service, Lifeline offers Internet access service, pre-paid phone cards, paging service and Visa card service.

Sign up with Lifeline today and receive a free \$50 pre-paid phone card with the knowledge that you are giving to a cause you believe in through a company you can trust.



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Life

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COMMUNICATIONS  
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## ***Aid for Women Family Album***

### ***Welcome to New Board Members***

#### ***Elizabeth Wilson & Florence Sorensen***



Aid for Women board of directors at the June 2001 meeting. Sitting, from left: Mary Hallan FioRito, Susan Couri, Ann Jans and Kathleen Bindley. Standing, from left: Florence Sorensen, Sarah Quail, Mary Ann Lusk, Mary Anne Goldberg, Pat Daily, and Teresa Tario. Not shown: Elaine M. Kindler and Elizabeth Wilson.

### ***A New Daughter***

Gemma Therese FioRito was born on April 27, 2001, weighing in at 5 lbs., 6 oz., 20" long. Mary and Kevin FioRito are the proud parents.



### ***Generous Ladies Gather Blessings***



St. Gerard's Circle of the St. Mary's Lake Forest Ladies Guild held a parish-wide shower for Aid for Women clients in April. Here (from left) Meg Colosimo, Alice LeVert and Mary Flagstad are seen with some of the many wonderful items.

### ***A New Son***

Jelani Mitchell Starling was born on May 4, 2001. Jelani is an African name that means mighty. He is the son of Sharnina and Sylvester Starling and weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 oz., 18 1/2" long.

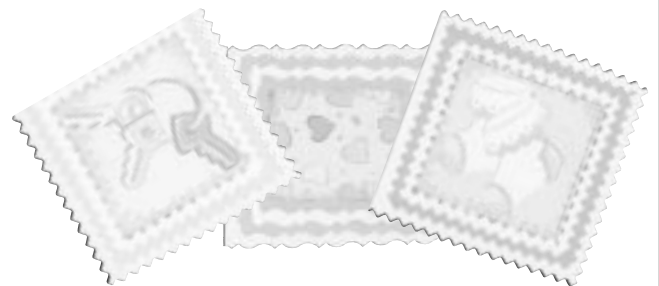


### ***Timely Advice***



Mary Anne Goldberg (left) is giving sound advice to Sarah Quail who is to be married this month to Nicolas Wicki. May God bless their marriage.

### ***Love Made Tangible***



These darling cards were made by Sue Hubbard. Our volunteer counselors write, "You are a special mother and we care about you. We're here to help you. Your friends at Aid for Women," in each one. A woman feels valued when she knows our sincere love for her, shown tangibly in such beautiful, handmade cards.



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## How do you make hope tangible?

### Save the Date!

**Aid for Women Boutique  
October 4, 2001  
Sunset Ridge Country Club  
Northfield, Illinois  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Buffet throughout the day.  
Ernie Hildebrand piano  
performances. Bring your  
personal and corporate  
holiday gift lists.**

**\$25 in advance.  
\$30 at the door.**

**Call Teresa Hartnett Tario  
for your invitation or more  
information: (847) 256-7257**

### Vendors Old and New

All Our Children \* Joan Wester Anderson—Where Angels Walk  
Aunt Kay's Sweet Things \* The Basket Case \* BMC Originals \* B's Bags  
Crocodile Pie, Inc. \* DJ A-DOOR-ABLES \* Door Décor & More  
Embellishments \* The Enterprising Kitchen \* Folk Art Fantasies  
Erika Gleeson and Kristina Maker \* Ernie Hildebrand—Living Room Music  
Holiday Houses \* Irish Connoisseur \* The Longaberger Company  
Missionaries of The Divine Word Gift Shop \* Mom's Enterprises  
Nancy's Country Soups & Dips \* Necessities \* Lucie D. Phillips  
Ridgewood Designs \* Schaefer's Wines, Foods & Spirits  
Spices by Marilyn \* Sumthin' Fun! \* Trinity Photography  
Truly Yours \* Whimsical, Inc. \* Words of Wisdom

**Pregnancy Test: \$.80   Brochures: \$2.75   Ultrasound Exam: \$25  
Loving Counsel: FREE   Results: HOPE AND LIFE. .PRICELESS**

Most of our clients are hurting and afraid. Many of them may have never known unconditional love.

These girls and women need something more than a quick reply. They need to know that someone loves them, and cares for them — just the way they are.

This isn't about condoning life choices. It's about tangibly showing the love of God in a way that says, "I care for you enough to listen first, to hear your heart."

The volunteer counselors at Aid for Women come from all walks of life. They are students, professionals and mothers. All are daughters, willing to risk being used by God to

change a life.

What is your story? Do you have a zeal for life? Have you known hurt or rejection? Are you adopted? Did you have an abortion yourself? Whatever your life experiences, you may have exactly what a client needs.

Will you risk being used to change a life from fear to hope? Please call today to set up a no-obligation interview. Aid for Women especially needs volunteer counselors on weekdays.

**Your** loving counsel can give the priceless gift of hope and life to a mother and her child.