



A Baby's Breath

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A Newsletter from A Baby's Breath

Summer 2006 | Volume 6, Issue 1

www.ababysbreath.org | 24-HOUR CELL PHONE LINE: 484-571-5540

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78 Second Ave., Collegeville, PA
610-489-0083

523 E. Lancaster Ave., St. Davids, PA
610-955-2249

www.babysbreath.org

by Karen Patota

HA VE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE? Designed and donated by **Vovéo Marketing Group** (www.voveo.com), our new website is a picture of hope for mothers, fathers and families in a crisis pregnancy. **Paul Burdett**, a Board member and a volunteer for A Baby's Breath brought our case to the attention of Vovéo in December. Over the next couple of months, a gateway processor was added by **Mark Hitchcock** of **LANsCom** (www.lanscom.com) which allows people to join our Angel Club through the website.

Mark Hitchcock has also privately donated his technical expertise for a designed and developed a website database which will allow our four centers to communicate securely and efficiently. This will allow us to properly protect the identity of our clients and our donors.

A very special thanks to **JJ White Inc.** (www.jjwhiteinc.com) for their extremely generous financial support! Their funding enabled us to move forward in opening our new center on the Main Line. We are planning to open our fourth center at 523 East Lancaster Pike in St. David's on August 15, 2006. **Jen Volpe** and **Jack Toukatly** are the new center's new co-directors. **Monsignor (Bishop Elect) Daniel Thomas** of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Strafford, PA is the center's Spiritual Director. **Emily Rebalsky** was our ombudsmen in the initial inquiry to our new center in St. David's. She will be on the Fund-raising Committee. If you would like to volunteer at our new center, please call (610) 955-2249.

Joseph Smith, Founder and President of **LANsCom** is our new Board member and Bowlathons Chairman. We are starting two new annual fund-raisers to support our four centers. The first Bowlathon will be in January around the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Joe is in need of many new volunteers from the Collegeville area and the St. David's area to fill the many positions for the fund-raisers. You can communicate to Joe at jsmith@lanscom.com if you're interested in helping.

Barb Fritz is transitioning from A Baby's Breath Board to the Silent Auction and Run for Life Committees exclusively. She has been a loyal and tireless worker for our cause. She came to us three years ago after departing from a long career at Unisys. She contributed her talents to our organization without complaint and we're grateful for her service. Thanks, Barb!

A Baby's Breath spent \$3,000 for nine months of advertising on the SEPTA busses traveling from Philadelphia to the surrounding regions. We are seeing a return on our investment.

I was invited to speak at three organization's functions over the past three months. The **Knights of Columbus, Council #7565, the Rotary Club of Collegeville and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Sodality of Mary** in Bridgeport, PA. I am finally able to get out and talk about the good things we are doing because of the Co-directors who have said "yes" to God's plan and accepted the responsibility of directing. Thanks, Maria, Francine, Connie, Margaret, Maryann, Gina, Jack and Jen. So long Joseph Snyder former Co-Director of Collegeville - he will be living closer to his grandchild due this fall.

Please join the **Angel Club**. We can grow new centers with your support. Log onto our new website www.ababysbreath.org to join or call us to find out more. Please keep our mission in your prayers, God Bless!

St. David's Center Grand Opening on August 15th!

ADVOCATES IN TRAINING
Julie Falcone, JoAnn Foley, Carol Grace, Mary Ann McClatchy, Debbie McKenna,
Meghan McTiernan, Juliet Najdawi, Jeanine Peters, Emily Rebalsky, Christa Gardner, Rosemary Friedrich,
Jack Toukatly, Maria Rechiene, Kim Savage

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Volunteer Coordinator
Rosemary Friedrich
PR Chairman
Christa Gardner
Parenting Class Coordinator
Emily Rebalsky
Bowlathon Committee

SETUP COMMITTEE
Barbara Barth
JoAnn Foley
Neal and Mary Pizzano
Sandy D'Ignazio



The Family and Team at **LANsCom** are very proud to be a sponsor of The Run for Life 2006 and would like to extend our warmest thanks to everyone involved in putting this event together and to everyone participating.

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*vovéo-Latin

1. To promise to God
2. To promise solemnly
3. To dedicate entirely

Called to Save a Life

by Dolores A. Baldassari, RN BS

I HAVE BEEN A VOLUNTEER WITH A BABY'S BREATH AS THE PRENATAL COORDINATOR SINCE OUR DOORS OPENED IN JEFFERSONVILLE. As a registered nurse, teaching and assisting the pregnant mothers with their questions, concerns, sorrows and joys are second nature to me. However, during one afternoon in March, the real mission of A Baby's Breath became a test of faith, hope and love for me.

I was at J-ville center, meeting a first-time client who was just a few weeks short of her delivery date and having sporadic contractions during the class. The phone rang, but I ignored it at first. After all, the client had to be at her doctor's office and I had to pick up my daughter from school. The phone kept ringing and something, maybe the Spirit, told me to pick up the call and I did.

The woman's voice on the other line asked, "Do you do procedures there?" I was stunned at first but then replied, "What type of procedures are you looking for?" She answered, "An abortion." My immediate goal was to just keep her on the line.

I asked, "How far along are you?" She said "About 22 weeks." In fact, she had already scheduled an abortion with Planned Parenthood. Shocked that she wanted a second trimester abortion, I replied, "Why are looking to abort your baby after you carried the baby this far already?" You are more than half-way to delivering your baby. Do you feel your baby moving?"

At this point, the mother, "Sally", revealed that the father of the baby had returned and was pressuring her to have an abortion. She explained that she is a single mother of two small children, with a decent office job supporting her small family. I praised her for raising and supporting her children and having goals and dreams for her family. I also reminded her that aborting this baby is very traumatic and will remain with her for the rest of her life. At this point, I asked my pregnant client in the office to step into the other room, for I didn't want to upset her with the details of the second trimester abortion.

Sally went on to explain circumstances of the relationship with the baby's father. He left her when he found out that she was pregnant, (he has five other children out of wedlock) and he contacted her, trying to convince her to have the abortion and maybe there would be reconciliation. I listened to Sally's anguish of having to choose between her baby or him. I silently prayed to the Holy Spirit for guidance and courage as I responded to her.

"Sally, you don't seem ready to have this abortion so why don't you come into A Baby's Breath and meet with one of our counselors, because you have other options beside abortion. We will work with you in choosing to raise your baby or put the baby up for adoption." She replied, "I really don't want to have an abortion but maybe I'll come in to talk to someone." So she agreed to meet with Maria, our crisis counselor at Willow Street and she gave me her phone number.

I am happy to report that Sally did meet with Maria the following day and decided to keep and raise her baby.

I often think of that phone call and the precious little life that was in jeopardy. Where would other mothers like "Sally" turn in their time of confusion and need? On the doorsteps of Planned Parenthood? I am so grateful to all the dedicated volunteers and sponsors for supporting A Baby's Breath so that mothers like Sally can have love and support to choose Life.

Volunteers/Services

PRE-NATAL CLASSES

Delores Baldassari, RN, *Pre-Natal Class Coordinator*
AnneMarie DeLuca, RN Amanda McLaughlin, RN

PARENTING CLASSES

Margaret Malloy, *Parenting Class Coordinator*
Tim Seiders, *Financial Planner*
Diane Boyle Anne Marie Carden
Maryanne Crowe Christa Gardner

PREGNANCY COUNSELING

Collegeville
Maryanne Gullick, *Crisis Counseling Coordinator*
Virginia Madsen Veronica Carden
Gina Barbuto

Jeffersonville
Connie Edford, *Crisis Counseling Coordinator*
Margaret Malloy Maryanne Crowe
Marti Cunningham Jean Coates

Norristown
Maria Berg, *Crisis Counseling Coordinator*
Francine Webster Barbara JanFrancisco
Jennifer Volpe Michael Gambone

BABY STORE

Mary Larkin, *Baby Baskets*
Linda Connor, *Barn Attic Coordinator*
Chris Baran, *Baby Store Coordinator*
Kathleen Tomczak Rita Wade

TUTORING

Francine Webster, *Tutoring Coordinator*
Eric Zaremski Michael Gambone

POST ABORTIVE SUPPORT

Connie Edford, *Post Abortive Support Coordinator*
Melissa Estevez Anita Mikhail

ADOPTION SERVICES

Joe Baldassari, Esq., *Legal Consultant*
Laura Garifo, *Adoption Consultant*

Mark Hitchcock, *IT Chairman*

If you want to join our volunteers, or join the Angel Club, go to www.ababysbreath.org or call (484) 571-5541.

DONATIONS NEEDED!

The 5th Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser will be held

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2006

at

PLYMOUTH COUNTRY CLUB

Please contact Judi Arena-Ondik at 610-631-0310 or email Judi at jlondik19@aol.com to make a donation.

A Baby's Breath – More Than A Crisis Pregnancy Center!


By Margaret Malloy, Parenting Class Coordinator

AS A CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER, A Baby's Breath's Mission is, "To help a Mother to see her child take his/her first breath." Our counselors do an awesome job of accomplishing our mission. Now what? Once a Mother chooses life, a new crisis is often born, that is a Parenting Crisis! Many of our mothers are now faced with a newborn at home and no strong support system in place to help them and advise them. This is where a Baby's Breath goes above and beyond our mission.

The Parenting Support Group is a means by which we keep in touch with our Mothers, and Fathers and hopefully influence them is a positive way. And of course continue to supply them with some of the many material necessities that babies somehow need. How can such a small person need so many things? We utilize the "you earn it you spend it" motto. By attending the support group the parents earn baby store dollars that they can then spend in our Baby Store that is stocked with their baby's needs. The group also provides an opportunity for the Mothers to network among themselves and develop friendships.

We hold our Parenting Support Group monthly and our discussions have covered such topics as Chastity, Toilet Training, Budgeting, Relationships, Safety, Illnesses, Nutrition and Spirituality. We get great feedback from our Parents that attend, they learn many parenting tips and have their many parenting questions answered. The Parents that attend have children from the age of newborn up to three years old. A few of the Mothers have been attending for up to three years. Are they coming back just for the material assistance? We don't think so, we treat each client with kindness and respect, not something that some of our clients experience on a daily basis. Our group keeps growing; we must be doing something right.

Thanks to all our volunteers that help make our Parenting Support Group a success: Baby Store Volunteers, Babysitters, and Guest Speakers. Please contact us at help@ababysbreath.org to help out with the Parenting Support Group; we are always in need of volunteers!



CIRCLE GRAPHICS
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2006 Upcoming Events

Training is underway for volunteers who want to work directly with clients.* For more information about training, please contact Karen at (484) 571-5541.

TRAINING EVENTS:

JULY 13, 2006: **Crisis Counseling I***, 7:00pm

JULY 20, 2006: **Crisis Counseling II***, 7:00pm

JULY 27, 2006: **On Chastity***, 7:00pm

AUG. 5, 2006: **Talking About the Baby***
After First Saturday Devotions at
Our Lady of Assumption Church

*All training events will be held in the Upper Room, Our Lady of Assumption Annex.

AUG. 15, 2006: **GRAND OPENING OF ST. DAVID'S CENTER**

NOV. 10, 2006: **SILENT AUCTION**



JOSEPH MICHAEL BURDETT

10.5 WEEKS

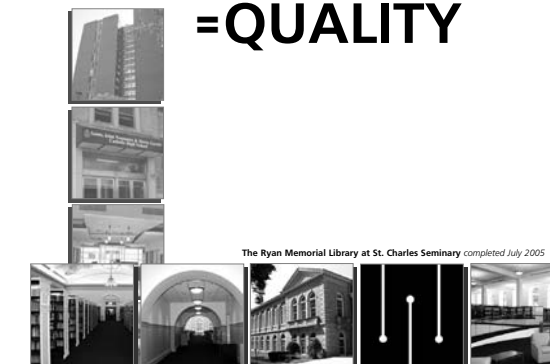
died: 1/25/06

born/baptized: 2/12/06

buried: 2/18/06

Feel free to contact the parents of
Joseph Michael at jmburdett@gmail.com.

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In Memory Of Frank & Grace Migliarese by Ms. Concetta C. Migliarese

BABY ITEMS

- Ms. Eleanor Hentschel, changing table
- Christine McGlade, toddler bed
- Lisa Brogan, changing table
- Lisa Brogan, crib & changing table
- Becky Cosgrave, toys, books, puzzles
- Lori Emerich, maternity clothes
- Caroline & John Paul, baby items
- Dave & Elizabeth Russo, car seat
- Teresa Scharz, bassinet, carseat
- Maria Shackelford, formula
- Ms. Sandy Sholtis, clothing
- Sr. Jeanne Patricia, 6 cases Huggies
- Linda Storbeck, baby items
- Patricia Ench, love seat, towels, sheets
- Kristi Hughes, baby items
- Amie Mastrocola, baby items
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Quaglia, crib set
- Christa Vagnozzi, crib
- Laura & Richard Keckley, crib, mattress, car seat
- Ms. Barbara & Christine Tulio, changing table
- St Helena - Respect Life Committee, baby items
- Philip & Natalie Baldassari, baby items



Quite a Run

By John J. Giorgis

COLD. WET. DRIZZLE. Leaden, slate colored, overcast skies. As I made my way down the winding road searching for A Baby's Breath Run for Life event on an ugly and dreary Saturday morning I wondered why I bothered. Surely nobody was going to run (or even walk) in this miserable mess, were they?

Oh yes they were!

When I finally found the A Baby's Breath Run for Life site at the Norristown Farm Park on Upper Farm Road, I was directed by two well drenched parking attendants past a paved parking lot already filled to capacity, to park in a soggy grassy field. As I walked from my mini van towards the two covered Pavilions that served as the gathering point for the run, I couldn't help but notice the steady stream of cars continuing to roll in – until I got near the Pavilions. That's when the organized bedlam took over!

People were everywhere greeting, hugging, laughing, chatting, questioning, hunting for friends, teammates or loved ones and of course searching for the restrooms! Coaches were holding team meetings and consulting clip boards. Last minute entrants for the run were crowding the registration table. Somewhere in the two pavilions there were various baked goods and water to be found. I was dying for a cup of coffee!

About 15 minutes before the first run – aka THE FUN RUN, Rhonda Hammond, Race Director of A Baby's Breath's Run for Life 2006, happily called the chaos around her to order and race organizers and judges took over and got all the runners over to the starting line on Upper Farm Road. Once the happy participants were assembled and the rules of the run and course



were explained to them they were suddenly surging down the road. And some of them really took off!

As I watched the charging mob of high spirited participants dash down Upper Farm Road I tried to estimate how many runners, joggers, trotters and walkers there were and quickly gave it up as a hopeless exercise. There was simply too great a horde of kids, teens, jocks, high school and college athletes, adults in various conditions and more than a few gray haired folks cheerfully loping down the road as the FUN RUN got under way. Hopefully the judges had a tally! (They did – 140 people took part in the FUN RUN.)

The FUN RUN lasted about 20 minutes overall as the last stragglers returned from the 1K Course and immediately the judges began organizing the Major Event – THE 5K RUN.

This group was definitely smaller than the crowd that had assembled for the FUN RUN – but no less diversified for that. Most of these folks had gone on THE FUN RUN to warm up for this run, which I could truly understand since it was still quite chilly.

I was standing with other observers on Upper Farm Road as the Run began and the herd hurled themselves past us. These were the serious runners and it was all business as they raced past us. It was a longer course but these runners were out to make short work of it! And they did!

Immediately, the chilled yet happy crowd returned to the pavilions for the awards ceremony and warmly cheered the trophy winners for each category. As I headed back to my mini van I found myself smiling and waving to the departing crowd. I was wet and cold but I realized I had barely noticed it over the last two hours. I was actually happy – not my usual state of mind in such conditions. But when hundreds of people get together for such a good cause – it really doesn't matter what the conditions are. What matters is that so many good hearted people were willing come together to show their love, appreciation and support for ABB and its life saving work. And that love was literally warming me through and through.

And that's what makes The Run for Life quite a run, indeed.

