

Davenport, IA & Moline, IL
www.qcpregnancy.org
www.qcpregnancypartners.org

“The moment that my son came up on that ultrasound screen, I was no longer numb. I absolutely fell in love with him.”

-Holly

Volunteer Training

June 6-10

9am-1pm

**Moline Center
829 15th Street**

Interested and want to know more?

Volunteer Info Night

Tues, May 17

6:30-8:00pm

Moline Center

Tour the Center and learn what it means to be part of the ministry. Bring your questions.

To register for either event, contact Kathy at 797.3636 or kathy@qcpregnancy.org

Center Needs

Diapers, sizes 3-5

Baby clothes, 18-24 months

New vacuum cleaner for the Moline Center

University Student Chooses Life After Date Rape

Just A Night Out With Friends

One Friday night after a long day of school, some friends and I went downtown to have a couple of drinks. We were looking forward to a night of fun and relaxation. This night, however, would turn out much different than any other night. Something happened that I will never remember and at the same time never forget.

The Morning After

One minute we were enjoying ourselves with laughter and dance, the next I woke up in my apartment confused and scared. I woke knowing something wrong had happened. I just didn't feel right. I was sick and dizzy. I had blurred vision, and I was trembling. I couldn't remember much about the night before, how I got to my apartment, nothing.

It wasn't until later that day that I fully understood what had happened. The night before someone slipped something in my drink and I fell victim to a date rape. I was in shock. Suddenly it was like I went numb. So many things were running through my head, so many emotions.

Pregnant & Numb

Two weeks later, I found out I was pregnant. I remember not even reacting to the positive sign on the pregnancy test when I found out...it's hard to explain but I was just too numb to take it all in.

About a month later, I somehow made my way to a pregnancy center in Moline, IL. I went there because I was lost. I didn't know what to do. I didn't want to talk to anybody about what had happened...and I didn't until that day.

After taking another pregnancy test at the center and it coming out positive, I cracked. The nurse I talked to, Jenny, wanted to learn more about me and my situation, so through many tears and humility it came out.



Holly and Oliver. “I cannot thank God enough for choosing me to be his mother. He was truly a blessing in disguise.”

Exploring The Options

Jenny asked me what I planned to do. I knew I would never have an abortion. I have always been pro-life. I could never take a life away, especially my own child. So I had two options: either raise this child myself or place him for adoption. At the time both options seemed impossible and I wasn't sure what I would do.

After Jenny talked and prayed with me, she gave me a big hug. She invited me to come back in a few weeks for an ultrasound. Three weeks later, I made my way back for the ultrasound.

I wasn't sure what to expect, but I got more than I anticipated that day. The moment that my son came up on that ultrasound screen...I was no longer numb. On that day I absolutely fell in love with him. He was so real. He was ALIVE! He had legs, arms, fingers, toes, knees, even a face. He was doing flips, waving, and bouncing about every which way...he was so full of life.



Birdies for Charity

Download the new 2011 pledge form online at qcpregnancypartners.org

Thank you to our Lenten Shopper!

One of our supporters got really creative for Lent this year. She loves to shop.

For Lent, she gave up shopping for herself.

Whenever she wanted to buy something for herself,

she bought new baby clothes and baby items for us instead. We have been blessed by her generosity.

Thank You For The Gifts

In memory of Isaac Searl

In honor of

Karla Sandry's birthday

Honoring Birthmothers

One couple made a gift honoring the birthmothers of their four adopted children for Mother's Day.

"They have blessed us with the gift of life."

Telling the Family

I was nervous about telling my parents so I told two of my brothers first. After telling my younger brother that I was pregnant and the circumstances that I was in, he replied, "Well can't you get that taken care of?" like it was a cavity or something. Then I talked to my older brother who said, "Well we are just going to have to get rid of this problem." Both of them were suggesting abortion. I couldn't believe what they were telling me to do. We grew up in the same household. I thought we held the same beliefs. These reactions made me wonder how my parents were going to react. Not that they would ever support an abortion, but I wasn't sure what they would do. So one day I finally worked up the courage and told my parents while showing them the pictures from the ultrasound. They were in disbelief and shock, but accepted this child right away. I will never forget what my father did and said that night. He came up to me, wrapped his

arms around me and said, "We are going to get through this. Just like everything else, we will get through this."

Baby Oliver

Two days after Oliver was born, my brother who had suggested the abortion called and said "Holly, I am so sorry for how I handled this whole situation. I never realized that he was alive that whole time."

I still occasionally get "the look" from friends, saying "Why would you ever keep a baby that was the result of a date rape?" Although it was one of the toughest times of my life, I really don't know how I lived without my son in the past. I once heard that "Women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy also deserve unplanned joy." Oliver has brought so much joy, laughter, love, and healing to me and many others. I cannot thank God enough for choosing me to be his mother. He was truly a blessing in disguise.

Coming Soon Online: Holly shares her story live on video
Check it out at www.qcpregnancypartners.org

From the Director's Heart: *Words Are Important*



*Executive Director
Susan Skoglund*

The words we choose make a significant difference in what we communicate. Pregnancy centers all over the United States have learned this lesson over the years and have made changes in the words we choose. One word that is being used less in pregnancy centers is crisis.

We avoid the word crisis because we do not want to suggest that having a baby is a crisis. The word crisis reinforces the perspective that an unplanned pregnancy is negative or something to fear. At Pregnancy Resources, we prefer to say "unplanned" or "unintended" pregnancy because these words are neutral. We also avoid terms like "unwanted" because we do not want to perpetuate the stigma that if a pregnancy, and thus a child, is unplanned, that he or she is unwanted. Having an unplanned pregnancy can be stressful. We share that a baby is not a crisis, but a gift created by God whether planned or not.

Lots of words used when discussing adoption are important in helping women see that choosing adoption is a wonderful and courageous choice. We do not say "give your baby up" or "put your baby up" (which refers back to the orphan trains of the past century). We encourage women to "make an adoption plan." Obviously, "giving my baby up" evokes negative emotions and sounds more like a careless act than a selfless act.

We know that making an adoption plan is a loving, courageous, and difficult thing to do. I hope this helps you as you encounter people in the community who may need to hear the right words!

Choose Your Words Wisely

Rather than...

- Real parents
- Natural parents
- Unwed mother
- Real child
- Put up for adoption
- Give up for adoption
- Is adopted
- To keep a child

We suggest...

- Birthparents
- Biological parents
- Single parent
- Birthchild
- Make an adoption plan
- Choose adoption
- Was adopted
- To parent a child

