



## Celebrate Adoption! November is National Adoption Awareness Month

### Three Keys to Success in Adoption

by Brenda Newport

*To my first born son... It has been a long journey, but I'm glad to have had this chance to bring you into the world and grace a family with the gift of you. You will always be in my heart, and I love you.*  
Your Birthmother

Pregnant at 16 and adopted herself when her mother lost custody of her, adoption was the last thing she wanted to talk about. But her adoptive parents demanded that I talk her into an adoption. I responded politely, "Having met your daughter, I doubt that she would respond well to force. But if you allow me to get to know her and work with her, she may come to that conclusion on her own." They did... and she did.

As PRC directors, we have all met the young woman who resists the idea of adoption in her crisis pregnancy. "I'd rather have an abortion than give my baby up for adoption!" are words that break our hearts. Breaking through the myths that surround adoption is not easy, but it is possible if you as counselor believe wholeheartedly that adoption is a beautiful choice.

**We must first dismantle the idea that abortion is an easy fix to their problem.** Most women in first-time pregnancies have no idea what lies ahead when they come to discuss abortion or their parenting plan. They respond best to our sincere appreciation of how difficult their decision is. They want to examine all options, including adoption. After learning about each option and the consequences that follow, most agree, "There is no easy one." The first objective is met.

*It takes a person with a deep-running, sacrificial love to be able to walk the birthmother path. Family involvement in the process is important, including her family, the birthfather, and his family.*

**Adoption as a viable option can be woven into ideas of adoption in the 21st century.** I repeatedly refer to the young women who have chosen an adoption plan, describing them as very loving and unselfish. "It takes a special person to make an adoption plan. Not everyone can do it, and maybe you have what it takes to be a birthmother. I don't know, but we can spend some time examining your future and your options if you would like." With the new attitudes about adoption,

*Continued on page 2*



## Oasis Training Energizes Thirty-Two New Directors

Pregnancy resource center representatives from as far as Australia and Alaska gathered in Columbus, Ohio for the three-day New Director Oasis in August. Under the guidance of nearly a dozen Heartbeat mentors and presenters, the center directors built relationships with colleagues, shared techniques for serving clients, learned about principles in strengthening ministry efforts, and prayed together.

As a special treat, Heartbeat board member Julie Parton, Ph.D., shared with the new directors from her vast experience in PRCs. Recharging spiritual batteries is an important part of the Oasis program. Oasis topics ranged from center services and governance to legal and development issues. After touring the *Option Line*® call center, participants met with Heartbeat staff. As participants received certificates of recognition in the closing ceremonies, each was commissioned into the work of the PRC ministry.

.....  
*Thank you, thank you! It has been a great opportunity, a privilege, and a blessing to be here. The gifts/seeds Heartbeat has given to our organization will reap a good harvest.*

.....  
-Marilyn, Lily of the Valley Ministries  
.....

Watch for upcoming information about the next New Director Oasis in August, 2008, by visiting [www.HeartbeatInternational.org](http://www.HeartbeatInternational.org).



## Three Keys to Success in Adoption *Continued from cover*

she can have control over who, where, when, what, and how this will all take place. She can design the adoption so that she will never feel as though she “gave her baby away” but rather that she gave her baby a family, a stable home, a future, and most of all a beautiful life.

**Not everyone is a good candidate for an adoption plan.** The only way to find out if your client is a candidate is by looking thoughtfully at all the circumstances surrounding the pregnancy, including the

birthfather situation. It takes a person with a deep-running, sacrificial love to be able to walk the birthmother path. Family involvement in the process is important, including her family, the birthfather, and his family.

Moses’ mother saved her child from Pharaoh’s sword by placing Moses in a reed basket at the edge of the Nile River.  
(Exodus 2:1-6 NIV)

Brenda Newport, Executive Director of Women’s Care Center of Erie County, PA, can be reached at (814) 836-7505.

***Birthmother, Good Mother: Her Story of Heroic Redemption*** by

Charles T. Kenny, Ph.D., goes a long way towards exploding the myth that a woman who places her child for adoption is a bad mother. The study is based on interviews with 51 women who had placed their infants for adoption two or more years earlier.

A puzzling belief, that making an adoption plan for her child would be worse than depriving that innocent child of life itself, has taken hold of many women facing unplanned pregnancies in today's society. Women who do choose to carry their children to term usually also choose to parent the children, often as single mothers. In addition, some PRC counselors, leaders, and church folk may have a bias, consciously or unconsciously, toward choosing to parent. The trend of single parenting has contributed to the steady decline of adoption in recent decades.

The National Council for Adoption and the Family Research Council sought to find out why some women with unplanned pregnancies choose adoption and feel right about it years later. In their research for *Birthmother, Good Mother*, they followed the same research methodology of *The Missing Piece*.

The birthmothers revealed through these interviews that they had to work through their fears and conflicts. They finally chose adoption because they believed that it was best for their children. Some of the findings of



the study include beliefs among the women that: adoption is not abandonment, it is a loving, responsible act; and by choosing what is best for their children, birthmothers see themselves as good mothers.

Other beliefs expressed by the women interviewed include the confidence that placing their children with loving couples is what it means for them to be good mothers. The redemptive transformation of a mistake into a positive outcome brings healing. Adoption allows women to recover their self-esteem, restore their identity, and renew their dreams and goals.

*Birthmother, Good Mother*, the National Council for Adoption 2007 Report, is based on research commissioned by the National Council for Adoption and the Family Research Council.

**Honor the Adoption Option this November**

“We’ve got to bring adoption back to an honorable position. We’ll save babies and honor birthmothers,” exhorts Anne Pierson, Director of Loving and Caring.

Here are two easy steps towards encouraging our birthmothers as good mothers:

Accept a free copy of *Birthmother, Good Mother* by contacting the Family Research Council at [www.frc.org](http://www.frc.org) to order or by writing to: Family Research Council, 801 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

Most importantly, we can ask in our hearts, “Am I giving adoption a chance when I talk with a woman facing a crisis pregnancy?”



## Hearbeat Affiliates Join Hands and Network Internationally: Belize

by Nathan Burd

Megan Burns picked up the phone looking for a life-changing experience. As a client counselor for Life Network in Colorado Springs, Megan wanted to make an impact that reached beyond the borders of her city. Megan felt the call to serve internationally and she dialed up Heartbeat to make the connection.

Within a few days, we connected Megan with Rachel de Ocampo, the director of the Helping Hands Pregnancy Center in Belize, an effective ministry despite extremely challenging circumstances. It was a great fit. Megan also was eager to see how a center functioned in a different culture with fewer resources so arrangements were made for Megan to volunteer in the center for a month.

Megan quickly realized that serving in an international center was vastly different than her experience in America. “I found that although some of the situations were similar to what we deal with in the U.S., they are magnified tenfold in Belize,” Megan said. “I was not fully equipped to handle many of the situations that are all too typical there.”

Although challenging, Megan found her time in Belize to be rewarding. “I am grateful for every aspect of this experience,” she said. “It was life-changing and I plan to support the center any way I can as God continues to open doors.” The experience was also beneficial for Helping Hands. “We learned a great deal by having a skilled volunteer at the center and we are grateful to Megan for her time and resources,” Rachel said. “We would be thrilled to have her back next summer!”

Heartbeat is blessed to have 164 international affiliates in 39 countries. Many of them operate in cultures where respect for human life competes with poverty, disease, traditions, and government dictates. Here in America, we can hardly imagine the resulting situations.

If you feel the call to help our international friends, as Megan did, please contact us at (888) 550-7577 or [nburd@heartbeatinternational.org](mailto:nburd@heartbeatinternational.org).



*Children are cherished in Belize where families must struggle together in the face of very limited resources.*

## Welcome to the Heartbeat Family ————— New Affiliates

*Now serving more than 1,000 affiliates*

Concepts of Truth, Inc. – Wynne, AR  
Hope Women’s Center – Apache Junction, AZ  
LIFE, Inc. – Fort Walton Beach, FL  
Heartbeat of Miami – Miami, FL  
Hope Center – Niceville, FL  
South Central Pregnancy Care Center – Salem, IL

New Beginnings Pregnancy & Family Services – Red Wing, MN  
Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship – Charlotte, NC  
ATM (Abstinence ‘Til Marriage) Education – Sunbury, OH  
Laredo Life Center – Laredo, TX

## ————— New International Affiliates

Nyamira Adventist Medical Centre – KENYA  
Elohim Heartbeat – BAHAMAS

9 Months Plus Charitable Trust – NEW ZEALAND  
Diamond Pregnancy Support, Inc. – AUSTRALIA

## Option Line e-Xtend Give Your PRC High Visibility

Imagine being 18 and possibly pregnant. You're confused, scared, and unsure of what to do. You need to know for sure if you're pregnant and what your options are. Where do you go?

The most convenient place to look: the Internet, probably through searches on Google© and Yahoo©. Five results for services might fill your computer screen when you search the word *abortion* on Google; two about abortion and three that lead to life-affirming websites.

Now imagine you're a director of a pregnancy center whose website pops up at the top of the 18-year-old's web search. *Option Line®* can help make that happen. Through *Option Line e-Xtend*, your PRC can reach 66% or more of the women in your immediate service area. The key to success is a *client-focused* website.

You might have reservations... "I'm not technologically savvy..." "It's too expensive..." "I don't have the time or the volunteer staff to update and maintain a website." Worry not! *Option Line* understands your reality and we have an easy-to-use solution.



**"I'm not technologically savvy." At OptionLine, we are.** We'll construct your site for you. Give us a little information and tell us the name you want for your website address (URL). We do all the technical work and *voilà*, your site is up and running! Benefits include the most up-to-date medical information, links to *Option Line's* "find-a-center" page, key-word advertising assistance and attractive, professional templates. These benefits apply to any site purchased.

**"It's too expensive." Not anymore.** For as little as \$150 set up fee and \$20 a month, you can have a professional site at a fraction of the professional cost.

**"I can't update or maintain the site." We'll do it for you.** *Option Line* techno geeks will do all maintenance and updating for you so you can apply your efforts elsewhere. We actually *like* to do this stuff.

**You can get fancy – or not. A customized website option is also available.** Through a partnership with *Cool Coyotes*, *Option Line* can provide you with more advanced client website services for an initial fee of \$300 and \$60 per month.

**Looking for supporter sites? Yes, we have those, too.** *Option Line* also provides supporter sites. Share with your community your center's mission, upcoming events, and success stories. Most importantly, you can accept online donations. The set up is \$500 and the monthly fee is \$100.

Contact Adam Thompson at [AdamT@optionline.org](mailto:AdamT@optionline.org) or (866) 260-3763 to explore *Option Line e-Xtend*.

## Prayer is a Priority for the National Leadership Alliance

*The only truly unique, complete, personal gift we can give to God is our prayer.*

–Fr. William Healy, OCD at Holy Hill, WI.

The National Leadership Alliance (NLA) has put prayer on the agenda. This commitment grew out of discussions that took place between Heartbeat and Care Net in 2001. As a result, the leaders of national ministries have committed to unite in prayer twice each year. Heartbeat was blessed to host the 2007 summer meeting in Columbus.



### National Leadership Alliance Members

Heartbeat International

Care Net

Loving & Caring

LIFE International

National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA)

Baptists for Life – Partners in Ministry

North American Mission Board, SBC Pregnancy Care Ministries

American Pregnancy Association

Canadian Association of Pregnancy Support Services (CAPSS)

The NLA Mission Statement: “We exist to glorify God by joining in prayer and worship, discerning God’s will, promoting and guarding unity, discussing, and developing collaborative relationships among leaders of national pregnancy care ministries.”

## News About Your Heartbeat Staff

**Andrea Trudden** (née Noll), Heartbeat’s Event Coordinator, exchanged vows of Holy Matrimony with Dan Trudden on August 25. Says Andrea, “Dan had to prove he could walk on water first,” in reference to the day Dan popped the big question. He proposed to Andrea standing in the middle of OSU’s Mirror Lake -- frozen solid! When you phone Heartbeat to enroll in the 2007 Institute for Center Effectiveness, please take a minute to congratulate Andrea.

**D’Mor Borschlegl**, Heartbeat’s new Receptionist and retired Army Master Sergeant, comes to us with 21 years of experience. Tours of duty took her from home in St. Croix to Germany and Texas before she enlisted in God’s Army at Heartbeat. D’Mor declares, “I’m a firm believer in God and a trooper in our mission.” D’Mor and her husband Eric dote on three wonderful boys.



*At your service: (L – R) Andrea, D’Mor and Molly*

**Molly Hoefner**, our new Administrative Assistant for Affiliate Services, also traveled the world thanks to the Air Force and her parents. Recently, she moved from Ft. Lauderdale to Columbus with her husband of 25 years, Larry, and their two daughters. “Heartbeat is the answer to my prayers for work with a Christian mission,” says Molly. She brings to Heartbeat a vibrant personality as well as a wealth of professional experience in teaching and corporate America.



## Important Resources

Heartbeat International provides resources and trainings to its affiliates so they can be successful organizations and reach their target clientele.

### Adoption Resources

National Adoption Awareness is celebrated in the month of November. President Gerald Ford announced the first National Adoption Week. It was eventually expanded to include a month due to the number of states participating and the level of activities involved.

During November, many communities, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals will celebrate adoption. Special events will spotlight children who need permanent families.

Promoting this important celebration can be accomplished through planning events to educate ourselves and others about adoption.

**Adopting.org** is a website that offers great ideas about events and resources, like the Adoption Month Activity Calendar, to promote adoption. For more information, visit [www.adopting.org](http://www.adopting.org). Once you enter the site, click on “Community Resources” on the left-hand menu, then scroll down the page to find further information on calendars. If you decide to advertise your events through the media, consider getting background information and statistics by contacting your local social services or your state adoption specialist ([www.adopting.org/adoptions/state-adoption-specialists-for-states-a-m.html](http://www.adopting.org/adoptions/state-adoption-specialists-for-states-a-m.html)) before you issue press releases and announcements to the media.

Another website for planning more events: <http://events.adoption.com>.

### Below are more articles and resources to help you and your center promote adoption.

Bethany Christian Services ([www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)) offers a wide array of information that can help you promote adoption. Some articles of particular interest that you will find on this website include *How to Increase Adoption Awareness in Your Community*, by Russell Webb and *The Power of Words*.

*My Baby and Me Series*, by Loving and Caring ([www.LovingandCaring.org/my\\_baby\\_and\\_me.php](http://www.LovingandCaring.org/my_baby_and_me.php))

*Birthmother, Good Mother: Her Story of Heroic Redemption* by Charles T. Kenny, Ph.D., is a new publication commissioned by the National Council for Adoption and the Family Research Council. (Alexandria, Virginia; National Council for Adoption, 2007) See story on page 3.

*What Happened to Infant Adoption*, by J.C. Wilke, M.D. ([www.LifeIssues.org/connector/2007/Apr07\\_InfantAdoption.htm](http://www.LifeIssues.org/connector/2007/Apr07_InfantAdoption.htm))

*A Case for Adoption*, this excellent booklet is a guide to presenting the option of adoption to young women experiencing unplanned pregnancies. (Grand Rapids, Michigan; Bethany Publications, 2001)

#### Employment Opportunities

Please visit our website ([www.HeartbeatInternational.org](http://www.HeartbeatInternational.org)) for a complete list of employment opportunities with Heartbeat and our affiliates.



665 E. Dublin-Granville Road  
Suite 440  
Columbus, OH 43229-3245

Phone: (614) 885-7577  
Fax: (614) 885-8746  
Toll-Free: (888) 550-7577

Return Service  
Requested

### *In this edition of Pulse:*

- Three Keys to Success  
in Adoption ..... 1
- Oasis Training Energizes  
New Directors ..... 2
- Birthmother, Good Mother ..... 3
- Affiliates Join Hands and Network  
Internationally ..... 4
- New Heartbeat Affiliates ..... 4
- Option Line e-Xtend ..... 5
- Prayer is a Priority..... 6
- News About Your Heartbeat Staff... 6
- Adoption Resources ..... 7

# Pulse



## **Join Us for a Dynamic Program in Leadership and Fundraising** *The Institute for Center Effectiveness - November 12-16, 2007, Columbus, OH*

Heartbeat’s Institute for Center Effectiveness (held in Columbus, Ohio) is an intensive, week-long learning environment with two separate tracks vital to the health, growth and success of any ministry efforts – *leadership and fundraising*. Instructors bring both marketplace and ministry experience to this dynamic professional development opportunity. Visit [www.HeartbeatInternational.org](http://www.HeartbeatInternational.org) to register online and for details or phone us at **(888)550-7577**.

### **Training Schedule**

#### **Institute for Center Effectiveness**

November 12-16, 2007, Columbus, OH  
Early registration discount ends October 8.  
Registration ends October 22, 2007.

#### **37th Annual Heartbeat Conference and Executive Roundtable**

April 16 - 19, 2008, Dallas, TX

Look for the 2008 training schedule on the website near the holidays and in the next *Pulse* issue.

Fall 2007

#### **Participants Speak Out About Heartbeat Trainings**

*“Excellent insight by Heartbeat staff into what is needed by center leaders. I have come to trust Heartbeat for excellence in all they do.”*

–Sallie Janowiak, Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center, IN

*“An outstanding balance between excellence in professionalism from a business perspective and spiritual formation.”*

–Ronell Warner, Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center, VA

[www.HeartbeatInternational.org](http://www.HeartbeatInternational.org)