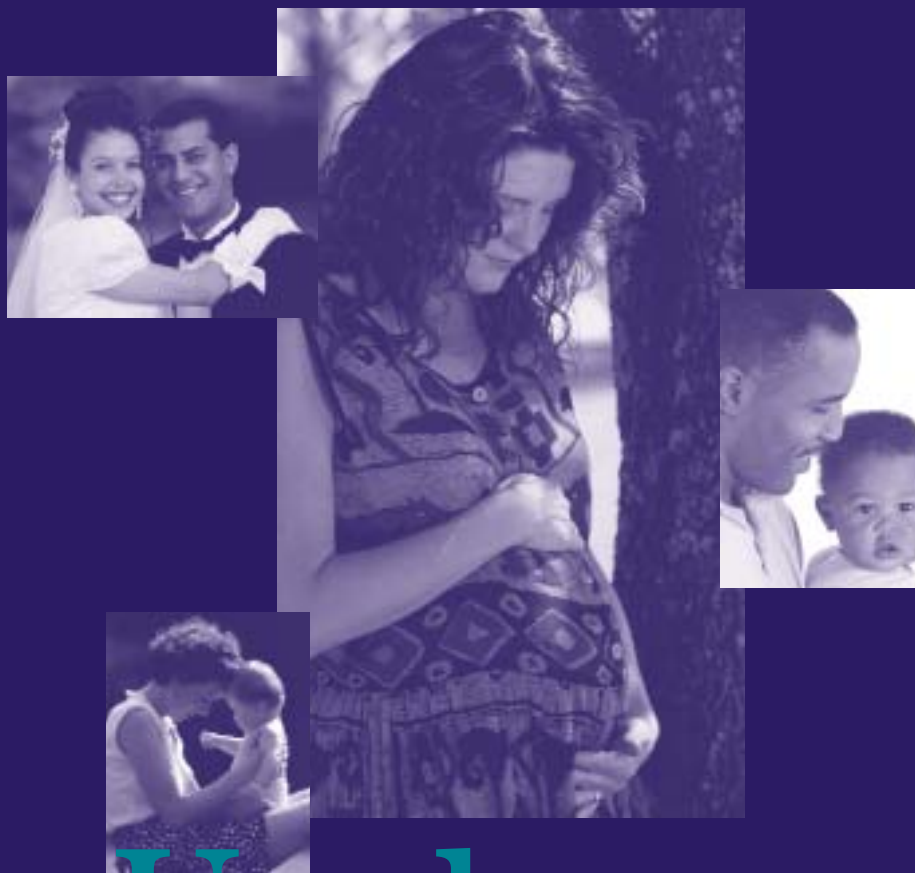




# THE AMERICAN FEMINIST<sup>SM</sup>

Feminists for Life of America<sup>®</sup>



# Unplanned Pregnancy

A Detour, Not A Dead End

# THE AMERICAN FEMINIST

Feminists for Life of America



S P R I N G

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FFL REDEFINES THE MEANING OF

# CHOICE



**S**ince *Roe v. Wade*, American women who experience an unexpected pregnancy have increasingly been presented with only one viable choice—aborting the pregnancy.

“Do you want to schedule an abortion?” the nurse asks a woman whose pregnancy test has just come back positive. “Choice” implies having more than one option, but rarely are non-violent choices explored or actively supported by those who say they are pro-choice.

When a woman becomes unexpectedly pregnant, she may feel that life as she knows it has come to an end. She is told she must choose between sacrificing her education and career plans and sacrificing her child, neither of which she really wants to do. This issue of *The American Feminist* is about choice: it shows that an unexpected pregnancy may be a detour, but it doesn't have to be a dead end. ○

*Sarah Anttonen*  
Executive Director

## Elise Ehrhard

**I**N THE HIT MOVIE “PARENTHOOD,” Steve Martin’s middle-class character, a father of three, quits his dead-end job after being denied a promotion. When he comes home that day, his wife, played by Mary Steenburgen, tells him that she is unexpectedly pregnant with their fourth child. The conversation that follows, while fictional, reflects the sort of conversations that occur among many stable married couples who have contended with an unexpected pregnancy.

“How did this happen?” he asks.

“It was an accident,” she replies.

He lists all the obstacles to having the baby. His wife tells him that the news is hard on her too because she was considering going back to work in the fall. They argue, and he storms out. Ultimately, they decide to keep their child, overcoming their initial economic and emotional fears.

Nonetheless, obstacles for parents remain and need to be addressed.

Kate Ott became unexpectedly pregnant two weeks after her wedding in August. Ott and her husband had to tackle a whole range of economic and emotional concerns for which they had not prepared.

“My husband works for a nonprofit organization and I’m a student, so we have a budget that barely feeds ourselves, never mind another person,” says Ott, a graduate student at Yale University studying feminist theology.

Coupled with these concerns were the reservations friends and acquaintances expressed when they told them about the pregnancy.

“You could see the doubt in people’s eyes. People reacted with thoughts like, ‘The due date’s so close to exam time.’” However, Ott reiterates, “It wasn’t a mistake. It was a surprise.”

be a big help. Our parents have also offered support—not in money, but in materials. My mom’s already sent a package of baby clothes.”

Ott even sees benefits to having a child at a time that she did not plan.

“I’m going to be taking two classes a week so I’ll have time and flexibility. And I’m just starting my life so the child will become a part of my life from the beginning.”

A supportive husband has been a vital emotional resource for Ott.

“He’s my best friend. A natural support system 24 hours a day. With him here, I can have the down time that I need.”

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 18% of abortions occur among married women. While most of the abortions in the U.S. occur among women ages 18-24, the majority of abortions among married women actually occur at an older age.

# Pregnancy

Their story mirrors a larger reality. Just like single women and men, couples in stable marriages face the fears and struggles of an unexpected pregnancy. Studies show that stable marriages do provide increased emotional and financial stability for parents.

She and her husband have already found some practical options to deal with needs such as child care.

Says Ott, “The state of Connecticut offers a program for low-income families of free or low co-pay child care. We qualify. That will

This does not surprise Angela Lawson, who became unexpectedly pregnant at age 38. She had already had four children in her early 20s and was preparing to enter law school. She says she first felt intense pressure from medical professionals to abort.

*continued on page 6*

**“You believe you’ve mapped out your life a certain way and you know exactly where you’re going. Then suddenly, there’s a little human being looking up at you and telling you, ‘You were wrong.’”**





CHOICE: MARRIAGE

in Marriage

*continued from page 4*

“The first two gynecologists I went to sent me home with fistfuls of brochures on why I should not have the baby,” Lawson says. “They said my age coincided with increased maternal health risks and greater chances of Down Syndrome. And they kept bringing up the fact that I already had four children, implying there was no reason to have another. Basically, they were judging me because I was not making the choice they would make if they were in my situation—as they saw me.”

It is this second-guessing of women’s life-affirming choices that both married and single women experience from others—and even from themselves. Kimberly Wood, a married working woman, was critical of herself when she discovered her pregnancy. She became unexpectedly pregnant in her late 30s after having two boys in her 20s.

“When I found out I was pregnant I felt so humiliated,” Wood says. “But now I couldn’t imagine life without my daughter.”

Lawson believes all women—married or single—are going to grapple with deep emotional conflicts when facing an unexpected pregnancy.

“You believe you’ve mapped out your life a certain way and you know exactly where you’re going. Then suddenly, there’s a little human being looking up at you and telling you, ‘You were wrong,’” Lawson says.

Lawson did get her law degree and is now a practicing attorney. She sees clear benefits to raising children within a marriage.

“A father has special qualities he offers to a child and I see how important that is in my children’s lives. I know that when I was a child my own father was a real security for me—just to know that he was there.”

Like the other married women in this article, Lawson found unexpected benefits to having a baby at a time she did not plan.

“I found that I was actually healthier at 38 than I was in my 20’s because I was more conscientious about eating right and exercising. I also had a greater appreciation for what was happening inside of me.”

Women in stable marriages are able to share the challenges of child-rearing with their husbands. Nonetheless, many married couples still struggle with the emotional and economic obstacles of parenting shared by millions. As the women FFL spoke with show, these obstacles can be overcome through life adjustments, outside resources, and the support of loved ones.

For many women—married or single—unexpected pregnancy can also bring with it unexpected joys. ○

*Kate Ott’s son, Jacob, was born in late December with serious medical complications. She and her husband were able to hold Jacob before he died a few hours later. Our hearts go out to Kate and her family.*

*The names Angela Lawson and Kimberly Wood are pseudonyms for mothers who wish to remain anonymous.*





# Marriage and Pregnancy...

Cecilia Klingele

FOR MOST COLLEGE STUDENTS, the idea of getting married seems as strange as starting a retirement fund...if not stranger. In a culture that delays permanent commitment to later adulthood, marriage strikes many young adults as an irresponsible and dangerous decision. Two years ago, when my then-fiancé and I announced that with two years of undergraduate work left we would be married the following summer, our decision was met with skepticism.

Despite the response of my teachers and peers to my decision to marry, my choice was not altogether uncommon. Graduate and undergraduate students alike do marry, and for many the decision proves to be a wise and happy one. The decision to marry while in school is certainly not appropriate for all individuals or all situations, but students who choose marriage cite numerous benefits.

Although many people assume that marriage is economically impossible for young couples, married students frequently mention the economic benefits of marriage. When both spouses are in school, it is often easier for students to obtain federal grants and loans to help with school-related expenses. Alternately, when one spouse is working, it is often possible for the student to rely less heavily on loans for tuition and related academic costs.

"Having a husband who works will help me to alleviate some of my college debt, and make graduate school less financially stressful," says Kelly Morris, a 21-year-old senior at the University of Wisconsin.

In addition to the possible financial benefits, it is impossible to overlook the emotional benefits of a healthy marriage. Melanie Schaller and her husband are both 20 and recently married. "I have a great roommate," Schaller says. "Living with my best friend provides constant support and companionship." A student in a healthy marriage has the security of being part

of a permanent, committed relationship in which she can fully rely on the continuing support of her husband...even during finals week!

For those who do decide to begin families while still in school, benefits also exist. When my husband and I chose to become pregnant at the beginning of my senior year of college, facing the physical and emotional demands of pregnancy forced me to re-evaluate my academic and personal goals, and renew my commitment to them. With more demands on my time, I became much more efficient in all areas of my life, and as a result, my last semester was one of my most academically successful.

Even with the benefits that marriage and children can bring, life as a married student can sometimes be overwhelming. Despite that fact, none of the women with whom I spoke would choose to live their lives any other way.

When asked the question heard thousands of times by every engaged student—Why get married now? Why not wait?—each had a different response, reflecting the type of variety found among people of any age explaining their decision to marry. Some students married because they felt it helped them to live up more easily to their own moral principles. Others cited a "readiness" for further commitment.

And me? Well, in a world where tomorrow is never guaranteed, when I look at my husband and my beautiful daughter, all I can say is that I can't think of a single reason why I should have waited a day longer. ○

Cecilia Klingele is a senior majoring in medieval history at the University of Wisconsin.

## ...While in School

# Single Motherhood

## When I went to college

in the autumn of 1982, I knew

I was starting a whole new stage of my life. Having just graduated from an all-female

liberal arts high school,

I entered a technological

university where men

outnumbered women four to

one. It never occurred to me

at the age of 18 that my life

would soon involve making

decisions about another

person's life too.



CHOICE: SINGLE PARENTING



### **During my sophomore year**

I started a new relationship. It was a casual relationship, so I was not prepared for the night when it became sexual. I had abandoned my previous preparations for contraception, but I tried not to worry; lots of people had sex without getting pregnant, I told myself. That night I was not one of them. Within two weeks my period was late. I went to the campus health center thinking I was sick. After the physician's assistant ran a pregnancy test, he said only two things: "This test is positive," then after a brief pause, "Are you going to terminate the pregnancy?"

Pregnant! I was stunned, not only by the news but also by the abruptness of the decision I was being asked to make. There was no suggestion of talking to my boyfriend or my family, no offer of counseling, no information about prenatal care, no presumption of any outcome but abortion, although the word was never used.

"No," I replied, instinctively. "I guess I'll have to put the baby up for adoption."

My views about life issues were developed in high school. I knew I was solidly against all kinds of killing, abortion included. My parents' involvement in the pro-life movement also left me with some awareness of the alternatives that were available. Yet at that moment, I felt very much alone.

Then the surprises really began. My boyfriend, upon hearing the news, asked if I was going to have an abortion.

"Absolutely not," I said.

"Good," he replied, "because I don't believe in that." Brief pause. "Do you want to get married?"

"No," I answered, just as emphatically. I did not have everything figured out, but I believe that a baby is the wrong reason to get married. Over the next few weeks, we would talk about adoption, pick baby names, and share our secret with a few close friends. But he never really took responsibility as the father of our child, and halfway through the pregnancy he informed me that he could not have anything more to do with me or the baby. His father had told

him he would have to pay child support. His father did not fully understand that my boyfriend was already responsible for child support, but that was the end of our relationship.

My parents, who I thought would be very angry, were instantly supportive and non-judgmental. "We'll do whatever we can to help you," they assured me. My friends did not quite know what to do. They had never known a pregnant student on campus. And it was clear from the absence of support available to me that the university administration was ill-prepared to deal with this situation. I ended up taking a medical leave of absence, shortly after which David was born and I became a single mother at 19.

With the help of a supportive counselor, I ultimately decided to keep and raise my child. **I set out to be that apparent rarity in American society: a successful single woman raising a happy and well-adjusted child.**

It was a struggle. I applied for and received limited welfare benefits for my son while I finished school, in spite of attempts by the welfare department to force me to leave school and go to work (even though without a degree, I would scarcely be able to support us). My caseworker quietly applauded my persistence, saying he had full confidence that I would get off welfare and make a good life.

Finally, shortly before my son's third birthday and with help from my parents and extended family, I completed my college degree, found a good job, and set up a household. Finding decent child care was a task. I opted for so-called "family day care" in a provider's home and was lucky to find a wonderful, loving woman who cared for my son for what I could afford to pay her. I even managed a social life, always with the understanding that my child came first for me and that we were a "package deal."

As I learned the real story about child support, I decided to hold my son's father to the task of supporting the child he helped create. Eight years after he abandoned me to avoid child support, I researched and

used the services of my state's Child Support Enforcement department to win a court order for monetary support and comprehensive health insurance coverage for my son.

It has not always been easy, but my son and I have a pretty good life. My father and my brother, who is himself a new father, are the male role models in my son's life. My mother and I both teach him that women are strong, multi-dimensional people to be valued and respected.

**I am convinced that my support network is the only difference between me and the young women who resort, in desperation, to an unwanted abortion, or who struggle to escape poverty, with limited education and fading hope for their and their children's future.**



Still, my experiences have left me angry with a system which, on so many levels, continues to abandon women and their children. How many other women take the only choice they think they have? I had a supportive and life-affirming family—but how many women face only harsh judgment and abandonment? How many women must make their pregnancy decision based on what few resources (if any) their college or workplace provides for parents? How many woman-headed households get caught in a welfare trap that offers them no future and no way out? How many women let their children's fathers off the hook for support, not for a few years but forever, believing they must go it alone? ○



# Single

# Fatherhood

**Molly Pannell**  
Editor

"WE'VE NEVER SEEN HER since the day she left. There were a couple of letters in the first few weeks after she left, then nothing." Bob, a single father, has raised his son Kyle by himself from the time Kyle's mother left them six days after Kyle's birth.

"The first six months were the most difficult," said Bob in an interview with *Fathering Magazine*. Adjusting to the changes a child brings is often difficult—especially when raising a child as a single parent.

Often-forgotten elements of society, single fathers are a growing trend. A quick search of the Internet reveals numerous resources, support groups, and organizations offering information ranging from child care issues to parenting styles for single fathers.

Single fathers, like single mothers, face many challenges. As single parents, single fathers struggle to balance home, career, and children. Yet many of today's single fathers feel they are ignored in discussions of parenting, abortion, and child care. Many fathers feel that their rights and responsibilities toward their children are disregarded in favor of women's roles in bearing and raising children.

John Waters, a father and a columnist at *The Irish Times* newspaper, commented that society "must begin to say to both parties: together you have caused this child to be given life, and we wish to raise it in the same spirit." According to Waters, "Child-rearing is too important to be a matter of simple lifestyle choice or personal whim."

For many women who do not feel ready to raise a child, single fatherhood may provide an alternative to abortion or adoption.

At a 1998 joint pro-life and pro-choice conference in Dublin, Ireland, Waters outlined his ideas for creating a society that respects the rights and responsibilities of both mothers and fathers. According to Waters, "we should all, as a society, be saying to would-be parents: this is the most important thing you will ever be asked to do in your life, and we will not allow you to take short cuts, nor will we abandon you to struggle alone."

Waters maintains that while parents must understand that "life is changed forever," these changes "needn't be bad or frightening" and "that the apparatus of the state...will shift its focus to help both parents."

Waters asserts that by restoring fathers' rights and responsibilities the risk of abortion will be decreased and "the sanctity of life can be taken out of the realm of individual choice." ○

**"We should all, as a society,  
be saying to would-be parents:  
this is the most important thing you will  
ever be asked to do in your life,  
and we will not allow you to take short cuts, nor will we abandon you to struggle alone."**

# Grandparenthood

WHEN MARCHELLE GAVE BIRTH to her daughter Keryn during the summer between her junior and senior years of college, she was sure of two things: she wanted to provide the best for Keryn and she knew she needed to finish her academic career to do so. An economics and international relations major at Trinity College in Washington, D.C., Marchelle was prepared for the intense demands of her academic work but was uneasy about balancing her school work and raising her daughter.

Marchelle turned to her mother and grandmother for help.

In this day of increasing single parenthood, grandparent caregivers are part of a growing trend. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 3.3 million American children under age 18 now live with their grandparents, an increase of 1 million since 1980. The *Journal of Contemporary Human Services* even calls grandparents “a safety net for society.”

After spending much of the summer learning how to care for her daughter with her mother, grandmother, and aunt in Ohio, Marchelle returned to school in Washington. Keryn stayed with Marchelle’s mother and grandmother in Ohio from October until January.

“I was able to concentrate on my school work,” says Marchelle of the time her mother cared for her daughter. “Having my mother,

grandmother, and aunt help with Keryn gave me time to find myself. When I had Keryn I was young and not ready to care for her.”

During the months her family cared for Keryn, Marchelle was able to focus on her academic work and prepare for caring for Keryn after her graduation.

“It was hard missing so many of Keryn’s first moments—her first tooth, her first crawl,” says Marchelle.

Marchelle was able to complete her academic work and graduated on schedule in May 1998. After her graduation, Marchelle’s mother again cared for Keryn while Marchelle searched for a job, housing, and child care.

“The hardest thing was when I would visit my family and my daughter during the semester,” says Marchelle. “Keryn often went to my mother instead of me. Later, she would cling to me as if she thought I was never coming back.”

Marchelle and Keryn now live together in the Washington area. With her degree in economics and international relations, Marchelle was hired in the legal department of an international corporation. Keryn, now almost 18 months old, is a happy and healthy baby. She no longer clings to Marchelle but is busy discovering her surroundings. Marchelle says, “She knows I’ll always come back to her.” ○



**T**HIS WEEKEND our son Ben, with his beautiful wife and two handsome boys (ages 5 and 6), will be moving out of an apartment and into their own home at last. Though Ben and his family are thrilled with their new home, the timing of the big move could not be worse as Ben and his wife juggle jobs, graduate-school courses, and raising their sons.

The timing is probably no worse than that of Ben's birth, 33 years ago, to a young white woman, a teacher, and a younger black man who was just starting college on the other side of the country. For many and various reasons, marriage seemed impossible.

Ben's birth mother reluctantly placed him for adoption, and we became his new parents when he was 2 years old. He is the youngest of our seven children; the oldest turns 45 this autumn.

People often ask, why did you do such a thing? My usual flippant answer is that we were young and idealistic. We longed for justice in the midst of the civil rights movement, and we thought it was worth taking risks in order to help make the world a better place. I guess I was also something of a rebel against my mother's constant insistence that I already had too many children. Above all, in my own mind, was the conviction that opposing abortion also meant doing something practical to help both mothers and babies. We requested "a child who would not otherwise have a home" in our adoption application, long before we even knew of Ben's existence. We wanted to share our home and our love with a child in need. We had little money, but lots of energy, love, and kind friends.

Throughout Ben's life, we made no secret of his adoption, or his multi-racial background. From the time he first asked about his origins (around age 4) we told him that he was much loved by us and also by his mother. We stressed that she was a good and loving person who cared deeply about him and had wanted what was best for him.

By the time he was 20, Ben began an on-again, off-again search for the woman who had given him his life. We supported and approved the search, despite sealed records and initial adoption agency hostility. From the time Ben first joined us, I felt warm compassion, concern, and identification with this unknown woman who had given us her first child. I also remembered how difficult things could be for an unwed pregnant woman 20 or 30 years ago. We always stressed to Ben the importance of sensitivity to his mother's heartbreaking

experience and her undoubted need for privacy and anonymity in present circumstances.

About three years ago Ben finally found out who his mother was. She did not want to meet him at first, but she did give him his father's name and Boston origin. Ben succeeded in locating and visiting his father in Texas, just six months before he died. His grandmother and half-siblings and other relatives gave him a warm welcome and new clarity about his African-American heritage, including a 200-year family history.

Last summer Ben's birth mother told her husband (who turned out to be tremendously supportive) and her two grown sons. She and Ben had a joyful meeting in which she also rejoiced in two irrepressible grandsons. She and her husband came to visit us last September. Nervously I prepared my house and a meal and wondered what she would think, and would she approve of me? But when she arrived at my front door, I did what I had always dreamed I might one day do. There she was, blond and smiling and middle-aged, on my doorstep. Without even thinking I opened my arms and gave her a hug.



**The momentous choice that so many women must make in today's difficult world is a matter of two human lives—and a completely unknown future.**



# ADOPTION: AN ADOPTIVE

We talked about many things that day—trying to cover a lifetime in a few short hours. Unlike me, she had been active in the pro-life movement for many years. She had no doubts about the value of every baby's life, and especially of the life she gave to Ben.

The momentous choice that so many women must make in today's difficult world is a matter of two human lives—and a completely unknown future. Thirty-three years ago, no one could know that our Ben would become a musician, a father, an educator, and a caring human being. It might have been much easier for each of us mothers if we had made different choices. But the harder choice was by far the better one. We are both forever grateful that each of us dared to choose life over death. ○

*Ruth Moynihan is an FFL member, writer, historian, and retired college professor specializing in women's history. She is the author of several books, and has another in progress. She also delights in her 16 grandchildren.*

CHOICE: ADOPTION

PARENT'S VIEW





**Alison Blair**

# ADOPTION: A BIRTH MOTHER'S STORY

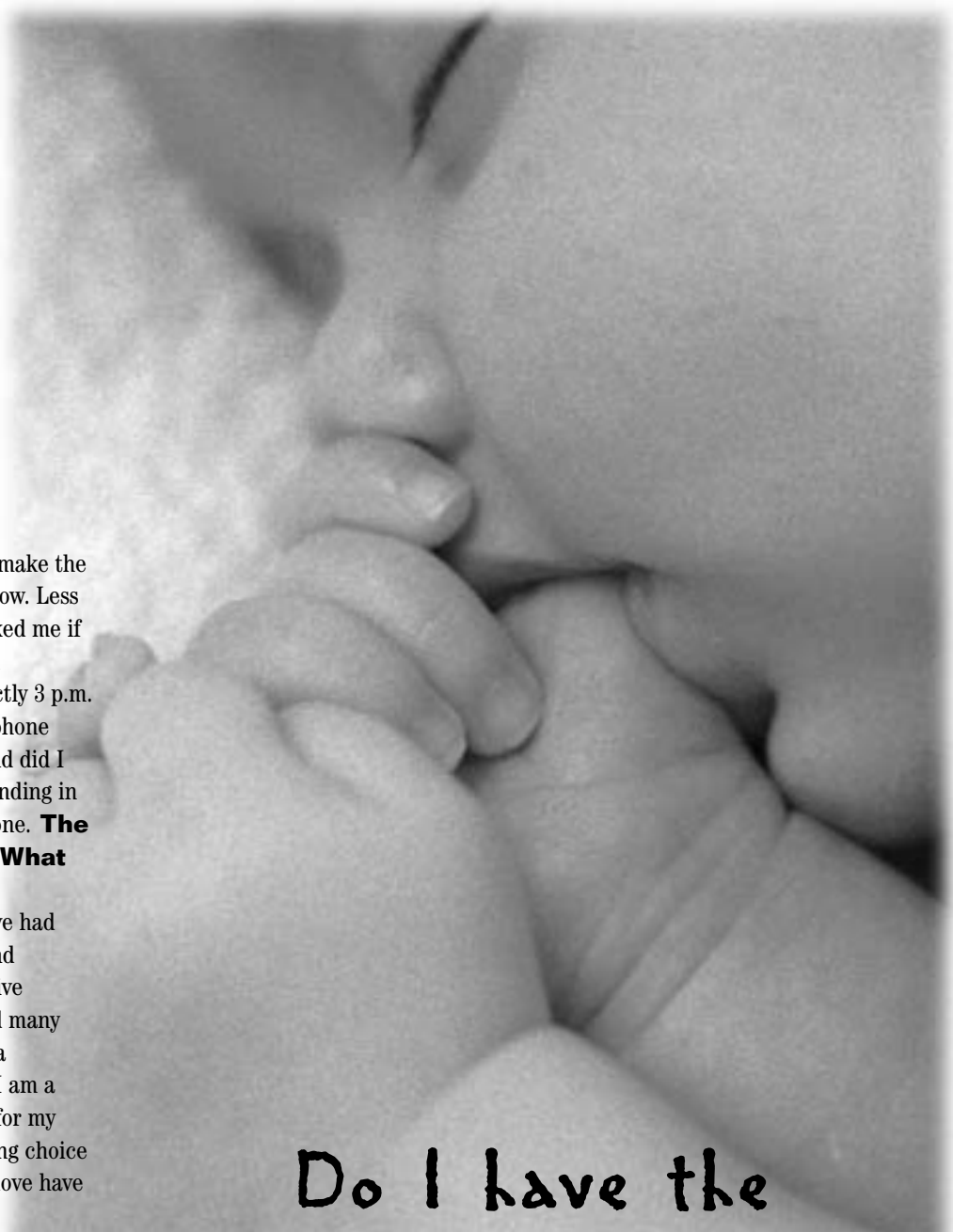
ADOPTION. Some people act as if it is a dirty word. Most of the people I knew did. I heard their whispers and comments. The girl who made the most fun of me had also faced an unexpected pregnancy, but she had an abortion. I knew that my child—like all children—had a right to live.

It was by far the hardest decision I have made in my life. I had been sent to a home for unwed mothers, because my parents knew that the neighbors would be cruel, and that my many siblings would make for stressful living. I remember asking myself some really hard questions.

Could I, at the age of 16, raise a little boy myself? Could I offer him everything I felt a child needs and deserves? Did I want to marry the child's father, knowing that our attraction to each other had already faded? Did I want to place the burden of raising another child on my parents, who already had 10 children?

I placed my son for adoption when he was only 4 days old. When I released my child to someone else, I made him two promises. First, I promised that I would never stop thinking about him. Since then, hardly a day has passed when I have not thought of him. Was he all right? Were they taking good care of him? Did he hate me? I spent many nights crying over my child.

Second, I promised my child that when I was old enough I would be there as much as I could for other children who needed my help. I have opened my doors and heart to other children whose parent could not care for them— and I did not have any more children of my own until I knew I could take care of them. Without knowing my child's name or seeing his face, I worked hard to make him proud of me.



If I had to do it all over again, I would still make the same decision for Michael. That is his name now. Less than a year ago— on a day when someone asked me if I thought I would ever meet my son and I said “probably never”—Michael called. It was exactly 3 p.m. I had just walked through the door when my phone rang. A woman’s voice asked if I was alone, and did I want to sit down. She said she had my son standing in front of her. I asked her to put him on the phone. **The first thing I said to my son was, “What is your name?”**

Since Michael came back into my life, I have had many opportunities to talk with other birth and adoptive mothers. I have met Michael’s adoptive parents and sister. Most important, I have had many hours to get to know Michael. What began as a nightmare has turned into a wonderful story. I am a stronger woman because I did what was best for my child. Michael’s understanding of my wrenching choice and his knowledge that I released him out of love have made him a stronger, more thoughtful man.

Releasing your child is probably the hardest decision that you will ever have to make. For your child’s well-being and your own, you must honestly examine and understand your own motives, and consider what is best for your child. Ask yourself the tough questions that others may not. Am I deciding to keep my child to satisfy some need of my own? Am I choosing abortion because that way I can keep this quiet, secret, my own private issue to deal with? Do I feel that if I can’t raise my child, no one can? Do I want my child because I need to have someone love me?

Most important: Do I have the power to do what is best for my child—and believe in my decision?

I believe that you do, and that you and your child will be the better for it. ○

Do I have the  
power to do what  
is best for my  
child—and  
believe in my  
decision?

**Laura Ciampa**

# ADOPTION: BENEFITS TO BIRTH MOTHERS

NUNS WHISKING THE BABY AWAY without letting the birth mother see or find out what happens to her child...messy court battles between adoptive families and birth mothers who changed their minds...adopted children convinced they were “unwanted” and “thrown away” by their birth parents...children ending up in abusive adoptive situations...

If one were to listen only to the American news and entertainment media to gain insight into what adoption is all about, a pretty grim picture would emerge. Many pregnancy resource center counselors can attest to the fact that even a casual mention of the word “adoption” to a woman taking a pregnancy test will often elicit a hasty “I could never do that!” response.

The many changes in adoption policy in recent years have benefited all involved, according to Carol Peck, program director of family support for Catholic Charities USA.

One of the major changes is that there are now various degrees of openness available to the birth mother and adoptive family, and they are given the choice to decide what is best for them. Although not everyone wants an open adoption, Peck is convinced that, for some, it is a “very good thing.”

The Independent Adoption Center, a nationwide organization specializing in open adoption, counts the many children placed with adoptive parents as one chapter of its success story. Another key part of the center’s success is the benefits of open adoption to birth mothers. According to the center, “Birth parents often tell us they feel very secure arranging an adoption with the IAC [Independent Adoption Center] because they know we are committed to their child’s well-being through open adoption.”

Although some people believe states should open up adoption records because children have the right to know their histories, Peck believes we are not ready for open records. “We need to consider and be concerned about and honor what we told people years ago.” She maintains that it is unfair to throw people into a situation where they are not prepared for their birth child or

**The many changes  
in adoption policy  
in recent years  
have benefited all involved.**





parent to suddenly enter their lives. On the other hand, she knows of many situations where, with ample counseling and preparation, there were very positive outcomes to birth parent/child reunions. Because of this, Catholic Charities has established a training program for professionals on conducting ethical searches.

It is also understood now by adoption professionals that adoption is a lifelong process. Instead of the birth parents “giving up” their children and being expected to “forget” about them, counseling is available for all parties before and after the adoption, during searches, and whenever other issues surface. “Once [the birth mother] decides, there is a grieving process,” asserts Peck. She says it is now understood that adoption is a “very difficult process,” and that “we need to support birth mothers...to recognize their grief.”

Although she believes she made the right decision, birth mother Alison Blair agrees. “It’s going to tear you apart,” she said. “It’s a lot to place your child with another family...the guilt can be pretty oppressive sometimes.” Blair is now in contact with the child she placed for adoption 23 years ago (see article, page 14).

Nine Months Adoptions, a nationwide adoption center, offers counseling and experience from staff members who have placed a child for adoption, adopted a child, or were adopted themselves. Nine Months also provides a variety of services and counseling after the adoption is completed.

**Dr. Rachel Fornes, founder of BUFA (Babies Up For Adoption), refers to birth mothers as “the forgotten ones.”**

“Attorneys get big money, the adoptive parents get a child, the baby gets a family,” Fornes asks. “What does the birth mother receive after giving the greatest gift of all?” Fornes was motivated to serve birth mothers in the Cocoa Beach, Fla., area after she and her husband Al Neuharth, founder of *USA Today* and the Freedom Forum, adopted four children. BUFA offers housing, career counseling, educational opportunities, and financial and emotional support for birth mothers.

Catholic Charities is staffed by experienced social work professionals who work to ensure that the decision to place a child for adoption is the right one for the birth mother.

Blair believes strongly in training for social workers: “Woe to the social worker that doesn’t show the proper empathy,” she said. “I can’t stress enough the importance of support systems.”

What are the factors that lead a woman to decide to place her child for adoption? “I think birth mothers who place their children for adoption are the most loving and unselfish persons I can think of,” says Peck. Linda Cullen, supervisor of Children’s Services at Catholic Charities, agrees, asserting that the birth mother has “moved to a point where she is considering the child’s needs before her own”—that she realizes she cannot meet the needs of a child and puts “the baby’s needs first.”

Both Peck and Cullen agree that making an adoption plan allows the birth mother the freedom and flexibility to continue her life and have options for her future. Peck believes that it is empowering to a woman to have the “ability to make choices for another individual...to give them a life [she] might not be able to.” ○

**“Attorneys get big money,**

**the adoptive parents get a child,**

**the baby gets a family ...**

**... What does the birth mother receive after giving the greatest gift of all?”**



# ADOPTION OPTIONS

WHEN IT COMES TO ADOPTION, what are your options? Whether you are looking to place a child for adoption or are interested in adopting a child, the various choices may seem overwhelming and confusing. Essentially there are two venues for the process—independent or agency—and within each of these the adoption may be open or closed.

Pursuing an adoption independently simply means forgoing the assistance of an agency. Generally the birth mother and adoptive parents choose and contact each other directly. The birth mother may enlist the help of an attorney to find a family to adopt her child. Adoptive parents actively seeking a child may send a letter, photo and resume to a variety of places: pregnancy resource centers, obstetricians, college newspapers, or friends with any possible connections to birth mothers.



In such an adoption, the adoptive parents typically pay for the birth mother's medical and legal expenses and often fund counseling sessions, home studies, and even living and clothing expenses for the birth mother. In some cases an identified independent adoption may take place in which the birth mother and adoptive parents first locate each other, then contact an agency to complete the proceedings.

An agency adoption involves four essential steps:

■ **Selecting an agency.** One may choose a public agency that deals mainly with biracial children, those with special needs, or older children, many of whom have been abandoned and/or abused. The fees are minimal if there are any at all. The other option is a private agency for both domestic and international adoptions. Fees range from \$8,000 to \$20,000.

■ **Completing the application and preplacement inquiry.** This consists of a home study (an evaluation of the prospective adoptive family), interviews and medical examinations.

■ **Waiting.** This is often the most difficult part as it may take several years to complete an adoption.

■ **Completing legal proceedings.** In addition, many adoption agencies offer the extra benefit of group or individual counseling.

Whether proceeding independently or through an agency, the adoption may be closed or open. A closed adoption means that neither party knows anything about the other, with the exception of medical and relevant genetic information about the birth parents supplied to the adoptive parents. In some cases a registry is available where the birth parents may place identifying information about themselves and the child's date of birth, state, hospital, etc., in case the child wishes to seek the birth parent as an adult.

Open adoption has no universally accepted definition. The birth mother may search through a book to find possible adoptive parents, choosing them herself, but never meeting them. At the other end of the spectrum, both parties may meet, visit, and maintain a relationship throughout the child's life. Any level in between is a possibility with open adoption. ○



## FFL's College Outreach Program Catalyst for Big Change at Georgetown University

**Serrin M. Foster**  
Executive Director

**G**eorgetown University was the site of FFL's first Pregnancy Resource Forum, an essential part of our College Outreach Program, which identifies the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Since then Georgetown has tested and developed every major step of FFL's College Outreach Program.

Georgetown University is a great example of how seemingly insurmountable obstacles can be overcome:

■ A part-time staff person who was previously dedicated to sexual assault services was made full-time to help pregnant and parenting students as well.

■ For the first time, Georgetown has provided family housing. An endowed off-campus property has become home to two pregnant women and a child. Several other pregnant women are living on-campus in the dormitories.

■ These pregnant and parenting students have received academic assistance and attend college part-time. Faculty members are aware of and supportive of their situations.

■ One student's 3-year-old child has been given a full scholarship to Hoyakids, the campus child care program.

■ The university's Pregnancy Services is working to secure health insurance for a baby who was born to a student in October.

■ Pregnancy Services is publicizing available resources through its website and peer education program. Georgetown University newspapers have also covered pregnancy services in various stories.

■ Georgetown University Right to Life recruited 135 new students for a total of more than 200 members on campus. Pro-life leaders attribute much of their success to FFL's materials, which were posted and distributed during an open house for clubs on campus.

Georgetown University and GU Right to Life deserve accolades for making enormous strides in the past four years. FFL members and donors deserve thanks for giving FFL the resources to make these changes possible! ○

## You Have Resources

### **Birthright 800-550-4900**

Provides free and confidential pregnancy testing; support for pregnant women; maternity and infant clothes, bottles, diapers, and layettes for newborns; referrals for legal assistance, parenting classes, breast-feeding, child care, employment and education programs, adoption services and counseling, medical care and family counseling.

### **Caret 800-395-HELP**

A network of Christian pregnancy centers that offer a variety of services including free pregnancy testing; birth, abstinence, and post-abortion counseling; housing and help with financial, medical, and material needs.

### **Catholic Charities 800-CARE-002**

Provides adoption services for birth mothers and adoptive parents, parenting classes, financial and material needs assistance, family counseling and housing; referrals for legal assistance, child care, employment and education assistance, and medical assistance.

### **Nurturing Network 800-TNN-4MOM**

Individually tailored support to meet the needs of college and working women; provides a nurturing home, counseling, medical services, employment, financial and educational assistance, and expedited college transfer.

### **Local Resources**

A wide variety of resources are available locally. Consult the Yellow Pages under the heading "abortion alternatives."



# Herstory

## Worth Repeating

The example of Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer shows that “pro-life” does not mean acting as if life begins at conception and ends at birth. During the 1960s and ‘70s, this indomitably nonviolent African-American sharecropper from the Mississippi Delta was a moving spirit of the civil rights and women’s movements. She often asserted: “Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.”

Hamer was best known for her activism with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Mississippi Democratic Freedom Party. For this work, she suffered the loss of her job, an arrest and severe beating, and firebombings and sniper attacks on her home. None of this spurred her to violence or revenge. Nor did it dissuade her from doing what a lifetime of oppression told her must be done.

Hamer was the youngest of 20 children. No matter how hard her family worked at sharecropping, the white-ruled culture in the Mississippi Delta sabotaged their efforts to make ends meet. Though a brilliant student, she had to quit school in sixth grade to pick cotton with the rest of the family.

In 1961 she met the same fate as many women of color: A white doctor forcibly sterilized her. She and her husband Perry “Pap” Hamer had wanted to conceive children. Hamer’s outrage over this violation propelled her into activism.

In concert with her civil rights work, she opposed the Vietnam War. She campaigned for maternal and child health, nutrition and education programs for poor Americans of all races. She assisted the campaign of her friend, U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman to run for president, and co-founded the National Women’s Political Caucus.

She fearlessly challenged the blind spots of the women’s movement—for example, its tendencies not to include people of color, and to cast all men as “The Enemy.” She laughed and said: “I’m not going to try that thing. I got a black husband, six-foot-three, 240 pounds, with a 14 shoe, that I don’t want to be liberated from. But we are here to work side by side with this black man in trying to bring liberation to all people.”

For Hamer, “all people” unequivocally included unborn children. Unlike many other feminists, she asserted that abortion was “genocide” and “legal murder.” If poor black children were not

aborted but instead were given “a chance, they might grow up to be Fannie Lou Hamer, or something else.” She lamented abortion in the same breath as the casualties of Vietnam and the murders of civil rights leaders.

Hamer never wavered in defending the right of all to live and to flourish. Even in the midst of her long final illness, she testified in court on behalf of a group of single black mothers from her community. Denounced as unfit moral examples for the students, they had been denied employment in the public schools. Hamer—who gave away most of the money she earned from her public speaking—had helped at least one of them to choose life for her baby and to go to college.

Hamer said it was ridiculous to complain about “lazy” single black mothers on welfare, then sabotage their efforts to get jobs. She added: “We still love these children. And after these babies are born we are not going to disband these children from our families...I think these children have a right to live. And I think that these mothers have a right to support them in a decent way...We are dealing with human beings.”

Moved by this testimony, the judge struck down the school district’s discriminatory policy, noting that it would encourage abortion rather than discourage premarital sex. His ruling secured employment rights for single mothers of all races.

Hamer’s adopted daughter, Dorothy Jean, gave birth to her first child premaritally. Although a white civil rights movement colleague warned Hamer it would tarnish

her reputation, Hamer stood by Dorothy Jean and the baby. Following her second child’s birth, Dorothy Jean hemorrhaged to death because she was denied emergency medical treatment on the basis of race. When Dorothy Jean’s husband returned from Vietnam, he was too disabled to care for the two children. Fannie Lou and Pap Hamer adopted their grandchildren.

The words and deeds of Fannie Lou Hamer powerfully remind us today that our customary pitting of the unborn against the already born is a false and lethal dichotomy. In her memory, let us do whatever we can to heal it. ○


“Nobody’s Free Until Everybody’s Free”:



The Consistently Nonviolent Activism of  
*Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer*  
1917 - 1977

# Now Is the Time

**Peter Wolfgang**  
Vice President  
Chapter Development



**Does this sound familiar?** You reach for your morning newspaper and discover that an abortion doctor has been killed. Sickened by the knowledge that some deranged thug would misappropriate the pro-life cause by taking a life, you turn on the television news commentators. But rather than recognizing the peaceful nature of the pro-life movement, the media instead provide a forum to the most marginal, incendiary voices. Throwing up your hands, you say, **"But these people don't represent me at all! Where is Feminists for Life?"**

That is where our members come in. Feminists for Life is the perfect group to counter media stereotypes with the true nonviolent face of pro-life feminism. While some will exploit recent tragedy to further the culture of death, Feminists for Life continues about the business of life. Recently four women at Georgetown University chose to keep their babies with the help of our College Outreach Program. And that's just the beginning.

But **in order to continue the success we have had so far, we need new members.** Whenever we speak to politicians, reporters, college students, or administrators, the first question we are asked is how many members we have. It is only through the largest possible membership that FFL will be taken seriously and be able to set the record straight when others misrepresent our goals and beliefs.

**We need your help!** Due to our recent success the demand for our latest College Outreach Program is greater than ever. But we need new members to implement these programs and be a presence in the communities where they are in place. So, if you have friends, family members, roommates, or co-workers who are pro-life but uncomfortable with the "pro-lifers" portrayed in the media, tell them about FFL's consistent opposition to violence. Copy our brochures, display our bumper stickers, give away your issue of *The American Feminist* if you must, but get out the word about FFL. **Now is the time for you to make the difference.**

# WE REMEMBER



**Sylvia Moore**  
1968 – 1986

While most young women her age were getting ready to go out and celebrate New Year's Eve in Chicago, 18-year-old Sylvia Moore spent the waning hours of 1986 battling for her life, a fight her battered body unfortunately could not win. Several hours after undergoing an abortion at the hands of Dr. Arnold Bickman, the young woman was dead. Forced to leave the abortion clinic still in shock and bleeding heavily from the procedure, Sylvia entered a local hospital where she was later pronounced dead.

In a *Chicago Tribune* article detailing the young woman's death, Bickman is said to have called the severely weakened and bleeding young woman "lazy" for her inability to stand and leave the clinic of her own volition. He proceeded to have the young woman removed from the clinic. Though in obvious and desperate need of medical attention, all Sylvia received from Dr. Bickman was scorn and dismissal.

According to the autopsy performed on New Year's Day 1987, Sylvia arrived at a nearby hospital with no blood pressure and no pulse. She then underwent an emergency hysterectomy, but Sylvia bled to death shortly thereafter. During the autopsy, the Cook County medical examiner found lacerations to Sylvia's uterus, cervix, and vagina. In addition, a plastic object was found in her body where a perforation had occurred in her uterus.

As a result of Dr. Bickman's negligence while performing the abortion and his refusal to aid her while she was in obvious distress, Sylvia's death was ruled as a homicide. Instead of welcoming in the New Year with their child, Sylvia's parents were forced to say goodbye to their daughter and subsequently filed a lawsuit against Dr. Bickman.

Source: *The Chicago Tribune*; Cook County Circuit Court, case 87L 15971



## Help FFL Double Your Money!

With just a little bit of time and effort you can double the value of your donation to FFL. If you work for a company with a matching-gift program, your contribution may qualify for a match by your employer. Check with your personnel or administrative offices, and they will provide the necessary forms and instructions. Send the completed form to FFL at the address below and your dollars could double or even triple!

Your participation helps FFL continue the tradition of the early feminists—pro-woman and pro-life!

**Feminists for Life**  
**733 15th Street NW**  
**Suite 1100**  
**Washington, DC 20005**  
**202-737-3352**

### Electronic Transfer Form

I want my bank to transfer monthly donations to Feminists for Life of America. My authorization to charge my account at my bank shall be the same as if I had personally signed a check to FFLA. This authorization shall remain in effect until I notify FFLA, or notify my bank in writing that I wish to end this agreement, and my bank or FFLA has had a reasonable time to act on it. A record of each charge will be included in my regular bank statements and will serve as my receipt.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of monthly pledge (\$5 minimum).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Eve.(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a voided check from your account to show the bank's address and your account number. Donations will be debited on the first business day of each month.

Send to: Feminists for Life,

733 15th Street, N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Electronic fund transfers will begin immediately upon receipt.

*Thank you!*



Dear Editor,

I'm writing to encourage and support your College Outreach Program. I've been a member of your group as well as an officer in my collegiate pro-life group for a few years. My commitment to women in unplanned pregnancies has been a life calling and I commend your organization for its work against violence in all forms, as well. Last January I found myself in a situation I never imagined—pregnant. As a fourth-year student, I still needed an extra semester after that May when my friends graduated. Thankfully, I was—and am—in a stable relationship that has led to a beautiful marriage. However, I can attest to the challenges pregnant couples face. Our student incomes are very little and our prospective graduation into “real” jobs is not until 8 months and 14 months after our daughter's birth. There is no couple/family housing and campus apartments are outrageously expensive. In order to get married early in the pregnancy and live together, we moved into my parents' home, which we also share with my three young siblings, ages 8, 12, and 16.

We have lived here since June 1998, in my old bedroom. Hopefully basement renovation by my father and husband will be completed soon so we will have more space and privacy. Our baby was born October 17, 1998, and our household of eight is both supportive and chaotic. Of course, insurance is vital but is also very expensive. Our coverage has expired, as we cannot afford the monthly payments to insure both the baby and myself. We'll apply for welfare shortly. Student insurance does not cover baby wellness checkups and does not meet our overall needs. A special challenge for me is completing my degree. I was very sick for the last four months and could not complete my classes. I decided to take a year's leave of absence and am fortunate to have my scholarship held until my return.

There are no day care services on campus and it will be difficult to pay for child care. One area I was not prepared to face was the repayment of college loans. Although I still must return to school, my medical leave of absence for the year does not qualify for deferment, nor does childbirth. Because I am not yet working, I am fully responsible for repayment beginning this December. After paying rent there is little left of my husband's research assistant salary.

Our daughter, Josephine Elizabeth, is such a blessing and we are grateful that we've successfully become a family. What makes me so sad is that we are truly well-off, considering all the potential

challenges to unexpected pregnancies. Our families are emotionally and financially supportive, we'll soon complete college, and we've established a family unit. I'm almost embarrassed to mention hardship considering the trials many women face when pregnant. My personal journey into motherhood has served to reinforce my awareness of the many obstacles we must address in striving to serve women and families in crisis pregnancies.

I plan to be a voice at my university by bringing these needs to the attention of administration. Pregnancy and education should not be incompatible and women should not be making decisions based on the disparity of cultural norms and a lack of justice. I wish I had funds to give this year but I'm only able to renew my membership.

Thank you so much for your mission. My path would have been very difficult if I'd never been exposed to your women-centered philosophy that embraces life in so many ways.

My thanks and prayers go out to you.

*Angela Meyer-Hogan  
Cincinnati, Ohio*

Dear Editor,

Your Winter 98-99 issue arrived today. In her opening note, Serrin Foster notes that this issue "is dedicated to remarkable women who share FFL's commitment to the defense of life."

I was extremely surprised to find that former Governor Joan Finney of Kansas was among the women profiled. Yes, her opposition to abortion is well known. She has had other fine achievements, such as the Koch Crime Commission. Unfortunately, that's not the whole of her legacy to Kansas from her years as governor.

As governor, Joan Finney had another opportunity to be pro-life. In 1994, legislation came to her desk that would reinstate the death penalty. Many Kansans pleaded with her to veto the bill, but Governor Finney let it become law without her signature. She can rationalize her decision any way she wants, but the reality remains that today Kansas has a death penalty and it is part of her legacy. She refused to use the power of her office to stop it and her office was the last stop on its way to becoming law. We have two men on death row, and others await their turn through the courts to see if they will be allowed to live or sentenced to die.

I know about this inconsistency in Governor Finney's record because I live in Kansas. I don't know if there are inconsistencies in the records of other women in government you profiled. But, please, FFL, when you label people as pro-life, let's make sure that their actions have been pro-life across the spectrum of issues that make up a consistent life ethic.

*Donna Schneeweis, CSJ  
Topeka, Kansas*

*Editor's Note: Former Governor Finney's office confirmed that Finney did not veto legislation reinstating the death penalty. Finney, however, maintains her opposition to the death penalty. FFL supports a consistent life ethic and opposes all forms of violence — abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, and capital punishment.*

# GIVE FFL WINGS TO FLY!



**As a growing national organization, FFL is in need of frequent flyer miles. To help FFL expand by donating your frequent flyer miles, contact the FFL national office at 202-737-FFLA.**

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## Volunteer Journalists and Photographers Wanted

If you would like to be a contributing writer for *The American Feminist*, please send a writing sample to the editor. Ability to meet deadlines essential.

Photographers are also needed. Please send samples of your work. Photos will not be returned. Model releases are required to publish work. Releases become the property of Feminists for Life of America.

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## Feminist Message, Feminist Solutions for Today's College Students

**FFL Executive Director Serrin Foster** will present "The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion" at the following locations:

February 1, 1999. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo

March 1-13, 1999. Oxford University, East Anglia University, University of Manchester, England

March 29, 1999. Texas A&M University, College Station

March 30, 1999. Rice University, Houston, Texas

April 5, 1999. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

April 12, 1999. Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

June 10-13, 1999. Birthright International Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

**FFL Public Education Coordinator Molly Pannell** will speak at the following location:

March 2, 1999. American University, Washington Semester Program, Washington, D.C.

**Pannell** will moderate an FFL Pregnancy Resource Forum at the following location:

April 5, 1999. Colorado College, Colorado Springs

Please contact the FFL national office at 202-737-FFLA for more information. More events to be announced. Local FFL members will be contacted.



### **Kentucky Court Says Teen Moms Must Be Admitted into National Honor Society**

Two high school seniors whose school denied them National Honor Society membership because of their pregnancies must be admitted into the society, a federal court ruled today in a case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Saying that "the balance tips decidedly in favor of" Grant County High School students Somer Chipman Hurston, 17, and Chastity Glass, 18, Chief Judge William O. Bertelsman, Jr. issued a preliminary injunction ordering the Grant County School Board to admit the students into the society for the rest of their senior year while they wait for their case to come to trial.

Despite their top grades and records of high achievement, Chipman and Glass were the only eligible students in the school to be excluded from the 1998 induction into the National Honor Society.

In court papers filed on Aug. 6, 1998, the ACLU said the school had illegally discriminated against the students, violating Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the state and federal Constitutions, and the Kentucky Civil Rights Act.

Somer Chipman, 17, was pregnant at the time of the honor society induction last April. She gave birth on June 1 to a daughter, Cheyenne, and married her 20-year-old fiance, Shawn Hurston, in August. Chastity Glass, 18, is the mother of 20-month-old Shelby. The lawsuits were brought on the students' behalf by their mothers, Brenda Jones and Sheila Glass.

FFL Executive Director Serrin M. Foster filed an affidavit on behalf of Chipman and Glass.

Full text of Foster's affidavit and more information about the case can be found on FFL's website at [www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org), and the ACLU's website at [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org).

Source: American Civil Liberties Union, press release, Dec. 30, 1998

### **Teen Pregnancy Rate at 23-Year Low**

The percentage of American teenagers who become pregnant has dropped to its lowest point since 1975, according to a recent report by the Alan Guttmacher Institute. The nation's teen pregnancy rate has fallen 14% since 1990, when it peaked at 117 pregnancies per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19. The number of pregnancies among teenagers for 1995 (the most recent year for which figures are available) decreased to 101 pregnancies per 1,000 girls.

A recent federal study found that the proportion of high school students who had sexual intercourse has fallen 11% since 1990.

Source: *The Washington Post*, Oct. 15, 1998

### **Abortion and Violence Against Women**

The Alan Guttmacher Institute acknowledged a connection between abortion and violence against women in the Sept./Oct. 1998 issue of *Family Planning Perspectives*. In a 1996 survey of 486 abortion patients at an urban clinic, 40% cited a history of physical or sexual abuse.

Source: *Family Planning Perspectives*, Sept./Oct. 1998

### **Scientists Propose In-Womb Genetic Tests**

Two scientists have submitted a proposal to the National Institutes of Health recombinant DNA advisory committee requesting permission to conduct the first human genetic therapies of infants in utero. The goal, according to the proposal, is to cure fetuses afflicted with genetic diseases by giving them new genes before they are born.

The NIH will likely not make a decision on the proposal for the next two to three years.

Source: *The Washington Post*, Sept. 25, 1998

### **National Child Support System Up and Running—Almost**

The first computerized national child-support clearinghouse began operating in October. However, 10 states missed the Oct. 1 deadline for properly computerizing their child support information. Those states are California, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Together, they are home to one-third of all the children who receive child support in the nation. These states will lose 4% of their federal funding for child support collection. The other 40 states' computer systems were in compliance.

The clearinghouse will eventually contain 150 million employment records and about 16 million court orders for child support payments. The new nationalized system is designed to prevent parents from escaping their child support obligations by moving to another state.

Source: *The Washington Post*, Oct. 8, 1998

We've moved—  
Our Website, That Is!  
Check out FFL's website  
at our new address:  
[www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org)



# ORDER FORM

**Materials** Indicate number of items:

- \$75 FFL Logo Pin
  - sterling silver
  - 24K gold plate over sterling
- \$15 *Different Voices* — anthology of pro-life feminist essays
- \$2 "Peace Begins in the Womb" bumper sticker
- \$2 "Question Abortion" bumper sticker
- \$2 "Voices of Our Feminist Foremothers" poster
- \$4.95 *Man's Inhumanity to Woman* — essays by 19th-century feminists
- "You're Not Alone" brochures — 50 for \$5; 100 for \$10; 250 for \$20
- "What Women *Really* Want" brochure — *Free!* with a self-addressed stamped envelope
- "You Have Choices" brochure — *Free!* with a self-addressed stamped envelope
- \$14.95 *Pro-life Feminism Yesterday and Today* — anthology of pro-life feminist essays
- \$17.50 *Swimming Against the Tide: Feminist Dissent on the Issue of Abortion*



\$3.00 ea. Back issues of *The American Feminist*

- Indicate number of issues:
- Remarkable Pro-Life Women* Winter 1998–1999
  - Victory Over Violence* Fall 1998
  - Work vs. Family* Summer 1998
  - The Bitter Price of Choice* Spring 1998
  - She'll Ask. Don't Tell.* Winter 1997–1998



**College Outreach Program**  
**Send a Kit to Campus**

- Indicate number of items:
- \$35 Health Clinic Kit       \$55 Pro-life Feminist History Kit
  - \$35 Pro-life Collegiate Kit       \$10 Six camera-ready ads
  - \$35 Pro-life Advisor Kit       \$250-500 range for ad placement
  - \$35 Campus Counselor Kit
  - Free!* Pregnancy Decision Questionnaire (*Free* with SASE)

Please send kit to where the need is greatest  
 A college of my choice:

Name of kit recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 College \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Membership/Subscription**

Indicate number of items:

- \$25 Annual Membership (  new  renewal ) includes "Pro Woman, Pro Life" bumper sticker and *The American Feminist*
- \$25 Gift Membership (may not be anonymous to the recipient)  
 Name of recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
- \$15 Student Membership ( \_\_\_\_\_ graduation date)
- \$15 Student Gift Membership (may not be anonymous to the recipient)  
 Name of recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_
- \$35 *The American Feminist* subscription only, non-membership/institutional
- \$30 Annual Membership Outside U.S. (U.S. currency, please)



**Donations**

- Monthly pledges
  - Please send monthly donor envelopes
  - Electronic transfer form; see page 24.
  - Tax-deductible donation to Feminists for Life
- + \_\_\_\_\_ 15% shipping and handling for materials
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Please print:       Indicate if new address

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ day (    ) eve  
 E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please use enclosed envelope or mail to:  
 FFLA, Dept. 0641, Washington, DC 20073

*Thank you!*

OF3/99



## QUESTION

a b o r t i o n .



Is this the face of the enemy?

**A** **Abortion advocates pit women against our children**  
**but lack of emotional and financial support are the real enemies.**



FEMINISTS FOR LIFE  
OF AMERICA

Because women deserve better.  
Because there's a better way.

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