

## GIVE TO HOPE TO GIVE HOPE

With your generous financial gifts, we continue serving women in need, while saving innocent lives. Thank you for all you give to Hope. We are grateful. Please consider these additional options:

- (1) IRA Charitable Deductions using your Required Minimum Distribution by Dec 31<sup>st</sup> as a tax-free withdrawal.
- (2) Legacy Giving by donating stock, bequeathing Hope in your Will or Irrevocable Trust, assigning Hope as a beneficiary of your Retirement Account.

All contributions are tax deductible with our EIN #23-7189096.

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# NEWS OF HOPE

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO CHOOSE LIFE SINCE 1971.

## LOOK AT ME, A FAMILY OF THREE!

In our Winter Newsletter we told you about a young couple who came to Hope thinking she was 14 weeks pregnant, only to learn she was 33 weeks! You might remember the story titled, “IS THAT A FOOT?”

Sofia and Bryan made a remarkable decision to choose life for their baby. Baby girl, Gianna, was born on December 8, 2022. Faced with all the needs of a new baby while attending college, and moving in with Bryan’s family, how to provide and survive was the hot topic, but this family of three is thriving.

Sofia is continuing her pursuit of a college degree in Criminal Justice and Business Management at NOVA while Bryan’s mother (Mamita) happily cares for her new granddaughter. NOVA is supporting them with programs especially designed for young parents. Bryan manages his own shoe business and is thinking about a career in real estate.

Seeing their smiling faces and knowing how much they love baby Gianna; we can

all let out a deep sigh of relief that God had a spectacular plan for them...as a family of three.



Our 2022 Annual Report is now ready for your review! Please go to our website to see it: [www.friendsofhopeinnova.org](http://www.friendsofhopeinnova.org).

Mission Statement: Hope’s mission is to provide Christ-centered, empowering education to equip our clients to embrace God’s design for their reproductive health.

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

# NEWS OF HOPE



## THEY TOLD ME NOT TO LOOK

She didn't tell anyone she was pregnant, but she came to Hope to find help. During the ultrasound, she smiled when she saw the baby and the heartbeat. If carried to term, her baby could be born on 7/11, which made her laugh. After all that, she said, "I have an appointment tomorrow for an abortion." Our help was not enough. Our hearts deflated and our heads down, we prayed for her and hoped for the best.

It would not be the best. She went to the abortion clinic. She was given 4 pills. She took the pills as instructed. By the 4<sup>th</sup> pill, she experienced extreme pain and drastic bleeding. The abortion clinic sent someone to her home to give her pain medication.

"They told me not to look into the toilet when going to the bathroom," she said. "But I looked. I saw my tiny lifeless baby

in the toilet. It was horrible. I cried all night clinging to the toilet." Her baby was 8 weeks old.

*Medication abortion now accounts for more than half of all U.S. abortions. ~Guttmacher Institute – February 2023*

## HOPE IN THE EARLY 80'S

In the early 1980's I was a stay-at-home mom with a two-year-old daughter. I had decided not to return to my teaching position and was looking to volunteer in some capacity. I wasn't quite sure what might work for me. After Mass one Sunday morning, I was reading through the parish bulletin and a volunteer opportunity presented itself to me. Hope in NOVA, a pro-life organization, was seeking people to work with clients who were experiencing unexpected pregnancies. Training would be provided. I asked the Holy Spirit to guide me as the pro-life cause was near and dear to my heart. Within a short time, I made the call to Hope and decided this might work for me since I was a young mom and thought that might be a benefit to those seeking help. I was welcomed with open arms by the women who were already there working as volunteers. I completed my training and learned a great deal about listening and the importance of being present, attentive, deeply connected and non-judgmental.

Within several months of my volunteering at Hope I was asked to meet with a young woman who I will never forget. She was from Guyana, on the northern coast of the South American continent, visiting the United States on a tourist Visa. Not long after her arrival she met a man with whom she had a relationship, and she became

pregnant. When she told him about the pregnancy, he told her to have an abortion. Considering her circumstances, it seemed like her only choice. She confided in her sister, who was living in Canada at the time, and her sister encouraged her to seek help so that she would have options besides having an abortion. She came to Hope and I'm not sure how she found us.

She and I spent time together and I did a lot of listening. In time she learned to trust me. I was able to share my experience of having my first baby just two years before. Although ultrasound was unavailable at Hope for many years to come, we had beautiful pictures showing the development of the fetus and those pictures made a great impression on her. It took time but she decided to have her baby.

To provide services that my client would need was going to be a challenge. Since this woman was not a US citizen she didn't qualify for any social services. I contacted Catholic Charities and they put me in touch with the Knights of Columbus. They were amazing! They offered to pay for her pre-natal care and the delivery of her baby. They connected me with Providence Hospital (which is no longer in operation) and their Center for Life. They agreed to see my client and provided all her pre-natal care and the delivery of her baby girl for

\$300.00. Incredible!

In addition to providing care for the baby, the Knights were able to help find housing for my client. She was able to stay in the homes of two different people without paying rent. The first one didn't work out but the second did work until the baby arrived and for several months after the arrival. Hope provided clothing and other baby essentials in those early months.

In the meantime, my client, who had excellent secretarial and administrative assistant skills, applied for a job at the World Bank. Her efforts to make it happen paid off. She was hired and able to provide for herself and the baby. She was able to stay in the US which had been her dream. Despite her challenging circumstances, she never wanted to return to Guyana.

I stayed in touch with my client for several years. Although that didn't continue, I know that she still lives in Northern VA, and her daughter is now married. Hope and those who supported Hope's mission provided a great start for that baby girl and a successful life for her mom. Till this day I'm inspired and grateful for those who continue to carry on this work of love and devotion.

~Maureen Copan

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## I BURIED THEM MYSELF

A West Virginia Priest is speaking publicly about his role in providing a dignified burial for more than 100 aborted babies rescued outside of a Washington, D.C., abortion clinic.

"I buried the babies myself," said Father Bill Kuchinsky, 62, a longtime advocate for the unborn. "They are in a peaceful place and will be well cared for," Father Kuchinsky said, adding that a "proper headstone" will be added.

Father Kuchinsky said he wants people to know first and foremost that these babies "are loved by God" and that "Jesus desires to forgive, to save, and to heal, those who have chosen to kill their babies."

"I pray that this opening of the veil into the abortion industry and the reality of what abortion does: take the life in a most gruesome

way of a fellow human being – a truth we can see with our own eyes – in what the Church has called an 'unspeakable crime,' and that this "may help to wake people up to the atrocities being committed thousands of times a day, that we might choose life."

"How should the Christian community react to the mass murder happening around us thousands of times a day? Peacefully of course!" he stressed in an email, referring to abortion. "But there is much more we SHOULD be doing given the reality of abortion and the grave harm it causes: dead babies, wounded mothers, and the culture of death." ~Excerpts from the National Catholic Register

For the full article, please go to <https://www.ncregister.com/cna/catholic-priest-reveals-role-in-dc-aborted-babies-case-i-buried-them-myself>

## GOD ALWAYS PROVIDES

Two years ago, my pregnancy went remarkably smooth, with my perfectionist firstborn hitting every in-utero milestone out of the park. The only major downside to an "easy" nine months was the Pandemic. My husband was not able to come with me to my appointments, even ultrasounds. At the suggestion of my midwife, I recorded the first time I heard our baby's heartbeat and Face-Timed my husband for ultrasounds, but it was not the same as having him there with me.

I knew of Hope in NOVA from my church and experiencing my own baby growing inside me drove home how crucial Hope's mission is. I was told that Hope was receiving a new ultrasound machine and would need training for their nurse by scanning any mothers-to-be as models. I jumped at the chance to be scanned and then learned that my husband could also be with me, sharing in the joy of seeing our unborn child.

Getting to see our son at 37 weeks pregnant, nearly fully formed, was awe-inspiring. There was our little boy living inside me who was only weeks away from his grand entrance and we got to take our time seeing his sweet little nose and hand resting on his cheek.

I am so grateful to have played a small role in helping the women of Hope in NOVA serve this

community better and to be served myself, relieving the fears of a first-time mom as I saw this perfect baby from God.



Tripp, as adventurous as his nickname, is turning two on March 2nd. He held out another month after that ultrasound at Hope, which felt like a lifetime, but now I cannot remember my life without him." ~Rachel