



# Pregnancy Resource Center of Athens County

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# COMPASSION

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## The Greatest Love

By Amy Maxwell  
an adoptive mom

*How will I be able to explain the great love that brought you here?*

*From the moment of your conception your Heavenly Father loved you first. He knitted together your tiny body, crafting you in His very likeness. He placed every hair on your little head, and formed your dimpled smile. He breathed life into your lungs. Your Heavenly Father knew you intimately. He loved you first.*

*As you began to grow, a young girl came to know you. She could feel you moving, rolling and kicking. In her tummy you were nestled safe and warm. You see, your birth mother loved you second. Her love was courageous and selfless. In her womb was where your Father placed you. He had plans bigger than you, she, or I could ever imagine. Your birth mother knew what sacrifice to make. She loved you second.*

*And then, my precious baby, it was time for you to enter our world. Your arrival was the proudest day of our lives. We felt your first breath. We heard your first cry. You were perfect in every way.*

*Dear child, because of your Father's vast love, because of your birth mother's courageous love, we loved you third.*

*So how can I explain the great love that brought you here? How can I find words to paint this picture?*



*To us, you were an answered prayer, a treasure that we desired for so long. We trusted in our Father and leaned on His divine understanding. And in His goodness, He placed you in our family. To you we have given our name. To you we hope to give you His.*

*Your birth mother sought what would be best for you. She never abandoned you or rejected your precious life. Rather, she gave you a most compassionate gift. She chose life for you. Through tears and great joy she gave you a home.*

*In light of all this there is yet a greater love to enjoy. Before any of us came into being, our Heavenly Father loved us. His love overcomes our mistakes and failures, which He knew before we ever committed them. In His love He provided a Savior before we ever knew we needed one. As your birth mother gave you to us in an earthly sense, we hope to do the same in a heavenly sense. So we give you to God for in Him you will find a true home.*

*What greater love can you find?*

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*Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.*  
**1 John 3:1**

*For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Romans 8:38-39**

The PRC refers adoption inquiries to **Adoption by Gentle Care** with offices in Columbus, Ohio. The information on this page is from their website, and has been used with permission.  
Contact Adoption by Gentle Care at (800) 824-9633 or visit [www.adoptionbygentlecare.org](http://www.adoptionbygentlecare.org)

### **Is Adoption Right for You?**

Whether you are interested in placing a baby for adoption or in adopting a baby, it is important to know adoption is permanent. It is a decision that requires ample thought and consideration by the birthmother for her child. Adoptive parents, too, need to devote plenty of thought to their decision to adopt as they are endeavoring on a journey that will ask of them understanding, support and education.

### **Who Can Adopt?**

Individuals who may be married, single, childless or already parenting other children can adopt. Most agencies have a review process when looking at applications from those wishing to adopt and will try to accept individuals from diverse backgrounds. This is most important to consider especially for private adoption agencies who work with birthmothers who choose the adoptive family with whom she wishes to place her child. You are not required to own your own home or to have high income in order to give children what they need. Children simply need permanence, stability, a lifetime commitment, and a chance to be part of a family.

### **Open Adoption**

Open adoption means that birthparents and adoptive parents have some knowledge about one another. The birthparents know something about adoptive parents and often choose the adoptive parents for their child by reviewing "autobiographies" of adoptive parents. Adoptive parents and their children know medical and genetic information about the birth family and personal information. This information concerning the situation of the birth parents and their reasons for making an adoption plan for their baby will be helpful in explaining the adoption to the adopted child. A completely "open" adoption would mean that all parties would know last names and maybe even addresses and phone numbers.

### **Selecting an Adoption Professional**

1. Get referrals from former clients and other adoption professionals.
2. Ask for literature.
3. Compile a list of the adoption professionals that appear to meet your basic requirements, (type of adoption, location, cost, etc.).
4. What are the adoptive parent requirements of this professional concerning marital status, age, income, health, etc?
5. How long on average do adoptive parents wait to adopt?
6. What adoption services are available?
7. How does the adoption professional receive medical information on the children?
8. What is their policy in dealing with birthfathers?
9. How many adoptions has the adoption professional had that have been overturned?

### **Making an Adoption Plan**

The most important step as adopting parents is to establish your general attitudes and philosophies about adoption. It is important to develop this foundation on which you will build your adoption experience and the framework of how you will react to birthparents and others that you will encounter in your journey through the adoption process.

- Determine what adoption program you would like to pursue (i.e. what type of child you would like to adopt, Caucasian, Biracial, African American, a child of international descent, etc.)
- Choose the type of adoption route that best suits your needs (private agency, attorney, county agency, etc.)
- Prepare yourself emotionally and mentally for the most adventurous journey of your life.
- Establish how much openness you wish to have with birthparents as well as how much post-placement communication you desire.
- Educate yourself about post-adoption issues. This will enable you to handle the various issues that surround your child's adoption.

**B**irthmothers, is adoption right for you? Over the years, it has become apparent that birthmothers who are able to make an adoption plan for their babies are doing so for the most unselfish reasons. They are hoping to provide a better life for their child than they believe they are in a position to provide at that time.

Gentle Care will assist you with your physical and emotional needs, to counsel you as to the process, and to support you no matter what your decision. There is no pressure or coercion. We are located in Ohio and can give you the personal attention that you need. Our counselors will travel to you to bring information and to give you an opportunity to meet your counselor and make sure you feel comfortable with Gentle Care and the process. That counselor will support you through each and every step of the way.

Gentle Care will cover all of your medical expenses that are pregnancy and baby related after the placement has occurred.

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW (AND IMPROVED) BABY STORE!

The Center is so pleased to present our new baby store. The store items are distributed free of charge to our Earn While You Learn (EWYL) clients. (Items also may be given to a new client on an emergency basis.) The EWYL Program provides education on a wide variety of prenatal and parenting topics. The client watches a video on the topic she desires, and then completes a corresponding worksheet and homework assignment. One lesson can earn the client up to three "bucks", and two lessons can usually be completed during an appointment. Clients find that their earnings add up quickly. Both responsibility and discipline are encouraged throughout the program as the client schedules and keeps each appointment in order to be awarded store merchandise.

One motivated PRC client earned the following items through the EWYL program:

2 pairs shoes, 3 pairs socks, 8 baby bottles, 2 pkgs bottle liners, 2 pacifiers, 6 washcloths, 3 diaper rash ointments, birth announcements, 2 bibs, 7 receiving blankets, medicine spoons, 3 baby lotions, 7 baby baths/shampoos, 1 waterproof lap pad, 8 t-shirts, 4 baby wipes, 8 pkg diapers, 2 pkg onesies, 1 pkg sleepers, 1 bottle brush, 1 baby blanket, 5 outfits, 1 winter coat, 1 manicure set, 1 aspirator, 1 baby book, and many other items!



Above and below left: The **Baby Supplies Room** holds an array of baby items, including new hand-crocheted baby blankets, shoes and socks, soaps and shampoos, lotions and powders, breastfeeding helps, decorative items, cribs and crib accessories, strollers, and a closet full of diapers!

Above: The **Baby Clothing Room** carries clothing from size Premie to 12 months. Car seats and diaper disposal systems are also displayed in this room.

Below right: The **Maternity Clothing Room** carries up-to-date business and casual clothing, including fashions for breastfeeding moms.

**T**hanks!  
The Baby Store was completed thanks to a generous contribution by the **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, and the donation of building materials by **Carter Lumber, Lowe's, and Walmart**. We are truly grateful!




  
*The PRC was abundantly blessed by receiving a wonderful Christmas present: a donation of \$5000 from a faithful supporter. We ask our Lord Jesus Christ to bless her and her family and to reward her for her kind generosity.*

