

Iowa Right to Life Committee

1500 Illinois Street ~ Des Moines, IA ~ 50314 ~ 515-224-1012 ~ www.irlc.org

December 2004

Dear (name),

I'd like to tell you a story. It is a story at the very heart of the Spirit of Christmas.

A young girl, whom I'll call Mary, sat alone in her car in front of a large professional looking building in downtown Des Moines.

I say alone, but she was not totally alone. There was a child with her. To be exact the child was *within her*.

The building before her was Planned Parenthood's abortion clinic. Mary was trembling and understandably so. A lot of pressure from her parents and her partner had brought her to this parking lot. It was not what she wanted. But she was told it was the only option.

In her mind she thought of the joys, the sorrows, the happiness, the struggles that she had experienced in her 17 years. *They were all things that her child would never see, or feel, or hear if she walked into that building.*

But how could she turn back now? So, with great effort, she opened the door of the car. With even greater effort she started walking to the entrance.

It was there she met the quietly smiling face of a middle-aged man whom I'll call Jim. Jim had been standing there in front of that building for hours. He was there to pray, to educate, and to encourage a choice for life.

Softly he approached Mary. He offered to pray with her before she went in. He told her that she had other choices. There were other ways.

She felt the love in his voice and saw the concern in his eyes. And so she agreed to pray with him. He prayed for her, for the child she bore, for courage to choose life.

When they were done, she knew. She felt deep inside, that she could not, that she must not take the helpless life of her child.

Not many days later, Mary found herself once again sitting alone in a car in front of a professional-looking building in downtown Des Moines.

The building was a pregnancy counseling and adoption center. No one stood outside of this building to pray with her and encourage her. ***That would be done inside.***

It is a story that I pray can be told over and over again. One that could happen on any given day at any given Planned Parenthood in Iowa.

Why?

Because of our faithful members ...

They are wonderful people just like ***you.***

This past year financial gifts from our members have allowed us to unify and organize. We have visited with pastors, church congregations, and individuals. With our help they have organized their voices and their time.

Today we have people scheduled every month, standing in front of abortion clinics statewide, every hour they are open. Like Jim, they pray, encourage and educate.

Who can say how many lives will be saved? Who can say how many futures will be made possible?

Reflecting on those precious lives makes the Christmas season even more special. During this joyful time of year we celebrate birth. *It is the birthday of the greatest Person that has ever lived.*

As we celebrate His birthday, we are, in many ways, celebrating the potential greatness in all of us.

We celebrate the love we feel for each other.

We celebrate the joys of family and friends.

We celebrate our hope in the future.

In our rejoicing, I wish with all my heart that the story I told you could be told a thousand times over again.

Sadly, it is not. Sadly, there are far too many Mary's that find their way into those clinics of death. And afterwards, they really do find themselves *sitting truly alone.*

They will only choose the good if they know their real choices. *We cannot teach them without your help.*

This past year has been marked by our constant effort to join voices. We have helped pastors, churches, individuals and communities become one in a message of life.

Some of our greatest moments have been in meeting with and educating the youth of Iowa. Opinion polls have shown the effect of our efforts.

Today, more than ever, youth are pro-life.

This rising generation becomes a strong force for good. Remember, every educated youth represents the potential of several babies that will safely be born and live to love life.

So this year's victories abound. **But it is not enough.**

During the coming year we will continue our relentless efforts to meet with churches, youth groups, expectant mothers, community leaders and political leaders.

These people must know the horrors of abortion. The pain it causes to mother and child alike. The years of heartache and remorse suffered by the would-be mother. The hollow futures left by the victimized dead.

They must learn of the tens-of-thousands of barren wombs and empty arms that long to adopt, but must wait years - *sometimes endlessly* - for a child.

They must find and know the truth of how sacred and special one life can be.

Those promoting abortion have the power of the media. We must have the power of the people. ***People like you.***

Yes, during this Christmas Season it is life that we celebrate.

We can, and must, continue to spread the joy of this message, but only with your help.

So as you consider the many gifts that you will give this year, will you please give the gift of future? The gift of life? **A true gift of Christmas?**

Your tax-deductible donation of \$25, \$40, \$50, \$100 or even more will allow us to continue our efforts.

Thousands of years ago, Mary safely gave birth to the greatest Life that has ever lived. This Christmas, we will celebrate His birthday.

Today, thousands of other "Mary's" are sitting in parking lots deciding if their precious child will ever celebrate a

birthday. With your generous gift and God's help, we will reach her in time.

I wish you a Merry Christmas. And to Mary's unborn child -

Happy Birthday.

God Bless,

Kim Lehman
Director

PS This Christmas Season we celebrate birth, the birth of the greatest Life ever lived. Yet in the coming year more than 6,000 children could die from abortion. They will never see their first birthday - unless we act today! Your tax-deductible gift of \$20, \$40, \$50 or even \$100 will help us reach "Mary" in time. Please become a member of Iowa Right to Life today!