



BRWC CONNECTION

Finding Courage

Like most of our clients, Maria Smith came to Blue Ridge Women's Center for answers. At the young age of 20, she had just learned that she was pregnant but a lot of things were weighing heavy on her mind.

Maria's relationship with the father of her baby was not a healthy one. He was not invested in a relationship with her – in fact, he was with another woman. He was pressuring her to have an abortion because he didn't want the responsibility and he didn't want the other woman to find out.

Maria was also supposed to start nursing school in just a few short months. She thought, "Having a baby will get in the way of my studies!"

Fortunately, Maria's mom helped her find the courage to make an appointment with a counselor at the Center. It was during her counseling appointment when Maria realized that she could not have an abortion.

"[My counselor] helped me see all sides of my situation," said Maria. "I was reassured numerous times that I'm not alone."

Maria decided that, despite her difficult circumstances, a life was forming inside of her, and she would be a mother. She came into Blue Ridge Women's Center full of uncertainty and fear but, by the time she left, Maria felt hopeful and at peace about her situation.

**Maria's name and other details were changed slightly in this story to protect her identity.*



What We Do

Blue Ridge Women's Center is a limited medical clinic that specializes in unplanned pregnancy, relationships, and reproductive health. Since 1984, the Center has served over 16,000 women with pregnancy testing, pregnancy dating by ultrasound, classes on parenting and life skills, and many other support services.

Our medical staff of nurses and sonographers are directly overseen by our local medical director, who is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology.

Dedicated to providing quality care regardless of age, race, religion, income level, or circumstances, the Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit governed by a local board of directors and funded by generous community support. It is because of the community's support that all of the services offered are free.

Blue Ridge Women's Center

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

10/22/15 - The Blue Ridge Women's Center facility is equipped with an ultrasound machine, counseling rooms, classrooms, a baby boutique, and more. We invite you to tour our facility on Thursday, October 22nd, during the next Get-To-Know event. Anyone interested in learning more about the Center or taking a tour of the facility should attend. To RSVP or for more information, email terrieb@blueridgewoman.org or call 540-362-3007.

10/26/15 - A Hope After Abortion class will be held on October 26th. It is for woman who have unresolved feelings or regret about having an abortion in their past. This class is led by an experienced abortion-recovery consultant who will help post-abortive women find peace and healing. To RSVP or for more information, call 540-362-3007.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please join us in prayer for:
1) a hedge of protection around the Center & 2) for our clients as they find the courage to seek our services.

BABY BOUTIQUE NEEDS:

- † Diapers, sizes 3 & 4
- † Crib Sheets
- † Baby Toiletries
- † Fall/Winter Clothes (up to 18 mos)

Bottle *Banking* for Babies

Who knew that a baby bottle and some change could make such a big difference! The Baby Bottle Campaign has been one of Blue Ridge Women's Center's most successful fundraising campaigns since 2002. In the last 13 years, hundreds of churches in the Roanoke Valley have supported this fundraiser raising more than \$360,000.

Church congregations and Bible study groups who decide to participate in the Baby Bottle campaign collect empty baby bottles from the Center and agree to fill them with their pocket change. Some even fill them with cash and checks. For more information or to sign your church up to participate in the baby bottle campaign, contact Sara Wickstrum at 540-362-3007.



Shopping at the *Baby Boutique*

Clients of Blue Ridge Women's Center have the unique opportunity to earn points that can be redeemed for items such as baby clothes, diapers, wipes, baby blankets, toys, and more in the Baby Boutique. Made possible by donations from the community, the boutique is stocked with items that will help mothers during her baby's first 18 months.

"The Baby Boutique is a gift to mothers who might be facing challenging circumstances with an infant at home," said volunteer Patti Hogeboom who has been volunteering at the Center since 2008. "It is also another way that we can show our clients that we're behind them and support them."



Blue Ridge *Women's* Center