



A Most Loving Choice

A Birth Mother's Story

My parents had told me to contact Catholic Charities to help me with the adoption process. They had heard of how good Catholic Charities was and also that they are a good strong Christian organization. Both my sister and I were adopted as infants and our adoptive parents gave us a wonderful and loving home. I knew that I wanted to give my baby the same opportunity.

Catholic Charities helped me through the process and was there for me emotionally as well. Adoption was a hard decision to make, especially after my baby was born, but I knew it was the most loving decision to make. Catholic Charities gave me the ability to read profiles of prospective adoptive couples and I even had the chance to sit down with the couple that I had chosen and ask them questions about how they would raise my baby if I chose them. Once I decided they were the couple to go with, I was able to meet them again at the agency and hand them my baby in person. It was sad to say goodbye to my baby, but the joy of knowing what a good life I was giving her made those sad feelings go away.

So to all the birthmothers that are reading this, I hope you make the right decision for you and your baby. Just know that no matter how hard you think it would be to give your baby up for adoption, in the long run it is a very rewarding decision and you would be giving your baby the ability of having a very loving and fortunate life.

Love and prayers to all of you.
- A Very Happy Birthmother



Serving Westmoreland County:

Central
711 East Pittsburgh St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-837-1840
724-837-4077 (FAX)
724-552-2643 (TDD)

North
St. Joseph Parish
1129 Leishman Avenue
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-4453

South
St. Sebastian Parish
801 Broad Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
724-929-4699

Serving Armstrong County in Kittanning:
St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe
348 N. Water St.
Kittanning, PA 16201
724-548-1009

Serving Fayette County in Uniontown:
Family Service Center
140 N. Beeson Avenue, Suite 406
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-439-3531

Serving Indiana County in Indiana:
St. Thomas More University Parish
1200 Oakland Avenue
Indiana, PA 15701
724-463-8806

All Catholic Charities staff and volunteers are mandated reporters of child abuse. All Catholic Charities staff and volunteers maintain current clearances as required by the Diocese of Greensburg and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For more information please refer to Dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Catholic Charities is listed in the Official Catholic Directory and is a non-profit organization, designated as a 501(c)(3) corporation by the Internal Revenue Service. This ruling is issued annually as a group tax exemption for all organizations listed in the current Official Catholic Directory. All contributions to Catholic Charities are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in making a contribution in the form of a financial gift, bequest, or other manner of donation, please contact our Director of Community Relations and Special Events at 724-837-1840 ext. 1504, or visit our website at www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org

Mission Statement

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, rooted in the gospel and social teachings of the Church, is the primary social service agency of the Diocese. Our mission is to serve the human needs of individuals and families, regardless of their religious affiliation, and to provide leadership in building collaborative efforts with parishes and communities in addressing these needs.

Non-Profit Status

The official registration and financial information of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Helpline: 1-866-409-6455

A United Way Organization



Catholic Charities is funded by the Diocese of Greensburg, United Way appeals in the four counties of the Diocese, state government and independent contracts, client fees, private foundation grants, individual contributions and bequests.



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ADOPTION PLANNING OPTIONS:

- An opportunity to choose the couple for your child by reviewing family summaries or by personal interview with the couple
- The degree of openness of the adoption
- Ongoing counseling and support through your transition (if desired)
- Infant foster care during the decision-making process (Child in the custody of Catholic Charities)

To make the adoption process more personal and create a positive foundation for the possible future exchange of information with birth parents, placements can involve the option of openness. Some examples of an open adoption are face-to-face meetings as well as exchanging letters, pictures and/or child development information through the agency based upon a voluntary agreement between birth parents and adoptive parents.

Act 101 of 2010 was created to establish open adoptions which are contracted and enforceable by the courts. This provides the birth parents with the option of choosing the degree of openness they desire. Completely closed adoptions are also an option.



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DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

1-866-409-6455 (24/7)
www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org/services/Pages/socialministry.aspx

QUALIFICATIONS OF ADOPTIVE FAMILIES:

- Childless Couples
- Homestudy Completed
- Extensive Interviews
- Home Safety Requirements
- Clearances
- Completed Adoption Education
- Group Classes

Staff are available to meet with birth parents where they feel comfortable, which includes Catholic Charities offices or at agencies providing active services. Staff are available to provide informational sessions for birth parents considering adoption or who want to learn more about the process.

If your decision is to place your child for adoption through Catholic Charities, you will be encouraged to keep your information with us current, including your name, address and phone number. If your child wishes to search for you after the age of 18, our staff will be able to locate you.

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