

A Special Thank You To...



Tricia Randecker for her 28 years of dedicated service to Genesis of Pittsburgh. We would not be where we are today without her hard work and passion. We will miss her deeply. Thank you Tricia and we love you!

The office of Staff Counsel, Allstate Insurance Company and Encompass Insurance located in Pittsburgh for their donation of office furniture for The Learning Center. Thank you for making our space look inviting and professional for our clients! (Pictured right)

Matt Glidden, Youth Pastor and his crew of 7th and 12th graders from Northgate Church. (pictured right) Thank you for your day of service helping us with Tag Day cards, sorting and processing donations, labeling formula, bundling diapers and filling our "welcome bags for new clients.



Zonta Three Rivers Pittsburgh North for our scholarship fund and all your efforts to advance and educate local women.

Drew Siever for his completed Genesis mission project to become an Eagle Scout. His collection of gently used baby equipment and monetary collection of over \$350 will help many local women.

Peggy Stoeckle and the Northgate Church Quilting Club who have donated over 85 quilts to our Bellevue Genesis Center this past year of Ministry Outreach.

Chuck Mahla and Mahla Office Furniture for their generous donation and delivery of office desk chairs for the Learning Center.

WOMEN of Southwestern PA for providing \$1200 to our Washington Location. Your money will help fund bus tickets and gas for parents to attend our prenatal and parenting classes. We have also purchased Spanish speaking versions of our educational DVD's dealing with pregnancy, childbirth and parenting.

(Featured from Left to Right) Laura R. Signorelli, Esquire; Donna Flaherty, Esquire; Michael Maselli, Esquire; Marianne C. Minich, Esquire; Annette Dietz; Antuan Spann; and Kenneth O'Neill, Esquire



From Small Beginnings Come Great Things. New Genesis Learning Center is Open!

Every year as the leaves begin to fall, I am reminded yet again of how quickly a year can pass. Fall has always evoked traditional and classic themes to me; a time of sowing and reaping, planning and growing, but also a period of coming together in celebration and thanksgiving. How fitting it is that this is the season that Genesis can proudly announce the opening of The Learning Center in October.

After months of hard work, we can now boast a 1400 sq. expansion on the second floor of our Genesis Center located in Bellevue. This space, much thought about and needed for years, will allow us to better meet the needs of

our growing class sizes. Our current programming schedule, which includes 22 classes and group sessions, has always been limited by the availability of one small classroom. With the additional space, we can now offer a full kitchen and new classroom space to offer more flexible programming to our clients. More importantly, we can begin to plan for new classes we have never had room to offer, but are critical for parents-to-be to establish healthy family foundations. Crucial classes such as job skill development, computer literacy, goal setting/planning and career counseling.

The foundation has been laid for us to begin a new milestone together in our journey to assist young women facing unplanned pregnancies. Now come the finishing details - new volunteers are needed to teach classes, funds must be raised for equipment, programming materials and teaching aids. Partnerships must be forged with local agencies who share our core values and mission-empowering these women in need.

I am confident we will again succeed in this endeavor; just look at our past history and growth. From one woman opening her door to a pregnant girl in crisis, to forming a network of friends to do so. From forming local hotlines

and pregnancy centers in Pittsburgh, to forming Genesis House - a home environment for women in need of residence. From becoming a licensed adoption and foster care agency that has placed countless babies with loving families, to creating 2 local centers that provide free daily living needs for mom and child. For the opportunity to yet grow again, God bless you! It is only through your continued financial support and volunteering time we can continue our journey together. Know that what you contribute does mean the world to the woman you touch. Thank you for saving and changing lives and helping us create new beginnings once again.

Many blessings for a wonderful holiday season!

Jenn Schuler
Community Outreach, Genesis of Pittsburgh



New Beginnings

www.genesispg.org

Fall 2011

A BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FOR GENESIS OF PITTSBURGH, INC.
Genesis provides life-affirming programs and services to pregnant women, children and adoptive families.



New Beginnings Bring Blessings: Big and Small.

By Jennifer Schuler, Community Outreach

Oftentimes, stories about young pregnant women are not fully told because they are, in some ways, invisible in our community. For these women, news of a pregnancy is not something greeted with hugs and congratulations, or celebrated with warm wishes or showers. Theirs are stories of trials and tribulations and their journeys to motherhood rocky ones. Their stories are products of a complicated dynamic of

personal, social, emotional and financial issues. Often products of broken homes and poverty and in many cases the system itself, they are left as young adults with no direction, no example, low self-esteem and no self-worth. Often leading to lives filled with abuse, exploitation, depression and addiction. Their "good news" does not come in an announcement in a formal invitation or surrounded by family and friends. Too often they are alone, afraid, and out of second chances.

Take the story of Laura, now 23, who found out she was pregnant while in rehab after being incarcerated. With no hope of anywhere to go after her release, her first thought was "How am I ever going to raise a kid living in a ditch. What do I do now?" Stories like this are exactly why Genesis opened its doors nearly 28 years ago; to take the crisis out of pregnancy. As a resident at Genesis House, Laura was provided a safe, stable living environment, a hand to hold and most importantly, support and education to create a life plan for herself and her child. "They believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself. That may not be on any piece of formal paper I came out of Genesis with, but in many ways it was what helped me the most."

Thanks to you, Laura has gotten to create a

new beginning for her - one that is a bit more like the stories we like to acknowledge: sober now and rebuilding family relationships she thought she severed forever. After graduating with a BS in Psychology she says, "I'd like to work toward getting my master's degree in counseling and earn my Drug and Alcohol Certificate where I can work with other women."

Not every story has a happy ending like Laura's obviously. The desire to want to be sober and the hard work required to change has got to be present for the work we do to be successful. But because of you, these opportunities exist for someone just like the next Laura out there. On behalf of all of the women who you touch with your support, thank you!



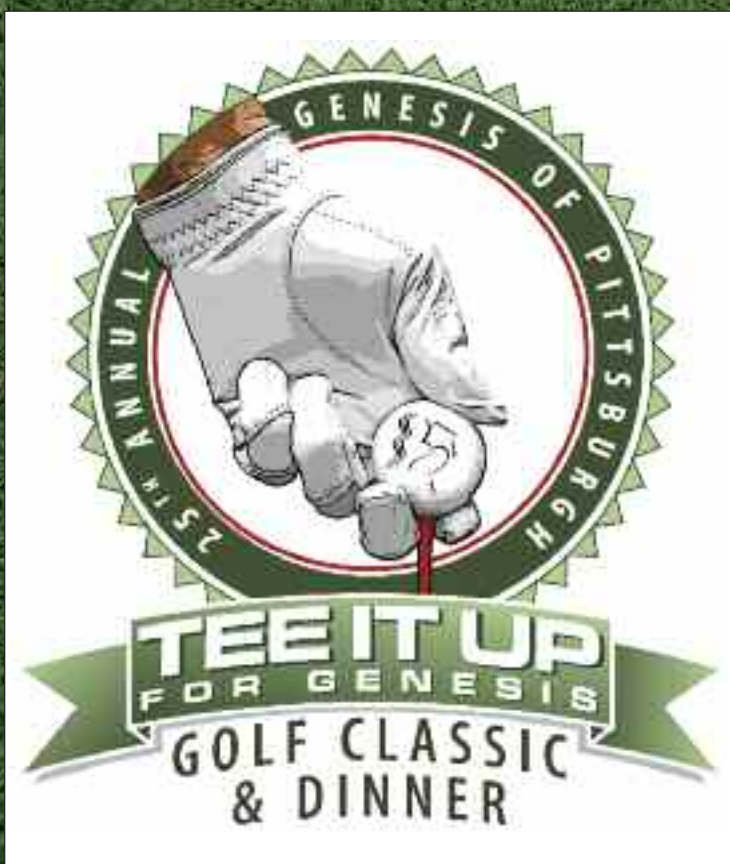
Tee It Up For Genesis

Golf Classic and Dinner
Monday, May 7, 2012
Pittsburgh Field Club

Highlights:

- On-The-Go Lunch & Practice Prior to Event
- Golf - Shotgun Start, Locker Room Facilities
- Skill Awards
- Business Casual Cocktails and Dinner
- Silent Auction
- Live Auction
- Hole-In-One Prizes

For sponsorship information, program ads or auction donations, contact Nancy Egbert at Genesis of Pittsburgh 412-766-2693



Genesis of Pittsburgh, Inc.
P.O. Box 41017
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Genesis
... a new beginning



Thank you to all of our Secret Santas who have begun asking what gifts can be given to Genesis House and Center for the holiday. We have consolidated purchasing with a Walmart location in Carnegie and bulk purchases at Sams Club. Consider those gift cards for our daily needs and your money will go further! Special items needed are always size 4 diapers for our Washington Center and diapers size 4-6 for Bellevue Genesis Center. We are also in need of basic office supplies for The Learning Center. Donations or purchases of basic office supplies like staplers, tape dispensers, scissors, dry-erase markers would be helpful. We are in search of large bulletin boards and dry-erase boards that can be used in our new classrooms for teaching and programming communication. Every penny saved in this area is one that can assist a mom in need!

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We Couldn't Do It Without You — Thank you Volunteers!

Recently, the Totus Home School Group from Saints John & Paul Parish in Wexford volunteered their time at Genesis Center and Genesis House. They spent the day beautifying our surroundings by planting flowers and plants. As you can see from the photo to the left, the group worked themselves to exhaustion. Five-year-old Jason worked so hard

he was on the verge of collapse. Thanks to all for your hard work!



How You Can Help Genesis

- G** Give monetarily to support some aspect of our program you feel passionate about.
- E** Energize us with your creative ideas for programs and fund-raisers.
- T** Teach a class.
- I** Involve your child/club/youth group in a mission project for us.
- N** Network on our behalf to the business you work for, for potential grant opportunities or service projects.
- V** Volunteer to sort donations one day in our Learning Centers.
- O** Organize a team to walk/run in our Riverside race on April 14, 2012.
- L** Let your church or community organization a Tag Day or Baby Bottle Campaign.
- V** Vocalize our mission and what we do within the community.
- E** Empower another mother in need, help tutor her to continue her education.
- D** Donate your gently used baby equipment so a mom in need can earn it.


Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends of Genesis,

As always, I find it hard to fully express my deep gratitude to you. I am grateful to you for your continued support and belief in Genesis and our mission. I am more confident than ever, that together, we can begin to break down the barriers we see in pregnant women in crisis. Together, we have been able to respond to the rising number of clients we see each year and expand our services to meet them. Not easy in today's volatile economy but again we met the challenge.

I am excited to announce the opening of our new learning center which will play such a critical role in the parents we serve. I am proud of the hard work of so many individuals who made this need a reality. I invite you to come and visit us. See your support in action and get inspired again!

Sincerely,

 Executive Director, Genesis of Pittsburgh

Genesis Honors Volunteer Sharon Boone

What can we possibly say about a volunteer who sets up their own basement at home to process clothing donations on our behalf? We can't say enough—Sharon is amazing! Thank you Sharon for all you continue to do: organizing your church to collect items for us, personally buying things you know we need, processing donations, and creating and filling welcome bags for new clients.

You have been instrumental in helping us to keep up with the overwhelming amount of work we have on a daily basis and we appreciate it!

A certificate will be hung in our lobby of the Bellevue Center honoring your commitment and service. Congratulations!



and I am so thankful to be able to give back to your organization.

As some of you know, I was a client of Genesis when I became a single mother. A family friend highly recommended Genesis and told me that I would be able to get help during my pregnancy. I was able to take all of the classes you offered, including my Lamaze classes which were very helpful. Linda and Cbris at the Washington center provided such a significant amount of emotional support. My experiences were truly life changing and the support I received through Genesis encouraged me to begin my dream of a graduate degree. Your continued support even now as I am in graduate school is one of the reasons why I chose to pursue my internship with Genesis. Art Therapy is truly a passion of mine and the opportunity to merge my love of art and helping others is extremely rewarding.

I also was incredibly fortunate to receive one of your scholarships which helped me pay my tuition, purchase text books, and pay for transportation to class. Without your generous award it would have been much more challenging for me to continue to attend Graduate classes. I am currently in the final stages of a three year graduate program in Art

Dear Carole and Genesis Staff,

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for all you have done for me and my family. I am so excited to be conducting my internship at your Pittsburgh Center. I am absolutely thrilled that you are so supportive of me and are encouraging me to bring my ideas to create new classes. I am currently able to facilitate classes where parents are encouraged to bring their babies and young children to learn and play. This opportunity has been such a blessing

Therapy and will be graduating in May of 2012. I look forward to continued work with you, now as a teacher. Thank you Genesis!

Sincerely,
 Caitly Mours

Pictured: left: Caitly Mours, and below: Caitly's daughter Brenna, who, judging from her fashionable outfit, already has her own artistic flare!



Two Ways to Help Us Grow

One...through United Way's Contributor's Choice Program

Designate your Contributor's Choice pledge to Genesis using #181 State employees may give through SECA 4601-0085 Federal employees may give through CFC 14180

Two...by ensuring we have current contact information

We have implemented a new system that will provide flexibility in the ways we deliver to you important information about events and initiatives with our clients. Our goal is to use electronic media to stay in touch, thereby saving the expenses associated with producing and mailing information as we have done in the past. Please help Genesis by taking a moment to provide current contact information. Visit www.genesispg.org/grow.

Questions? Call 412-766-2693
 Monday – Friday between 10:00 and 4:00.



Washington Center Updates

United Way Grant Continue their Support... Thanks United Way! Washington Genesis Center received a grant from United Way of Washington County for \$5500 to continue the early pregnancy classes previously funded by them. Through the current grant, Washington Center has added a prenatal fitness class to enhance the early pregnancy classes, which will cover topics such as: fetal development, nutrition, warning signs, stress management, and personal care. The prenatal fitness class is an opportunity for pregnant clients to improve their chances of a healthy pregnancy, easier labor, and less chance of needing a Cesarean delivery.

New Beginnings Scholarship
 Three clients from Washington Center were awarded scholarships from the Ametek Foundation through the "Genesis New Beginnings Scholarship". The scholarships, which can range in value from \$500 to \$1500 were awarded based on essays submitted by clients. The essay subject was "How Genesis has affected their life and how the Genesis Scholarship could impact their future". Congratulations to all three of our scholarship award winners on their decision for college or vocational plans!

Brand New Baby Rewards - A Smart Way to Instill Safety

There is no other spot that an infant will likely spend more time, than a crib. With the average newborn spending approximately 16 to 20 hours sleeping, it's essential that every parent understands the importance of a safe sleeping environment for their child. For any parent exploring the purchase of a crib, it is a daunting task. The choices, the recalls, the ratings.... What initially seems like an easy item to purchase, can easily become overwhelming. For parents-to-be whose choices are limited by available funds, it may become very tempting to consider the possibility of borrowing a previously used crib to save cash. Think twice though! A significant rise in crib related deaths in the last few years has caused a tightening of crib regulations. First, the government banned cribs with drop-sides, or moveable side rails late last year. Then on June 28 of this year, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) tightened crib safety requirements even further. ([source:http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/2011/06/the-new-crib-standard-questions-and-answers/](http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/2011/06/the-new-crib-standard-questions-and-answers/))

In previous years, Genesis was able to receive gently used cribs from our local community as a donation to use for parents in

our program. With the tightening of crib regulations however, this was a game changer. First, most people within the community who were donating a crib, had a version at least a year old and not in compliance with CPSC. Although almost all gently used cribs could not be donated and used as is, our clients' need for cribs remained constant. So Genesis developed a program that started January 2011 to provide new cribs.

Since the beginning of this year, Genesis Center in Pittsburgh has distributed over 60 brand new cribs through an incentive program called Brand New Baby Rewards Program. The program is open to both expectant mothers and fathers. To earn a crib, the parent would complete a nine-hour educational series including classes on newborn care, CPR, first aid, breastfeeding and money management.

A second option is also available to earn a new car seat and crib mattress. Couples are encouraged to attend the nine-hour series described above, so one parent may earn a crib while the other parent earns the crib mattress/ car seat. If the father is not participating in the program, the mother may earn both rewards by attending our nine-hour Parenting Essentials series in addition to the first series of classes.

Although the program has put a tremendous amount of pressure on our programming budget; implementing it, had many pleasantly surprising consequences. Fathers participate

in classes at a rate we have never seen before, increasing education and awareness in the family unit. Individuals who initially sign up for the program just for the crib, are finding enjoyment from the classes and learning better decision making skills, which in turn, promotes self-confidence and self-esteem. Lastly, more than half of the people who complete one part of the Brand New Baby Rewards Program go on to take additional classes, such as nutrition or childbirth classes, which benefit them further. Additional classes can help them to earn "Genesis baby Bucks" to buy additional baby equipment such as higher end strollers, baby swings, exersaucers etc.

Here at Genesis, the cost of keeping this program has yielded a significant return of investment for each client in more ways than one. Our Brand New Baby Reward Program allows parents with limited means to walk away better informed, more educated and with pride in knowing that their hard earned work has earned it for their child. Another "baby step" in teaching self-reliance & helping us to make their new beginning a little safer!

** If you are interested in supporting this critical initiative, please earmark your donations to Genesis for the crib and car seat fund. \$100 Donations will allow you to sponsor a new crib for a mother and \$75 will sponsor them a car seat.*



1,095 Chances to Win!

For over 20 years, Genesis has offered a monthly lottery benefit which coincides with the Pennsylvania Lottery's Daily Number. Winning numbers are taken from Pennsylvania Daily Lottery at 7 pm. For a donation of \$60 per ticket, you will have 1,095 chances to win throughout the year!

If your number hits, straight — you will win \$50 Sunday thru Friday and you will win \$100 if your number hits on Saturday. If one number above or below your number hits — you will be awarded \$10.

Winning numbers on Mother's Day and Father's Day will be awarded \$500! All winners will be mailed their checks automatically at the beginning of each month. To purchase your ticket (which comes with a 2012 calendar) and reserve your favorite number before it's been taken, call Genesis at 412-766-2693.



Attention Runners & Walkers

Mark Your Calendars!
 Genesis of Pittsburgh's 20th Annual
 10k/5k Riverside Run
 Saturday, April 14 — Riverfront, Gate A, Heinz Field

Fast, flat course with great PB Potential
 Great training run for the Pittsburgh Marathon
 Sign-up online today: Active.com

Interested businesses or organizations looking to learn more about sponsorship opportunities available contact Joan Joson at joan@genesispg.org or (C)412-973-6273