

## *Client Testimony*

The BG pregnancy center really helped me in an extremely dark time of my life, and I think it's so important that they can continue to be here for others. All I can really say is they were a godsend, and I really believe that. Almost exactly a year ago, I was a senior at BGSU going into my last semester and it was Spring Break. I was a senior, it was my fifth year, and scheduled to graduate in May. I was busy in my full time internship, working a part time job, and enjoying the last semester of college with my friends. I was excited about being done after a long and grueling five years but was also dreading the responsibilities that would come with really having to "grow up" and become an "adult" in just a few short months. I had never been on a traditional Spring Break trip. Though not the most exciting place for spring break my ex-boyfriend and I decided to go to Chicago. At that time we had been off and on for seven years, since high school, and were really looking forward to a time of relaxation and fun before coming back to finish out what I thought would be a challenging yet exciting final semester, of finishing up my school work and saying lots of goodbyes.

Four days after returning to Bowling Green is when I first met the wonderful women at the Bowling Green pregnancy center. I was scared to death to say the least, I was raised extremely conservative, this couldn't be happening to me. That first day I met with Megan she just let me talk, she listened to everything I had to say and was just what I needed in order to begin to process everything. She also confirmed what I already thought I knew which was I was most definitely pregnant. I remember just saying I cant do this, I cant do this, this can not be happening. Almost wishing if I didn't believe it and kept saying it couldn't be happening long enough, then maybe it wouldn't. That weekend was Easter and I had to return home to be with my mom. I had no idea how I was going to do this with so much turmoil racing through my head. What am I supposed to do? How can I do this to my family, How am I going to tell them?, Should I keep it? Should I give it up for adoption, what is my boyfriend going to say? I don't want a baby; I'm just about to start "my life". Bottom line I just can't do this at the emotional state I was at. Megan called me as I was driving home that night and I remember just feeling like a little less alone and a little more like it would be possible to do, I could actually physically do it, with the pregnancy centers help if that's what I chose, which though did not give me huge relief, it did give me a glimpse of something positive which is all I was grasping for in the moment. I got through the weekend and Megan was great continuing to call in and check on me knowing how hard it was going to be to be back home for Easter.

In the week following I talked to Megan several times, which was nice to always feel like there was at least one person who I could call and ask questions to or just cry to or vent to no matter what time it was or how crazy and mixed up I sounded. And it was always her I was talking to which made me feel not so alone. The biggest question that I was fighting with myself over was whether to keep the baby or have it aborted, which I never would of thought before this situation I would of even considered ever doing. You just never know until you're in that situation dealing with the reality and the good and bad consequences of your choices. Megan set up a time for me to be able to talk to a woman who had an abortion many years ago and just let me ask her anything I wanted to and provide me with all the information I needed to make a choice I could live with. In those days I remember saying to Megan on many occasions the problem is I don't know if I can live with either one of those choices, but obviously one had to be made. One day I spent five hours at the center just reading pamphlets and talking to the woman there. Mindy and Megan really made me feel like there was a little light at the end of an extremely dark, pitch-black tunnel. I remember the turning point for me.

*Continued on back*

It was one night after spending a better part of the day at the center and I was reading through the pamphlets learning how big my baby was getting and at what stage I was in my pregnancy and I read that it had fingernails and toenails and a beating heart already. As the weeks went by and I was getting no sleep and thinking about what to do every second of every single day, I was able to come to a decision I was keeping my baby.

I started having cramps on the 25th of April only three weeks after Megan and my first meeting. I had previously called Megan and asked about cramps and she had mentioned that, that can be normal but if they persist or get to bad I needed to see someone so the next day when I started being in quite a bit of pain, and was bleeding, I asked my best friend to take me to the emergency room. They confirmed what I already knew. I was having a miscarriage.

The second I lost that baby I felt like a part of me I had only known even existed for 3 weeks had just died and I felt another deep and utter loss. I know if I had not been able to talk to Megan and Mindy at the pregnancy center my situation would of turned out very differently. I would not of had the information and the counseling that allowed me to work through my thoughts and be able to be ok with making a decision that could of turned out very differently and I think I would have a harder time living with than I do now. I thank god that he sent me a place to go where they were non judgmental and showed me so much compassion and kindness that was unlike anywhere else. Even in the time since, Megan has contacted me just to check in on things and you have no idea how much that has helped to make me feel like someone cared. When your in a situation where you feel is just overwhelming and unsolvable its rare for their to actually be people in your life who take the time to make a difference especially people who don't know you before, and that's what the BGPC has done for me. They really got me through a time that I have no idea how I would of made it through still standing, without their support and nonjudgmental attitudes and compassion. I can only hope others can be helped the way I was.

Thank you to all of you who contribute financially or with support in others ways especially with your time, its an amazing place that is so needed and can do so much good for lots of women.