



Miriam Centre News

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22
years of service

Dec. 2010

"How precious is your steadfast love, Oh God!"

Psalm 36,7

An Invitation to Commitment

Lise Lagroix

It has been two years since I left Miriam Centre. Perhaps you wonder why I'm writing these few words at all. Unfortunately, Sister Rita hasn't found anyone to fill my position. Perhaps that after reading this message, the ideal person will come forward, and help to pursue the fine work being done at Miriam Centre.

If the Centre has been operating for so long, it's because very compassionate and committed persons have wanted to be of assistance to mothers facing difficult pregnancies and, with time, families in financial straits. Indeed, love of life and compassion are prerequisites for those who wish to join the standing team.

Taking an assessment of the five years I spent at the Centre as a public relations officer and a service provider to families, I realize to what extent all this experience with mothers has changed me. As it

happens generally, some types of experience are more pleasant than others. At times, a mother informing us that she would keep her baby became a source of rejoicing. On the other hand, listening to a mother telling of her heartbreaking encounter with an abortion was quite painful. That is why there is a need for compassion and a capacity to look beyond the person facing us. There are so many reasons why a woman resorts to abortion. Often the decision isn't hers but rather that of a man or a woman friend, a doctor or some other person...



Abortion is a scourge, a great misfortune swooping down on a nation. There are far too many abortions in Canada and throughout the world. Let us take into account all the couples who have to seek abroad to adopt a baby, since there are so few available here.

At Miriam Centre, babies are never lacking! I'll always remember all these pretty little faces, the pride and joy of their parents. Material help, encouragement, attention and support represent all the reasons why mothers and families love to visit the Centre. Everyone's welcome, no one is judgemental, and usually all leave with a broad smile on their faces!

Let's help Miriam Centre carry on its mission, not only by supporting it financially, but also with our prayers, so that the ideal person will soon knock on the door of the Centre wishing to join the team in its pursuit of such invaluable efforts.

In order to continue our ministry, we know we can always count on our faithful supporters for both our regular and unexpected requirements. Please also continue to support us through your prayers and donations. Thank you!

My life has changed... my story!



I am a 34-year-old mother who was blessed with triplets, 2 boys and a girl about one year and three months ago. By the time of their discharge from the NICU of the Ottawa General Hospital, I wondered how life would be with every expense you are thinking of and multiplied by three in addition to our financial constraints due to our new immigrant status to Canada ...

Until one day the community nurse who was visiting me saw my wandering eyes and she said one of our community resources is Miriam Centre. I doubted her talk as I didn't imagine that people you don't know would be offering that help without any return.

I took the address and I found that these people have such a kind heart to the extent that I just give them a call stating my babies' needs. They calm me down assuring me that everything will be ok and if they

don't have the resource for my present need at least they will guide me.

Now my first year is done and everything went fine and still Miriam Centre is walking by my side and I felt that at least a small letter would express my feelings of appreciation.

Mother of triplets



We need your Help

- To initiate and coordinate fundraising events for Miriam Centre
- To serve as volunteer at the Centre or on our Board of Directors
- To collect used stamps for fundraising purposes. (Please leave a lot of paper around the stamp).
- To collect Canadian Tire money. Thank you!

Please contact the Centre at 613-830-8623

Please let us know if you are not getting this letter in the language of your choice. Thank you

A Message from the Board of Directors

We see signs everywhere and they all have a purpose; to guide us, to give us warning and even to persuade us. Of course I am talking about road signs and advertising billboards. As we find ourselves entering into this joyous Christmas season, one may wonder what signs did the people in the time of Jesus see and experience. A popular one that comes to mind is the star that guided the wisemen to Jerusalem. It stood out amongst the other stars and showed them the way to the Christ child. The star had a purpose: to announce,



May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you each day of the coming year.

proclaim and guide.

Today, we have all seen the signs that pointed to the recent economic crisis resulting in many feeling the effects of financial loss. Miriam Centre is no different. The staff and volunteers have had to struggle through these tough times. Higher costs for running the Centre and a drop in financial support, have meant coming up with innovative ways to ensure that the Centre is able to provide the much needed services to those in need. By the grace of God, they have been able to persevere and pass through these difficult times.

However, it is these rough times that seem to bring about the good in people: the desire to help, show compassion and give hope to those in need. The service Miriam Centre provides to mothers facing a difficult pregnancy, a young family feeling the stress of a newborn child, a couple struggling to raise their family cannot happen without the support from the community. **We receive no government funding.** It is only by God's blessing and by the support shown by so many

through the years, that the Centre is able to continue its mission.

If you have been touched by a star, and feel drawn to helping others, may you feel drawn to support this ministry of love and compassion with a financial gift.

Those serving on the Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a blessed and peaceful New Year.

David Ballman

President of the Board

Miriam Centre Staff



Sr. Rita and Shirley

Miriam Centre receives no government grants.

We are a registered charity and our number is 11904 2091 RR0001.

We issue receipts for income tax purposes. Our fiscal year ends December 31.

The world is different because of you



The staff at the Centre with a group of volunteers

Looking to the Future

We believe that Miriam Centre has a future!

For over twelve years now, the Miriam Centre Foundation has been building that future. Thanks to your generosity, our Foundation is growing and bearing fruit.

The interest generated by the invested capital is disbursed annually to Miriam Centre. Your donation has thereby become permanent. In planning your estate, please remember the Miriam Centre Foundation.

To make your contribution now, please see the enclosed flyer. ***Thank you***

Employment available

**Full time position:
community liaison and
volunteer coordinator.**

Miriam Centre is a ministry seeking a compassionate pro-life person who is fully bilingual, excellent oral and written communication skills, (French and English mandatory), has computer skills (Word, Wordperfect, Electronic mail) and public speaking ability. Applicants must be motivated and able to work independently.

Send your résumé to
info@miriamottawa.org
or call 613-830-8623

web site : www.miriamottawa.org / email : info@miriamottawa.org