

A Message from the Board of Directors

The Christmas season is upon us and for most people it is a time of joy as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. Anticipating and celebrating a birth should be a time of great happiness, but sadly this is not the case for some women who find it difficult to deal with their pregnancy or are suffering from the loss of a child through miscarriage, abortion or infant death. The circumstances surrounding their life whether financial, emotional or other, lead to anxiety and fear. If they have no family or friends to turn to for support, often a feeling of discouragement sets in.

The dedicated staff at the Centre is there to offer non-judgemental encouragement and support

to mothers and families before and after the birth of their child. They also accompany them through the difficult time of losing a child and help them regain a feeling of peace.

Providing this vital service to families in our community, one would expect some assistance from the various levels of government, but as you may know, there is not a penny available. The doors of Miriam Centre have been kept open since 1988 mainly by your generous contributions and your commitment to care. Often with limited resources, the staff and volunteers at the Centre work very hard to reach out to these needy families in the Ottawa area and with your help it will continue. ***Please make a difference and send in your donation.***

We want to take this opportunity to offer you our sincere thanks for your generosity and prayers over the past year and wish you God's blessings as we enter this wonderful season.

J. Sullivan

Our Foundation has been established for nine years now and is bearing fruit in a very encouraging way.

Thanks to your generosity, the interest generated by the invested capital is disbursed annually to Miriam Centre.

Your donation has thereby become permanent.

Thank you for contributing to this project so vital to our future. To make your contribution, please see the enclosed flyer.

Miriam Centre receives no government grants. We are a registered charity, our number is 11904 2091 RR0001. We will issue 2007 receipts for all donations dated December 31, 2007 and received before January 3, 2008.

For auditing purposes our books must be closed on January 3, 2008. Cheques received after that date will be issued 2008 receipts.



Miriam Centre News

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Dec. 2007

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me”

Mark 9 :37

Good-bye... and Welcome

Lise Lagroix

I will soon be beginning my fifth year at Miriam Centre. As they say, how time flies! 2007 saw many changes to the Centre; in March, a member of our staff left after eight years of service at the Centre. In addition to taking care of the mothers who came to the Centre, Roxanne did an excellent job as Accounts Manager. Like all of us, Roxanne provided support to mothers who were often distraught by their pregnancies. We all try to be a friend in which they can confide. Regardless of her age, any mother can be worried, feel alone, and may feel that she is surrounded by insurmountable obstacles. Roxanne quickly realized that she needed to be there for these women and tried to reassure them.

While providing them with all the relevant information, we encourage mothers to give birth to their baby.

Parents suffer greatly when they lose a child. Roxanne was a compassionate listener in whom these people could confide. Miriam Centre provides help in healing from the loss of a child due to abortion, miscarriage, or the death of a baby. We need to take the time to listen and understand what this person is saying and try to help her achieve a certain level of peace and serenity.

Practical help is also important at Miriam Centre. Roxanne was our expert in checking out donated equipment. It's a real challenge to ensure that everything is clean and in good working order! We also provide mothers with maternity wear and baby clothes up to the age of 4, as well as bedding and other small

essentials. All our services are free and confidential; regardless of the mother's age or circumstances, we are there for her and her family.

Roxanne, we wish you much luck in your future endeavours and we will continue to remember you in our prayers. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the newest member of our team, Gabrielle Leblond. Gaby has been with us since February and we greatly appreciate her work with mothers and her bookkeeping skills at the Centre.

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!

Volunteering at Miriam Centre

We say that a volunteer is someone who does something without being obligated to do it, without gain. Since we are a charitable organization, volunteer help is very valuable for our Centre. Volunteers come and go and I must thank both those who have left the Centre, and those who always seem to be around to lend a hand. Our tasks vary widely and certain volunteers work from home. We have our volunteers who come regularly and others when needed. Regardless of how they help us, their assistance is priceless and very much appreciated. Some men also offer indispensable help for some tasks at our Centre.

*Volunteers,
I thank you again
and I send each of you
a virtual hug!*

Lise



A few volunteers and the staff at Miriam Centre.



“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”, which means, “God with us”.

Matthew 1, 23

Miriam Centre Staff



**Sr. Rita Lacelle,
Gabrielle Leblond, Lise Lagroix**

*May the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child
remind us of the dignity and value of each human life.*

Life Realities

My Story



I was 23 years old when I learned I was pregnant. I barely knew my boyfriend. My friends, my boyfriend, and my family (except for my mother) weren't very happy when they heard the news.

They thought I had ruined my life, my plans for the future, and my chances of having other children later on. I was so desperate I made an appointment to have an abortion. I didn't believe that abortion was right and secretly, I already loved the baby growing inside me. The stress was unbearable. I needed a different perspective because I knew that this decision would change my life forever. I had so many questions and worries but the person I saw at Miriam Centre was patient and she helped me realize that YES, I could attend university, YES, I would have plenty of support, YES, having a child is a huge responsibility but that it would be a decision that I would never regret. She pointed out all the positive aspects. I sure made the right decision in going to Miriam Centre.

I immediately cancelled my appointment to have an abortion and to my surprise, the lady on the phone congratulated me on my decision. When I told everyone, they respected my decision to keep the angel that had been sent to me. Nine months later, as I held my little boy in my arms, I knew that I would love him until the end of time. YES, I went to university, and YES, I had plenty of support, more than I could ever have imagined. YES, I had other children with my boyfriend and YES, keeping my baby was the best decision I ever made. Now we enjoy a pleasant life on a farm in the country, happy to be parents to beautiful children. Miriam Centre, I can't thank you enough for all your support, advice, and encouragement

*From a happy mom, Josée
and an angel sent from heaven, Joël.*

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