

Montgomery County

Pregnancy Resource Centers:

Serving Women, Serving the Community

Charitable Organizations

Pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) are charitable organizations that provide material and emotional assistance to pregnant women in need. The four of these Good Samaritan groups in Montgomery County provide a wide-range of pregnancy support services and rely entirely on private donations as they do not receive any local, state, or federal funds. Among the many services these charities may provide are:

- Childbirth and parenting classes
- Diapers
- Formula
- Maternity and infant clothes
- Furniture (cribs, etc.)
- Encouragement to get pre-natal care and, as appropriate, professional counseling
- Referrals to public and private assistance programs, like:
 - GED and job training programs
 - Women, Infant, Children's program
 - Medicaid
 - Housing

Assets to the Community

The good and necessary work performed by PRCs in Montgomery County is evidenced by the many public and private agencies that refer clients to them:

- All 4 PRCs regularly receive referrals from Montgomery County and Prince George's County health departments, public clinics, and social service programs (WIC, Infants and Toddlers, etc.). At one pregnancy center alone, more than 500 women are referred annually from public clinics.
- At least 3 of the 4 PRCs regularly receive referrals from nurses and counselors at Montgomery County public schools, as well as referrals from hospitals, private physicians, and local churches.
- At least one of the PRCs has had partnerships with the County Department of Health and Human Services for pregnancy verification and STD testing. One of the PRCs has received referrals from Planned Parenthood.
- 3 of the 4 PRCs are offered as resources for free clothing on the website of the County Housing Opportunities Commission.

Trusted and Respected Services

Some local lawmakers have referred to two reports - one issued by the office of Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and another by NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland, as "evidence" that pregnancy resource centers distribute inaccurate information. Those reports are, respectively, irrelevant and biased sources of information that should not be used as the basis to pass laws or regulations that single out pro-life charities.

- No pregnancy resource center in Montgomery County has ever had a complaint filed against it with the County Office of Consumer Protection.
- No pregnancy resource center in Montgomery County has ever injured or caused the death of a client. The same cannot be said of Montgomery County abortion clinics.
- Thus far, not a single actual client of a pregnancy resource center in Montgomery County has come forward to say she was misled.
- The Waxman Report is irrelevant to the Montgomery County proposal because it did not include any pregnancy resource centers in Maryland. No pregnancy resource centers in Maryland receive state or federal funding.
- The Waxman Report only looked at 23 pregnancy resource centers around the country (though, again, none in Maryland). There are an estimated 2,500 pregnancy resource centers in the U.S., meaning that the Waxman Report is based on just 1% of pregnancy resource centers nationwide.
- The NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland Report ("The Truth Revealed") is a biased source of information, as it was funded and conducted by a group that promotes abortion rights.
- The NARAL Report is an unreliable source of information, as it is based on hearsay reported by NARAL's own interns who went into pregnancy resource centers as impostors and misrepresented themselves in order to find out information about the charities.

Compiled by:

Maryland Catholic Conference
Archdiocese of Washington