COURIER-JOURNAL







to use Birthright decide to keep their babies adoption.

CALL



A quiet wait for the test results.





A visit to a hospital clinic for a pregnancy test will resolve doubts and suggest future

action.

Text by Terrance J. Brennan **Photos by Susan McKinney**

and Terrance J. Brennan

BIRTHRIGHT OF ROCHESTER 328-8700

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"Many times, a girl that comes to us for help is going from one stress situation to another, perhaps having family problems and her own.

Birthright is the first link to help," said Piehler. Birthright first opened its doors in Rochester on July 6, 1971. Its aim continues to be to provide practical assistance and, most important, compassionate understanding to those who need its services.

Initial contact with Birthright is by phone (328-8700): The address of the office is not publicized but is given to the person who calls and wishes to 2. Arrange for councome in for consultation.

that is charged. Once pregnancy is confirmed, more than 60 Birthright volunteers, many of whom are professional social workers, secure whatever kind of help is needed and offer continuing support.

"Abortion is not a viable solution at all," said Piehler. "For any reason a girl can give not to have her baby, we can give her just as important a reason why she should."

Trained volunteers, headed by an administrative supervisor, perform these functions:

1. Assess the needs of the individual.

attorneys, psychiatric services, etc.

Arrange ap-ments with 3. pointments pregnancy testing services.

4. Arrange appointments with social agencies (adoption agencies) such as Nor-thaven, Catholic Family Center and Monroe County Department of Social Services; with hospital clinics; and with a volunteer corp of doctors who will provide prenatal and postnatal care for those who need financial assistance, but do not qualify for government aid.

5. Provide help in either keeping the baby or in arranging for adoption.

also important not to force our opinions on the girl. The final decision must be hers," said Piehler.

Anne Sullivan, a volunteer with five years at Birthright, expressed the feeling emitted by all who work for Birthright:

"The fact that the girl comes in here, I think, is proof that she wants to be convinced and forced into having the baby."



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A pregnancy test can be arranged at a local hospital for \$5. That is the only fee

finds her service extremely rewarding.

seling, if desired, at the Birthright office or with social workers, clergy of various denominations.

"We will not help a girl get an abortion, but it is

Sympathy and support are distributed freely by the

Birthright workers.

Kathi Piehler, president of Birthright-Rochester. In the foreground are printed materials available for clients to read and a graphic depiction of the development progress of a fetus.