

A Message in a Bottle

An "accidental" discovery saves a life



Single and pregnant, with a young daughter and limited finances, Kerri* faced a terrible dilemma. She had previously had an abortion. Though she was not excited about that option, she did not want to raise another child without a father and she was concerned about paying the bills.

These thoughts were swirling around in Kerri's mind as she was cleaning a customer's home one day. As she cleaned, something caught her attention. She looked up and saw a baby bottle from Care Net's 2008 Baby Bottle Campaign.

Odd, she thought. But as she looked more closely she saw that there was a printed message inside. Curious, she picked up the bottle and read a message about life. There was a place, she discovered, where she might be able to find help.

Care Net's Baby Bottle Campaign is held in area churches from Mother's Day to Father's Day. If your church is participating, pick up a bottle and return it to your church by Father's Day. Or visit www.carenetdane.org/friends to give to Care Net directly.

There was a phone number. Having nothing with her to write on, she wrote the number on her hand, and after she left work, she called the Care Net Careline. That call led to an appointment, and that appointment led to an ultrasound where Kerri got to see, for the first time, the 12-week old life that was growing inside of her.

Wow! After watching her baby's beating heart and seeing her move around, Kerri told her counselor, "It would be much harder to have an abortion now. I think this is what I needed to see."

But that didn't mean that choosing life was easy. Kerri agonized over what route to take. But now she wasn't alone. Her Care Net counselor was becoming a trusted friend, someone who was really there for her. Her counselor helped her find housing and the other resources she needed to move forward. As that bond of trust grew stronger, so did Kerri's resolve. She would carry her child to term. She would give her second daughter the gift of life.

Emma* was born at 6 lbs. 15 oz., 20 inches long soon after New Year's Day 2009. Kerri brought her newborn into Care Net to celebrate, and to express her gratitude for the care and support she received.

The road ahead for Kerri will not be easy, but she wouldn't trade her decision for anything. She loves her new daughter and cannot imagine life without her. And Emma's older sister is delighted with her new baby sister. As Kerri looks back on her journey she now realizes how it all started. "It was God," she explains, "that made me look up and see that baby bottle."

*Fictitious names to protect privacy