

Ames Birthright Celebrates 40 Years

Birthright of Ames was founded in 1971 and is planning a **40th anniversary celebration** in March. The Ames Birthright office operates under the umbrella of Birthright International, and is a crisis pregnancy center designed to help women who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

The Celebration will be held on **Saturday, March 31st** at Stonebrook Community Church, 3611 Eisenhower Avenue in Ames. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm followed by an enlightening presentation by international speaker Melissa Ohden, the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Melissa's story provides inspiration to all ages about the beauty of God's grace in our lives, the power of love, the hope for joy and healing in the midst of grief and loss, and the transformational power of forgiveness.



International Speaker Melissa Ohden

Tickets for this event are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at the Birthright office at 108 Hayward Avenue (please call 515-292-8414 for office hours).

Over the past 40 years thousands of women have come to Birthright for assistance. There have been hundreds of volunteers and financial supporters who have helped to keep the office in operation. Special recognition will be given to both past and present volunteers and donors at the Celebration so please plan to attend! A special invitation also goes out to the middle school and high school youth of the parish to attend and hear Melissa's special message.

Many thanks to past and present parishioners of St. Cecilia's who have generously supported Birthright of Ames in so many ways.

Tickets for this event are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at the Birthright office at 108 Hayward Avenue (please call 515-292-8414 for office hours).

Over the past 40 years thousands of women have come to Birthright for assistance. There have been hundreds of volunteers and financial supporters who have helped to keep the office in operation. Special recognition will be given to both past and present volunteers and donors at the Celebration so please plan to attend! A special invitation also goes out to the middle school and high school youth of the parish to attend and hear Melissa's special message.

Many thanks to past and present parishioners of St. Cecilia's who have generously supported Birthright of Ames in so many ways.

Social Justice Contacts

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

1-800-842-2243

STC Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

APPALACHIA WAREHOUSE

2019 Pullman Street, Ames

STC Contact: Lynn Franco 232-0898

BIRTHRIGHT OF AMES

108 Hayward Ave., Suite 202, Ames

515-292-8414

STC Contact: Kathy Ridnour 232-1697

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

STC Contact: Sharon Jenkins

233-2570

FOOD AT FIRST

516 Kellogg Ave., Ames

515-344-4357

STC Contact: Doreen Berg 956-3414

GOOD NEIGHBOR

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, INC.

3206 S. Duff, Ames

515-296-1449

STC Contact: Mary Ross 232-5080

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CENTRAL IOWA

515-232-8815

STC Contact: Alan Christy 231-8099

MEALS ON WHEELS

(Homeward)

1114 S. Duff, Ames

STC Contact: Cathy Kaspar 233-0517

OPERATION RICE BOWL

STC Contact: Cynthia Shriver

292-6584

PRISON MINISTRY

STC Contact: Ron Smith

382-5654

SAINT CECILIA GOOD SAMARITAN SERVICES

STC Contact: Tom Samson

233-1950

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

STC Contact: Mary Ross

232-5080

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

STC Garland Dahlke (515) 460-0403

The Social Justice Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Sunroom. Everyone is welcome to attend.



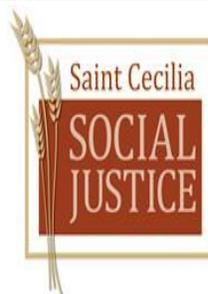
The Saint Cecilia Social Justice Committee is spearheading a campaign to replace dishes for Food at First, the Ames free meal program. Due to constant usage, many of the dishes belonging to First United Methodist Church, which hosts most of the meals, have been broken and need to be replaced.

The Food at First governing committee decided some months ago that Corelle dishes would be lightweight, easy to store and carry, resistant to breakage, tolerant of the high heat of a commercial dishwasher, and easy to obtain. The goal is to obtain 150 place settings (plates, cereal and dessert bowls, cups) as well as serving bowls and platters. New or used Corelle in any color or pattern is being sought, but round plates are needed for storage purposes. Saint Cecilia parishioners have already donated a number of place settings.

Brad Shrader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints expressed a desire to help St. Cecilia with a project as St. Cecilia parishioners contributed to their drive for hygiene kits last year. Therefore, the two groups are working together to obtain enough dishes. A drop-off site and date are being organized for a Saturday in April; more details will be available in the bulletin at a later date. Please call Mary Ross (232-5080) for more information or for pick-up of donations.

New Corelle can be purchased at many retail stores (discount stores, department stores, outlet stores, etc.) and used Corelle is often sold at garage sales, Goodwill and Salvation Army stores, and on sites such as eBay and Craigslist. If donating open stock, cereal and dessert bowls are really needed.

Saint Cecilia volunteers obtain groceries (either purchasing or obtaining from the Free Market), and then cook and serve the Tuesday night meals at Food at First. Anyone wishing to volunteer for long-term or substitute duties should call Julie Haas (232-7138). Currently, two head cooks are needed.



Some time ago, some members of St. Cecilia Parish met with Dan Rohner, a representative from the Archdiocese of Dubuque, about working for social justice.

The Social Justice

Committee (formerly Social Concerns) was asked to do more to keep the parish

informed about social justice issues and the opportunities to serve. We hope this newsletter (published quarterly) will help with that mission. Please contact any of the parishioners listed for more information. To learn more about Catholic social teaching, please visit:

<http://www.usccb.org> and click on *Social Justice Issues*