

When pregnancy is complicated with a prenatal diagnosis...

Your care and support can make a difference in the life of a family.



More than 100,000 expectant couples each year receive the devastating news of a so-called poor prenatal diagnosis. It may be the detection of a heart defect, Spina Bifida, or genetic syndrome, but whatever the diagnosis, shocked and bereaved parents have lost the baby and the pregnancy they had anticipated.

With little or no information or resources available that support the option of carrying to term, 80% of these pregnancies end in abortion. When offered a service of comprehensive support, however, 80% of parents will chose to carry to term.

Lily's Gift is a developing a ministry which will offer comprehensive support to couples experiencing a prenatal diagnosis and carrying to term. Peer ministers and volunteers are invited to come and be a part of this important ministry.

Have you carried to term following a prenatal diagnosis? Or have you experienced the loss of a child by miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death? Consider becoming a peer minister. Peer ministers engage parents carrying to term and journey with them based on shared experiences.

Interested persons who may not have experienced a prenatal diagnosis or perinatal loss can also volunteer to support parents by prayer sponsorship, funeral planning, birth support, assistance with child-care and meals, translating, etc.

Peer ministers and volunteers are screened and trained. They may work in teams and their outreach is informed by a pastoral care manual.

To expectant parents, peer ministers offer unique insight and sensitivity regarding such difficult issues as mourning the loss of the anticipated baby, maintaining hope when a prognosis is poor, stillbirth and neonatal critical care.

For information regarding upcoming trainings, please contact Sr. Kathleen Schipani, IHM sr.kschipani@archphila.org, (215) 587-3530 or Kathleen Bevenour kbevenour@CHS-ADPHILA.ORG, (215) 587-3595.