

Lori's Story

At 17 years of age I found myself pregnant. I was a Pastor's daughter and a Senior in high school. I had grown up in the church that my father Pastored from the time I was 4 years of age. I also went to a conservative Christian School where I had earned a Fine Arts scholarship to a local college. I had just found out I was pregnant two months before graduating and I was terrified. There was already so much that I had been going through, and now so much that I feared would be exposed.

This new reality shook me to the core. How would it effect my Father's life long ministry? What was I going to do about college and who was my baby's father?

I had been violated at a local park. It never crossed my mind that I could conceive after such a traumatic experience. I tried very hard to keep this a secret.

After this experience, I began to make some careless choices. I went to a few parties where I didn't remember much after. I slept with my best friend during this time, and then later my boyfriend after we had gotten back together over a summer break-up.

I found out I was pregnant on Valentine's Day. My boyfriend took me to a local Save-A-Life to have a pregnancy test done. It was confirmed that I was definitely pregnant, but that also I was already about four months along. My boyfriend and his family then rejected me. They did not his future to be jeopardized, so we were forced to cut ties.

Shortly after, I found out that my best friend was now engaged to be married. I certainly did not want to impose on this important time in his life. I cared for him deeply, so I decided that I must figure out what to do without him. The first solution to this scenario, I thought, was to just have an abortion. Surely, this would just resolve all of these issues. However, after seeking this out, I just could not bring myself to this decision.

I finally told my parents, and then carefully decided to discreetly move to Atlanta and place my baby for adoption. I moved there and worked closely with an adoption agency that allowed me to carefully choose her parents. I had always desired to be a mother, but surely not under these circumstances.

The day I gave birth to this beautiful creature; I could no longer imagine my life without her. My heart just could not let go!

My parents, of course, were at the hospital and were both there in the room as I am struggling with so many emotions. I am absolutely devastated at the thought of saying goodbye! We all gazed at this beautiful gift from Heaven! In that moment I knew that they were leaving it up to me, but deep down they were also trying to hold it together. I felt terrible not to go ahead with the decision, knowing that the adoptive parents were in another room anticipating their

entrance. I didn't want them to feel what I was feeling at this moment. I felt as if my heart was being ripped from my chest!

I never regretted for a moment the day that I left it all behind me and began a new chapter in my life with this beautiful gift from God. It was not easy being a young single mother, working to provide and striving to become everything she needed. However, she made it all worth every moment!

This experience instilled a deep longing in me to help others that find themselves in crisis, not knowing where to turn. My mother had the same desire and began the groundwork for the Jean Browning Maternity Home. There was a lot of work involved in her endeavors to make this a reality. She is absolutely the heart and soul of this ministry. What a beautiful person she is and how I love and admire her so much!

God truly brought so much good from this experience in my life, and has brought the Jean Browning Home to where she is now. We have just celebrated our 14th year of service.

In Loving Service,

Lori Warren