

**"I KNEW I
HAD ENOUGH
LOVE TO
RAISE MY
CHILD, BUT
I COULDN'T
PROVIDE THE
REST."**

- HOPEFUL BEGINNINGS BIRTH MOTHER



Hopeful Beginnings

300 E. Northwest Highway, Suite 200
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(847) 870-8181
www.hopeful-beginnings.com
information@hopeful-beginnings.com

Unplanned Pregnancy? Adoption is a loving option.

We can provide you with the help and support that you deserve.
We are available all day, every day.

A HISTORY OF HELPING CHILDREN

St. Mary's Services was founded in 1887 by the Episcopal Sisters of St. Mary.

Originally an orphanage for homeless children and then a foster care facility, in the 1940s St. Mary's embarked on adoption. Since that time the agency has facilitated thousands of successful adoptions - each providing new beginnings for infants, birth parents and adoptive parents of all races, religions, and backgrounds.

OUR MISSION
Established more than 120 years ago, St. Mary's Services is a faith-based, non-profit organization that serves women who are experiencing unplanned pregnancies and who are considering adoption. St. Mary's also serves families looking to adopt children. Through personalized counseling, education, supportive resources, and adoption services, the agency is dedicated to building loving families.

Hopeful Beginnings is committed to helping birthmothers in choosing a loving family for their child.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A 24-hour answering service is available after hours if you would like to speak confidentially with a Hopeful Beginnings counselor. While our headquarters are in Arlington Heights, counselors travel throughout the Chicagoland area and surrounding suburbs to meet with pregnant women needing options counseling.

Options counseling also is available by appointment at our resource centers in Burr Ridge, Chicago, Crystal Lake, Elgin, Frankfort and Waukegan.

For more information
call **847-870-8181**
text **HOPE1** to **67076**
or e-mail us at
information@hopeful-beginnings.com

St. Mary's Services is a nonprofit child welfare agency and an affiliate of Episcopal Charities and Community Services. The agency is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (#040234).



Hopeful Beginnings



A maternity program of St. Mary's Services

Servicios en español.
Please call. (847) 870-8181
or Text HOPE1 to 67076

MAKING THE BEST DECISION FOR YOU AND YOUR BABY

If you're experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, you might feel overwhelmed, scared, anxious, concerned, and unsure what to do next. Knowledgeable and understanding counselors are here to help you choose the best option for you and your baby.



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A FRESH START

We understand that many women experience unplanned pregnancies and need the support, counsel and understanding of trained professionals during this challenging time in their lives. As a result, St. Mary's Services, a maternity counseling and adoption agency, began the Hopeful Beginnings Program. As the name suggests and was chosen by women who also have faced unplanned pregnancy, we truly believe there is an opportunity for a hopeful beginning ahead of you and your baby - and we're here to help you find that.

As part of the Hopeful Beginnings Program, our counselors don't just talk. We listen too. We provide women experiencing unplanned pregnancy with free, confidential counseling and supportive resources in a non-judgmental environment. Our counselors offer you support during your decision-making process and throughout your pregnancy. With Hopeful Beginnings, you will receive compassionate, caring attention and support regardless of your decision to make an adoption plan or parent your child.

WHAT WE OFFER YOU

- Counseling to help you understand your pregnancy options
- Referral resources such as food, housing, additional counseling, and medical services

Should you choose adoption...

- Explanation of the adoption process, including your rights and responsibilities
- Opportunity for you to choose the baby's adoptive parents - who are required to pass criminal background checks, undergo a comprehensive home study, and be educated in adoption and parenting
- Option to meet the adoptive family and continue contact with them
- Limited assistance with living expenses, medical bills, maternity clothes, etc.
- On-going post placement counseling to help you reach your life goals



COMMONLY ASKED ADOPTION QUESTIONS

Q: Is it selfish to want to place my baby for adoption?

A: No. Through adoption, you offer your baby not only life, but the chance for a good future. You also have to decide what is best for you. Your personal goals, such as a school or career pursuits, are important ways of taking care of yourself. There is a difference.

Q: Is adoption permanent?

A: Yes.

Q: If I choose adoption, who will pay my bills?

A: The Hopeful Beginnings Program will assist you with reasonable pregnancy-related expenses, including medical care, should you need help.

Q: What about the birth father?

A: By law, biological fathers have the same rights as birth mothers. When possible, it is important that the birth father be involved in making an adoption plan for the child. We encourage both parties to receive the counseling needed to make the right decision for your child.

Q: Can I have contact with my child after placing him/her for adoption?

A: Yes. Through the Hopeful Beginnings Program, you can choose to have an open adoption, which means that you and the adoptive family have ongoing contact after the baby is born. The level of openness is up to you and with what you are most comfortable.