

A Witness of Hope and Healing

I had an abortion my senior year in high school. I found out I was pregnant and was petrified to tell my family, so I didn't. My boyfriend at the time said maybe I should have an abortion.

I was so scared and felt so alone in my decision. I called an abortion clinic and skipped school to meet with them. They assured me that I would be alright, and that I had bright future ahead of me, this was just not the right time to have a baby. I trusted them because they were older than me - I really even thought they cared about my well-being.

They told me I didn't have to tell my parents even though I was a minor, as long as I could get it approved through the court system. I skipped even more school and went in front of a judge with my case. He granted that I could have my abortion without my parent's consent, and I had it the next week.

I was in the recovery room after they finished the abortion and I remember feeling like I was dead inside. I felt lost, suicidal, and not like me anymore. I lost my self-esteem, my confidence, I lost myself!

The adults at the clinic told me I would have a bright future, when in reality I did not want to live at all. When I couldn't bear the pain anymore I screamed out to God to forgive me for what I did, and soon after God converted me to Catholicism. Through the ministry of the church I had found hope, guidance, and strength.

Soon I found out about Project Rachel and joined them on a retreat. Here I was surrounded by other women that had gone through an abortion. I was not alone anymore. I left the retreat with a new outlook on myself and the world around me. I loved myself again.

I still have sad times concerning my abortion, but I learned that my baby was with God, and I asked my child to forgive me for what I had done. I named my baby and began praying for him.

Today I am still healing, I still cry, but I can honestly say I love life.

I am driven to be pro-life, and I can only hope to make a difference in the world. Abortion not only took my baby's life, but it almost took mine. I am thankful for the Church and Her ministry, for teaching me to love myself, and to live for God.



Project Rachel is a post-abortion healing ministry open to anyone who seeks healing after abortion. We want to reach out to you with the mercy and love of Christ & help you be at peace with yourself and God.

For Confidential Help:

1-888-456-HOPE or info@helpafterabortion.org



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To give a **Gift for Life** that helps provide free assistance such as professional counseling and post-abortion healing retreats to anyone struggling after abortion, please go to: www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife.

Witness reprinted from www.HelpAfterAbortion.org.