

October 15, 2011

Dear friends of The Birth Circle,

We are excited to share with you how much we have accomplished in 2011, and how your contributions and support have made a difference in the lives of so many Athens area families!

So far in 2011, we have:

- Served over 500 people through our monthly meetings and Pregnancy & Baby Fair.
- Cooked and delivered 61 meals for 9 moms through our Meals for Moms program.
- Seen meeting attendance rise to an average of 55 people, with multiple new families every month.
- Increased our pregnancy loss and infertility support groups to once a month, at O'Bleness Hospital.
- Built community by bringing back our Meet-a-Mom program, which pairs new and more experienced moms.
- Offered an 8-week LifeWays parenting course for free to Birth Circle families.
- Held the largest yet Pregnancy & Baby Fair, which saw a significant increase in teen and younger moms.
- Increased awareness of what The Birth Circle offers by conducting face-to-face meetings with medical offices and social service agencies who serve pregnant and new moms.

In 2012 we hope to: implement a plan, which was created specifically for us by a UNICEF team, to reach more teen and low-income moms; start working on a "how to" guide for starting birth circles around the country (we recently helped launch our first spin-off group, the Community Birth Circle of Orville, Ohio!); secure funding to train five new doulas in Athens; and help make prenatal yoga more widely available.

But we can only do these things with your help.

As always, every single thing we do is focused on empowering and supporting birthing families in our region. These are important, life-changing efforts, which impact generations to come. Unfortunately, in the current economy, grant funding and individual donations are harder and harder to come by, and we have been unable to meet all goals for this year because of it. We need your help.

Please give what you can, knowing that every dollar of your donation goes directly toward our mission:

To educate, support and empower women and their families as they journey through pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period, and early childhood.

Our sincerest thanks, and wishes for a happy end to 2011!

Molly S. Wales  
Executive Director