



## PROJECT GABRIEL

Project Gabriel is one of nine ministries of the Catholic Pro-Life Committee, Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas. Project Gabriel interacts with diocesan parishes and religious and social agencies to offer support to women facing a crisis pregnancy.

### Purposes of Project Gabriel

- To assist pregnant women with their long- or short-term emotional, spiritual, and material needs through compassionate care and mentoring by Gabriel Angel volunteers.
- To offer pregnant women the support of a faith community in their area.
- To encourage networking and collaborative ministry among faith-based resource centers, social service and adoption agencies, and medical/counseling professionals.

### Referral Sources

The White Rose Women's Center, Birth Choice Counseling Center, Catholic Charities, The Angel's Clinic and the Missionaries of Charity Home are the primary referral agents to Project Gabriel. Occasionally client referrals come directly from individuals and/or parishes.

### Gabriel Angels

Project Gabriel is headed by a Ministry Director and Gabriel Angel Coordinator, who functions as the pairing agent, supervisor and guide. Gabriel Angels are volunteers in good standing with their parish or faith community. Most are female, but spouses are welcome. All Angels are required to be Safe Environment cleared, attend a two-day training session and be formally commissioned by a priest. Once commissioned and paired, the Angel provides support for a mom in need by listening to her concerns, praying for and with her, sharing experiences, guiding her spiritually, helping her find and utilize resources and set goals for the future. In the process Angels focus on:

- Evangelization: The Angel brings Christ to the mom and meets Christ in the mom.
- Friendship: The Angel offers friendship through her presence and her special gifts.
- Collaborative Ministry: The Angel works in solidarity with all the other ministries within the CPLC, the parish and diocese.
- Personal Spirituality: The Angel's role is to draw the mom closer to God through acts of self-giving, while relying on prayer and her own spiritual journey.

### **Standard Project Gabriel/White Rose and Birth Choice Referral Procedures:**

1. During the initial intake process, a White Rose or Birth Choice pregnancy resource counselor receives the mom's permission to be referred to Project Gabriel. The counselor completes a referral sheet that is faxed or emailed to the Angel Coordinator.
2. Upon receiving the referral, the Angel Coordinator is responsible to contact at-risk moms within 24 hours and non-risk moms within 48 hours.
3. The Angel Coordinator confirms the mom's participation in Project Gabriel and then tries to pair her with an Angel within a week. Many factors can influence the pairing time frame, but every effort is made to assure that a mom who requests an Angel receives one. During the pairing process the Angel Coordinator remains in regular communication with the referred mom.
4. Once a mom is paired with an Angel, the Angel Coordinator informs the pregnancy center or agency making the referral. The Angel Coordinator will e-mail the Angel a confidential Information Packet and she contacts the new mom.
5. The Gabriel Angel stays touch with her assigned mom by phone or e-mail at least weekly and by a personal meeting at least monthly. During this time she establishes trust and rapport and determines the mom's spiritual and material needs. She may explain the GEMS program and enroll her if the mom is interested in attending.
6. The Angel and Coordinator will provide the Director/referral agencies with monthly updates.
7. Two months before her due date, the mom and Angel review the Material Needs Checklist and provide a copy to the Angel Coordinator and Resource Coordinator. They determine the kind of layette she will receive and other needs she may have.
8. Project Gabriel maintains a storage room at St. Francis Anglican Church for infant or toddler clothing and some small household items. Angels are encouraged to take their moms there, once the Gabriel Resource Coordinator has been notified.
9. Moms may seek assistance with housing, job training, medical referrals, rent or utility assistance, food, clothing, school supplies, etc. All expenditures must originate with the Angel, and be confirmed by the Angel Coordinator and the Resource Coordinator. Any expenditure from the ministry budget must be approved by the Director.