

LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

For Our Children and the Future

ADOPTION SERVICES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

BIRTH PARENTS AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS ALIKE HAVE EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS — NEEDS THAT THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS PREPARED TO FACE. Some parents may have been denied services by adoption agencies that only help specific segments of the population. And sometimes the weight of a decision that has life-long impact is just too great to bear alone.

St. Elizabeth and Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services, a Catholic Charities agency, is a haven for women and families of all faiths. The agency works with parents to arrange international and domestic adoptions, as well as with birth mothers who are contemplating adoption. The full-service counseling program offered to clients extends through the lifetime of all people involved with the adoption.

“What makes our service unique is the fact that we really serve our families, meaning the adopting families, the adoptee and the birth mother for a lifetime,” said Michelle Meer, director of St. Elizabeth and Coleman. “We are here before placements, during placements and after placements.”

With a merger 18 months ago between St. Elizabeth’s Pregnancy and Adoption Service and Coleman Adoption Services, the new St. Elizabeth and Coleman has a 200-year history of service to the community.

“It’s through our faith, through our values that we are called to serve in the roles that we have. That’s one reason that we help families for a lifetime, because we believe in that commitment,” Meer said. “As Christians, you should always be willing to lend a hand to someone in need.”



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The agency also offers special needs adoptions, which can focus on medical needs or multicultural placements. St. Elizabeth and Coleman also offers a unique option to parents who want to adopt but may not have enough money.

“We have a sliding-fee scale, so we really try to meet the needs of a family that wants to adopt but may not have a lot of money,” Meer said. “We are trying to make adoption affordable to everyone.”

St. Elizabeth and Coleman has plenty of passion and dedication, but the agency does have a need for funding. Because fees from the adopting parents do not always cover the time put into the case or the counseling given to a birth mother, the agency’s largest need is for cash donations. Fees from adoptive parents cover home studies and placements, but a birth mother is never charged a fee for services or help.

St. Elizabeth and Coleman also offers a search program if a child is more than 21 years of age. The agency provides counseling to both the adoptee and birth parents before a reunion takes place. But no matter where the adoption process leads, the staff of St. Elizabeth and Coleman is always there to help.

“There is a family for every child. We really do believe that,” Meer said.

Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocese’s upcoming capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the needs of archdiocesan ministries such as Catholic Charities. By contributing to Legacy for Our Mission through your local parish, a portion of your gift will be allocated to Catholic Charities programs and distributed to organizations such as St. Elizabeth and Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services.