



SAVE
THE
STORKS

Training Manual

LEADERS GUIDE



Stork

MOTHER'S
ADVOCATE

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



SAVE THE STORKS

Questions?



CONTACT US



WEBSITE

[https://savethestorks.com/
what-we-do/church/](https://savethestorks.com/what-we-do/church/)



PHONE NUMBER

1-866-639-0479



E-MAIL

church@savethestorks.com

Dear Stork Mother's Advocate,

There isn't a class in high school or college that teaches a young woman how to be a mom. I was adopted as a baby, and sadly lost my adopted mother to cancer when I was a little girl. When my time came to be a foster and adoptive mother, although I didn't have my own mother to turn to for advice and support, I did have a **network of amazing friends** who mentored me and taught me how to be a mom.

You are my hero for stepping up to serve as a Stork Mother's Advocate! Your willingness to be an advocate for young women who need someone - to help them through the pregnancy and after the baby is born - will make a huge difference in their lives and the lives of their babies. Imagine a woman, especially one who thinks abortion is her only option, but **by the grace of God chooses life**. What she might be lacking is a mom-figure to help her thrive as a mother. What many women need is a strong, compassionate advocate who will be there for phone calls and texts. Someone patient to sit down for a meal and simply listen. An **expert who can share techniques** for changing diapers, baths, feedings and naptime.

YOU are that solid person who will come alongside a mom at just the right time, be her biggest cheerleader, and show her the love of Jesus.

YOU are what brings our mission to life. Because of **YOU** we are creating stories of hope and empowerment for every woman facing an unplanned pregnancy.

I can't thank you enough for volunteering to be a Stork Mom.

God bless you!

Diane Ferraro
For Life. For Mom.

Thank you! 

TRAITS OF AN EXCEPTIONAL STORK MOTHER ADVOCATE

A **Stork Mother's Advocate** is a volunteer position representing the church and Save The Storks. Because of this, we ask that the Stork Mother's Advocate exemplify the following traits for optimal success:

A WOMAN WHO...

- is mature in Christian faith and lives daily with Jesus
- possesses the spiritual gifts of mercy, helps, exhortation, or evangelism (learn more about spiritual gifts by taking the test at www.giftstest.com)
- withholds judgment and leans toward compassion and care
- has life experience that can assist moms with wisdom and basic life decisions
- is patient and prayerful, willing to navigate challenging situations gracefully
- learns by listening and responds with a soft touch
- can learn and connect with local pregnancy resources
- is willing to learn, grow, be teachable, and seek understanding



LEADER TALKING POINTS

Leaders,

You play a crucial role in establishing and carrying out your church's **Stork Mother's Advocacy Program**. We ask that you find volunteers for this program that best fits the description on page 4.

However, the heart to serve Jesus, women, and families in need is at the forefront of this program, and all that is needed.

Reiterate to those in training that the bullet points on page 4 are not set-in-stone requirements but a guide to the person's heart that will work best. They are absolutely in the right place if they relate to one or more points.

Additionally, open the floor up for questions and demonstrate how your church hopes to help.



● MEETING EXPECTATIONS & TIME COMMITMENT

TIME COMMITMENT

We ask that all Stork Mother's Advocates commit to six consecutive months of care with their Stork Mom. However, we understand that extenuating circumstances do arise. Please reach out to your church's Program Leader if you need to step away from this volunteer responsibility at any time so your Stork Mom can get the care she needs during your absence.

We ask that Stork Mother's Advocates commit to meeting with their Stork Mom(s) ideally, every other week, but you and your Stork Mom are free to schedule as many meetings as you desire, as long as your church can accommodate a secure meeting space.

MEETING LOCATION

All meetings between the Stork Mother's Advocate and Stork Mom should take place at the church in an area designated by your church's Program Leader. If a location on your church's campus is not available, please contact the Program Leader for suggestions and ideas.



● CONFIDENTIALITY & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information shared between the Stork Mom and the Stork Mother's Advocate should remain confidential except for threats to harm oneself, or another person, or other criminal activity. We encourage our Stork Mother's Advocates to notify the police and church leadership promptly if there is a concern about life-threatening behavior.



PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

It is crucial for the success of Stork Mother's Advocacy for Stork Mother's Advocates to maintain professional conduct with the women they serve. You are a reflection of the body of Christ within your church and Save the Storks. We ask that Stork Mother's Advocates refrain from vulgar and obscene language, gossip, condemnation, and otherwise negative and unhelpful behaviors.

THE START COURSE

In becoming a Stork Mother's Advocate, we require that you take the Start Course. The Start Course will equip you with the necessary skills to be an informed responder to someone in an unplanned pregnancy. The course is designed to give you the essential knowledge you need without being overwhelmed with unnecessary information.

Start Course 101

Pro-life apologetics and worldview, causes of abortion and responses for life, communication skills and strategies, interactive workbook and much more.

Start Course 201: Trauma-Informed Care for an Unplanned Pregnancy

Understanding trauma and its impact, basics of trauma-informed care, understanding and helping with trauma related to unplanned pregnancy, creating a trauma-informed church community and much more.

The Start Course is free and utilizes short, impactful videos that can be taken at your own pace.

Sign up!



startcourse.org/SMALeaders

THE STORK APPROACH



We, at Save the Storks, believe all women facing unexpected pregnancies need proactive and compassionate care. That is why we have crafted **the STORK Approach**! With this approach to advocating for women within your church, we can ensure you genuinely walk alongside women in difficult situations and provide them with the support and community they desperately need.

SHARE ABOUT JESUS:

Stork Moms need the encouragement that only God can provide through a right relationship with Jesus. Point them toward Scripture to show all the times God has shown up in the lives of those who have struggled and how He has redeemed them. Since some of the Stork Moms may not have a relationship with Jesus, be ready to share the hope that is in you when the time is right. Be mindful of how they respond, as they may not be ready to hear about Jesus until a stronger bond has been built.

TEACH LIFE SKILLS:

Stork Moms come from a variety of backgrounds. Depending upon their age, education, and current needs, you may need to guide them to certain life skills necessary to ensure the best possible outcome for them and their baby. Examples include resume building, setting healthy boundaries, and talking to potential employers. Simple things like teaching them to cook a meal may go much further than you could ever know.

OFFER GRACE:

Extend grace and compassion to inspire your stork mom! Do not judge her current life situation or for past decisions they have made. Instead, offer grace. Inspire her to lead a better life by being an example and showing what it means to be walking in the light.

RESOURCES:

Too many women need to be made aware of the resources available to them. Through our online database, www.foreverywoman.org, you can help find resources for the women you serve in many areas, such as local women's health clinics, free clothing, housing assistance, education assistance, abortion recovery, and more! Your church's Program Leader should also have a list of local resources.

KIND WORDS:

Be mindful of your words when discussing abortion, pregnancy, lifestyles, and general language. Words have an impact. The next page is dedicated to ensuring kind words are utilized.

LEADER TALKING POINTS

Start a conversation by further breaking down **The STORK Approach** and open the floor for any questions.

Utilize Scripture examples of redemption depending on your Stork Mother's unique story. Some stories of redemption include Ruth (**Ruth 1-4**), The Parable of the Lost Sheep (**Luke15:1-7**), and The Parable of the Prodigal Son (**Luke 15:11-32**).

Reiterate to those in training the importance of remaining free of judgment and filled with compassion.

Remind them that they may need to offer guidance to a **Stork Mom** for resume building, saving money, finding a job or a place to stay, etc. Not everyone has these skills, but everyone should be able to obtain these skills through a trusted church and local organizations. Ideally, these are skills the Stork Mother's Advocate has demonstrated knowledge of already.

Remember, “we all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God” as stated in **Romans 3:23**. It is essential for leaders and Stork Mother's Advocates to not cast judgment on any previous or currently present sin in a Stork Mom's life, especially when discussing past abortions or current thoughts of having an abortion. Offering grace is the opposite of condemnation.

Stork Mother's Advocates should aim to provide living water to those walking in sin, just as Jesus did to the Samaritan woman at the well (**John 4:5-30**).

Encourage Stork Mother's Advocates to visit the www.foreverywoman.org platform to find resources for Stork Moms in need.

On this platform, Advocates and moms can find resources for adoption, women's health clinics, financial assistance, domestic-violence help, and so much more. If resources in your area are not on the platform, let your leader know so a member of the **For Every Woman** team can add it to the database.

Lastly, always watch what you say and how you say it.



THE WORDS YOU USE MATTER

As covered in our **STORK Approach** method for Advocacy, using Kind Words is essential for success in your relationship with a Stork Mother. We curated a helpful do's and don't list of words and common phrases to help guide you in how to better serve the Stork Mother/s who may come your way.

LANGUAGE DO'S AND DON'TS FOR STORK MOTHER'S ADVOCACY:



DON'T	DO
“crisis pregnancy”	“unplanned pregnancy”
“killing, murder, violence”	“ending a life”
“abortion mill, abortuary”	“Planned Parenthood” or “abortion clinic”
“crisis pregnancy center, pregnancy resource center”	“women’s health clinic”
“giving up” for adoption	“gifting your baby”

● TRAUMA INFORMED MENTORSHIP

It is essential to know how to respond to and navigate current or past traumas in the lives of the women you serve. Some of these women may be facing an abusive relationship, have just escaped an abusive partner, or have experienced trauma. This directly impacts how they think and act, especially during their pregnancy.

TIPS for Trauma Informed Care in your Stork Mother's Advocacy:

LEARN - take the Start Course 201, Trauma Informed Care. Go to startcourse.org

SAFETY - ensure the area you utilize for meetings is safe for the women you serve. Ideally, it will be located at a church. If the church is unavailable, ensure it is a safe location that your program leader knows about.

CHOICE - While we believe in life-affirming care, the women you serve should always feel they are making decisions based on their desires and needs and should never feel coerced.

COLLABORATION - encourage the women you serve to share power in all decision-making regarding their pregnancy.

TRUSTWORTHINESS - always be honest, transparent, and consistent in communication with the women you serve, respect boundaries and always be open to understanding.

EMPOWERMENT - The women you serve must always feel heard, cared for, and validated. It takes a great deal of bravery for women to be in this relationship and choosing to get help from a Stork Mother's Advocate carries weight. Help empower and guide their decisions.



● LEADER TALKING POINTS

Page 12 goes over how to navigate Trauma-Informed Care in Stork Mother Advocacy program. This is crucial information for you as a Leader and for the Stork Mother's Advocates in training. Talk through this with them and open the floor up for discussion.

If you are aware of unique challenges in your community, for instance, high rates of gang violence, food poverty, and domestic violence, share that with your volunteers now, so they can be mindful of more area-specific trauma.

Make sure they know how to report any concerns of harm to oneself, the baby, or others as well. Who at the church should they reach out to if you're not available? Reiterate calling law enforcement if they have a concern that seems imminent.

Make sure Stork Mother's Advocates know that they are helping women make their own decisions, and at no point, should language that can be deemed coercive get utilized in advocacy. Stork Mothers should always feel empowered through their local church to make a life-affirming decision.

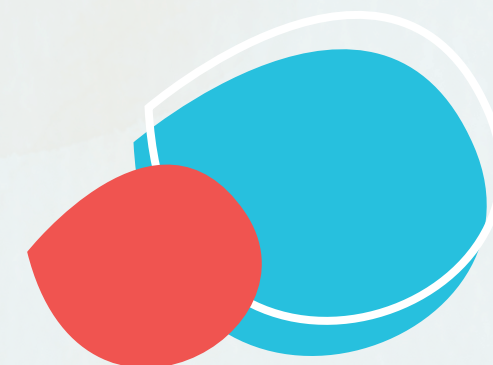
Thank all those in attendance and ask those still interested in moving forward to contact the Program Leader.





“For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus
for good works,
which God
prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10



Thank you!

FOR EMPOWERING
WOMEN IN YOUR
LOCAL CHURCH



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