



TNN's Founder Reflects Upon The Meaning of Practical Compassion



TNN's founding philosophy

- ☞ "Freedom of 'choice' without real options is meaningless."
- ☞ "Of the two basic choices . . . abortion and birth . . . only the first has been made easily and widely available to single pregnant women."
- ☞ "The absence of real choice is of particular concern because it is known that the single most significant influence on both the speed and degree of recovery from any life crisis is a person's ability to regain control over one's life."
- ☞ "The woman wanting to exercise her choice for the birth alternative often does not have the financial, medical or emotional resources necessary to carry out this decision."
- ☞ "Another alternative is needed . . . one that will enable mothers-to-be to make a quality choice . . . one that provides her as much support in the exercise of the birth option as she already has available with the abortion option."
- ☞ "It is fair to say that an unwanted pregnancy need not result in an unwanted baby since over two million parents each year express a willingness and desire to adopt a child but cannot due to limited availability."
- ☞ "The moral and practical responsibility to decide what is best cannot be assumed by any other person or organization . . . no matter how caring or well-intentioned. The responsibility lies with the mother."
- ☞ "This responsibility can best be supported by a well-organized Network of caring professionals, united in their goal to fully provide for a mother's medical, psychological, educational, occupational, residential and social needs. They must share in common a willingness to place the mother's needs as primary to all others."
- ☞ "In order for this Network to be fully effective, it must include an extensive referral base with existing agencies and organizations whose goals may be similar but whose capacities may be limited or those whose priority or prime advocacy may be the unborn child, the potentially adoptive parents, or any other party other than the mother with a crisis pregnancy."
- ☞ "Those mothers who decide that raising a child is untimely or unfeasible for psychological, financial, or social reasons should be offered confidential and sensitive guidance about adoption possibilities, in an effort to meet the mother's needs and wishes as well as the needs of the child."



1-800-TNN-4MOM
www.nurturingnetwork.org

A new dialogue

"A new dialogue is beginning to take place which centers on the roll of a healthy society in supporting women with unplanned pregnancies. I am convinced that **lasting progress is being made as the voices of women are heard calling for a more compassionate alternative to abortion.** We are poised at a pivotal moment in American history when together we will place the cornerstone for an authentic and lasting culture of life."

TNN translates love into practical compassion

"The time has come to infuse the most culturally-defining civil and human rights movement of our time with new insight and energy. **We believe that women deserve better than just one option when faced with very difficult and often unexpected life circumstances.**



The Nurturing Network's full-service program of practical support for mothers in crisis is the nation's pre-eminent Network designed to offer hope and healing to college and working women seeking more meaningful alternatives for themselves and their children. I encourage you to join the 48,000 worldwide members of the Nurturing Network as we translate our love for women and children into practical compassion."

TNN's non-judgmental, constructive and apolitical approach

"In responding to the call to help build a culture of life, **the Nurturing Network has proven to be non-judgmental, highly constructive and refreshingly apolitical.** We are not interested in joining the debate over whether and how to remove an alternative, but rather, in how best to provide for the immediate and practical needs of any woman faced with an unplanned pregnancy."

Cultivating a common ground

"Emotionally charged rhetoric and divisive debate have too often distracted both the pro-life and pro-choice political movements from the mother and child at the heart of this crisis. I believe that the time has come to recognize the vast common ground that exists between these two allegedly incompatible groups. **Those who support choice can hardly dispute the value of creating another choice; those who support life can hardly reject an alternative made real.** In a spirit of mutual respect and understanding, we can bind up the wounds of suspicion and harsh judgment that have torn the fabric of our society."

Peace and healing through empowerment

"**Empowering each woman to nurture her child's life-- and make the most of hers as well.** This is the mission and purpose of the Nurturing Network. We believe that our efforts to bring practical compassion and hope to women and children in crisis will promote peace and healing for individuals, families, and communities worldwide."

Women deserve better than abortion

"At this pivotal time of moral, political and social upheaval in our nation's history, many of us struggle with the question of how more effectively to promote an authentic and lasting culture of life. We must do more. Political maneuvering, deceptive rhetoric, relentless media distortion and internal dissention have discouraged all but the most resilient in our society. Only when we live in a society that genuinely respects motherhood and provides for the economic and emotional needs that accompany a pregnancy will the debate over abortion be resolved.

A generation of women has learned through personal experience that women deserve better than abortion. With a growing body of compelling scientific research that confirms abortion's psychological and physical risks, it has become blatantly clear that we must confront this national tragedy with greater urgency and creativity.

"As more women are finding the courage to speak out about the lasting emotional and physical harm done to them by abortion, our society is being forced to reconsider the rhetoric of reproductive 'freedom' and 'choice.' A compelling body of scientific research now confirms the anecdotal stories of a generation of women who admit to the damage inflicted upon them by their choice for abortion."



Gifts from TNN members

"The Nurturing Network's 48,000 Member Resources in all fifty states and over thirty foreign countries have provided a safe haven, a resume-saving job, an educational opportunity, medical care, financial assistance and emotional support to over 19,000 women in crisis. These gifts will literally be remembered for a lifetime."

Collaborative outreach on college campuses

"Where better to inspire a deep respect for the value of human life than on college campuses all across America where **the idealism and activism of young people provide so much reason for hope.**"

A personal gift ... one choice at a time

"Our ability to embrace the future with genuine hope and courage will depend fundamentally upon our willingness to more fully believe, consistently live, and patiently teach about each and every person's belovedness as a child of God. Let us joyfully persevere in **nurturing each fragile human life ... one choice at a time.**"