

# Consider the Lilies



this is Alpha baby **Lily**

It was just over 10 years ago when I first walked through the doors of the Alpha Center. I was 20, pregnant and all alone. I was absolutely terrified. The previous five months of my life had been spent being numb to the situation that I was in. You see, my parents had raised me in a pro-life home and I knew that abortion was wrong. However, that didn't stop me from calling Planned Parenthood wanting to schedule an appointment. Something in the cold voice of the person on the other end of the line made me hang up immediately. I spiraled into an emotional meltdown and felt like I had nowhere to turn. **Twenty-four weeks pregnant and I had told NO ONE.**

After calling Planned Parenthood I knew I had to reach out to someone, and that person encouraged me to go to the Alpha Center. I had no idea what to expect, but in my first contact with them I felt the opposite of what I felt when I called Planned Parenthood—**their compassion and understanding was just what I needed.** I went right away to meet with a counselor and they helped me figure out the steps to take without ending the life of my child. **I am so grateful.** Their love and support gave me the strength to be able to tell my own family. They stood by me every step of the way.

Unfortunately the news from the doctors was not good. They claimed that my child had a condition that was "incompatible with life". I was devastated. The doctors wanted me to terminate my pregnancy and I was overwhelmed by all they were telling me. I thought, "Haven't I already been through this and made the decision to have a relationship with my child?" I chose to carry my pregnancy to full term. **My little girl, Lily, lived for 32 days.** Thirty-two days longer than any doctor ever expected. Thirty-two days with no medical assistance, just love. Thirty-two days of memories for my family and me to share. Thirty-two days that led my youngest brother to make a commitment to Christ. Thirty-two days I wouldn't trade for anything.

It has been 10 years and while Lily is no longer with us, **I will forever be her mother.** The Alpha Center has helped me through many hard anniversaries and rejoiced with me in the impact of Lily's legacy.



This Mother's Day please help me in supporting the Alpha Center for all the things they do for mothers. Consider donating \$500, \$100, \$50, or whatever amount you feel led to give today.

-Rachel