

Statement from Kellie Stauffer, of Maryland

40 Years of Victims Press Conference

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At the age of 14 I didn't know the typical signs of pregnancy and so when a bunch of weird things started happening to my body I didn't quite know what was going on. My pediatrician told me I was 5 months pregnant. My parents and I decided abortion was the best way to rid our lives of this problem. We all thought abortion would erase the situation I had gotten myself in and we would go on living life the way it was. That was not the case.

I can still, 17 years later, vividly remember the five-day process of being slowly and painfully dilated, of laying on an examination table and feeling the baby inside me frantically demand my attention right before the abortionists needle ended her life, and feeling utterly alone as I was forced into labor, delivering my baby's lifeless body. No, life sadly was never the same. I hated myself. I tried to numb my pain in any way I could find, drugs, alcohol, food, meaningless relationships, but nothing took away the deep darkness that overwhelmed my soul.

My parents saw that I was suffering and put me in therapy. I was put on several different medications but nothing worked. I still wanted to die. Finally one therapist told me she thought I was suffering from PTSD from the abortion. I told her it was 10 years ago and that I was over it. She persuaded me to go to a Rachel's vineyard retreat and that weekend saved my life. I allowed myself to feel the forgiveness God had been showing me all along. His light entered my soul and I felt overwhelming relief. He changed my life. I met a wonderful Christian man, had two beautiful children and no longer feel the empty darkness that consumed my life before I found forgiveness through Christ. Storybook ending? Not quite. I will never forget what I did to my first child. I am still brought to my knees in tears at times when I remember the pain I caused her. In response to God's grace and for my daughters spirit I will be silent no more.