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Home Schooled

Age: 12 ; Grade 7 ; Milford

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## RESPECT LIFE ESSAY

"If a friend told me that she wanted to have an abortion, what would I say/do to help her to choose life?"

Since I am only twelve years old, if I heard that a friend of mine had an unplanned pregnancy and wanted to have an abortion, I would not be able to drive her there, but could offer places where she could go. One of the places is the Pregnancy Resource Center, Birthright, which offers love, support, and friendship to women going through hard times such as this. Birthright, as advertised on their website, is: "free, non-judgemental, and confidential, and is located right in Manchester, on 247 South Main Street. Other places, such as "Option Line" have 24-hour contact centers, and their top priority is to " reach, rescue and renew women who are abortion-vulnerable".

The Year of Mercy just ended, so I would not want to pass judgement on her, but I can explain to her that all human life is sacred and that as Pope St. John Paul II says, " the direct killing of an innocent human being is always gravely immoral.." If my friend was still not certain, I would also offer Adoption resources, which at least offer the baby a chance at life.

Although I may not be able to change this particular girl's mind, I have done things with my family that might have a positive impact on people like her. We have all prayed outside of Planned Parenthood and have participated in the March For Life, where hundreds of thousands March for the end of abortion. I have also made signs promoting life, and have participated in Breakfasts for Babies, bake sales, and peaceful, prayer vigils at our former parish as well. All of these attempts were to educate people about the sanctity of life, and to hopefully prevent abortions.

I think that the main, and most important thing I can do is to pray. I can pray for my friend, and for the little child that is growing inside her; that she can choose the right path for her child, that is the path of life!