

# Love that goes the Distance



Dear Supporter,

Life is full of surprises, disappointments, amazements and challenges. 2017 was a combination of all of these things for Auzhanee, a young woman from the Bay Area. In January, a couple days after New Year's, Auzhanee discovered she was pregnant through a shocking turn of events.

Auzhanee was in an abusive relationship and struggled with alcohol addiction. During a heated argument with her boyfriend, she punched out a kitchen window. To assess the damage, the doctor ordered a set of x-rays. But first, a nurse administered a pregnancy test to ensure she was not pregnant. The emergency room doctor informed Auzhanee that she was approximately seven weeks pregnant. It was an incredible shock. As an alcoholic, her mind was on getting her next drink from the time she woke to the time she went to sleep. To handle the news, Auzhanee wanted her "two best friends: Hennessy and Patron."

The pregnancy news left Auzhanee with mixed emotions. She was excited but also realized she had many life struggles to overcome if she was going to be a good mother to this child. Several years earlier, Auzhanee and Jennifer Marshall, a longtime supporter of Support Circle, both worked at the same restaurant. The two ladies became good friends. Today, Jennifer works at Central Peninsula Church which has been a longtime supporting church.



*Jennifer and Auzhanee*

While sharing the news of her pregnancy with Jennifer, Auzhanee said she would have to have an abortion. She felt she was young, not in the best state of mind and did not want her baby to grow up seeing abuse. Jennifer pleaded with Auzhanee not to go through with the abortion. She even offered to let Auzhanee move in with her to get out of the abusive relationship and told her about Support Circle.

In April, Auzhanee accompanied Jennifer to the Support Circle Benefit with guest speaker Wanda Durant, mom of NBA star Kevin Durant. Listening to Wanda's story of resilience and watching the video update of former client Marketa at the Benefit helped Auzhanee feel better about her decision to continue her pregnancy.



*Auzhanee's baby, Roy'all*

Jennifer's home provided Auzhanee with a better living environment while she prepared for the birth of her child. Jennifer and some of her friends from church hosted a baby shower in Auzhanee's honor. Auzhanee's beautiful baby girl, Roy'all, was born in September thanks to the compassionate response of Jennifer and Auzhanee's interaction with Support Circle.

Support Circle seeks to create a community that goes the distance with women facing unintended pregnancies. Jennifer is a perfect example of a supporter with a heart for our organization that came alongside to make a difference in the life of an unsure woman and her preborn baby. By going the distance, our team of professional nurses and counselors provide a safe place for women to be informed and consider all of their pregnancy options. We offer our confidential and nonjudgmental services at no cost to the client.

2017 has been a year of strong adversity for Support Circle. We are hopeful that the Supreme Court will grant our case against the insidious San Francisco marketing ordinance and Ninth Circuit ruling that threatens to commercialize the speech of Support Circle and all nonprofits. The staggering news of the abortion rate dropping 25% to an all-time low since Roe v. Wade is definitely encouraging. We have begun a series of articles that share the most likely factors for the abortion rate decline. Recently, we hired a new Client Advocate and look forward to improved services for our clients.

Our annual budget is \$1.5 million. **We need to raise \$310,000 this month** to keep our essential services going. These funds will go toward specific needs like \$4,700 to fix one of our ultrasound machines and \$4,000 to complete ultrasound training for three nurses. As we look towards a strong 2018, **your robust financial support** will help us finish this year firmly poised to embark on a promising new year.

Thank you for your continued support as together we go the distance with women and children in unexpected pregnancies.

Merry Christmas,

*Albert Lee & the Support Circle Staff*